

'Violence persists in hills as peace accord still unimplemented'
Speakers tell rally protesting rape of 14-yr-old girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Pahari Chhatri Parishad and Hill Women's Federation yesterday held a protest march and rally in Rangamati to protest the rape of a 14-year-old girl in Khagrachari.

The protest march began in the morning at the Rangamati Kumar Sumit Roy Gymnasium, proceeded past the Deputy Commissioner's office, and looped back to its starting point, where a rally was held on the road in front of the gymnasium.

Speakers at the event said the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts had hoped the interim government would take effective steps to implement the CHT Peace Accord and the long-standing "regime of exploitation and oppression" would

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Protesting the rape of a 14-year-old girl in Khagrachari, Pahari Chhatri Parishad and Hill Women's Federation held a protest march and rally in Rangamati yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Five arrested over murder of Jashore Krishak Dal leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Detective Branch (DB) of Jashore arrested five individuals on Thursday night in connection with the killing of Tariqul Islam, president of the Krishak Dal's Noapara municipality unit in Abhaynagar upazila.

The team also recovered a foreign-made pistol and one round of bullets allegedly used in the killing, police said.

The arrestees are Mintoo Gazi, 30, Hasanur Rahman, 32, Billal Hossain, 38, Mehedi Hasan Hridoy, 36, and Abu Huraira, 34.

Tariqul, 50, was shot and hacked to death on the night of May 22 in Dahir Masihati village of Abhaynagar upazila.

"With assistance from the cyber crime investigation cell, law enforcers conducted operations last night (Thursday) across Keshabpur, Monirampur, and Abhoynagar, of Jashore district arresting the five individuals," confirmed Inspector Monjurul Haque Bhuiyan of Jashore DB.

Based on information from the arrestees, police recovered the pistol and bullets from Hridoy's house, he added.

Prof Yunus calls for inclusive

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supporting the effective launch of Starlink in the country. "We operate in 150 countries and territories. We have never seen such efficiency and decisiveness. On behalf of all my colleagues at SpaceX, I extend our appreciation to you. We look forward to working closely with your team," she said.

The chief adviser thanked Dreyer for visiting Bangladesh. "It's a lovely

time of year here, the monsoon season. Greenery and water everywhere. At the same time, we face challenges of flooding and waterlogging, which highlight the need for dependable technology to maintain connectivity," he said.

"There is also a pressing need for improved connectivity in the remote areas of our hill tracts. These regions lack proper schools, teachers, and doctors. We have set a target to introduce online education in 100 schools, which will benefit students in isolated areas," he added.

Prof Yunus also said Bangladeshi expatriates

will also benefit from digital health services. "Many hesitate to consult doctors abroad due to language barriers. With this system, they will be able to consult Bangladeshi doctors from overseas. We are implementing small initiatives here, but you can take these projects global," he said.

Dreyer expressed her appreciation for Prof Yunus' insights. "The example you are setting here can be shared with other leaders. If Professor Yunus can do it in his country, then others can as well," she said.

She also commended Professor Yunus' efforts in combating corruption.

"Your initiatives to ensure that public services reach the people are highly commendable. A significant part of my work involves traveling around the world. I understand how serious an issue corruption can be. Using technology to decentralise services and improve governance is a meaningful vision," Dreyer added.

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 19
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Farmers fear crop loss without water, silt

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

It is monsoon season in Bangladesh, but the Teesta River paints an unusually dry picture. Instead of swelling channels and submerged sandbars, vast stretches of the riverbed remain exposed, a rare and worrying sight for locals who have lived along its banks for decades.

Known for its fierce current during monsoon, the Teesta flows through five districts -- Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram, and Gaibandha.

"I've never seen the Teesta like this in the heart of the monsoon," said 70-year-old Sekendar Ali, a farmer from

Rangpur's Mahipur. "This time of year, the river used to flood and submerge all the sandbars, bringing along

Farmers in Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, and Kurigram are also reporting similar conditions. In the

every monsoon and become fertile after the water recedes. But this year, the flood never came. Without water and silt, cultivation in winter will be difficult," he said.

Touhidul Islam, sub-assistant engineer and water record keeper at the Teesta barrage, said from June 15 to July 12 this year, the average daily water flow recorded at the barrage ranged between 55,000 and 60,000 cusecs. During the same period last year, the recorded flow ranged from 90,000 to 120,000 cusecs.

Subal Chandra Roy, in charge of the Agricultural Weather Observation Centre

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nutrient-rich silt that blessed our farmlands. Now, the water is scarce."

Farmer Jahir Uddin, 65, shared similar concerns.

Kalmati area of Lalmonirhat Sadar, Kader Ali, 60, said his 20 bighas of land on a Teesta char remain dry. "Normally, these lands get submerged

every monsoon and become fertile after the water recedes. But this year, the flood never came. Without water and silt, cultivation in winter will be difficult," he said.

Touhidul Islam, sub-assistant engineer and water record keeper at the Teesta barrage, said from June 15 to July 12 this year, the average daily water flow recorded at the barrage ranged between 55,000 and 60,000 cusecs. During the same period last year, the recorded flow ranged from 90,000 to 120,000 cusecs.

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