

Indigenous people

FROM PAGE 16
the CHT Regional Council.

Referring to the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People, he said the indigenous people cannot be ousted from their lands.

The rulers over the years remained indifferent to our demands for autonomy and constitutional recognition. They have never paid heed to the demands for ensuring indigenous people's rights, implementing the CHT Treaty and ending eviction of the indigenous people in the name of creating eco parks and social forests, Santu Larma said.

The land rights of indigenous people are yet to be recognised in Modhupur where the government is implementing social forestation project forcibly while the lands of the indigenous people in north Bengal are still shown as khas lands, he said.

"Land grabbers in connivance with the administration are ousting indigenous people from their lands," the BIPF chief said citing the example of torching the houses of indigenous people at Uttar Kazipara in Naogaon on November 5 last year.

The BIPF leaders also mentioned the death of Chalesh Richhil, an indigenous leader of Modhupur, under law enforcers' custody, filing of cases against at least 50 indigenous people and strengthening "the settler rehabilitation programme in the CHT."

"Seven villages of indigenous people at Sajek in Rangamati were set ablaze on April 20 to rehabilitate

Writ petition

FROM PAGE 16
Interest Litigation (PIL) stating that as per the constitution, delimitation of constituencies has to be done before voter list is made but the EC has redrawn constituencies after completing more than 99 percent of voter list.

He said the EC had issued a gazette notification on July 10 for delimitation of 84 parliamentary constituencies without showing any reason in disposing of the objections made by the voters over the delimitation process, so the ordinance issued by the EC is unconstitutional and illegal.

Barrister Mehnaz Mannan filed the petition on behalf of her father MA Mannan with the HC bench which heard the petition today.

The chief election commissioner (CEC) and two election commissioners, secretary of the EC, Secretary and principal secretary to the chief adviser have been made respondents.

CHT body

FROM PAGE 16
Group, and Sultana Kamal, former adviser of caretaker government, are now co-chairs of the 12-member commission.

Lord Averbury arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

While visiting the CHT region, the delegation will assess political as well as human rights situation in the hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari in the post-CHT peace accord.

Members of the team including Averbury and Sultana yesterday exchanged views with journalists working on CHT issues in the capital. Averbury said CHT issue has become a very complicated one, and that the commission would talk with different stakeholders to have an outcome.

Commission members Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal and Shapan Adnan, and prof Meghna Guha Thakurta, adviser to the commission, among others, took part in the exchange of views.

Formed in 1990, the CHT commission operated till 2001 and published a report on misery of CHT people titled 'Life is not Ours' and updated it four times.

Our Rangamati correspondent reports: The CHT commission delegation is likely to visit Khagrachari today, Rangamati tomorrow and Bandarban the following day.

The team members will have discussions with local political and civil society leaders, public representatives and civil and military officials separately.

In Rangamati, a view exchange meeting will be held tomorrow evening at Rajbari in the town. Leaders of indigenous and Bengalee-speaking people will be present there.

Various issues including implementation of CHT peace accord and land rights ethnic communities may come up at the meeting.

The CHT commission comprises Averbury, Sultana, Ida Nolasien, Lars-Anders Baer, Victoria Tauli Corpuz, Shapan Adnan, Sana Hossain, Zafar Iqbal, Kupuk Kleist, Lee Swepstone, Robert Evans and Heideki Uemura.

Malaysia

FROM PAGE 16
bodyIMA Research Foundation said from Malaysia that Kibria was very depressed at not landing the job his recruitment agency Al Islam Overseas promised him.

He said the agency sent Kibria and seven other youths to Malaysia in late June, but none from their would-be employer showed up at the airport.

The eight were later whisked to a camp from where the employer received them after 12 days. They, however, did not get the job, according to an IMA statement.

Sources said the intermediary, a relation of Kibria's and an influential man in the village, is now trying to cover up the reasons for the suicide.

The proprietor of Al Islam Overseas, Anwar Hossain Khan, denied the allegations of unemployment, saying that he's known that Kibria had family problems.

The rights' body called on the government to conduct a probe into Kibria's suicide and punish the people found responsible.

Mayors

FROM PAGE 16
He said the August 4 election was free and fair despite a few flaws. He did not comment on the Jammat's dubious role during the election. "The matter will be discussed at party forum," he said.

Rajshahi mayor-designate AHM Kairuzzaman Liton, meantime, said he will decide what to do with the redundant city corporation staff who were "appointed on political consideration in exchange for bribe in the last 17 years."

They never came to any use other than making political processes and meetings a success. I'll draw up a list of such staff and take action accordingly," he said at a press conference in Rajshahi yesterday.

