

Ensure indigenous people's right to land

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for constitutional recognition of the right of indigenous people to land to protect them from repression.

The indigenous population is declining gradually, he added. According to census 2001, the ethnic population in Rangamati and Khagrachhari has declined by 25 percent in the last one decade, he said, adding that the indigenous people are still deprived of justice and their rights.

whatever development is taking place in the CHT are designed to render indigenous people landless. Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmad stressed the need for an indigenous library and one FM radio station for every indigenous community. "It would help ensure their development," he said.

EDEN COLLEGE Hunger strike observed to protest JCD torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A token hunger strike was observed in the city yesterday protesting the repression on female students of Eden University College by Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres. Several hundred women leaders and activists of opposition parties along with current and former students of the college took part in the programme from 11:00am to 1:30pm at Muktangon.



Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers' Association stages a demonstration at Bangla Bazar in the city yesterday protesting price hike of paper.

Appointment of magistrates challenged

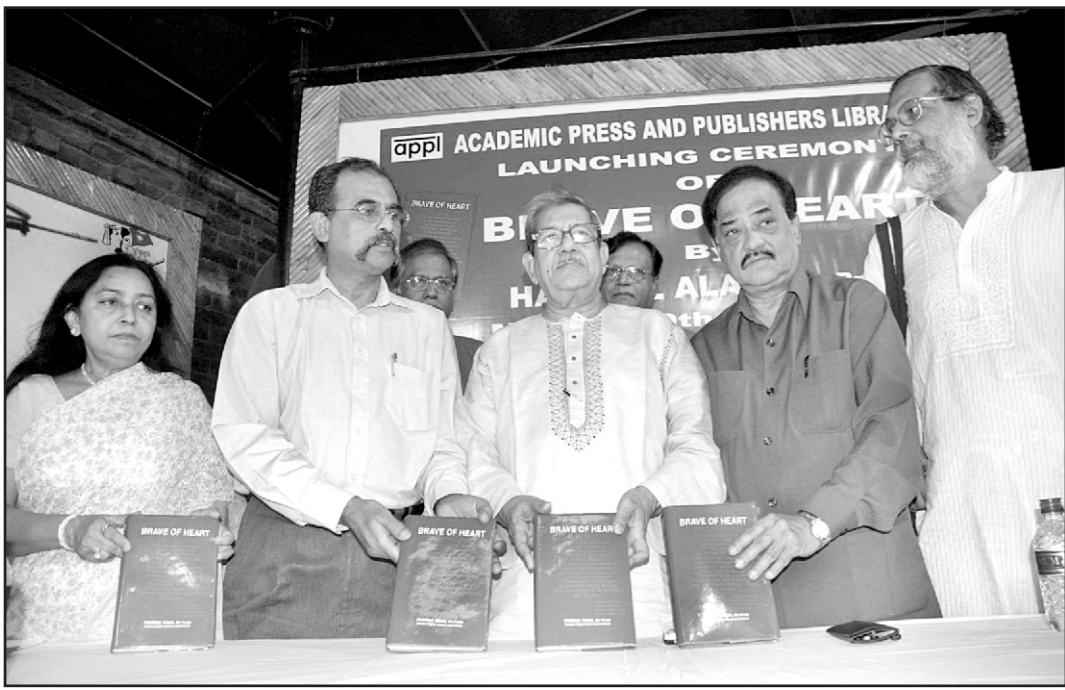
High Court issues rule on govt

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court on Sunday issued a rule on the government to explain why its action in appointing the magistrates at district level without consulting the Supreme Court and all orders and judgements passed by them since June 17, 1999.

The writ petition challenging the validity of the appointments of the magistrates and the orders and judgements passed by them since June 17, 1999. Secretaries of the establishment and law ministries and the registrar of the Supreme Court were made respondents in the PIL case.

employed in the judicial service and magistrates exercising judicial function, shall vest in the President and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court. He further submitted that such appointments are also "ultra vires" to the judgement made by the Supreme Court in December 1999 in the Masder Hossain case that put all the subordinate courts, including magistracy, under control of the Supreme Court.



