

CCHRB survey reveals 1204 specific incidents of HR violations in 1997

By Staff Correspondent

A survey report on human rights revealed that there had been a total of 1204 specific incidents of human rights violations in the country in 1997.

The Research and Computer Cell of Coordinating Council for Human Rights, Bangladesh (CCHRB) has conducted the survey. Eight national dailies were used as sources for the survey. The CCHRB survey accepted the minimum number of incidents as there were variation of figures in different newspapers.

Of the total incidents of human rights violations 163 incidents were of acid throwing, dowry deaths-98, killed in Police and BDR firing-40, murder of women-416 and rape-487.

CCHRB has also conducted a survey on the last year's law and order situation of the country. In 1997 a total of 16532 persons were arrested by police, 756 incidents of dacoity, theft and snatching took place, 3247 persons were killed in

road/rail and water accidents, 1241 men were murdered, 483 persons committed suicide, 19 persons were died in police custody and there had been 204 incidents of campus violence.

CCHRB has urged the authorities to take stern action against the violators of human rights irrespective of their social status. Enactment of new laws have been suggested to provide compensation to the victims of the human rights violation.

A commission consisting of public representative should be constituted to oversee the human rights situation in the country which would publish its reports within the stipulated time along with the names of the violators.

CCHRB also urged inclusion of human rights in the training curriculum of the Police, BDR, Ansar and other law enforcing agencies.

Barisal Div gets top priority in ADB '97-'98

By Staff Correspondent

Barisal division receives the highest priority in the Annual Development Budget (ADB) '97-'98 for networking its rural areas and thanas with the capital city and its divisional headquarters, sources said, adding that the allocation marked an increase of Tk 50 crore this fiscal compared to the previous year.

A total of Tk 297.60 crore has been sanctioned in the ADB '97-'98, for networking rural areas and thanas of the country with their respective divisional headquarters, sources said, adding that the allocation marked an increase of Tk 50 crore this fiscal compared to the previous year.

Of the total ADB allocation for the current fiscal, Tk 63.65 crore has been allocated and disbursed for Barisal region, followed by Tk 58.6 crore for Dhaka, Tk 52.65 crore for Comilla, Tk 30.3 crore for Chittagong, Tk 29.35 for Rajshahi, Tk 27.7 crore for Khulna and Tk 25.35 for Rangpur regions.

According to some mid level officials of the RHD, the amount allocated for develop-

ing road communications in Barisal is not based on the geo-social requirement where the prime mode of transport is river based. Impetus should have been given to improve and expand riverine communication in that area rather than that of road transport, they added.

The RHD officials also said that they were under constant pressure from the Treasury Bench MPs of the northern and western regions of the country for the meagre allocation of ADB for their areas.

Barisal division was also given top priority in the Tk 247.05 crore ADB allocation of the fiscal year '96-'97 for connecting the growth centres with the commercial cities and towns, the RHD sources added.

The Barisal region received Tk 57.11 in the last years ADB, while Tk 41.11 crore was sanctioned for Dhaka, Tk 40.1 crore for Comilla, Tk 28.58 crore for Chittagong, Tk 25.05 for Rajshahi, Tk 24.60 for Rangpur and Tk 24.50 for Khulna divisions.



BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party for the leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at her Minto Road official residence in the city yesterday.

Wide use of new vaccines may save 8m children in developing nations yearly

Eight million young children can escape needless death each year if a group of new vaccines, now in the final stage of development by the Children's Vaccine Initiative (CVI), are widely used in developing countries, according to the UNICEF, reports BSS.

Another 4 million young lives could be saved annually if widespread use of existing vaccines against measles, hepatitis B, HIB pneumonia and Meningitis, and neonatal tetanus is strengthened, the CVI said in a new report released in New York yesterday.

"But these children's lives won't be saved without prompt action to increase the worldwide rate of child immunisation," said UNICEF's Executive Director, Carol Bellamy.

Bellamy noted that over 80 per cent of young children are

immunised against the six major killer diseases today, compared to less than 5 per cent in 1979.

"This means about 3 million fewer children die each year than before, and it is a major public health achievement," she said. "However, since 1990 the percentage of children vaccinated has not increased significantly, and no new vaccines have been introduced on a large scale in developing countries."

The CVI is an international effort to develop and introduce new vaccines to address diseases of public health importance. It is the result of a unique partnership among UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Estimates on the mortality reduction potential of new vaccines that are becoming avail-

able against rotavirus diarrhoea, a leading cause of severe dehydration, and pneumococcal pneumonia, a major form of bacterial pneumonia, are included in the report, titled "CVI's Strategic Plan: Managing opportunities and change in vision of vaccination for the 21st century."

2, including woman arrested for cheque fraud

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested two persons including a woman when they fraudulently tried to cash a cheque at Siddheswari branch of Uttara Bank yesterday morning.

