

# India's poorest demand rights to land, water

AFP, New Delhi

Thousands of poor farmers, landless workers and indigenous people reached the Indian capital yesterday after a month-long protest march to highlight the plight of those marginalised by India's economic boom.

Men, women and even some children from India's neglected hinterlands walked in orderly lines waving green and white flags or carrying photographs of freedom icon and revered "untouchable" leader Bhimmarao Ramji Ambedkar.

Their demands -- the right to land and water -- compete with

India's aim to turn rural land into industrial zones and attract foreign investment to maintain its scorching growth of more than nine percent.

For millions like the estimated 25,000 marchers who began their 600-kilometre (370-mile) journey from the central city of Gwalior on Gandhi's birthday on October 2, India's "economic miracle" is meaningless.

"Forty percent of Indians are now landless and 23 percent of them are in abject poverty," march organiser Puthan Vithal Rajgopal, who heads a group called Ekta Parishad, or Unity Forum, told AFP. "Such conditions have bred

Maoist insurgency in 172 of India's 600 districts and farmers are killing themselves in 100 other districts. So we want to ask the government, 'Where are the fruits of the reforms in these districts?'"

The marchers want India's government to introduce iron-clad legislation on holdings, deeds and tenancy rights -- replacing the current system where ownership can easily be taken by the rich and powerful.

Many have lost land because of the absence of property deeds among people who have long lived on their traditional lands, including indigenous groups in forest areas, or because of cor-

ruption.

One farmer said a local official issued a deed putting part of his land in another's name after being bribed.

"We filed reports, attended courts but nothing happened," said Santokh Devi. "And some 39 hectares (around an acre, half a hectare) are stuck in the controversy."

A government plan to set up tax-friendly special economic zones across thousands of acres of farmland in a bid to lure overseas corporations has also led to sometime violent protests over displacement in at least two states.

"For tribals there is no place left to go," said march coordinator Mrityunjay Sanjay. "They are getting displaced for factories. There is no place left for poor people to go in this country."

On Monday, the protesters will march to India's federal parliament to press for the setting up of a single land authority and fast-track courts for land disputes.

"People are still coming," said march coordinator Mrityunjay Sanjay. "Their basic needs are not met -- they don't have land, they don't have food, they don't have water. What are they supposed to do?"

Sanjay said they were waiting to see if the government showed concrete signs Monday of addressing their demands.

In spite of their deep-seated anger, marchers kept their spirits up by singing inspirational songs and dancing as they camped in the old part of the capital for the night.



Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman Commodore M Faruque speaks at a view exchange meeting with the media at Chittagong Port Training Academy yesterday. The meeting was organised by CPA. (Story on page 8)

## 'No evidence Iran making N-arms'

AFP, Washington

Chief UN nuclear watchdog Mohamed ElBaradei said yesterday he had no evidence that Iran is actively building nuclear weapons, despite recent bellicose rhetoric from US leaders.

"I have not received any information that there is a concrete active nuclear weapons programme going on right now," the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency told CNN, warning that US threats added "fuel to the fire."

"Even if Iran were to be working on a nuclear weapon... they are at least a few years from having such a weapon," he said, citing assessments by US officials themselves.

"At this stage we need to continue to work through creative diplomacy... as I don't see any other solution than diplomacy and inspections," ElBaradei said.

The White House Friday rejected any parallels between its Iran rhetoric and the run-up to the Iraq invasion, after fresh sanctions on Tehran and escalating US warnings fueled comparisons to the

months before the 2003 invasion. "We are absolutely committed to a diplomatic process," spokesman Tony Fratto told reporters.

"We would never take options off the table, but the diplomatic process is what we want to move forward with," he said, calling it "unwise" to rule out the use of force.

His comments came as US President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have been sharply ramping up their rhetoric about Iran, leading some critics to draw parallels with the late 2002

verbal escalation against Iraq.

In recent months, Bush has predicted "nuclear holocaust" and "World War III" if Tehran gets atomic weapons, while Cheney has warned of "serious consequences" for Iran if it defies global demands to freeze sensitive nuclear work -- echoing the UN resolution that Washington says authorized war in Iraq.

