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FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF CHT ACCORD Frustrations over failure in 19 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's civil and other bureaucracies are still not in favour of full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, alleged Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, president of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS).

He also said it is very difficult to fully implement the accord when bureaucracies are against it and want to destroy the existence of the Jumma people.

The PCJSS leader, popularly known as Santu Larma, was addressing a discussion yesterday, a day before the 19th anniversary of the CHT accord signing.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Only 26 of 72 clauses implemented

Santu Larma tells *The Daily Star*

PINAKI ROY

The hill people had to struggle and make sacrifices for achieving the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord. Every single family there was affected in one way or the other. Since its signing, 19 years have gone by but the hill people are yet to see its full implementation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A woman drawing *alpona* on the wall of her home in Tikoil village in Chapainawabganj's Nachole upazila recently. Inset, another woman working inside a similar home nearby. Many women in the village decorate the walls of their home with such colourful motifs, attracting visitors.

A village of alpona

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Rima Barman drew a dinosaur on a wall of her house, not to spoil it. It was rather her contribution to adorning her house with traditional art called *alpona*.

Like Rima's, more than fifty houses at Tikoil village in Nachole upazila of Chapainawabganj are decorated with colourful motifs drawn by older and younger female generations.

The aesthetic work on exterior walls of the houses has drawn people's attention and has become so famous that the village is known as "Alpona Gram", 27 kilometers away from the district headquarters.

The artwork is also done on interior walls and floors of the houses.

Daykhon Bala Barman, grandmother of 10th grader Rima, has been doing this artwork for long. In her childhood and even later she used to draw motifs with a liquid of rice powder, flour, chalk powder,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

India proposes to raise capacity of Bangladesh armed forces

Indian defence minister meets PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has proposed a number of new initiatives to enhance the capacity and capabilities of the Bangladesh Armed Forces.

Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar concluded his two-day visit to Bangladesh yesterday and had wide-ranging discussions with the political and military leadership of Bangladesh to further strengthen the ties between the armed forces of the two countries.

"The defence minister proposed a number of new initiatives to enhance the capacity and capability endeavours of the Bangladesh Armed Forces," said a press release of the High Commission of India after Manohar Parrikar called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday afternoon.

Enhancing training engagements, joint exercises, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) activities, and Blue Economy initiatives were discussed.

The minister offered training for Bangladesh Coast Guard personnel to enhance their capabilities.

He assured continued support to the Armed Forces of Bangladesh in all endeavours. "Through a joint endeavour, the tomorrow of our nations will be better than today."

During his call on Hasina at the Gono Bhaban, the minister conveyed greetings of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said Modi was looking forward to Hasina's visit to India.

He presented Hasina the airframe of an Allouette Helicopter. The helicopter was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rohingyas to be sent back

Says home minister

STAR REPORT

With hundreds of newly-arrived Rohingyas crowding unregistered Rohingyas camps in Teknaf and other areas of Cox's Bazar, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said they would be sent back to their country at a convenient time.

The minister made the remark while talking to reporters after attending a programme organised by Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence in the capital's Mirpur area.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Bulls hurt Kings' playoff chances

SPORTS REPORTER

Lowly Barisal Bulls blunted Rajshahi Kings' chances of making the Bangladesh Premier League playoffs by beating Darren Sammy's team by 16 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The win takes Barisal to eight points with one game against Rangpur Riders (10 points) left, while Rajshahi sit on 10 points from 11 games with one match against second-placed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Admin's probe finds no AL feud behind B'baria attack

Findings contradict those of 2 police probe bodies

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and RASHIDUL HASAN

When two police probes said internal conflict of local Awami League resulted in the Nasiragar attacks on Hindu temples and homes, the investigation by Brahmanbaria district administration found no such link.

The district administration probe also found no negligence on the part of the local police and the administration.

The police probes had, however, mentioned negligence of duty on the part of the UNO and the OC concerned as reason for the attacks being successful.

Two police probe committees -- one formed by the Police Headquarters and the other by Brahmanbaria district police -- investigated the attack of the religious zealots. The criminals had vandalised and looted Hindu homes and temples on October 30 following a Facebook post allegedly made by local youth Rasraj Das hurting the religious sentiments of the Muslims.

The committee formed by the Brahmanbaria deputy

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

ZILLA PARISHAD ELECTIONS

Polls rules violated by MP, mayor

STAR REPORT

A ruling Awami League lawmaker in Natore and the Chittagong city corporation mayor accompanied AL-nominated chairman and member candidates in the district council elections while they submitted their nomination papers yesterday.

As per electoral code of conduct, the Speaker, the opposition leader in parliament, ministers, MPs, city corporation mayors and other VIPs enjoying government facilities are not allowed to campaign or take part in any election activities.

Election Commission (EC) Secretary Muhammad Abdullah told *The Daily Star* that participation of lawmakers in electoral activities was a clear violation of the polling code.

However, election officials in Natore while talking to *The Daily Star* tried to defend the matter and had said there were

no restrictions on lawmakers on joining the activities of the district council polls scheduled for December 28.

Chittagong returning officer claimed that he had not gotten the copy of the electoral code of conduct as of yesterday evening.

About the Chittagong RO's remark, the EC secretary said copies of electoral code were sent before the announcement of the polls schedule on November 20. Besides, the code of conduct was available on the EC's website.

Violating the rules, AL lawmaker of Natore-2 constituency Shafiqul Islam Shimul accompanied his party-nominated district council chairman and member candidates while they submitted their nomination papers around noon yesterday, the last day for filing the papers.

It was not the first time Shimul violated the electoral code. Shimul breached the rules in similar fashion by accompanying party-nominated mayor hopeful Uma Chowdhury when she went to file her documents for the Natore Sadar municipality polls on December 3 last year.

The Election Commission had then served a show-cause notice on him. In response, Shimul had apologised to the EC and pledged not to do it again.

Shimul yesterday accompanied AL-nominated district council chairman candidate Sajedur Rahman and some member aspirants, Natore district election officer

Abul Hossain told *The Daily Star*.

Shahina Khatun, deputy

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

CHARITABLE TRUST CASE Khaleda pleads not guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday claimed innocence before a special court in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case filed by the Anti

Corruption Commission in 2011.

Appearing before the court, she also hoped that she would get justice in the case.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of Dhaka Special Judge's Court-3 read out the testimony of the witnesses of the state to the BNP chief and sought her comments on the statements.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

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