

Indigenous people demand steps to protect rights

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indigenous people have demanded a separate land commission and enactment of laws to protect their traditional culture and language, and constitutional rights.

Speakers at a discussion at Kakonhat municipality playground in Rajshahi district yesterday demanded punishment to the land grabbers who evicted 74 indigenous families at Khatirpur under Porsha upazila of Naogaon district on June 13, reports our RU correspondent.

Adivashi Sangskritik Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) organised the discussion as part of their daylong programme marking the 154th anniversary of Santal Hul (revolution).

Indigenous people brought out a procession in Narail town yesterday demanding action against of Saif Hafiz Khokon who is allegedly grabbing their dwelling places with the help of fake documents, reports a correspondent from Narail.

Foundation for Women and Child Assistance (FWCA), a Rajshahi-based NGO, also

demand punishment to the perpetrators of the attack and arson incidents at 74 indigenous households in Porsha of Naogaon, reports our staff correspondent from Rajshahi.

A FWCA team visited Khatirpur Sonadanga village in Porsha and distributed cloths for the women and children of the affected families who are still staying under the open sky.

Colourful rally, discussion, archery, cultural programmes including traditional Santal dance and drama marked the daylong programme organised by Adivashi Sangskritik

Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) at Kakonhat municipality playground yesterday.

The programme began with offerings of wreaths to the idols of Sidhu and Kanu, the two brothers who spearheaded the Santal Hul.

The 1855-57 Santal Hul, one of the major revolts against the British rule, was directed against the influential people including landlords, usurers and administrative and police officials who made the life of the innocent Santals miserable.

At the discussion at Kakonhat municipality playground, speakers urged the government to observe the day at state level and to ensure the rights of indigenous people to their land and language.

They recalled the sacrifices and role of indigenous people during the Liberation War in 1971.

Speakers demanded punishment of the land grabbers who evicted 74 indigenous families at Khatirpur under Porsha upazila of Naogaon district on June 13 and immediate steps for rehabilitation of the evicted families.

Rajshahi-1 lawmaker Omar Faruque Chowdhury was present as the chief guest with ASUS Executive Director Rajkumar Shaw in the chair.

Jatiya Adivashi Parishad President Anil Marandi, Godagari upazila Chairman AKM Ataur Rahman Khan, Sangkalpa Executive Director Everest Hembram, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Rajshahi district unit President Bimol Chandra addressed the discussion, among others.



PHOTO: STAR

Samajik Protirodh Committee forms a human chain on the premises of Ashwini Kumer Hall in Barisal town yesterday demanding punishment for inflicting serious burn injuries on housewife Shanta allegedly by her dowry greedy husband and in-laws.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Following a procession in Narail town demanding steps to stop grabbing of indigenous people's land, the protesters burn the effigy of alleged land grabber Saif Hafizur Rahman yesterday.

Resentment at Wadud Bhuiyan backed body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Four joint convenors of Khagrachhari BNP have requested the party chief not to give approval to Wadud Bhuiyan backed 51-member convening committee of the district unit.

In the letter sent to Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday, they said Wadud Bhuiyan had prepared a list of his loyalists without taking opinions of the grassroots leaders and activists and submitted it to the central committee for approval.

They strongly criticised inclusion of Mostafizur Rahman Millat, Abu Yusuf Chowdhury, Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan, Prabin Chandra Chakma and Advocate Abdul Malek in the newly formed convening committee.

Sylhet JCD man to die, 10 get life for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday awarded death penalty to a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre and sentenced 10 others to life term imprisonment for killing a JCD leader in Golapganj upazila on July 17 in 2006.

The convict who was awarded capital punishment is Mehbubur Rahman alias Jewel of village Nagar while those who got life are Zayed, Intiazur Rahman Soheli, Mahfuzur Rahman, Abdul

Karim, Saleh Ahmed, Khalil, Jahangir, Samad, Salek and Mamunur Rahman Mamun. Each of them was also fined Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more in jail.

However, Soheli, Karim, Khalil, Salek and Mamun are still at large.