A book titled 'Brave of Heart', written by freedom fighter Habibul Alam Bir Pratik, was launched at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. From left are Shahina Rahman, Habibul Alam Bir Pratik, Prof Anisuzzaman, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley and Afsan Chowdhury.

'Brave of Heart' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book titled 'Brave of Heart' by freedom fighter Habibul Alam Bir Pratik was launched in the city yesterday. Unveiling the cover of the book at the Liberation War Museum, Prof Anisuzzaman said the author in his book has tried to portray the unforgettable events of the liberation war in a simple language.

Attempt to evict indigenous people in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An influential quarter attacked a village in Gazipur district recently to evict indigenous people and landless Bangalis from khas land where they have been living since 1981. Cadres of under construction Libas Textile Mills Ltd attacked Andarmanik village of Mowchak Union under Kaliakoire upazila on March 5 and injured thirty people including a three-year-old girl Meem Akhter critically by throwing bricks.

demanding a toll of Tk 50,000 from the mill owner. The villagers also lodged a case with the same police station on the same day after the mill authorities lodged their case. Talking to The Daily Star landless leader Aziz said Salman bought some land adjacent to the village and illegally encroached 2.65 acres of khas land evicting ten landless families recently to install the factory.

NEW MOORING TERMINAL 14.275 acres of land handed over to CPA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The district administration of Chittagong officially handed 14.275 acres of land over to Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), the implementing authorities of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) project, yesterday. Of the land, 13.645 acres were acquired from the local and the rest 0.63 acres were government khas land. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP attended the handing over ceremony as chief guest and lauded CPA for making efforts to develop Chittagong port with professional attitude keeping in mind the overall development of the port city.

Take steps to protect environment

AL urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the alliance government's environment policy, the Awami League yesterday demanded immediate steps to protect the environment and proper utilisation of the country's resources. The BNP-Jamaat government has been supplying gas to different foreign companies by depriving the countrymen, the AL leaders alleged and called for proper utilisation of gas resources.

bio-diversity project to save the Sunderbans, but the coalition government "stopped this project in a bid to plunder the forest resources." He also criticised the government for destroying the forest resources in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The environment courts formed during the AL regime are now inactive, he added. AL presidium member and former water resources minister Abdur Razzak, Obaidul Kader, Dhaka University teacher Dr Hossain Mansur, Shaheen Monowara Haque, Ainal Haque Mintu and Sujit Ray Nandi were also present at the press conference.

N'GANJ AL OFFICE BLAST Int'l probe demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The victims of bomb attack at Narayanganj Awami League office on June 16, 2001 that left 20 people dead and several hundred others injured, yesterday demanded an international investigation of the incident under the United Nations. Addressing a press conference at Narayanganj Press Club, they said international investigation has become imperative as the prime minister in a meeting at Fatulla on March 6 blamed the AL-men for carrying out the attack while two militants Anisul and Muhiub of outlawed organisation Harkatul Jihad gave confessional statement admitting their involvement in the attack.

Dr Ibrahim elected FNB chair

Dr Muhammad Ibrahim, executive director of CMES, has been elected chair of the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) at its annual general meeting at the Institution of Engineers in the city on March 18, says a press release. CAMPE Director Rasheda K Choudhury and RIC Director Abul Haseeb Khan were elected vice-chairs and Zakir Hossain, Executive Director of BUKO Tangail, treasurer.

Members are AHM Noman, executive director, DORP, Dhaka; Kamaluddin Akbar, executive director, RDRS, Dhaka; Borhan Ahmed, chairman, ERDF, Manikganj; Md Azharul Islam, director, FDA, Faridpur and Lutfunnarh Rana, President, Faith and Hope, Dhaka. Divisional members are: HM Zakir Ahmed, executive director, PRDS, Dhaka (Dhaka Division); Kazi Mizanur Rahman, executive director, VRDS, Chandpur (Chittagong Division); Harun-Ur-Rashid, executive director, Al Meraj Foundation, Chuadanga (Khulna Division); Nurul Islam Dulu, executive director, DCPUK, Rangpur (Rajshahi Division); Tahera Khanam, executive director, Srimangal Foundation, Moulavibazar (Sylhet Division) and Michael PK Bar, Executive Director, CSC, (Barisal Division).

