

Mymensingh

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Bangladesh Agriculture University, at an orientation programme for teachers under the initiative.

Around 200 high school teachers from Mymensingh, Tangail, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj and Netrokona districts attended the programme held at Shohag Party Centre in Mymensingh town.

Under the EIS initiative, over 1,000 schools across the country will get three copies of The Daily Star each five days a week for free.

The distribution already began in 189 schools in Dhaka zone on June 9 and will next cover 97 high schools in six districts of Mymensingh zone. Gradually, more schools will be brought under the initiative.

To help students learn English language, The Daily Star will bring out an extra page featuring helpful materials and discussions every week.

The venture also includes organising contests on spelling, vocabulary and book reading, among others.

Addressing the Mymensingh orientation meeting as chief guest, Dr Sattar Mondal said students can also send letters written in English to the "Letters to the Editor" column of The Daily Star.

"Once a write-up of a student is published, you will see the whole school will be inspired in no time," he told teachers, adding that the teachers will have to play a very cooperative role for this.

"Who knows someone may one day become a writer like Tolstoy or Shakespeare?" Prof Mondal said.

Speaking as a special guest, Mymensingh Acting Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mohsin said children in Bangladesh are very talented and they can do miracles by properly utilising their faculties with the help of teachers.

He lauded the EIS initiative which, he believes, can really help students.

Monowara Begum, headmistress of Nasrabad Girls' High School, Mymensingh, said shyness and lack of confidence of students are the major obstacles to learning English language.

If the programme runs properly, I hope students can shake off this shyness and do very well in the future," she told The Daily Star.

Jasim Uddin, a teacher of English at Nakla Pilot High School of Sherpur, told The Daily Star that this initiative will not only increase students' language skills, but also their general knowledge and "help them become better citizens."

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said the information and communication technology has united the world, but anyone without

BDR jawan dies of heart failure'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

knowledge in English will be deprived of that huge knowledge base because ICT uses this language.

Once upon a time, natural resources were used to scale the richness of a country, but in today's world, it is the innovative ideas by which prosperity of a nation is measured, he said. "So, we all must try to develop this resource," Mahfuz Anam said.

The best performing schools will be awarded, he declared.

AKTEL Chief Commercial Officer Bidyut Kumar Basu said teachers are educating the whole nation and this initiative is only to complement them and the government in their efforts.

"With your cooperation, we can go a long way," he said.

AKTEL Acting Regional Executive Azmal Hossain also spoke at the programme.

Prof Shaheen Kabir of Jahangirnagar University delivered a presentation on the special page on English language to be published in The Daily Star.

Gunned down

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College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Sub-inspector Zakir Hossain of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that criminals shot Biplob point blank in his mouth when he tried to take shelter in a building. While fleeing, the criminals also opened fire on a local man leaving him injured.

Locals said 10 to 12 armed cadres of detained Kaila Palash killed the youth as the gang suspected that he helped Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to arrest criminal Tushar, nephew of Palash, three days ago from the area.

Locals and police said the killers were cadres of Kaila Palash while Biplob was an accomplice of Shahjada group in the area.

Police said both the groups collect tolls from garment factories, owners of under construction buildings and traders in the area. The groups had long rivalry over collecting tolls and controlling Jhut (garment wastage) trade.

Meanwhile, Dakkhin Keraniganj Police recovered the body of a youth floating in Buriganga river at Teighat in Kaliganj on the outskirts of the capital.

Police said they found the decomposed body around 12:00pm. However, police could not identify the youth.

56 indigenous

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Hossain Master, of Chhaoor, attacked the families. The indigenous families retaliated with bows and arrows but they were no match against the gang's firearms, clubs, machetes and spears.

Police were called in but they stood as spectators," said Sabin Munda, a local leader of Jatiya Adhishi Parishad visiting the spot.

Chhutur Kisku, his wife Kastanir Murmu, Suren Murmu, Jasef Saren, Biswanath Hembrom, Mosrefa, Deljan, Osnara and her daughter Samija were among at least 30 indigenous people who were injured in the attacks.

The victims alleged Ata, Dhala, Ahsan and Mozaffar of Kumarpura led the attacks in presence of Nur Hossain and his son Manjurul.

Nur Hossain, Manjurul and their relative Azaharul were seen looting corrugated iron sheets and household items yesterday morning when a group of NGO activists and journalists visited the spot.

Police claimed he bought the six acres of land from Chhotka Mardi, Churka Mardi and Hudur Mardi in 1976. "But we could not have possession of the land," he told journalists.

He said the eviction process through proper ways would have taken a long time and that is why he captured the land by force.

Karamat Uddin, a lawyer for the indigenous people, said the documents on the land Nur Hossain produced were declared invalid by the government in May, 2007, and a Naogaon court was trying the case in this regard.

