

Tigers lose trail

FROM PAGE 1
Umar Gul while trying to play across to a straight delivery.

Alok Kapali joined Saleh and the two Sylhet players appeared untroubled by the Pakistan bowling until a pathetic turn of fortunes saw Bangladesh lose four wickets for just 10 runs in 33 balls.

Saleh, who scored a matured 64 off 93 balls in his second ODI, needlessly tried to clear mid-on only to be caught by Gul off off-spinner Shoaib Malik. Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza (1) came in to up the tempo, although the logic behind that move with the required rate around 5.5 was baffling.

He did not last long and Mushfiqur Rahman (0) and captain Khaled Mahmud (4) also followed in his footsteps, leaving the Tigers in tatters.

Eventually, they were all out for 169 in 42.1 overs and in the process, managed to gift the innocuous Junaid Zia the last three wickets.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Pakistan's fighting total was built around a fine century by middle order bat Youhana.

The right hander from Lahore scored 106 runs, his ninth one-day

hundred, off 127 balls with a six and seven boundaries and was the only batting pillar while wickets fell all around him.

He was lucky to get that far, however. On 77, he edged Saleh to wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud only for umpire Tiffin to think that he never touched it.

Together with captain Inzamam, Youhana featured in a decisive 87-run third wicket partnership before the Pakistan skipper was bowled by left arm spinner Mohammad Rafique for 41.

Opener Mohammad Hafeez and lower order Kamran Akmal were the other notable run getters for Pakistan, scoring 26 runs each.

Despite a poor start in the field – with two catches spilled by Kapali and Saleh in the opening overs – Bangladesh staged a good comeback by restricting the home side under the 250-mark.

Saleh also shone with the cherry claiming three wickets for 48 runs from his nine overs.

The third match will be played at the Ghaddafi Stadium in Lahore on September 15.

Rich, poor clash

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has agreed to admit Nepal and Cambodia as new members. They are the first countries classified as least developed to join the trade body since it was founded in 1995.

The street protests that marked the first day of the meeting, including the suicide of a South Korean farmer on Wednesday, have died down. A Greenpeace protester from Mexico disrupted a US press briefing, leading the WTO to ban all non-governmental organisations from attending future news conferences.

With the issue of farm subsidies still at a stand-off, a group of 16 developing countries are teaming up to oppose the launch of new negotiations on investment and competition rules.

The row over farming subsidies has dominated the meetings so far, and there is likely to be little progress on other issues until an agreement has been reached.

The G21 says the rich world needs to keep the promises it made two years ago to cut tariffs.

The EU and US say poorer countries must agree to broader legal and commercial reforms in return for any concessions on farming.

Rich countries give their farmers \$320bn in handouts, more than six times the amount they give to poor countries as aid. So far, the G21 was standing firm, and new members were expected to join in the next few days, Action Aid said.

The big question now was whether the alliance could remain united, or whether "the US would pick countries off one by one," a spokeswoman told BBC News Online.

The G21 could shift the power at the 146-nation WTO talks towards the poor world for the first time, she

added.

But the danger for developing nations is that if they hold out for a better deal the five-day talks will end in failure, and they will be stuck with current trade agreements for several more years.

With the 2004 US presidential election looming, the US is likely to find it hard to improve on what it sees as a generous offer that has already drawn political flak.

"Not a threat"

Delegates from both the EU and US attempted to undermine the G21 on Thursday by writing it off as a marriage of convenience.

"It's really unclear to us what is the unifying principle there among those countries," said Deputy US Trade Representative Peter Aljgeier.

"On the one hand, you've got some of those countries that were among the most ambitious countries for agricultural reform.

"Then it goes across the spectrum... to countries that have not been advocates of reform," he told reporters.

Another senior US official questioned what Brazil had in common with fellow G21 member India, which shelters behind some of the world's highest tariff walls and is reluctant to open its markets.