ElBaradei said if the United States had more information on Iran's nuclear ambitions than the IAEA, "I would be very happy to receive it and go forward."

He said "we cannot give Iran a pass right now, because there is still a lot of question marks."

"But we have seen Iran having the nuclear material that can readily be used into a weapon. No. Have we seen an active weaponization program? No," he said.

Merely "exchanging rhetoric" would not resolve the Iranian nuclear case, ElBaradei said, pointing to ongoing negotiations with North Korea as an example of dealing with the Islamic republic.

He said it is time "to stop spinning and hyping the Iranian issue," warning that military force could spark a global "conflagration."



Leaders of Workers' Party of Bangladesh place wreaths at the portrait of Russel Ahmed Khan at the party office in the city yesterday. Russel was killed on October 28 last year allegedly by the Jamaat-Shibir activists.

## 10 militants killed in Pakistan raid

AFP, Waz

Troops backed by gunship helicopters killed 10 militants loyal to a radical pro-Taliban cleric yesterday in northwest Pakistan in the third straight day of clashes, officials said.

Troops targeted hideouts of the militants in scenic Swat valley, the stronghold of religious leader Maulana Fazlullah, who has been driving a fierce campaign to introduce Islamic Sharia law.

"We have reports that 10 extremists were killed in the action," chief military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad told AFP.

He accused the militants of terrorising and killing local villagers in the region, which used to be a popular tourist destination in the conservative North West Frontier Province.

"We needed to take tough action against a handful of these extremists who are trying to defy the government's writ and terrorise local people," he said. Hundreds of people were reported fleeing towns and some roads were closed in Swat where clashes between the paramilitary troops, backed up by police, and the militants loyal to Fazlullah started on Friday.

Militants have seized and beheaded 13 people in recent days in the wake of the clashes although a spokesman for Fazlullah has denied that his loyalists were involved in the gruesome killings.

An explosion ripped through a paramilitary vehicle on Thursday killing up to 30 people in an apparent reaction to the deployment one day earlier of more than 2,000 troops to the area to help combat the militants.

Officials said three other militants and two civilians have been killed, along with those beheaded.

since the clashes started.

The violence has hit normal life in the region, bringing markets and other trade to a standstill as people flee the area to safety, officials said.

Security forces have entered Manglor village, 10 kilometres (six miles) northeast of Mingora, the main town in Swat valley, and forced militants to flee their hideouts, Major General Waheed said.

"They are operating to establish the writ of the government in areas where miscreants have threatened public peace and order. The security forces have extended their positions," he said.

Troops were consolidating their ground in Manglor after the raids by gunship helicopters, an AFP correspondent in the region witnessed.

Violence first erupted in Swat in July, when militants mounted revenge attacks on the army after government troops stormed the al-Qaeda-linked Red Mosque in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

The Swat valley used to attract a large number of foreign guests drawn by its Buddhist heritage and archaeological sites.

But the area in the province bordering Afghanistan has in the past two years become a stronghold of Fazlullah's banned group, Tahreek Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammadi (TNSM).

Security officials say the group is linked to Osama bin Laden's, al-

Qaeda network and Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime.

Fazlullah is also known as "Mullah Radio" for his fiery radio speeches in which he calls for the imposition of Islamic Sharia law and for a holy war on security forces.

## Saudi king to begin European tour in Britain

AFP, Riyadh

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia is to travel to Britain today at the start of a four-nation European tour, the royal court announced yesterday.

The tour, which will also take the king to Italy, Germany and Turkey, is intended to "develop bilateral relations... and to study regional and international issues of joint importance," the palace said in a statement carried by the official SPA news agency.

Saudi Arabia announced in July that King Abdullah would make a three-day visit to Britain at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II.

King Abdullah, whose visit to Britain will be the first since he ascended the throne of the oil powerhouse two years ago, visited France, Spain and Poland during a European tour in June.

## OCT 28 INCIDENT Jamaat trying to suppress crime: Menon

STAFF, Correspondent

Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) leader Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said Jamaat-Shibir group had been trying to suppress their crime at Paltan Maidan on October 28 last year.

