

Concern over violence in hill dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday expressed deep concern over violence between ethnic minorities and Bangladeshi settlers at Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

Students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) formed a human chain in the city to protest the violence and demanded necessary measures to establish peace in the hill districts.

They also conveyed sympathy to the affected family members.

Leaders of the Jatiya Mukti Council held a rally at Muktangan protesting the attack on the indigenous people.

In a statement, leaders of the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) demanded judicial investigation into the violence and punishment to the culprits.

They also demanded implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and immediate solution to the land dispute.



Wearing black masks, youths stage a demonstration on the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to protest the recent attacks on indigenous people in the hill districts. Nagorik Samaj organised the protest. (Story on Page 16)

Education of ethnic children in mother tongue stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for pursuing education in respective mother tongues for the children of ethnic communities across the country at the initial stage of learning.

They said this at the seminar on 'Outcome of the Study on Ethnic Community Children's Education through Mother Languages' organised Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at its auditorium in the city in association with Unesco Bangkok.

The findings of a study, conducted by DAM on 437 ethnic children of the plain land and Chittagong Hill Tracts, were presented at the programme which showed that the children, who are learning in mother tongues, have better outcome than those learning in Bangla medium.

The competency test under the study conducted on the kids showed that

children being taught in their mother languages are becoming more creative and inspired.

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry, said learning in mother tongue could bring success in the academic career of the ethnic children.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said if the ethnic children could be taught in their mother tongues, the lack of interest of being educated among the ethnic group could be lessened and the rate of dropouts be reduced.

Unesco Bangladesh Representative Malama Meleisea, DAM Research Division Deputy Director Rafiq Hasan, Prof Ahsan Ali of Dhaka University, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad General Secretary Rabindranath Soren also spoke.

King Faisal Int'l Prize winners named

METRO DESK

Saudi Arabia has announced the names of the winners of King Faisal International Prize for 2010 recently, says a Saudi embassy press release.

The winners have been selected according to their achievements in their own fields. A world renowned academic committee select the winners by evaluating the research works submitted for the prize.

The winners are Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan for service to Islam; Prof Abd Al-Rahman El-Houari Hadj-Saleh of Algeria, Prof Ramzi Mounir Baalbaki of Lebanon, and Prof Reinhold Ganz of Germany for their contribution to Arabic language and literature (Studies dealing with Arabic grammatical thought); Prof Jean-Pierre Pelletier of Canada and Prof Johanne Martel-Pelletier of Canada for medicine (Non-arthroplasty management of degenerative joint disease); and Prof Enrico Bombieri of USA and Prof Terence Chi-Shen Tao of Australia in the field of science (mathematics).

CLIMATE CHANGE Australia urged to contribute to Multi Donor Trust Fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate on Wednesday called on the Australian government to provide fund for Multi Donor Trust Fund created by the Bangladesh government to fight the adverse impacts of climate change.

At a meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith in Canberra, Hamid also urged the Australian government to ease visa process for Bangladeshi students and reduce assessment level from four to three to get visas, says a release.

The release said the Australian minister assured the speaker of the House that his government would look into both the issues with due importance.

Led by Hamid, a six-member parliament delegation went to Australia on February 21 for a seven-day visit.

Earlier at a courtesy call with Hamid, the Speaker of Australian Federal Parliament Harry Jenkins expressed his willingness to work with the Bangladesh parliament to strengthen parliamentary democracy here.

The two speakers also discussed issues of mutual interests, particularly related to the effective functioning of the parliament.

Hamid along with his delegates observed the question hour of the House of Representatives of the Australian parliament. The team also visited the Senate of the Australian parliament while it was in session. Hamid was invited by Senator John Hogg, president of the Senate, to be seated beside him at the Senate which was a rare honour shown to the speaker of Bangladesh.

War crimes trial won't affect ties with Pakistan

Says Dipu Moni

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday expressed her belief that the trial of war criminals would not, by any means, affect Bangladesh's bilateral relations with Pakistan.

"Bangladesh would try its own citizens for war crimes through a fair judicial process adhering to the highest international standards," she said when newly appointed Pakistan High Commissioner Ashraf Qureshi called on her at the foreign ministry in the city.

Welcoming the new high commissioner, Dipu Moni expressed the hope that the two countries would soon be

able to resolve outstanding issues like formal apologies by the Pakistan government for the atrocities committed in 1971, repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and division of assets.

The foreign minister said that Bangladesh values its relations with Pakistan and suggested that the high commissioner may explore various avenues of bilateral cooperation and promote greater exchange and better understanding between the two peoples.

They also discussed further strengthening of relations both bilaterally and within the framework of Saarc and

exchanged views to set in motion the bilateral institutional mechanisms, including Foreign Office consultations.

Underscoring the need to address trade imbalance, Dipu Moni said the two countries should make use of ample potential for enhancing bilateral trade. "Pakistan may take steps to reduce high tariff on import of jute products from Bangladesh," she pointed out.

The foreign minister also invited Pakistani entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh in different sectors like pharmaceuticals, textiles, ICT, telecom and agro industries.

5 killed in Savar road crash

UNB, Savar

Five people were killed and eight others injured when a human hauler overturned after being hit by a bus at Palashbari in Savar last night.

Two of the dead were identified as Rahima Khatun, 55, and her two-and-a-half-year-old grandson Almas, of Joykrishnapur village in Pangsha, Rajbari.

The collision between the human-hauler 'Laguna' and the Dhaka-bound bus of Borak Paribahan took place at about 7:15pm, killing five people on the spot and injuring others.

The injured included Rahima's husband Wahab Sheikh and Almas' mother Marjina Begum. The injured were admitted to local clinics.

ASSAULT ON FEMALE STUDENT DU expels 5 BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Bangladesh Chhatra League activists (BCL) of Dhaka University (DU) unit were temporarily expelled after assaulting a female student of a college on February 21.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at a press briefing at his office told the reporters in the afternoon.

The authorities will also issue show-cause notices to the students why they won't be expelled permanently.

The expelled students are Ashikul Islam Setu, a 1st year student of Marketing department and resident of Jasimuddin Hall, Appel Mahmud Biplob, a 1st year student of Islamic Studies

and resident of Hazi Muhammad Muhsin Hall, Shams-e-Nomani, a 1st year student of Social Welfare and resident of Zahurul Haque Hall, Morshedul Islam, also a 1st year student of Sociology and resident of the same hall, and Akramul Haque Nitul, a 2nd year student of Public Administration and resident of Muhsin Hall.

The authorities have taken the decision based on the recommendations of a one-member probe committee, comprising Assistant Proctor Amzad Ali, formed after the incident.

On February 21, the BCL activists assaulted the female student and her guardian, who were returning from the Central Shaheed Minar after placing wreaths.

BSF kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near Waheedpur in the district's Shibganj upazila early yesterday.

The man, Mukul Mia, 28, hailed from Bahalabari village under Chhatratrapur union of Shibganj upazila.

He was shot at around 4:00am, and died on the spot, said local sources.

Javans of 151 BSF Battalion took away the body, and did not hand it over as of filing this report at 8:00pm last night.

Nazrul Islam, operation officer of BDR's 39 Rifle Battalion has confirmed the incident.

Bangladesh Rifle has protested the killing and urged their Indian counterpart to return the body.

BCL girls clash at Badrunnesa College: 3 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three female students were injured in a factional clash between two groups of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) unit at Badrunnesa Government Girls' College in the city yesterday.

The clash ensued around 12:00pm in a bid to establish supremacy over the residential hall of the college.

Of the injured, Rehana Akter Asha, organising secretary of the unit and master's student of Bangla department, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and the others could not be identified.

The two others also received primary treatments at DMCH.

Asha said a rival group of seven to eight students attacked her while she and along with four others were in her room at the dormitory. The attackers drove them out of the room and padlocked it.

Sub-Inspector Sheikh Abdul Motaleb of Chawk Bazar Police Station said the college principal told police that it was an internal conflict and she would resolve the matter.

Khulna JCD man stabbed by party men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT; Khulna

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Khulna city unit Joint Secretary Abdullah-hel-Kafi alias Shakha was severely injured as his party men stabbed him in the compound of School Health Clinic at Shamsur Rahman Road here on Wednesday night.

He was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) with multiple injuries in the head, abdomen, hands and legs. He was in a coma as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

According to security guard Mosharef Hossain of the clinic, four people were involved in the attack. They stabbed him in the abdomen, hit in the head and legs with sticks and left the place in two motorbikes, he said.

Ecneec okays projects worth Tk 1,163cr

BSS, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved nine development projects involving Tk 1163 crore, including a Tk 330 crore project aid.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Ecneec with its chairperson Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The projects are Buffalo Development Project, Greater Faridpur District Fishery Development Project, Project for Protecting the Chandpur Irrigation Project Area (Haimchar) and Left Bank of Banchharampur Upazila, Transparent Ballot Box (second revised) Project, Construction of Upazila and Regional Server Stations for Electoral Database (revised) Project, Project for Upgrade of Joranganj Textile Institute to textile college, Shyamganj-

Zarisha-Bisirishiri-Durgapur Road Development Project, Project for Constructing Multistoried Residential and Commercial Building at Gajinabi Road in Dhaka for the welfare of the freedom fighters and Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply Project (first revised).

Finance Minister and Alternate Chairman of Ecneec AMA Muhih, Planning Minister AK Khandakar, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Commerce Minister Muhammad Faruk Khan, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas, Advisers HT Imam, Dr Mashur Rahman, Dr Alauddin Ahmed and Dr Tawfique-e-Elahi Chowdhury and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam attended the meeting.

'Fair Price Card' distribution launched

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday launched the distribution of 'Fair Price Card' among the poor through which a family would be able to purchase 20 kg of rice at the price fixed by the government.

Minister for Food and Disaster Management Dr Abdur Razzaque inaugurated the card distribution at ward-8 of Mirpur Sector-1 in the city.

"Only rice will be given at initial stage through this card. The government is also thinking of giving more essentials under this system," he said.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Prof Dr Kazi Shamsul Huque, founding president of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons, passed away due to pneumonia on the night of February 23 at the age of 100, says a press.

He is survived by his one son and two daughters.

Dr Huque established the country's first radiology department at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the 1950s and retired as professor from the department in 1970.

Najma Khan

UNB, Dhaka



Najma Khan, mother of Ashfaquza man Khan (Pinu) passed away on Wednesday at the age of 92.

She left behind her one son and one daughter. Her namaaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Mosque, Gulshan-2 after Juma prayers today. Her qulkhwani will be held at Baridhara Baitul Atiq Mosque, Road 8, House 24 in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders places a wreath at a memorial to the army officers, who were brutally killed at BDR headquarters at Pilkhna a year ago, at Banani army graveyard in the city yesterday.

Jamuna to supply water to 4 rivers around city

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Water Development Board has taken up an initiative to give a new lease of life to the rivers of Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakkhya by supplying water from the river Jamuna.

"To this end, the water resources ministry would start work for supplying fresh Jamuna water to the Buriganga within this year by withdrawing its polluted water," Water Development Board (WDB) Chief Planner Engineer Md Abdul Wadud told BSS yesterday.

Explaining the Development Project Proposal (DPP) to purify the waters of the rivers, including the Buriganga, around Dhaka city, he said the water resources ministry has undertaken a four-year river development plan.

"Before taking up the water development project of the Buriganga at a cost of Tk 998 crore, the WDB carried out a

three-year feasibility study," he said, adding that the ministry has sent a project proposal to the Planning Commission on February 18 which is under Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) consideration.

Wadud said Jamuna water would be brought to the Turag and the Buriganga through the New Dhaleshwari in Tangail as well as the Poongli and the Bangshirivers.

He said water flow would be created by connecting 163 meter waterways so that stream of fresh water flow is created by removing polluted water from the rivers around Dhaka city.

Due to these steps, he said Dhaka Wasa will be able to provide safe water to 15 million city people. The Buriganga will get a new lease of life and become a sanctuary for aquatic life, including fish, he said. Besides, people will be able to easily move through river routes around Dhaka city by taking fresh air, he said.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Pabna and Bogra, and weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning. Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Iswardi and lowest 13.8 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

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	30.3	15.6	73	66
Chittagong	28.0	18.8	71	82
Rajshahi	31.0	18.2	91	59
Khulna	30.4	21.0	91	72
Barisal	31.5	20.5	90	72
Sylhet	29.3	18.1	90	63
Cox's Bazar	30.0	19.2	76	85