

Jalmahal policy won't help grassroots fishermen

Speakers tell review meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a review meeting yesterday said the just-adopted jalmahal (open water bodies) management policy does not effectively safeguard the interests of the actual grassroots fishermen.

The provision for keeping local lawmakers and upazila chairmen as advisers in the management committee will create scope for politicisation and conflict, they added.

The speakers said this at the review meeting organised by Nagorik Sanghati, a citizens' solidarity, at the National Press Club in the city.

The government adopted the 'Jalmahal Management Policy-2009' with the cabinet approval on June 23 through bringing some changes to that of 2005.

Dr Moynul Islam, former president of Bangladesh Economics Society, said there is no reason to believe the new

policy would bring any meaningful change to protect the genuine fishermen against exploitation by the middlemen in getting the lease of khas water bodies.

"The genuine fishermen community will not be benefited with a management dominated by bureaucrats," he added.

The management committee headed by a deputy commissioner (DC) is authorised to lease out khas jalmahal among the community. Local lawmakers have been made advisers to the district and upazila committees with the upazila chairmen alternative advisers to the upazila committees.

Local influential and moneyed men pocket the poor fishermen's society and manage lease of the jalmahal to plunder thousands of crores of taka as a feudal system, said Dr Islam.

Lawmaker MA Mannan, elected from Sunamganj, said jalmahal management

should be entrusted with the upazila parishad.

Former deputy commissioner of Sunamganj Zafar Siddiq said it is hard to protect the genuine fishermen unless they are empowered with monetary and logistic help and capacity building.

He said the 10,000-acre Tanguar Haor could produce big fish worth Tk 250 crores during a three-year management, but the government earns only Tk 10 crore as lease money.

AKM Mozammel Haq, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on land ministry, Advocate Robiul Islam, former fisheries and livestock minister Abdullah Al Noman and researcher Dr Abul Hossain also spoke.

Editor of the Weekly Shaptahik Golam Mortuza moderated the meeting with Nagorik Sanghati President Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman in the chair.



DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque launches the monthly wall magazine 'Padakkhep' at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the city yesterday.

'Padakkhep' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launching ceremony of a wall magazine 'Padakkhep' edited by DMP Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Habibur Rahman was held at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the city yesterday.

The monthly publication will bring out poems, short stories and jokes from DMP police personnel reflecting their busy life.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque at the launching ceremony said even a constable can explore his/her potentials if he/she is given chance and the magazine will bring them the chance.

The Padakkhep will be exhibited at all the police barrack under DMP by turn.

DMP Joint Commissioner (DB) Amulla Bhushan Barua, Joint Commissioner (Headquarters) Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Akram Hossain, among others, were present in the programme.

Grassroots workers AL's lifeblood: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said grassroots level leaders and workers are the lifeblood of her party as they have always stood consolidated during any political crisis and steered the party forward by mobilising public opinion.

As thousands of senior and young councillors thronged her official residence Jamuna throughout the day yesterday to greet her with bouquets and sweets on her re-election as the party chief, Hasina said the faithful lower ranks of the party played a crucial role when she was arrested during the tenure of the caretaker government.

She also expressed her confidence that the grassroots workers would also play an important role in successfully foiling "any conspiracy against democracy" and helping the

nation overcome any crisis in future.

Hasina was re-elected president and Syed Ashrafur Islam was elected general secretary of the Awami League in its council session on Friday.

Party sources said that a draft list of the party's full-fledged committee has already been finalised and it would be announced "in a day or two".

The Awami League chief advised the councillors to work hard in their respective areas to help implement the party's election pledges as well as the government's development programmes.

The councillors who met Hasina yesterday are from Dhaka city, Pabna, Cox's Bazar, Kurigram, Chuadanga, Dinajpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Panchagarh and Barisal.

Our staff correspondent adds: Jatiya Party Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju and Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader

Ziauddin Bablu also greeted Hasina with bouquets on Friday night.

Meanwhile, different organisations congratulated Hasina and Syed Ashrafur Islam on their election as the AL president and general secretary.

The organisations included Supreme Court Bar Association, Chittagong Hill Tracts Jono Sanghati Samity, Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Ainjibi Parishad, Krishibid Institution, Bangabandhu Diploma Engineers Council, Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association, Sammito Shikkhak Karmachari Parishad, Bangladesh Awami Tarun League, Bangladesh Awami Hawkers League, Dhaka city Awami League and Awami League's UK unit.

Start trial of HR violations, war crimes: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday demanded that the government begins the trial of all human rights violation cases including the trial of war criminals, and also sets the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in motion.

The demand was raised at the TIB annual meeting held at a city hotel, according to a press release.

Secretary General of TIB trustee board Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher and TIB trustee Mahfuz Anam were present at the meeting.

The members at the meeting urged all to work towards building a democratic and well-governed Bangladesh by eradicating corruption. They called upon all concerned including the government, political leaders and civil society to make the ACC more effective.

They also expressed hope that the politicians would make the ninth parliament effective.

The members called upon the government to make the recently formed Human Rights Commission effective and start the trial of all human rights violation cases in the country including the trial of war criminals.