He was speaking at a daylong programme organised by WPB to mark the first death anniversary of Russel Ahmed Khan, an activist of the Workers' Party, who was among the four people who were killed on that day.

Menon said that Jamaat-e-Islami is now trying to hide their heinous act.

They are lying on their activities on October 28 as they did about 1971, he added.

He urged all to foil the conspiracy of the fundamentalists by defeating them in a neutral and fair election.

WPB General Secretary Bimol Biswas, Awami League leader Colonel (ret'd) Farook Khan, Dr Abdur Razzaque, Convener of Communist Kendra Ajay Roy, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim and General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Syed Zafar Sazzad also spoke on the occasion.

## October 28 a day of stigma Says Nizami

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami yesterday termed October 28 a day of stigma and said "terrorists of sticks and oars" trampled democracy and humanity and polluted politics by creating reign of terror on Dhaka streets.

Speaking at a doa mahfil at the party's central office, marking the "martyrdom" of Jamaat-Shibir workers on this day last year, he said those terrorists had jeopardised democratic rule and disrupted development process.

The doa mahfil was attended by mother of slain Hafez Golam Kibria Shipon, wife of slain Habibur Rahman, parents of slain Mujahidul Islam, parents of slain Saifullah Mohammad Masum, parents of slain Jasim Uddin and mother of slain Faisal, and their relations.

Nizami said when the 4-party alliance after completing its five-year tenure was preparing to hand over power to the caretaker government, the 14-party combine organised a procession of sticks and oars.

Jamaat and Shibir workers were victims of the terrorist act unleashed from the procession of sticks and oars.

Nizami said one year has passed after the cruel incident, but the killers were not tried yet. "One may escape trial on earth but none can escape the trial of Allah, because Allah is 'Alimul Gayeb'."

### ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGIES

For A Beautiful Tomorrow

## ADVANCED NOORANI TOWER

An Elegant OFFICE SPACE @ Mohakhali

ADVANCED CENTRE : 176 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-2 (North), Dhaka-1212

Phone: 8815323, 8811923, 9884746, 9896455, 8813042, 8813046, 8813047, 8821692, 8821749  
8821988, 9861434, 9884745 Mobile: 01819-558022, 01819-222314, 01819-226568, 01819-558025  
01819-226567, 01819-222303, 01819-226569, 01819-558010, 01819-558014 Fax: 88-02-8810788  
E-mail: adtl@citechco.net, advanced@agni.com Web: www.advanced-bd.com

## Study in London

LONDON metropolitan university

### Popular Courses Running in February 2008 Intake

#### Postgraduate Courses:

MSc Software Engineering  
MSc Computing  
MSc Computer Networking  
MSc Digital Communications Networks  
MSc Information System Developments  
MSc Medical Genetics  
MSc Food Science  
MSc Human Nutrition  
MSc Pharmaceutical Science  
MSc Polymer Science and Engineering  
MSc Plastic Product Design  
MA International Relations  
MA Literature  
MA Digital Media  
MA Film Making  
MA Mass Communications  
MA Professional Writing  
LLM Human Rights  
MA Human Rights and Social Justice  
MA Advice and Paralegal Work  
LLM International Law  
MSc Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health  
MA Arts and Heritage Management  
MA Corporate Social Responsibility

#### MSc Computer Applications in Accounting

MA International Trade and Transport  
MSc Corporate Finance and Investment  
MA Equality and Diversity  
MSc International Banking and Finance  
MA International Business  
MA Management  
MA Marketing  
MA International Finance  
MA Managerial Psychology  
MA International Tourism Development  
MA Public Services Management

#### Undergraduate Courses:

BEng Electronics and Communication Engineering  
BSc Computing  
BSc Communications Systems  
BA Digital Media  
BA Accounting  
BA Accounting and Business  
BA Banking  
BA Business  
BA Business Economics  
BA Business Administration