The EU, which spends about \$100bn on propping up its own farmers, said it was unconcerned by G21 pressure.

"We do not see the G21 as some kind of a threat," said EU spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez.

"It is a temporary alliance which wants to push the joint interests of its members together."

Cheap medicine pact

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generic medicines at low prices, but it will be much more difficult than it appears, "because what was agreed involves very complex rules," she said.

The accord on access to cheap medicines was reached in late August, just prior to the WTO's ministerial conference in the Mexican resort city of Cancun, which ends Sunday.

Observers of the negotiations say the consensus was the result of desperate manoeuvres to try to prove to the developing world that it can indeed find benefits in the WTO.

The agreement allows countries facing public health crises, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis, to import the needed medicines from other countries that are authorised to manufacture generic drugs. The generics are usually much cheaper than their trademarked equivalents.

To make the purchase, the soliciting country – with some exceptions – would be subject to oversight and approval by the WTO Secretariat and its Council on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Among other requirements, to carry out the imports, the medicines in question must be specially packaged and labelled, to distinguish them from commercially marketed drugs.

The agreement is very complicated, says Oxfam's Bailey. The deal involves locks on expiration dates for the patents, opening the door to clashes with the pharmaceutical giants, which do not want to give up their patents and do not want to see generics on the market.

The health rights activists argue that so many hurdles and restrictions are the result of pressure from the big drugs laboratories, which are reluctant to cede their patent rights, saying that they should be allowed to cover their investments in research and development of the medicines.

But "Hoen states the NGOs' argument clearly: What should matter is people's health, not profit."

The world's 10 leading pharmaceutical labs are Pfizer and Pharmacia, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb, AstraZeneca, Aventis, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Wyeth and Eli Lilly, which together represent 58.4 percent of the global medications market, moving some 322 billion

dollars a year.

Spokespersons for Eli Lilly argue that, without the patent protections, the company would not be able to recuperate the nearly 500 million dollars it spends each year on discovering and developing new medicines.

A study by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment, which covered 25 years of pharmaceutical production, found that 97 percent of the medicinal products launched on the market were copies of existing medications, with mere cosmetic changes.

The study also found that 70 percent of the rest had been manufactured by publicly-owned laboratories, while half of the few truly new drugs developed in the private sector had to be pulled off the market due to the side effects they caused.

Poor countries should have complete freedom to decide which generic drugs to import and when, without causing conflict with anyone or clashes with the transnational pharmaceutical companies, said the Oxfam spokesman.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders is urging developing countries to put the new agreement on medicines to the test, maximising the flexibility the accord, "though there isn't much."

At the WTO meeting, many of the official delegations have pointed to the accord as proof that the organisation is able to achieve consensus, despite the member states' differences of opinion.

Officials have repeated in their presentations this week that the spirit with which the drugs agreement was reached could extend to the more difficult areas of negotiation, such as agricultural trade, that are the focus of the Cancun meet.

WTO director-general Supachai Panitchpakdi said at the time of the drugs accord that it "proves once and for all that the organisation can handle humanitarian as well as trade concerns."

But the NGOs say it does not go far enough and does not merit celebration, but should be modified to provide greater benefits for poor countries that are in dire need of low-cost medicines to tackle their public health emergencies.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by frontline party leaders, waves to a crowd at a meeting at the Shaheed Alauddin Park in Basabo yesterday.

Hasina

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has been turned into a place for mudslinging, using abusive and filthy words in utter violation of the Rules of Procedure and the Constitution.

"The parliamentary committees were also formed quietly without inducting Awami League lawmakers."

She also criticised the armed attack on lawyers at the Dhaka Judges' Court last week at the "prime minister's instigation".

"One day, Khaleda Zia will be put on trial for killing democracy," Hasina said.

Referring to the deteriorating law and order situation and upsurge in criminal acts, she questioned how public life could be secure "if criminals are made MPs and ministers."