Police quoting the bank officials said that Nasrin Akter and Belal Hossain went to the bank to encash the cheque of Tk 45,500 at around 10 am yesterday when they were challenged by the bank manager.

Nasrin Akter identified herself as the person mentioned in the cheque as payee. She described Belal Hossain as her uncle.

The manager of the bank out of suspicion informed the police and handed them over when the cheque was proved to be false, police said.

A case has been filed with Ramna Thana in this connection under Section 420 and 551 of the Penal Code.

25 lakh hectares of water bodies to be brought under fish cultivation

Some 25 lakh hectares of water bodies would be brought under integrated fish cultivation under 18 projects of Water Development Board where participation of people would be ensured, reports UNB.

"An agreement to this effect has already been signed between the Water Resources Ministry and Fisheries and Livestock Ministry," said Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday.

He was addressing the inaugural function of a seminar on Proposed Fourth Fisheries Project, jointly organised by Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, Fisheries Department and World Bank, at BARC auditorium.

The minister said the fisheries sector is playing an important role in increasing national income, augmenting health and nutrition and generating employments in the country.

The minister said the fisheries sector has contributed 3.7 per cent in the country's GDP and supplied 80 per cent animal protein. It also contributed 19 per cent of the total export earnings.

Razzak called upon the par-

ticipants of the seminar to properly use their acquired knowledge in their professional fields.

Presided over by Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Ayub Qadri the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy, Director General of Fisheries Department M Liakat Ali, World Bank Country Representative Pierre Lahdel, Mills and team leader of the project Shafiqul Alam.

Wanted criminal arrested

Police arrested a wanted criminal along with a revolver from a slum in Mirpur area of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Delu wanted by police in 25 cases.

As police raided the slum, Delu fired several shots at the law enforcers, leaving sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman injured.

Police later arrested one of his accomplices, Kamal Hossain, from the area.



Commissioner Kay F Rader (L) and General Paul A Rader of the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army leaders due Jan 15

General Paul A Rader and Commissioner Kay F Rader, the World Leaders of the International Salvation Army, will visit Bangladesh from January 15 to 19, says a press release.

They will be viewing a number of Salvation Army projects in Dhaka and Jessore and also meet with the President and the Prime Minister in addition to a number of representatives of government, foreign missions and social organisations during their visit.

William and Catherine Booth founded the Salvation Army in London, England, in 1865. Their movement aimed at helping the poor and downtrodden, and the work which began humbly in the East End of London, rapidly spread to many countries around the world. The Salvation Army has been working in Bangladesh since independence.

The General and Commissioner Rader took on the highest office of The Salvation Army in July 1993. Born in New York, they have served in several appointments in their homeland and also for 22 years in Korea. Their work in the past three and a half years has taken them around the globe.

Memorial complex to be constructed in Bangabandhu Museum

The government has decided to construct a memorial complex in Bangabandhu Museum to preserve the memorabilia of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

A meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the city Sunday also decided to preserve the Dhanmondi (Road-32) residence of Bangabandhu to present it to the people as it was during Bangabandhu's life time.

The memorial complex will include a library, a research centre and a seminar room. The meeting, held at the PM's office, also discussed the development of the Dhanmondi lake, meeting sources said.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for LGRD Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Sheikh Helal Uddin, MP, Dr Wazed Ali Miah, architect Mazharul Islam, advocate Gazul Huq and high government officials were present at the meeting.

Handloom fair opens Tk 50 cr project taken for dev of handloom industries

State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hossain yesterday said that the government had taken up a number of programmes including a micro-credit project at a cost of Taka 50 crore for the development of handloom industries in the country, reports BSS.

"The importance of handloom industries is immense in textile production, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings," the minister said while addressing the inaugural function of a handloom fair, organised by Bangladesh Handloom Board, at Rawan Bazar in the city.

Textiles secretary Shamsuzaman Chowdhury was present as special guest at the function

which was also addressed by the chairman of Bangladesh Handloom Board, A K M Enayetullah, and member of the board Sabihuddin Ahmed.

The minister expressed the hope that the fair would contribute to make the handloom products popular at home and abroad as well as spreading the culture and national heritage of the country.

Twenty stalls have been erected in the fair, which will run from 10 am to 8 pm every day till the holy Eid-ul-Fitr. A wide variety of attractive jamdani and banarasi katan, as well as quality saris of Pabna and Tangail varieties are on display for sale in the fair.

776 more tribal refugees back home

RANGAMATI, Jan 12: A total of 776 tribal refugees of 150 families returned home today, the 12th day of the current phase of repatriation from the Lebachhora refugee camp in India's Tripura State, reports BSS.

With the day's returns, a total of 10,979 tribal refugees of 2,145 families came back home in 12 days since January 1.

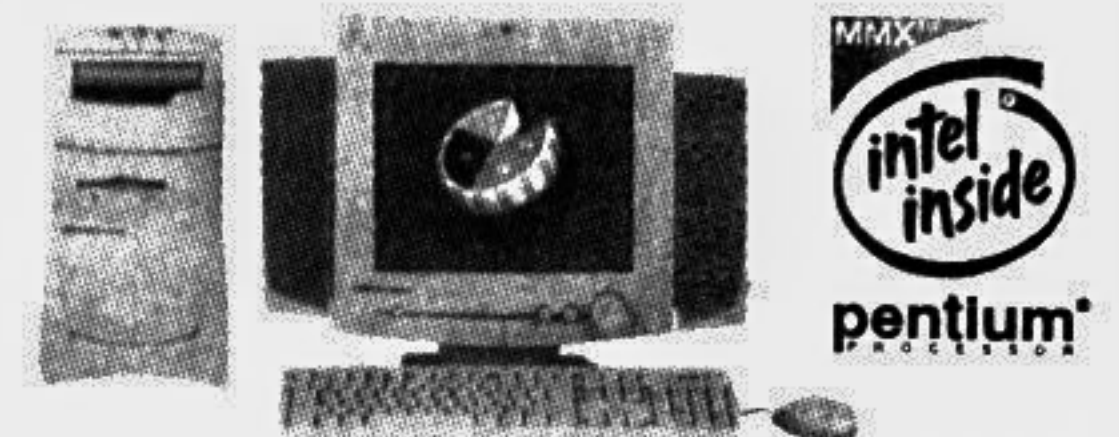
Another 801 tribal refugees of 150 families are expected to return from the same camp tomorrow.

Among the day's returns, 40 families were sent to Dighalana thana, 86 families to Kharachhari sadar thana and the rest 24 families to Panchhari thana for rehabilitation in their abandoned houses.

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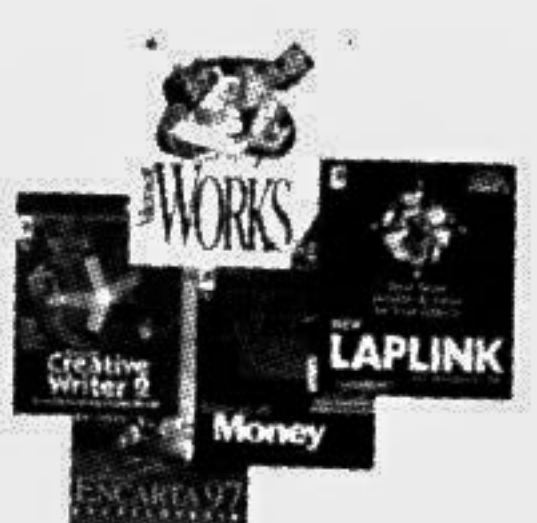
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(সকাল ৯টা থেকে বিকাল ৩-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত)

INVITATION FOR ACTION PROGRAMME PROPOSALS ON CHILD LABOUR (ILO-IPEC)

Bangladesh is one of the 25 countries world-wide participating in the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The objective of this programme is to assist the government and other social partners to prevent, restrict, and regulate child labour in a gradual and socially responsible way. The programme also wants to give the existing working children a better future by transforming them into productive human resource that will also contribute to overall socio-economic development of the country.

Keeping the above objectives in view the National Steering Committee (NSC) of ILO-IPEC invites Action Programme (AP) Proposals for 1998-99 from (a) govt. bodies, (b) employers' organizations, (c) trade unions, and (d) NGOs. The conditions for eligibility to submit AP proposal include:

1. Registration of the organization with the government.
2. Working experience with the poor/working children.
3. The proposed AP has to be innovative, cost-effective, replicable and sustainable.
(The strategy towards future sustainability has to be clearly explained).
4. The priority areas of programming are as follows:
 - a. Hazardous child labour
 - b. Elimination of child labour through economic empowerment
 - c. Non-formal education and skills training
 - d. Social security and rehabilitation of working children
 - e. Awareness raising
 - f. Schooling programme for domestic servants/street children

Mention the area (only one) under which you are submitting the AP proposal.

5. The proposal must include all of the following:
 - a. Registration number/date & registration authority
 - b. Background and justification of the proposed AP.
 - c. Nature and number of the target group/location of the AP
 - d. The proposed strategy to address the child labour problem
 - e. Specific objective(s) of the Action Programme.
 - f. Precise and measurable description of the outputs
 - g. Specific activities for each of the stated outputs.
 - h. Organizational structure of the implementing agency
 - i. List of inputs that will be necessary for the programme. The exact amount of estimated expenditure against each of the inputs has to be shown in local currency.
 - j. Detailed budget in US \$ (UN rate is \$1= Tk. 43.60).

The proposals have to be addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Manpower, Chairman of the IPEC NSC, and submitted in 3 copies to the Director, ILO, House No. 79, Road No. 12A (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. The deadline for submission of proposals is 28 January, 1998.

Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Manpower, &
Chairman of the NSC, ILO-IPEC