#### BA Business and Marketing

BA Economics  
BA Finance  
BA Human Resources Management  
BA International Business  
BA Advertising and Marketing Communication  
BSc Consumer Studies  
BA International Economics  
BA International Hospitality Management  
BA Management  
BA Marketing  
BSc Food and Consumer Studies  
BA Development Studies  
BA Mass Communications  
LLB  
BA Business Law  
BSc Biochemistry  
BSc Applied Biomedical Sciences  
BSc Biological Sciences  
BSc Chemistry  
BSc Human Nutrition  
BSc Pharmaceutical Science  
BSc Pharmacology  
BSc Sports Nutrition  
BA Sports Management



Past International Director of Lions Clubs International Sheikh Kabir Hossain administering polio vaccine to a child at a camp at Elephant Road in the city on Saturday on the occasion of the first round of 16th National Immunisation Days (NIDs). District Governor of Lions District 315-B1 Mazibul Huq Chhunu and Vice District Governor Nishat Parveen Huq were present on the occasion. Lions District 315-B1 organised the programme.

## Cops to obey court

FROM PAGE 1 they seek extension of time for the task.

Records say the police did not at all submit the reports of cases accusing politically influential people. Top police officials said during the rule of political governments the police never dared to submit report against accused leaders and activists of the ruling party.

They said poor and innocent people are mostly the victims of inaction and submission of biased investigation.

Police sources said arrest of an SI of Shyampur Police Station on October 20 for taking Tk 5,000 bribe from a person in exchange for submitting the report to the court in his favour prompted the DMP authorities to take the decision.

The person, AK Azad, filed a petition case with the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that asked the Shyampur PS to investigate the matter. SI Abu Nayeem

Mohammad Sabur Khan was assigned to investigate the matter in June, but he called the complainant to the police station and demanded Tk 10,000 in exchange for a favourable investigation report.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed, who gave the orders to submit investigation reports within seven days, said after being assigned an investigation by the OC, the SI concerned often keeps it in his pocket for a couple of months.

The DMP commissioner told The Daily Star that he has directed the OCs to monitor the investigation process.

DMP Deputy Commissioner for Tejgaon division Mahabubur Rahman said, "Following directives from the DMP commissioner, we are supervising investigations of court orders to ensure that they are disposed of within a week."

## Vacancy Announcement

A Leading multinational Freight Forwarding Company is looking for "Sales Personnel" for their Dhaka & Chittagong offices.

No. of vacancies : Dhaka - 1, Chittagong - 2

The candidate should be:

- Smart, Dynamic, Proactive and Hardworking
- Fluent in English & proficient in computer operation
- Should have amiable & pleasing personality
- Should be a team player and have interpersonal skills

#### Educational Requirements:

MBA/ Masters in any discipline preferably in Marketing/ Management/ English from any recognized university

#### Experience:

1-3 years experience in sales & marketing of Freight Forwarding / Logistics Company is essential.

#### We Offer:

- Attractive salary and benefits
- Excellent work environment & international career development
- Effective and specialized training focused on required industry know-how to strengthen global cooperation

Deserving candidates are requested to send their C.V. along with a P.P size photograph to the P.O Box-6127, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212 by 15 November 2007.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

### NAVANA

## Residential Projects

The Platinum Residence	2994-5373 sft. (approx.)
Grosvenor Residence	3850 sft. (approx.)
Chateau Dé Husains	2920 sft. (approx.)
Feroza Wilhelm	1870-1880 sft. (approx.)



## Navana Real Estate Ltd.

House No. 35, Road No. 9/A (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

Tel : 912 1602 (Hunting)

Cell: 01817 036 509, 01817 036 510, 01817 036 511, 01817 036 512, 01819 411 225  
01819 411 226, 01819 411 227, 01819 411 228, 01713 424 255, 01713 424 246  
01713 424 247, 01713 424 248, 01817 036 501, 01817 036 502, 01817 036 503  
01817 036 504, 01817 036 505, 01817 036 506, 01817 036 507, 01817 036 508

Fax : 880-2-911 8292 E-mail: info@navana-realestate.com

www.navana-realestate.com

(1 sft. = 0.0929 sqm)

EDUCATION  
the best you can be

485 Courses Infinite Opportunities  
The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Room No. L 361, 2nd Floor  
Direct: 9122404 Facsimile: 9121028  
Email: bangladesh@londonmet.ac.uk