According to the press

release, the members also urged the government to build a local government system free from the influence of administration or party politics.

The board thanked the government for ratifying the Right to Information Act and urged them to implement the law properly. They stressed the need for pro-people politics as well as decentralisation of the administration.

They reviewed the organisation's activities over the last year and discussed future planning on the "Driving Change" project.

The meeting was presided over by trustee member Prof Momtaj Begum.

REMARKS ON ZIA Hamidullah hits out at Sajeda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP leader Hamidullah Khan yesterday hit out at Awami League president member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury over her remarks that late president Ziaur Rahman 'did not fight' in the liberation war in 1971.

At a press briefing at the party's central office, Wing Commander (ret'd) Hamidullah, in a written statement, mentioned that Zia had started the fight the moment he declared revolt, saying "we've revolted" on the night of March 25.

Hamidullah also narrated accounts of several battles Ziaur Rahman had fought against the Pakistani occupation forces and his role in forming different sectors and forces to fight in the liberation war.

Referring to Sajeda's remarks published in different dailies that Zia did not fight in the liberation war and the nation needs to know when and where Zia had fought the war, Hamidullah said it is unfair to comment on war-related issues involving Zia, as Sajeda was staying in Kolkata during the war.

Inter-ministerial meet on trial of BDR mutineers tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

An inter-ministerial meeting will be held tomorrow to decide under which law the BDR mutineers will be put on trial as varied opinions are on the cards within the government.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which has been investigating the case of the Feb 25-26 massacre at the BDR headquarters since March 1, has not yet completed the investigations.

Investigation Officer Senior ASP Abdur Kahar Akand told UNB yesterday that it will take two more months to complete the investigation.

So far, 1,739 BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) personnel and 31 civilians have been arrested in connection with the mutiny, he said.

The government has had several meetings in recent weeks to decide under which law the trial should be held but could not reach a consensus decision.

The national investigation commission and the BDR Director General were in the opinion of holding the trial under the army act.

A minister who is involved in the process of trial told UNB that he recommended that the mutineers could be tried under three laws -- the existing regular law, the BDR act and the army act -- considering the gravity of their offences.

Clash over sand extraction: 15 injured in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between local people and sand extractors in South Keraniganj yesterday.

Locals said a few local Awami League leaders have been collecting sand from the river Dhaleshwari for the last 15 days resulting in erosion of several hundred bighas of cropland on the riverbank.

The clash erupted when nearly 200 victims came to prevent the sand extractors from collecting sand in the morning.

In a sequel to the clash police arrested 10/12 people from four villages of South Keraniganj.

Bring in limelight women's role in Dhaka's evolution

Speakers say at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reference to women's contribution to different aspects of Dhaka city is almost absent in the pages of history or in research works, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

"Women had played an important role in the evolution of Dhaka city."

During the 400 years of its glorious past they left unique marks on different aspects including politics, economics, culture, language and literature. Their contribution should be brought in the limelight giving them proper recognition," added the speakers.

The workshop was organised by the Asiatic Society as ground-work towards publishing a book titled 'Dhaka Nagar Jibone Nari' (Women in Dhaka city life) as part of the Celebration of 400 Years of Dhaka City.

Prof Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed, coordinator of the programme, said scholars have written many books on different aspects of Dhaka, but surprisingly the efforts made by the women in its developments were hardly mentioned.

Prof Ahmed said the book will have 20 articles covering women's role in politics, education, family, arts, literature,

music, dance, drama, cinema, media, handicraft and health.

The book will be among the 19 publications initiated by the Asiatic Society to celebrate the 400 years of Dhaka city.

The objective of the workshop was to share insights about the upcoming book and finalise the themes, he added.

Historian Prof Muntahir Mamun, Prof Mahfuza Khanom, general secretary of the Asiatic Society, Prof Dr Sonia Nishat Ameen, Dr AKM Golam Rabbani, Dr Shirin Akter, Prof Bishwadev Chowdhury and Dr

Rosy Majid Ahsan also spoke on the occasion.

The workshop was attended by scholars who are contributing to the book including Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof Mahmuda Islam, Dr Maleka Begum, Salma Khan, Prof Dr Zaheda Ahmad, Zobaeda Gulshan Ara, Lubna Mariam, Dr Nazma Khan Majlish, Gitiara Nasreen, Prof Sadeka Halim, Prof Hafiza Khatun, Prof Nazma Siddiki, Prof Rashida Akhter Khanom, Dr Israfil Shahin, Dr Hosne Ara Begum, Shamim Reza and Mehedi Hassan.

ATTACK ON COLLEGE

Six teachers, three students arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained six teachers and three students of Dhanmondi Ideal College on charge of ransacking a neighbouring educational institution at capital's Newmarket area.

Sergeant ABM Mizanur Rahman of West Dhanmondi Police Outpost said over 100 students of Dhanmondi Ideal College attacked canteen and office room of Western College around noon with rods, bamboo sticks and brickbats and vandalised furniture, windows and doors.

The detained teachers are Asadul Haque, Rahmat Ali, Mostafizur Rahman, Abdul Halim, Ziaul Hasan and

Nazmul Huda while the students are Swapan Sarkar, Mahmodul Hasan and Habibur Rahman.