According to the prosecution story, two rival factions of BNP locked in a clash in and around Golapganj Upazila Health Complex following discord over opening a new building of the complex in presence of a BNP lawmaker. Both the groups chased each other for

several hours. At one stage, JCD cadres of a rival faction raided a business establishment owned by union JCD president Enam Ahmed where they chopped him to death.

Victim's elder brother Selim Ahmed filed a murder case. After investigation, police submitted charge sheet against 17 people on September 14, 2006. Later, the case was shifted to the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal in 2008.

Six of the accused were acquitted of charges.

SNIPPETS

5 hurt as AL, JP clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Five people were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) at Khutamura in Jaldhaka upazila over rural development programme under Relief and Disaster Management Department. Sources said the AL and JP activists had an altercation over the issue as JP lawmaker from Nilphamari-3 (Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj) constituency took up development programme in JP-dominated area of the upazila. At one stage, the AL men confined Khutamura Union JP President Abdul Baki, also the headmaster of Rahmania High School, to a room in nearby Tengenmari Bazaar, leading to a clash between the two sides. Students of Rahmania High School also brought out a procession protesting assault on their headmaster. The JP activists joined them. Later, the JP men attacked the house of Naru Gopal Roy, general secretary of BCL local unit, and assaulted Naru's mother Sumita Bala, 65. She was admitted to Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex.

Sister, brother drown

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A young girl and her younger brother were drowned in the Dharla River at Mirzar Court village of Patgram upazila on Sunday. Bubli Akhter, 9, and Shafi Ahmed, 7, were children of Babul Hossain of the village. Witnesses and police said when Shafi fell in the river, Bubli jumped into water to save her brother. Locals tried for two hours to locate their bodies but failed. Later, professional divers recovered their bodies at around 6 am yesterday.

BCL men attack teacher

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A teacher and a guard were injured by BCL activists at Banpara Degree College under Baraigram upazila yesterday. College sources said, the BCL activists launched the attack after the college authorities barred them from entering college compound without uniform during examination hour. A group led by general secretary of Baraigram unit Chhatra League Saiful Islam beat up guard Alam Uddin with iron rod. Hearing a hue and cry, teacher Mahabub Alam came to his rescue. But the teacher was also attacked by the activists. Later, locals and students rescued them and sent them to a local clinic for treatment.

Human chain at Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

People of Dakope upazila of Khulna district yesterday formed a human chain yesterday in front of Khulna Press Club demanding adequate relief for Aila victims and a permanent embankment from Kamarkhola to Sutarkhali union. They sought the Prime Minister's urgent intervention for redress of untold sufferings of thousands of people rendered homeless by May 25 cyclone. Participants of human chain appealed to the government for allocation of fund needed to construct a 40-kilometer long embankment for saving the aforesaid two unions from being destroyed by cyclonic storms and tidal surges.

Outlaw held in Bagmara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday morning arrested Ataur Rahman, 32, an underground operative of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from Dayerpur Bazar of Bagmara upazila and later handed him over to police in Durgapur upazila. According to police, Ataur was an active member of PBCP (ML-Red Flag) and an absconding charge-sheeted accused in Anwar Hossain murder case. Anwar was a councillor of Ward 8 of Durgapur union.

Mother, son electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A mother and her son were electrocuted at Naotun Hut under Rakudia of Babuganj upazila on Sunday. Kohinoor Begum, 38, wife of Mannan Shikdar and their son Sagor, 8, a student of Sabuj Bangla Kindergarten, were electrocuted when they came in contact of a torn wire of Rural Electrification Board. Both of them were on the way to the school.

Cox's Bazar to be made a world class tourist spot

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The government has decided to develop Cox's Bazar and turn it into a planned tourist city.

This was revealed by the parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism that recently visited the place having world's one of the longest natural sea beaches.

Sources said, a meeting at the land ministry on Sunday also decided to submit a proposal to form Cox's Bazar Development Authority to modernise the area and boost

tourism.

Convenor of the sub-committee on development of Cox's Bazar Mainuddin Khan Badal MP said, Cox's Bazar airport would be elevated to international standard and its runway would be expanded from existing 6,775 feet to 9,000 feet.