MANIKGANJ BY-POLLS Eight submit nominations

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Eight candidates submitted their nomination papers for the by-polls of Manikganj-4 constituency, which will be held on April 19. The candidates are Engineer Mainul Islam Khan Shanto (BNP), Golam Sarwar Milon (Independent), Khaliur Rahman (Independent), Mushfiqur Rahman Khan Hannan (Independent, supported by Civil Society), Krisak Mohammad Sadek (Krisak Sramik Mukti Andolon), Sirajul Islam (Independent), SM Abdul Mannan (BNP's rebel) and Moazzem Hossain Tusher (BNP's rebel). The first four candidates submitted their nomination papers at the office of Assistant Returning Officer, who is the UNO of Singair upazila while the rest submitted at the office of Returning Officer in Manikganj.

Golam Mahbub laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Language Movement veteran Advocate Kazi Golam Mahbub was laid to rest at his family graveyard at Kasba Kazi Bari under Gournadi upazila of Barisal district yesterday. The body of Bhasha Soinik Kazi Golam Mahbub, popularly known as Chharu Kazi, was brought to Gournadi at 11-00am yesterday morning from Dhaka. Different socio-political and cultural organisations and individuals placed wreaths at his coffin covered with national and BNP party flags. His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Gournadi College and Kasba Primary School ground attended by hundreds of people from all walks of life and political parties including Zahiruddin Swapan MP and Advocate Talukdar Md Yunus, Barisal District Bar Association president and district Awami League leader.

Death anniversary

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Nurul Momen Khan (Mihir), freedom fighter and former secretary of ministry of youth and sports, says a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held for salvation of the departed soul. Mihir hailed from Sholohgar, Bikrampur in Munshiganj.

Belta's training programme begins

Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (Belta) has started its six-day training programme in association with Presidency University and Biam in the city, said a press release yesterday. Nearly 140 English teachers from different schools, colleges and universities have registered their names at two venues at Gulshan and Eskaton for the highly interactive programme. Nine specialist trainers from the USA, Australia, Argentina, Germany and Japan are the resource persons for different methodology and skill-based sessions. Belta, a voluntary teachers' forum dedicated to the improvement of English language teaching in Bangladesh, especially at the grassroots level, has organised the programme in collaboration with an international body Teachers Helping Teachers.

'Civilian FFs should have been entitled Bir Sreshtha'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion said at least some civilian freedom fighters should have been awarded the title of Bir Sreshtha as thousands of civilians sacrificed their lives and properties in the War of Liberation in 1971. They also said the valiant civilian veterans have to be searched out to know how they are now and to award the Bir Sreshtha title to some of them. They were speaking at the discussion meeting on a book titled "Mukti Bahini Wins Victory: Military Oligarchy Divides Pakistan in 1971" by Major General (Rtd) ATM Abdul Wahab depicting the history of the country from the battle of Plassy to the birth of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organised the discussion at its auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed

presided over the discussion while BILIA Director Wali-ur Rahman conducted. Dr Tafiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury Bir Bikram, Group Captain (Rtd) Shamsul Alam Bir Uttam, former army chief general Mostafizur Rahman, former ambassador Mohammad Zamir and former MP Abdul Awal addressed the meeting. Shamsul Alam said the condition of thousands of civilian freedom fighters has to be found out and they have to be recognised and honoured for their contribution in the struggle of independence. Dr Tafiq said we have to tell the young generation about the heroes of the Liberation War in this crisis situation of the country. Otherwise the anti-liberation war forces will come to power again. Among others, lieutenant colonel (Rtd) Noor-un-Nabi Khan Bir Bikram and Prof Reza Kibria were present.

Obituary

Sultana Rizia, freedom fighter and mother of the Weekly Robbar Editor Syed Tosharrif Ali, passed away due to old age ailments at the residence of her youngest daughter in Bagerhat town on March 17 at the age of 85, says a press release. Sultana Rizia, wife of late Dr Syed Wazed Ali, left behind her four sons, three daughters and host of admirers to mourn her death. She was laid to rest at her family graveyard at Baintala village in Bagerhat on March 18. Her chehnum will be held at her village home after Juma prayers on April 28.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast. Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 12.6 degree Celsius at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 6:01am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.