The AL president accused the government of releasing some 24,000 criminals from jail and killing some 53,000 of her party workers in the last 23 months.

"It's a fact that BNP was born through violence. And Khaleda Zia lives in the cantonment as she is afraid of the people."

About the speedy trial tribunal, Hasina alleged that the government was prosecuting AL members instead of criminals to silence the voice of her party and the people.

"This government came to power not by people's vote but by rigging and violence," she said.

The opposition leader said when the common men are facing acute economic hardship because of price spiral of essentials, the government has increased salaries of ministers and MPs leaving out employees and workers.

AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury presided over the rally. AL leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Habibur Rahman Mollah, Jubo League leader Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Awami Svecchhasebak League leader Bahauddin Nasim, Syed Khokon and Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Liakat Sikdar also addressed the meeting.

Utility bill

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commission for each bill plus furniture and fixture cost, but the government refused to pay the commission and the difference stalled an agreement between the banks and utility service providers.

The Cabinet Division placed the proposal again in the cabinet meeting on August 25 to introduce the system.

The division recommended paying Tk 2 to banks as collection cost. It also stressed the need for selecting adequate number of bank branches to enable subscribers to pay bills without difficulty.

The cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair accepted the proposal, but refused to pay Tk 2 to the banks in commission or in collection costs.

The meeting observed the banks would benefit from deposition of cash as bills.

As per the cabinet decision, subscribers will pay the bills of all utility services together or separately to a branch of a particular bank and a selected bank in a particular area will receive the bills.

The finance division will select banks in different areas to accept the bills.

After selection of banks on an area basis, utility service providers will sign agreements with banks.

Official sources said the finance division took all preparations and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will soon convene a meeting to implement the decision.

They said the finance minister was interested in involving private banks in the bill collection process, but no decision was taken to that end.

10 Iraqi security men

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another following a roadside bombing on the outskirts of this Sunni Muslim bastion 50 kilometres west of Baghdad.

US military spokeswoman Sergeant Amy Abbott said she was investigating reports of an incident.

Separately, an American soldier was killed and two others were wounded when the tire of a two-ton truck exploded as they were changing it in Baghdad, a US military spokesman said Friday.

Specialist Anthony Reinoso said the incident occurred about 11:15 am local time Thursday but gave no other details.

On the economic front, the planning minister in the Iraqi interim cabinet said Friday that the so-called "Swiss Dinar" currently in use in Kurdish regions in northern Iraq would return to the market across the country in mid-October.

"As of mid-October, the Swiss Dinar will replace the New Iraqi Dinar, which carries the picture of (ousted president) Saddam Hussein," Mahdi al-Hafez told AFP.

Top US civil administrator Paul Bremer announced in July that new banknotes would be introduced from October 15 to replace the New Iraqi Dinar in use since 1991, when UN sanctions imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait the previous year forced Baghdad to rely on domestic firms to print money.

The Swiss Dinar, which was printed in Britain, remained in circulation in northern Kurdish regions that slipped out of Saddam's control following the 1991 Gulf War.

The New Iraqi Dinar currently trades at around 1,500 to the dollar.

On the diplomatic front, the United States was preparing to lobby fellow permanent Security Council members to approve a reinforced UN role in Iraq that would simultaneously maintain its control of the country.

Secretary of State Colin Powell is due to meet in Geneva on Saturday with

counterparts from Britain, China, France and Russia, as well as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Tonatuni Festival

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Mujibur Rahman Dilu, coordinator of the festival, conducted the programme.

Iajuddin said former president Ziaur Rahman loved children. He had launched the "Nutan Kuri" programme on Bangladesh Television and opened a new horizon for the children to flourish their latent talent.

He thanked Tonatuni for giving awards to some of the champions of "Nutan Kuri".

The president also thanked them for giving posthumous award to poet Jasimuddin and filmmaker Satyajit Ray for outstanding contribution to literature and filmdom.

He called upon all to take initiatives for educating 250 million child labourers around the world.

