

Ministry says no to lottery for raising fund for FFs' families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A proposal to raise funds by holding lottery for the welfare of the families of war-wounded and martyred freedom fighters (FFs) has been rejected by the finance ministry for next five years.

Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust, through the liberation war affairs ministry, sought permission of the finance ministry to hold a countrywide lottery for

raising the fund, said official sources.

Internal Resources Division (IRD) of the finance ministry, in a letter, said "There is no scope in the present context to consider the proposal before 2009."

The IRD letter, however, did not mention any reason regarding the disapproval of the proposal for holding the lottery.

Officials at the liberation war affairs ministry and Muktijoddha

Kalyan Trust have expressed their surprises over the rejection and said the finance ministry letter has apparently rejected the proposal.

They said a number of government and voluntary organisations are holding such lottery to raise funds for their causes, but the finance ministry has ignored the proposal of the liberation war affairs ministry.



Sanjida Khatun, a Tagore song exponent, presents an Uttaria (shawl) to sitar maestro Khurshid Khan at the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan in the city yesterday as he was accorded a reception on the last day of the event.

Indo-Bangla jt drive to set up border pillars

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and India are carrying out a joint drive to set up new boundary pillars and repair the damaged ones.

An official of the Land Record and Survey Department, preferring not to be named, said they were setting up new pillars and replacing damaged or missing pillars along the border.

The border with India stretches around 4,500 kilometres and the number of missing and damaged pillars is about 200.

"The drive titled 'Field Programme for Reconstruction of Boundary Pillars' is a part of annual maintenance of border -- the demarcation process under a mutual understanding between India and Bangladesh," the official said.

The process to identify demarcation pillars started on February 5.

Director General of Land Record and Survey Department Mohammad Abu Haider Sarder and Director, Survey, of India GC Boiragi are leading the respective sides in the drive.

1,195 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,195 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours as of 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered nine firearms, six other weapons and 155 bullets and filed two cases against three people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

PM to open operation of Moulvibazar Gas Field today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the operation of the Moulvibazar gas field, one of the largest in the country, today.

The gas field, developed by Unocal, has already come into operation in the last week of March and now contributing nearly 70 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) to the national gas grid.

According to Unocal officials, the field will be able to increase its production to 150 mmcf within next three months.

With the beginning of production in Moulvibazar field, the country's total gas production reached 1,470 mmcf that exceeds the country's total demand of about 1,450 mmcf.

Unocal has developed the field under a Gas Purchase and Sales Agreement (GPSA) signed with the Petrobangla, the state-owned hydrocarbon agency.

6x3

5x1

5x3

10x8