

## 'People being abused in name of remand'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for keeping police away from partisan politics and providing them with proper training to stop abuse of the arrested.

People are being abused in the name of remand, although the constitution guarantees protection for the arrested, said Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed.

Police also need to change their mindset, he added.

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Bilia) organised the roundtable on 'Law of arrest, remand and abuses and remedy against such abuses' in the city, with Barrister M Amir-ul Islam in the

chair.

Justice DK Basu of India presented a keynote paper.

He said the condition of the arrested is more or less same in India.

"There have been 18,911 deaths in police custody since Bangladesh became independent. Section 54 is also used to keep women and children illegally in jails under the pretext of providing them 'safe custody'."

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, vice-chairperson of BLAST, recommended enforcing the law of presumption in court under section 154.

Wali-ur Rahman, director of Bilia, Fazlul Haque, director of BLAST, and Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque also spoke.

## BCS preliminary test on Sept 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary test of the 25th Bangladesh Civil Service Examination will be held at 10:00am on September 3 in all centres of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal simultaneously.

Examination centres and seat-plans, which were announced earlier, will remain unchanged, says a government press release.

## 1327 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,327 people on various charges during their country-wide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6:00 am yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina pays her last respect to journalist Santosh Gupta placing wreaths at his coffin at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of Jatiya Press Club place wreaths at the coffin of journalist Santosh Gupta on the club premises yesterday.

## 'Santosh Gupta's death to create vacuum in journalism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and socio-cultural organisations yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of eminent journalist, writer and columnist Santosh Gupta, saying that his death created a vacuum in the field of progressive journalism.

Santosh, senior assistant editor of the daily Sangbad, passed away on Friday at the age of 79.

In a condolence message, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said Santosh Gupta always stood in favour of humanity.

A man of great honesty and patriotism, he inspired a movement against imperialism and fundamentalism through his writings, said President of Workers Party of Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas in another message.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Shahrir Kabir and Kazi Mukul of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee recalled his active participation in all democratic and progressive movements and the War of Liberation.

Mansur Musa, director general of Bangla Academy, said new generation of journalists and cultural activists would be inspired by the works of the eminent columnist.

Teachers of the department of mass communication and journalism of Dhaka University described Santosh Gupta as a legend in journalism.

Hena Das and Aeysha Khanom of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said his writings have always inspired the democratic and progressive movements in the country.

Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh, Sammilito Nagarik Samaj, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samannoy Parishad, Karmojibi Nari, Muldhara, Muktiyoddha Samannoy Parishad, Chhatra Maitree,

## Precautionary steps can reduce flood damages

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Early precautionary measures can reduce the sufferings and damages caused by flooding, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said Bangladesh is a flood-prone country because of its geophysical location and as such floods cannot be controlled completely.

They also called for entering negotiations with India for proper distribution of the waters of the common rivers.

The discussion was organised by left-leaning Five Party at Purana Paltan in the city.

Dr Swapan Adnan, an expert on flood and environment, said people should take all precautionary measures to face the flood with the advent of the monsoon.

Noted academic Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Engineer Inamul Haque, architect Dr Shamsul Oares, historian Ahmed Kamal, economist Anu Ahmed and five-party leaders also spoke.

## Repression on indigenous people continues: Shantu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people continue to face various forms of repression by the majority Bangla-speaking people with direct or indirect support of the government, said Joytirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, president of Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum, yesterday.

The Bengali settlers have been grabbing the lands of ethnic people, but the government is not taking any action against the persons responsible, he said at a press conference.

Land and forest are the lifeline of indigenous people; to them losing the land means losing everything, he added.

The ethnic people are also deprived of their rights as they do not have constitutional recognition, he regretted.

Larma, also the chairman of the CHT Regional Council, alleged that the government was also violating the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace treaty.



PHOTO: STAR

Shantu Larma speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

He said the forum has taken up elaborate programmes to mark the International day of the World's Indigenous people on Monday. This year the theme of the day is 'Our land

our life'.

The Forum placed a nine-point demand to ensure human rights of the ethnic population.

The demands include constitutional recognition of the indigenous people, ensure their rights to land and forest, withdrawal of army camps, immediate implementation of the CHT peace treaty, cancellation of eco-park project in Modhupur forest and an end to repression.

It also demanded steps to ensure primary education in the mother language of the indigenous people and their involvement in development activities.

Sanjeeb Drong, secretary general of the Forum, Rupayan Dewan, vice-president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Shaktipada Tripura, president of Khagrachhari Head Men Association, and Chaitali Tripura, president of the Hill Women Federation, were present at the press conference.