Selima Rahman stressed the need for creating a favourable environment to groom the children properly and develop their mental faculty.

The Tonatuni Award 2003 was handed over to Begum Montaj Jasimuddin, Babita, Kaderi Kibria, Ishita, Orin Haque, Shanta, Maria Promi and Tushar, Sandwip Ray, Haradhan Banerjee, Shova Sen, Madhuri Mukherjee, Soumitra Chatterjee, Tapan Chatterjee, Baishakhi Ghosh and Mamota Shankar.

The Tonatuni Festival will be running at the National Museum until September 16.

Three killed in C'nawabganj road mishap

UNB, C'nawabganj

Three people were killed and another was injured in a road accident on Chapainawabganj-Shibganj road in Shibganj upazila on Thursday night.

Police said the accident took place in Sarkaremohor area at about 10:30pm when an autorickshaw, carrying four people, rammmed into a truck, leaving two passengers killed and two people injured.

Autorickshaw passengers Wuhiduzzaman Hiru, 26, and Ujjal Kumar Sarker of Shibganj poura area died on the spot while its driver Ataur Rahman, 27, at Sadar hospital.

Another passenger, Montu, was admitted to the hospital.

7 outlaws held in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Seven members of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were arrested in Dumuria upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Akbar Hossain alias Aku, Tipu Sultan, Shahabuzzaman, Shahinur, Jamal, Jony Biswas and Asad.

Police raided Baruna village at noon and arrested Aku, Tipu and Shihab. Aku, a close associate of BCP chief Minal, was wanted in three murder cases, police said.

Police, in another raid, nabbed Shahinur, Jamal, Jony and Asad at Dhamalia and Shovna villages.

The arrested outlaws were taken to Dumuria Police Station.

Israeli move to expel Arafat

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Israel's neighbour Egypt said it could unleash violence all over Palestinian territories. Jordan and Yemen voiced similar concerns.

A senior US administration official said Washington will not work with Arafat but opposes expelling him because that would only give him "a wider international stage."

"Our position on this is well known, longstanding and unchanged," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "It is unhelpful and it is not the solution."

Asked whether the White House had communicated its objections to Israel, the official replied: "They understand our position; they know what we think about this."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had earlier chaired a security cabinet meeting in the aftermath of the killing of 15 Israelis in two suicide bombings carried out by Hamas militants near Tel Aviv and in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

Israel, which has staged a series of air strikes against Hamas in Gaza recently, has accused Arafat of giving the green light to militant attacks.

"The events of these last few days have proved again that Yasser Arafat is an absolute obstacle to all attempts at reconciliation between the Israelis and the Palestinians," said a government statement after the meeting.

"Israel will act to remove this obstacle in a manner and at a time which will be decided afterwards."

According to a government source, the decision had effectively given a green light to the army to expel Arafat when it sees fit, though Israel has not said if, when or how it might act.

A defiant Arafat, who has been confined to his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah for the past 20 months, vowed: "No one can kick me out. They can kill me with bombs but I will not leave."

French President Jacques Chirac said at a news conference in Spain: "I consider President Arafat the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Authority and I think it would be a serious mistake to seek to eliminate him politically."

The European Union said exiling Arafat would likely escalate Israeli-Palestinian tensions. Russia said expelling him would "wipe away the prospects of a peaceful settlement."

Russia said the move to expel Arafat would be a "serious political mistake with the most negative consequences."



Palestinians shout slogans in support of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (portrait) during a demonstration in the Bureij refugee camp near Gaza City yesterday. Israel's decision to expel Arafat has drawn warnings from around the world that the move would threaten the Middle East peace process.

"Such a step would remove the possibility of peacefully resolving the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and would lead to an uncontrollable chain of events in the worst case scenario," said a statement from Russia's foreign ministry.

And in Sydney, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said: "I think the Israelis would be well advised to leave Arafat in place and to deal as best they possibly can with the new Palestinian prime minister, who is well known to us and is a very good man."

