

## Marma girl's rape protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Adivasi Chhatra Sangathan formed a human chain on the Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University campus yesterday protesting rape of a Marma girl, sexual assault on her sister and attack on Chakma Circle Queen Yan Yan.

Indigenous students of the university joined the programme in front of the administrative building.

Speakers at the rally bitterly condemned the barbaric incident and demanded bringing the culprits to book.

The local ethnic communities are deprived and repressed in many ways and the secular multi-cultural country is losing its secular ideal, they alleged.

Criminology and Police Science Department Chairman Mohammad Jahirul Islam, and indigenous students Manosi Prosad Chakma and Joy Kumar Sarkar Hajang spoke at the rally.

A Marma girl was raped and her sister was sexually harassed in Rangamati's Bilaichari upazila on January 22.

## Call for full implementation of CHT accord

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Speakers at a programme yesterday expressed indignation as the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace agreement has not been fully implemented after 20 years of its signing.

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), student wing of Parbattya Chattagram Jono Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), organised the programme at Rangamati Cultural Institute, marking the 20th council of its Rangamati unit.

Demanding full implementation of the peace agreement, the speakers said the government cannot avoid its responsibility in this regard.

Lawmaker Ushaton Talukder in his speech said nobody is safe now in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and none can move freely. He said the main issues of the peace agreement are yet to be implemented and the government should take step immediately.

He also demanded impartial investigation into the rape of a Marma girl and sexual harassment of her sister and punishment to the criminals involved.

PCJSS Student and Youth Affairs Secretary Trijinad Chakma said many PCJSS leaders, activists and common indigenous people were falsely implicated in cases. They were put into jail, he said, adding that conspiracy is on to eliminate the indigenous people in CHT and destroy the peace accord.

Parbattya Chattagram Jubo Samiti Rangamati unit President Toyen Chakma, PCP General Secretary Suman Mrama and Hill Women Federation leader Dipa Chakma also spoke at the programme with PCP Rangamati unit President Rintu Chakma in the chair.

A 21-member new committee was formed with Rintu Chakma as president for second term and Milan Kusum Tanchangya general secretary.



The main canal in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi is under threat of disappearance due to grabbing and building of structures on it. The photo was taken from Rajapur Bazar recently.

PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

## Rajapur canals under threat of disappearance

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, *Jhalakathi*

All the five canals of Rajapur upazila are under threat of disappearance as they are being grabbed by the people living on their banks.

At first, grabbers make a bamboo enclosure on the bank of a canal close to their homestead and gradually dump trash and waste into it, said Jasim Uddin, a resident of the upazila.

After some months or years the enclosure is filled and becomes a part of the homestead of the grabbers, he added.

On a visit to the upazila, this correspondent saw that many structures have been constructed by grabbing the canals, but the grabbers do not feel guilty about it.

"I do not find anything wrong in grabbing the canals as many people are building structures on canals," a grabber said, seeking anonymity.

Hundreds of structures were constructed in the

last ten years, many residents of the areas said.

"I saw the canals at least 100 metres wide only a decade ago but they are now only 10 metres wide," said Abdus Sattar, an elderly man.

"I used to catch fish in the canal when I was a college student around 12 years ago, but now that is only a memory as the canal has become a narrow drain due to grabbing," said Sajib, a local who feels pain and agony when he sees the tragic condition of the canals.

"The canals were a good source of fish only two decades ago, but now they are barren as they have lost their width and depth," he added.

"We still use the canal's water for our daily purposes, although it is not clean due to throwing of rubbish into it," said Hasina Begum, who collects water from the canal every day.

Waterlogging is common in many areas during the rainy season due to grabbing of the canals, locals said.

A canal protection committee, led by assistant commissioner of land (AC land), was formed recently to save the canals from encroachment but the committee is inactive as the AC has been transferred, said Rahim Reza, a member of the committee.

