

Call to resolve CHT settler issue

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CHITTAGONG, JULY 21: Former Army officer Major General Mohammad Ibrahim said the peace of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) area will not be resumed until the government resolves the issue of settling Bengali people in the area. He said the hilly people had commenced insurgency at the said area in a crucial and non-democratic period after 1975 when the army personnel had no idea about how the insurgency will be solved.

Ibrahim was presenting keynote paper at a discussion on 'Chittagong Hill Tracts: Challenges of Unity,' organised by South Asia Youth for Peace and Prosperity (SAYPP) held at the Social Science Faculty of Chittagong University on Thursday.

President of SAYPP CU chapter SM Monirul Hasan presided over the function while pro vice-chancellor of CU Prof Dr Mohammad Alaudin was the chief guest.

Dean of the varsity's Social Science faculty Prof Dr Jyoti Prokash Datta addressed the function as special guest while general secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalist (CUJ) and Bureau Chief of 'The Independent' Nazim Uddin Shyamol and Bureau Chief of Daily Amar Desh spoke at the function as guest of honour.

Mohammad Ibrahim further said a large number of hilly people had remained silent during the country's liberation war. The half decade-long problem will be solved only after a peaceful discussion with both the parties, he said.

Nazim Uddin, in his speech, said both the government and the hilly area residents should not forget the human aspects while resolving this matter. The government should ensure basic rights of the people of CHT area as they — after being persuaded by a vested quarter - have been involved in bloody clashes.