But Palestinian prime minister-designate Ahmed Qorei threatened to call off efforts to form a new government after the Israeli decision, saying the move would make the composition of a government an "issue without substance."

Arafat was hailed by thousands of supporters as he ventured out of his headquarters after the cabinet decision.

He was carried on a chair by his bodyguards, blew kisses and gave the victory sign after up to 3,000 supporters entered the Muqataa complex.

"With our blood and our souls we will support you, Abu Ammar," the crowd chanted, using Arafat's nom de guerre.

Arafat also joined in the chanting over a loudhailer when they chanted: "With our blood and our souls we will support you Palestine."

More than 5,000 people also took to the streets in central Gaza City to

demonstrate their support for Arafat after Islamic and nationalist factions had urged them by loudspeaker to gather.

Hundreds of gunmen opened fire into the air, shouting "Sharon go to hell", "Abu Ammar we will defend you forever" and "Revenge, Revenge".

Anti-graft body

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amendments and additions to the draft bill.

It says the commission cannot be independent, as it allows the persons, against whom there are allegations of corruption, to become members of the selection body of the anti-corruption commission.

The six-member selection body includes two ministers -- the law minister and the finance minister, both accused of graft.

Bac and the commission have a wide gap in power: Bac filed 2,632 graft cases in the last three years, but the commission will not be able to lodge 2,270 cases of the same nature, as its authority has been cut through removal of some laws from the bill.

In other words, the commission will not be able to lodge 86.25 per cent of the cases now filed by Bac. Nor will it be able to press charges against bureaucrats.

Bac operates under 16 fully-fledged laws and 47 sections of the Bangladesh Penal Code, but the commission will have only one fully-fledged law and use only 14 Penal Code sections. "That means the definition of corruption has been narrowed," says a Bac official.

The 33 Penal Code sections that have been kept out of the jurisdiction of the commission includes participating in a crime conspiracy (120/B), cheating (417), forging

court documents (466) and property embezzlement and misappropriation (403).

Besides, the customs and banking sector, accused of widespread corruption, will not be placed under the jurisdiction of the commission, although Bac can now deal with them.

The Penal Code Section 109 that allows Bac to bring a corruption charge against an accomplice will not be put under the commission either.

Transparency International, Bangladesh believes the exclusion of the Section 109 from the reach of the commission will allow accomplices in corruption, including bureaucrats, to escape charges.

Bac requested the government to include the Passport (Offence) Act, 1952, the Bangladesh Passport Order, 1973, the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 and the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2002 in the bill to make the body effective.

Bac also requested it to create a provision to place its officials and employees under the commission according to its recommendations.

AL to decide

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AL President and Leader of the Opposition in the House Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to chair the ALPP meeting.

Jail said the meeting will also discuss the issue of nominating AL lawmakers for parliamentary standing committees on different ministries.

He resented 'unilateral formation' of the standing committees by the government without any consultation with his party.

The AL has about one-fifth of the members in parliament but it has not been offered chairmanship of any of the 39 standing committees.

Power substation

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power supply in the areas at about 5:00pm. "We are trying to fully resume supply of electricity by 7:00pm," Desco system operation manager Mohammad Shahjahan Mian said.

The authorities have formed a six-member committee headed by a joint secretary of the energy ministry to probe the incident and estimate the loss. The committee has been asked to submit report within 48 hours, an official said.

The disruption in power supply caused much sufferings to residents of the areas as the weather was hot and humid yesterday, locals said.

2 US soldiers

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who arrived after the incident saw blood stains near the burning Humvee.

Guerrillas have killed 69 US soldiers since Washington declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1. US officials blame the attacks on loyalists of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein and foreign Islamist fighters.

BOU graduation

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student.

Dean of the BOU Dr Abdur Rashid acknowledged the delay, but said: "We have already overcome the situation and things will be okay from the next semester."

"We do not use books available in the market but rather publish customised books through special arrangements with reputed professors of the public university in order to maintain quality. This sometimes causes delay," Dr Rashid told The Daily Star.

About reasons behind the session jam, Professor MA Razzqa, pro-vice-chancellor of the BOU, said: "We have to arrange for classes and examinations to be held every Friday as most students are service holders."

"Moreover, we have to postpone classes and examinations due to various government service examinations and special days," he added.

Dr Ershadul Bari, vice-chancellor of the BOU, however, put the problem down to lack of any academic calendar in the past.

"We have launched an academic calendar from June so the academic activities are run smoothly," said Dr Bari, adding financial penalties have also been introduced for delay in evaluation of examination papers.

Anti-WTO protest

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consideration," she said.

Hae stabbed himself in the chest during the demonstrations in Cancun on Wednesday and later died in hospital. One of his friends said his suicide was an "act of sacrifice" to show his disgust at the WTO and its policies.

Four left-leaning parties from a rally at Muktangan urged Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury not to sign any agreement at the Cancun meet that goes against the interest of the least developed countries (LDCs) including Bangladesh.

They vowed to build up a tougher movement against the government if it inked any agreement at Cancun that would hamper Bangladesh's interest.

The Jatiya Gano Front, Biplobi Oikya Front (BOF), Ganoatnrik Majdur Party (GMP) and Ganosanghati Andolon organised the rally.

Nazrul Islam, a coordinator of the left-leaning parties, said the developed countries were pressing the

poor countries to withdraw farm subsidy, but the developed countries including the United States were heavily subsidising their agriculture sector.

Terming the WTO 'an anti-poor organisation', he said it by no means served the interest of poor nations including Bangladesh.

Moshrefa Mishu, convener of the BOF, said duty- and quota-free access would not serve the interest of the LDCs, rather the rich countries would control their markets.

Pegging the WTO as 'an organisation of rich countries', Abdus Salam, politbu member of the GMP, said it always planned plunder of poor nations' wealth.

"The government is interested in going by the suggestions of the US rather than considering the interest of the people," he added.

The rally was presided over by Zonaid Saki, convener of the four left-leaning parties.

The demonstrators later brought out a procession that paraded through Gulistan and Paltan area.

Odyssey of highlander

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more," said Kripachandra.

Kripachandra is not alone. The families of Aruna Chakma, Anil Bikash Chakma and Chikansen Chakma figure on a list of 27 families who have taken shelter to their own lands as landless, rootless people in Dighinala.

Seventeen of the families live at a residential primary school and 10 in Uttar Kobakhali Non-Government Primary School. Each family lives in a six by eight feet room, a scant space to accommodate all the members.

The 27 families joined some 5,000 others to cross into India on June 13, 1986 in the wake of what they claimed a joint attack by army and Bangalee settlers in Dighinala.

They alleged "the raiders" torched all the houses in an 18km stretch from Kamukhachara to Pablokhal to Chhangrachari.

"After we left the country, the government reallocated some of the land to Bangalee settlers and the rest fell to Bangalee encroachers," Sanshita Chakma Bakul, president of the Internal Refugee Association, told The Daily Star.

The indigenous people who returned home after the CHT peace pact are officially termed internal refugees.

"The land was allocated to us in 1965 and the peace accord admitted our ownership of the land," Sanshita said.

At Dighinala, Bangalee settlers have put up markets, schools, mosques and others establishments on the land of the ethnic people side by side with some army and Ansar camps.

Without land and a livable place, the indigenous people are fighting a losing war against hunger and diseases. Terrible privation of food, shelter and medicine are part of their lives, said a local school-teacher, requesting anonymity.

But local legislator Wadud Bhuiyan said he knew nothing of them and would take steps to rehabilitate the indigenous people soon if the claims proved right.

On land rights, he said they think all the pastoral land where their ancestors raised farm and pet animals to be their own property.