"These canals were used for irrigation and communication by the farmers but now they cannot use them due to the grabbing," said Tilok Ghosh, upazila agriculture extension officer.

"We are working for demarcating the canals quickly so that none gets the chance to grab them. We will conduct a drive to demolish all illegal structures from the canals," said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Afroja Begum Parul. The canal protection committee could not start work as the AC land was transferred as soon as the committee was formed, she added.



These four fishing cat kittens, rescued from a locality on Saturday morning, were released to Mulagul forest in Kanaighat upazila of Sylhet in the afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

## 4 fishing cat kittens released to wild

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The forest department officials released four endangered fishing cat kittens to Mulagul forest in Kanaighat upazila of Sylhet on Saturday afternoon, following their rescue from a human habitation earlier on the day.

"The three-month-old kittens were rescued near the house of local union parishad member Bashir Uddin on Saturday morning. After hearing the matter, people thronged the spot, said Md Shahidul Islam, beat officer of Mulagul forest.

Fishing cats feed on fish, frogs and aquatic birds, and they have a unique way of capturing their prey for meals, said Divisional Forest Officer (wild-life) Mihir Kumar Doe.

Fishing cats are native to India and Southeast Asia but they are vanishing from riverbanks due to water pollution and poaching, he said.

These cats are listed as vulnerable on the Red List of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, he added.

Ashrafur Kabir, chief coordinator of Bhumi Sontan Bangladesh, an initiative for wildlife rights, said fishing cat is a medium-sized wild cat, living mostly in the vicinity of wetlands, along rivers, streams, oxbow lakes, swamps and mangroves.

Wild animals mostly come out from the jungle at night for food, he added.

Scientific name of fishing cat is *Prionailurus viverrinus*.

## Pabna Sugar Mill employees oppose Nitol-Tata move

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Workers and employees of a state-owned sugar mill have been staging demonstrations for the last one week against an initiative by a private company to set up an industry near the mill.

Nitol-Tata group secretly bought a large area near the Pabna Sugar Mill at Dashuira point in Ishwardi upazila last month and has got mutation of six acres of land, said Pabna Sugar Mill Managing Director (MD) Md Tofazza Hossain.

"After getting their land mutation, the Nitot-Tata Group started construction of a boundary wall, ignoring our objection," the MD told this correspondent.

"We have taken initiative to expand the mill area for starting diversification projects to bring profit for the mill," he said.

"We submitted a plan to the Ministry of Industry to acquire 27.48 acres of private property in front of the mill in September last year to set up a juice plant and water plant. We are waiting for government approval to acquire the land, but the private company bought the land and halted the expansion project," the MD added.

"The mill has been facing loss since its inauguration in the '90s due to lack of profitable projects. It is producing 1,500 tonnes of sugar from 15,000 tonnes of sugarcane a day, but this is not enough to earn profit," said Pabna Sugar Mill Workers' Association Secretary Ashrafuzzaman Ujjal.

### Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Post  
Dak Bhaban, Dhaka-1000



### NOTICE

### 47th International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People-2018

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has been organizing letter-writing competition for young people this year with an aim to improve literacy through the art of letter-writing. Targeted at children and young people, the annual competition encourages participants to express their creativity and refine their language skills. For the year 2018, the International Bureau of the UPU has selected the following as the theme/subject of the letter writing competition.

#### Theme:

"Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?"

#### Instructions for the writer:

- The letter must not exceed the limit of 1000 words and must be recent, unpublished and computer-composed in English.
- The criteria which will be used to judge the quality of the letters is structure as a letter (date, opening and closing salutation and signature), adherence to the theme, creativity and use of language. Writing in any other form except letter will lead to its outright cancellation.
- When writing, one side of a paper (A4) should be used and original handwritten manuscript letter must be submitted. Writing on both sides of a paper will not be accepted.
- Each participant is required to write in English his/her own name, class, name of educational institution, address and names of parents along with the full address of residence and telephone/mobile numbers (if any) at the end of the original letter.
- Only the letter of the participant securing the first place at the national level competition will be forwarded to the UPU International Bureau (Berne, Switzerland), to be included in the competition at the international level. All letters submissions to the UPU become the property of the Universal Postal Union.