He said he will take action against his predecessor for mass recruitment on political consideration.

He promised to fix two weeks to talk development with city residents.

BNP trying

FROM PAGE 1
elections directly. But now its Secretary General Khandaker Dewar is saying that the elections were of entente. Talking in such way they are trying to vitiate the environment of the parliamentary polls," he said.

He was briefing journalists after visiting European Union parliament member Nirj Deva called on acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman at his Gulshan residence.

Ashraf urged their archrivals to change their political attitude and culture, saying that Awami League does not expect such political mud-slinging among the parties.

He reiterated party's demand for lifting the state of emergency before the parliamentary elections to create a level playing field.

Ashraf made a point that parliamentary polls under the state of emergency would not be acceptable to the people of the country as well as to the world community.

Asked why they will not accept parliamentary elections under emergency rules when they already have won an election under the state of emergency, he said parliamentary polls and local elections are not the same thing.

"Local-body elections are nonpolitical while the parliamentary polls are political. People elect government for their country through the parliamentary polls. This type of election cannot be held under emergency rules," he said, explaining the differences to underpin their demand.

The SCBA president cited some incidents when a few politicians securing bail from the High Court were arrested soon after their release from various jails.

Barrister Shafique said Awami League (AL) presidium member Kazi Zafarullah, AL leader Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, former BNP whip Ashraf Hossain, former power and energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, RAM Obaidul Muktaid Chowdhury and former FTS ex-premier Sheikh Hasina and Chhota League general secretary Muahid Haider Chowdhury Roton were arrested near jail gates immediately after they were released on charges of violating the emergency power rules (EPR).

The SCBA president asked the authorities to immediately stop such harassment and "illegal activities" as such activities violate orders of the highest court and the fundamental rights of citizens of the country.

He also protested the surveillance of plainclothes intelligence agents inside courtrooms during case proceedings, saying this sort of activity is a "naked interference in the independent functioning of the judiciary".

Members of the team including Averbury and Sultana yesterday exchanged views with journalists working on CHT issues in the capital. Averbury said CHT issue has become a very complicated one, and that the commission would talk with different stakeholders to have an outcome.

Commission members Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal and Shapan Adnan, and prof Meghna Guha Thakurta, adviser to the commission, among others, took part in the exchange of views.

Formed in 1990, the CHT commission operated till 2001 and published a report on misery of CHT people titled 'Life is not Ours' and updated it four times.

Our Rangamati correspondent reports: The CHT commission delegation is likely to visit Khagrachari today, Rangamati tomorrow and Bandarban the following day.

The team members will have discussions with local political and civil society leaders, public representatives and civil and military officials separately.

In Rangamati, a view exchange meeting will be held tomorrow evening at Rajbari in the town. Leaders of indigenous and Bengalee-speaking people will be present there.

Various issues including implementation of CHT peace accord and land rights ethnic communities may come up at the meeting.

The CHT commission comprises Averbury, Sultana, Ida Nolasien, Lars-Anders Baer, Victoria Tauli Corpuz, Shapan Adnan, Sana Hossain, Zafar Iqbal, Kupuk Kleist, Lee Swepstone, Robert Evans and Heideki Uemura.

AL gets toehold

FROM PAGE 1
The first election to BCC was held after Barisal had been turned into a city, in which Enayet Pir Khan, a candidate of an AL-backed coalition named Nagore Parishad, lost the mayoral race to BNP's Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, who is currently in jail on charges of corruption. That election was however allegedly delayed by wholesale rigging.

Before the first election to BCC, a BNP government had appointed Ahsan Habib Kamal, a leader of the party, as the administrator of the city corporation.

This year AL also captured the office of mayor in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) for the first time since formation of the corporation in 1984, ending almost a 19-year rule of BNP leader Sheikh Hayebur Rahman, who is also currently behind bars on charges of corruption.

Late MAB had been the only AL leader to win any election in Khulna city since independence until Monday. He had been elected a member of the parliament in 1973.

Sheikh Hayebur Rahman could not contest in the poll this year due to his recent conviction in a criminal case.

AHM Khairuzzaman Liton is also the first AL leader to win an election in Rajshahi city in 35 years. Liton's father AHM Kamruzzaman, one of the four national leaders assassinated in jail in November 1975, was the last AL leader to win two seats from there in the parliamentary election of 1973.

Jatiya Party leaders M Abdul Hadi, Durul Huda and Mejbahuddin Ahmed, and detained BNP leader Mizanur Rahman Minu ruled Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) since its formation in 1987 until Liton won the mayoral race there on Monday.

Minu was first appointed as the mayor of RCC in 1991 by the then BNP government, and later he was elected to the post in 1994 and 2002. He was also elected a parliament member in 2001. But this time around he could not take part in the mayoral election as a court had already sentenced him to 13 years of imprisonment in an extortion case.

Under the PRP project, crime scene investigators, judges and prosecutors will be trained to make the best use of the new laws, said Hubert.

The rights' body called on the government to conduct a probe into Kibria's suicide and punish the people found responsible.

Under the PRP project, crime scene investigators, judges and prosecutors will be trained to make the best use of the new laws, said Hubert.

Dhaka asks Kuwait

FROM PAGE 1

nations that such incidents should not occur, says a foreign ministry handout.

Meanwhile, Kuwait deported 61 more Bangladeshi workers yesterday, bringing the number of deportees to 818 in more than a week, according to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training.

The Gulf nation started sending Bangladeshi back following a series of demonstrations over pay hike and other demands.

"Many are being mercilessly deported to Bangladesh empty-handed for the fault of a few. When we are strong in principle to abide by laws, it is expected that our peace-loving workers would not suffer," the adviser said.

He addressed another letter to Kuwaiti Labour Minister Bader Fahad Al Duwali expressing the hope that the situation would return to normal through his initiatives and that Bangladeshi community would continue contributing to the socio-economic development of Kuwait.

Earlier on Tuesday, the adviser addressed another letter to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Dr Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah requesting his personal initiative to resolve the problems.

Speaking to the media, Iftekhar said he welcomes Kuwaiti Cabinet decision to fix the minimum wages of foreign workers at 40 Kuwaiti dinar and hopes that all Kuwaiti employers will abide by it.

"I'm sure the Kuwaitis did not forget that Bangladeshi soldiers joined Kuwait for restoring its freedom and sovereignty when it was under foreign aggression," Iftekhar said.

Bangladesh Juba Moitree, meanwhile, demanded that Kuwait take back all the deportees, saying these workers were forced to demonstrate to draw attention of the authorities, as it was impossible for them to survive with the minimum wage.

"But Kuwait treated the workers

Nasim, Mamun

FROM PAGE 1
and his wife with Dhamondi Police Station on March 21 last year for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.26 crore illegally.

The Special Judge's Court-1 on October 8 last year sentenced Nasim to 13 years' imprisonment in the graft case. Nasim filed an appeal with the HC in May this year against his conviction. Later, he filed the bail petition on July 28.

The HC on July 30 directed the inspector general (IG) of prisons and LabAid Hospital authorities to submit Nasim's medical reports to the court by August 5 for examining those.

EXTORTION CASES AGAINST HAMMAM

The HC bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad granted an interim bail for six months to Mamun in four separate extortions cases.

Following the filing of separate petitions by Mamun, the court also stayed the proceedings of the cases against him for six months and issued separate rules upon the government to explain within four weeks why the proceedings against the petitioner should not be quashed.

Mamun's counsel barrister Fakhruddin Islam said Mamun was granted bail in four extortion cases. Of those, three were filed with Gulshan Police Station while the other with Dhamondi Police Station.

He also said all the four cases were filed during the crackdown on high-profile corruption suspects last year on charges of extorting money from four construction businessmen.

Patal

FROM PAGE 1

amassing assets beyond their known sources of income and concealing information in wealth report submitted to the commission.

According to the first information report, the former minister accumulated wealth worth around Tk 7.38 crore illegally. Besides, in his statement to the ACC, he concealed information about assets worth around Tk 4.42 crore.

His wife Kamrunnahar and son Yasir Arshad Rajan were accused of aiding and abetting him in the acts.

HUDACASE

After the hearing, Additional Chief Magistrate Shahjahan Kabir took the murder charges into cognisance and asked the OCG to register a regular murder case and submit a report after investigation into the matter.

The other accused are Huda's brother Kamruddin Huda, Sub-Inspector of Dohar Police Station Masudur Rahman, and BNP member Mahbubur Rahman Pannu, Habibur Rahman Chunni, Phoni Madbar, Swapan, Gias, Jalal, Mosharrif, Abu Sayeed, Yunus, and Badal Bepari.

On September 25 last year, victim's wife Polly Akhter filed a complaint case with the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, accusing Huda and others of killing her husband on April 16, 2006.

According to the prosecution, a group of local miscreants, being directed by barrister Huda and his brother, attacked Khalil Kazi at Kartikpur Bazar in Dohar at about 5:00pm on April 16, 2006 while he (victim) was going to attend a meeting.

Khalil Kazi, publicity secretary of AL Kusumati unit, was seriously injured and later succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.

The court also directed the government and the political parties to maintain the state of emergency.</p