He said setting up of a deep-sea port at Sonadia in Mohehkhali would be helpful for tourism. Besides, there is a plan for an international standard stadium, golf course and expansion of Dohazari rail station upto Ghumdhum.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said, security would be ensured at the beach, erosion checked, parks constructed and motels brought under the project plan. Dulahazara Safari Park would be turned into a complete park and erosion-prone Cox's Bazar-Teknaf marine drive road would go upto Shah Parir Dwip, he said.

Mosharraf Hossain told local elite that the committee is also investigating alleged unfair distribution of 78 plots on 100 acres of the sea beach. The local administration has been directed to ensure that rest of the plots are not grabbed.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

St Martin's coral island near Cox's Bazar bears bright prospect as a good earning source for the government if tourists from home and abroad get adequate facilities there.

পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
Popular Life Insurance Company Ltd.
 Registered Office: Peoples Insurance Bhavan,
 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Price Sensitive Information

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Popular Life Insurance Company Limited in its meeting held on 29th June, 2009 at 02.30 p.m. took the following resolutions for approval in the 9th Annual General Meeting:

1. Proposed dividend for the year 2008 : 26% Stock Dividend.
2. Date & Time of the AGM : August 31, 2009 at 12:00 Noon.
3. Venue : IDE Bangladesh, 160/A Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
4. Record Date : August 03, 2009

The shareholder whose name appears in the register of members upto the record date will be eligible to attend the meeting and entitled to receive dividend.

By order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
Mohammad Ali Miah
 Company Secretary

Date: 29.06.2009

AL men confine UNO to room, threaten removal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Senior Awami League (AL) leaders of Birganj upazila, including a former MP yesterday confined upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) to a room for an hour as he declined to give them 'personal benefits' from test relief (TR) and Food for Work (FFW) Programme.

The leaders also threatened UNO Md Hasan Maroof to punish with stand release if he does not act as per their directives, said asource at the UNO office.

Sources said about 20 to 25 AL leaders, including upazila unit AL President Zakaria Zaka, General Secretary Nur

Islam Nur, senior AL leader Azizul Haque and former MP Abdul Haque Sabuj, went to the UNO office at 10.00am.

The leaders asked the UNO to come to his office over cellphone, as he was not present at his office.

When the UNO approached them at his office, the AL leaders confined him to a room of the UNO office for an hour and asked him to act according to their directives.

As the UNO remained rigid on his decision, the AL men left the office chanting slogans. They later brought out a procession demanding his removal within seven days.

Earlier on Sunday, some AL

leaders, including upazila unit Information and Research Secretary Ratan Ghosh Pujari, went to the UNO office and asked him to give personal benefits from TR and FFW programme. The UNO declined to give the benefits, saying that he would go through the official procedures.

While contacted, upazila AL President Zakaria Zaka admitted the fact and said they will submit a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) demanding removal of the UNO. "We will go for a greater movement if the UNO is not removed within the next seven days," Zakaria said.

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Notice Of The 9th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 9th Annual General Meeting of Popular Life Insurance Company Limited will be held on Monday, August 31, 2009 at 12:00 Noon at IDE Bangladesh, 160/A Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 to transact the following business:

AGENDA

01. To receive, consider and adopt the Directors' and Auditor's Report and Audited Accounts of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2008.
02. To declare Dividend for the year 2008 as recommended by the Board of Directors.
03. To elect Directors as per the Articles of Association of the Company.
04. To appoint Auditors for the year 2009 and to fix their remuneration.
05. To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
Mohammad Ali Miah
 Company Secretary

Date: June 29, 2009

Notes:

- 1) The record date is fixed on August 03, 2009 Shareholders whose name will appear in the Register of Members on the Record Date will be eligible to attend the meeting and qualify for dividend.
- 2) A member entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting may appoint a proxy (such proxy will be a member of the Company) to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The Proxy Form duly stamped must be deposited at the Head Office of the Company not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the Meeting.
- 3) Admission to the Meeting room will be allowed on production of the attendance slip duly signed by the Shareholder/Proxy/Attorney/Representatives as the case may be.