Naoaon Deputy Commissioner Ahsan Habib Talukdar and Superintendent of Police Mofazzel Hossain visited the scene and formed a probe committee headed by Porshua upazila nirbhaba officer.

Jatiya Adhishi Parishad called for a movement from Monday saying Nur Hossain was included in the committee.

Condemning the incident, different rights organisations yesterday demanded punishment of the perpetrators.

Mubashar Hussain, president of the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh said, "The government does not hold the moral authority to apply a law on a private individual if it itself violates the rule."

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said, "Irregularities have become the rule in our country."

He said that he was trying his level best to ensure compliance of the relevant laws in this regard.

Leaders of Gono forum too demanded arrest of the criminals and expressed support for the victims.

They also said they hope the finance minister would reconsider his proposal.

Killing spate scales

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Amid such situation DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque has decided to join the anti-crime drives along with the deputy and assistant commissioners.

Shahidul Haque said they have launched convoy drives, which include several patrol cars and good number of police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel during operation, to create a sense of security among the city dwellers.

All the efforts made by the law enforcers have often proved ineffective as criminals in most cases pass through police check posts and deceive foot-patrol by simply shifting their timing and adopting newer techniques.

Some recent incidents of killings denote that armed criminals chose late night as their time of activity and in most of the cases they used private cars and motorbikes as their mode of transport.

For instance, on June 3 moneychanger Faruk Ahmed Khan, 48, and his driver Anisur Rahman Rana sustained bullet injuries when criminals in a private car snatched Tk 2 lakh and two mobile phone sets from their possession while they were returning home at dead of night. Two days later Faruk succumbed to his injuries.

Iqbal Hossain who fell victim to snatchers in East Rampura a few days ago said if the check-posts ensure foolproof checking of private

Grenade

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implementing the project.

"We as members of the United Nations are urging all and if necessary we will seek the international community's cooperation through formal letters and we will not accept the Indian attempt to build a dam on the Borak river," BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He said it is the duty of the government to protest and mount pressure on India so that it stops the project.

"The Tipaimukh dam will be the life and death issue for Bangladesh but the Awami League government has failed to voice protest as it has no moral strength," he said.

Strongly criticising the government for keeping mum, he said the BNP would do everything it can to stop the controversial Indian project if the government fails to take effective initiatives.

Former water resources minister and party Vice-President Hafiz Uddin Ahmed read out a written statement regarding the project and steps taken against the project by the BNP-led government when it was in power.

"All governments except the Awami League-led government protested the Indian project. Khaleda Zia's government took a firm stance against the project from the very beginning. The BNP government protested twice verbally on April 16 and May 18, 1992," he said.

Hafiz, who was acting secretary general of the party's so-called reformist faction, attended for the first time any programme with Khandaker Delwar Hossain, once his rival in the party, since Delwar was made secretary general on September 2, 2007.

"Experts and people believe that the proposed dam will be turned into a death trap for Bangladesh that is why we demand the government's formal protest against the project," Hafiz will said, adding that people will take all necessary steps if India continues with the project ignoring the interest of Bangladeshi people.

Providing minutes of Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting, Hafiz said his Indian counterpart promised that they would provide all data before going to implement the project but India is yet to share any information with Bangladesh about the project.

Former Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Moniruzzaman Mian and BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed were also present.

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Eviction drive

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"We have long been whirling in a vicious cycle of river encroachment and eviction," he said. "The Buriganga has been a glaring example of failed eviction drives by successive governments against the grabbers."

He said "I used to return from work between 11:00 pm and 12:30 am as I need to rush from one end to the other of the city but now I dare not go out after dark."

DMP Commissioner said

"Police alone cannot check

crime in such mega city if

social initiatives are not taken

in this regard since social

values are declining."

He said he had asked high

police officials to beef up

night vigilance in the city

streets to ensure proper

service at check posts and

during patrol teams.

DMP has recently taken

some initiatives to contain

crimes. It has set up interro-

gation cells at all the eight

Deputy Commissioners' (DC)

offices, a Detective Branch

cell to detect criminals

through their cellphones and

assigned 100 to 125 reserve

forces to the DCs.

Moreover, DMP has

deployed additional 3000

men by forming 100 more

patrol teams in the capital.

The letter claims that

between Atir Bazar to

Wasphur through Looter Char

there is no existence of a canal

or any khas land. All land there

belongs to private owners.

A canal was somehow created

after soil from the bed was sold

to build the Dhaka Flood

Protection Embankment in

1988."

Our Reply

According to our investiga-

tion, Atir Khal has been used

by millions in the area for over

a hundred years. This beau-

iful waterway starts from

Wasphur and winds its way

through dozens of villages and

trading centres to Kholamora

where it meets the Buriganga

area as

a housing company but a

cooperative society which has

very little capital. It is not true

that each of the 50 members

paid Tk 5 Lakh for the cooperative

at the time of formation.

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between Atir Bazar to