#### Attachment:

- Participating boys/girls (Students) must be permanent citizens of Bangladesh. Birth certificate by ward commissioner/UP Chairmen attested by his/her Head of the educational institution must be submitted.
- His/her age (as on 05-5-2018) must not exceed 15 (fifteen) years.
- The certificates confirming the citizenship and age of a participant by his/her Head of the educational institution must accompany the letter. The certificates must bear the name of the participant along with names of parents, school, class, date of birth, and permanent address.
- 5 (five) copies of recent passport size good quality photograph to be attached.
- The top ten participants according to merit list will be called upon to Directorate of Posts and they have to write instantly a letter on a specific topic provided by Bangladesh Post on a particular date. The date and time will be informed in time. Then final selection of First, Second and Third will be done by making average marks obtained in two letters.

#### Prizes:

Sl No.	Prizes	International	National
1.	First prize	Special medal gold, certificate, as well as other prizes to commemorate their win (such other prizes to be decided by the UPU). The gold medalist may also be offered a trip to the UPU headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, or an alternative prize to be decided at the sole discretion of the UPU.	Prize bond worth Taka 5,000/- (five thousand), an album of postage stamp, and a certificate (less/more).
2.	Second prize	Special medal silver, certificate, as well as other prizes to commemorate their win (such other prizes to be decided by the UPU).	Prize bond worth Taka 4,000/- (four thousand), an album of postage stamp, and a certificate (less/more).
3.	Third prize	Special medal bronze, certificate, as well as other prizes to commemorate their win (such other prizes to be decided by the UPU).	Prize bond worth Taka 3,000/- (three thousand), an album of postage stamp, and a certificate (less/more).
4.	Special mention	Writers awarded a special mention will also receive a certificate as well as other prizes (such other prizes to be decided by the UPU).	-----

#### Contact Details:

- The words "47th International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People-2018" should be written on top of the envelope.
- Any letter received after the below-mentioned deadline and sent through any service other than the registered/GEF of the Bangladesh Post will not be considered for this competition.
- Further information regarding this may be collected from [www.upu.int/en/ilwc](http://www.upu.int/en/ilwc).
- The complete letter must reach to Md Jamal Pasha, Director (UPUA), Directorate of Post, Dak Bhaban (Room-372), Dhaka-1000 no later than 30 March-2018.

Md Jamal Pasha  
Director (UPUA)  
Phone: 9555987

GD-530

## Char people continue agitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Char people in the district continued demonstration protesting the arrest of one of their activists Abul Kashem and two 'false cases' filed against their leaders and activists.

Under the banner of 'Basatbhita Rokkha Committee', the speakers at a rally in Sadar upazila yesterday demanded withdrawal of the cases.

They also threatened to go for a tougher movement if committee activist Kashem is not freed and the 'false cases' are not withdrawn immediately.

On Friday night, police filed two cases against 250 people, including 84 named, for assaulting the law enforcers and obstructing them in performing government duty.

Thousands of people of seven char villages have continued their movement for the last one and a half years demanding cancellation of the alleged 'unfair and motivated' acquisition list.

On Thursday, some agitated locals hurled brickbats at police, causing injuries to a constable, when a team of local administration went to Rishipara for distributing notices for land acquisition.

Police picked up Kashem from the spot and produced him before a court that sent him to jail on Friday.

Committee's convener Prof Syed Mosharrar Hossain, its joint convener Kazi Rafiqul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Abul Mansur, Golam Kibria, Sadequul Islam Sabui, Maulana Ismail Hossain and freedom fighter Idris Ali and Sabita Rani spoke at the rally.



Hundreds of char people join a rally at Joybangla Bazar in Mymensingh Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR