

Over 14 lakh tribesmen in country

State Minister for Planning Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday said at least 29 main and 48 small tribes are now living in various parts of the country, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Md Moslemuddin of Awami League in the Jatiya Sangsad, the state minister said the number of people belonging to these tribes is 14,23,068.

The main tribes are Bangshi, Boin, Boin, Chak, Chakma, Kach, Garo, Hajong, Harijan, Khasia, Khyand, Khumi, Lushai, Mahaat, Marma, Monipuri, Monda, Murang, Mue, Pahari, Pungthoo, Rajbangshi, Rakhain, Saontal, Tan-changha, Tipra, Tripura, Orang and Ura.

The smaller 48 tribes comprise a total population of 3,08,857, Dr Alamgir said.



Dr Kamal Hossain speaking at the National Student Conference 2000 at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city yesterday. Jogajog Chhatra Prokria organised the event. — Star photo

Natural disasters killed over 70,000 worldwide last year: Report

By Staff Correspondent

World Disaster Report-2000 of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) revealed that between 70,000 and 1,00,000 people were killed worldwide by natural disasters last year while the number of deaths from infectious diseases stood at around 13 million.

The report was launched yesterday simultaneously in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and

Geneva-based IFRC.

Held at BDRCS's headquarters in Dhaka, the launching ceremony was attended by head of IFRC delegation Bob McKerrrow, acting chairman of BDRCS Munir Hossain Khan and secretary general Major (retd) Ali Hassan Quorshi.

The report said that about 150 million people died of AIDS, TB and malaria against 23 million from war between 1945-1993.

Global military spending during this period was 864 bil-

lion dollar whereas only 15 billion dollar was spent to control those deadly diseases, it added.

The report observed that most of the 13 million deaths in 1999 from infectious diseases could have been prevented by spending only 5 dollar for each person.

It pointed out that public expenditure on health in the low-income countries is one per cent of GDP compared to six per cent in the developed countries.

Describing the theme of the report, Bob McKerrrow said that

this year the focus has been on public health.

He said that the public health sector must improve its services in vulnerable areas. "That is why, there is a need to share more information," he said.

Referring to WHO report, Ali Hassan Quorshi said that the country has about 100 cases of AIDS and 20,000 people are HIV positive. BDRCS plans to take up a project to prevent spread of AIDS, he added.

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Student communities should be reorganised to save country: Speakers

By Staff Correspondent

The student communities should be reorganised to save the country and student politics from the grip of those who are destroying it, speakers said during the inaugural session of National Student Conference-2000 of Jogajog Chhatra Prokria yesterday.

Dr Kamal Hossain was the chief guest at the conference held at the Engineers' Institute auditorium. Presided over by Abu Saleh Mohammad Sayem, it was also attended by prominent economist Dr Mozaffar Ahmed, executive director of Democracy Watch Taleya Rehman and Dr Abdul Latif Malik.

Praising the role of students during the historical movements before and after independence, Kamal Hossain said

that the educational institutes are today occupied by terrorists and extortionists that make up the present 'so called' student politics.

"I wait for that day when the sacred soil of Dhaka University will become free from the grip of terrorists and those teachers who give them shelter," Kamal Hossain said. He demanded legal steps to free the university from these evil forces.

Taleya Rehman called for coordination between education and employment. She also said that old syllabus should be updated.

The student organisations should not act as "puppets" of different political groups. Taleya Rehman, said, adding that leaders are not supposed to use students for their personal interests.

Students should introduce a positive trend in politics. Taleya Rehman urged the students, calling on them to avoid the current trend of student politics in the country.

The government has to arrange job opportunities for the young generation and provide facilities to them to become self-reliant, she added.

Dr Mozaffar Ahmed said students should be conscious about their fundamental rights. "I feel ashamed when I see that students demanding postponement of their examinations," he said.

Appreciating the goals mentioned in the declaration of the conference, Dr Ahmed said this spirit has to be spread among that percentage of the students who are not playing an active role in student politics.

US envoy makes farewell call on Rafiq

Outgoing US Ambassador John C. Holzman yesterday made a farewell call on State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiq Islam at his parliament office here, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to different aspects of mutual interest of the two countries and expressed similar hope that the existing bilateral relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Prof Islam said the US investment in Bangladesh particularly in the energy sector and the prospects of additional huge investment in the country will have to strengthen the economic ties between Bangladesh and USA.

He said the country expected to receive continued US government support in all areas of development especially in the energy sector.

Children's art workshop begins July 7

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka is organising a three-month children's painting workshop beginning from July 7, reports UNB.

Artist Masuma Khan will conduct the workshop, said a press release.

Children between 7 and 16 years of age are eligible for participation in the workshop. An admission test will be held tomorrow at 10.30 am at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in this regard.

Journalist robbed in N'ganj

From Staff Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, June 28: A gang of muggers robbed a journalist of his mobile phone and Tk 700 from Charargop area in the town in the early hours of today.

Police said Shankar Kumar Dey, a senior reporter of daily Janakantha, came under attack when he was returning home by a rickshaw at around 1.30 am.

The muggers blocked his way with a truck and snatched the cell phone, money and valuable documents from him at gun-point.

Later, police seized the truck and arrested truck driver Karim Hossain, 30, and Kamal Hossain.

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Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat

Common and Co-ordination Section
No-8 (1)/2000-Common (Part-2)/983 Dated: 21-6-2000/7-3-1407 Bang

Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed envelopes are invited from furniture manufacturing establishments/contractors for making a suitable reception area with 3 good-looking wooden partitions in the front verandah of the newly-built dining room in the office of the Honourable Speaker at the Sangsad Bhaban.

2. Tenders will have to be submitted on 5-7-2000 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon in the tender box kept at the office of the Deputy Secretary (Administration-1) of this Secretariat. Tenders will be opened the same day at 12:10 pm in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present).

3. Attested photocopies of trade licence regarding business for the current fiscal year, income tax certificate and VAT registration certificate and original receipt for purchasing schedule and 2.50% (two and a half per cent) of the total quoted cost in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order (refundable) as the earnest money in favour of the undersigned will have to be submitted with the tender.

4. Schedule containing details of tender and other terms and conditions can be procured from 3-7-2000 to 4-7-2000 during office hours on payment of Taka 100/- (one hundred) (non-refundable) by applying on the pads of respective establishments and by producing trade licence from the Accounts Section-1 of the Sangsad Secretariat (South-West Block, Level-5, Room No-524). One tenderer will not be supplied more than one schedule.

5. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Md Rabiul Islam
DFP-15972-25/6 Assistant Secretary (Common)
G-1243 Phone: 9124762