He said the attack was made as a sequel of Thursday's altercation between a number of students of the two colleges at Aziz Super Market in Shahbagh. The scuffle began while getting on a bus.

Sergeant Mizanur said the detained teachers rushed to the scene to pacify agitating students.

Mohammad Kamrul Islam, Officer-in-Charge of Newmarket Police Station said they were trying to settle the matter but the detainees would be shown arrested if the initiative failed.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:45pm today and rises at 6:26am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 26.6 degrees Celsius at Rangamati and Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.6	27.8	75	63
Chittagong	31.8	27.4	75	80
Rajshahi	35.8	27.8	79	89
Khulna	35.5	28.0	78	90
Barisal	34.5	27.5	79	77
Sylhet	35.3	27.3	86	72
Cox's Bazar	32.1	26.8	79	76

Australian envoy visits dev projects

METRO DESK

Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dr Justin Lee completed a two-day visit to Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Tangail districts on July 23 to see by himself the development activities in the areas, says a press release.

Dr Lee inaugurated a new multi-purpose hall at Joyramkura Nursing Institute and a new community centre/pre-school in Jamalpur.

He contributed funding for both the buildings under the direct aid programme (DAP) along with other local and international donors.

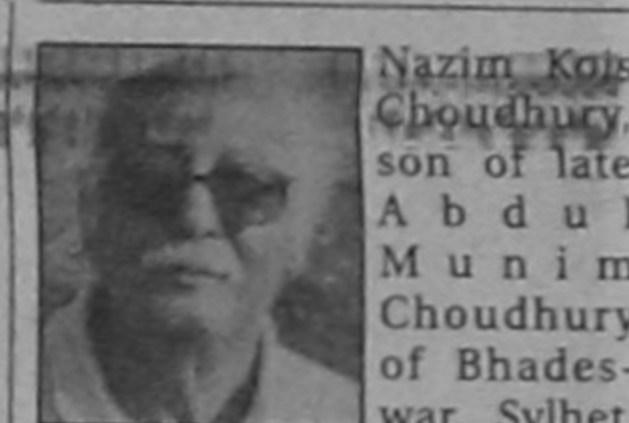
The nursing institute is attached to Joyramkura Hospital at Halughat in Mymensingh. It trains mostly poor, tribal Garo women through a four-year diploma course for a prospective career in nursing.

After opening the new hall, the Australian envoy also visited the hospital and discussed local health issues with doctors and staff.

Dr Lee visited a number of development projects of the NGO, including fish farming and other rural income generation activities, in the districts.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Nazim Kois Choudhury, son of late A B U M Choudhury of Bhadeswar, Sylhet, passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

Nazim Kois, a valiant freedom fighter and former superintendent of gardens of James Finlay, was laid to rest with full state honours in the graveyard of Hazrat Shah Poran's Dargah in Sylhet.

His kulkhwani will be held at Gulshan Azad Masjid in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow (Monday).

His kulkhwani will be held at Gulshan Azad Masjid in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow (Monday).

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Daiyan Malik, eldest son of Malik Abdullah Al-Amin Sadi, District and Sessions Judge, Kishoreganj, says a press release.

Daiyan Malik died of dengue fever on this day in 2000 at the age of only nine years and nine months.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held in orphanage and madrasa. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

বিআরটিএ'র জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি :

বিষয় : পেপারবুক ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স হাই সিকিউরিটি ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স এ রূপান্তর সময়সীমা প্রসংগে।

ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স রোধকরণ ও সড়ক দুর্ঘটনা/হাসকল্পে বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক গত ১৬ জুলাই ২০০৬ তারিখ থেকে প্রচলিত পেপারবুক ও প্রাস্টিক কার্ড ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সের পরিবর্তে উচ্চ নিরাপত্তা ফিচার সম্বলিত হাই সিকিউরিটি ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স (HSDL) কার্যক্রম চালু করা হয়েছে। ইতোমধ্যে পেপারবুক লাইসেন্স হতে HSDL এ রূপান্তরের জন্য কয়েকবার সময় বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে। তা স্বত্বেও কিছু সংখ্যক পেপার বুক লাইসেন্স এখনও HSDL এ রূপান্তরিত হয়নি মর্মে কর্তৃপক্ষের গোচ্যবৃত্ত হয়েছে। তাই শেষবারের মত উক্ত সময়সীমা ৩১ আগস্ট, ২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সময় বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে।

এমতাবস্থায় পেপারবুক লাইসেন্সধারীগণকে (লাইসেন্সের মেয়াদ যে পর্যন্তই থাক না কেন) উক্ত লাইসেন্সের পরিবর্তে HSDL সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত আগামী ৩১ আগস্ট ২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে এ অথরিটির সংশ্লিষ্ট লাইসেন্স কর্তৃপক্ষের অফিসে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। উক্ত সময়সীমার পর কোন পেপার বুক ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স HSDL এ রূপান্তর কর হবে না।

কর্তৃপক্ষের আদেশক্রমে

(শীতাংশ শেখার বিশ্বাস)

উপ-পরিচালক(ইউএ)

GD-3541