

Call to ensure indigenous people's rights to land

BSS, Rajshahi

Indigenous people's rights to land must be ensured for their sustainable livelihood and other fundamental rights, said the speakers at a regional workshop here on Sunday.

Due to lack of awareness, they viewed that the indigenous people have been losing their rights to land and other services provided by the government organisations.

To get rid of this, they suggested wide-ranging expansion of literacy among the indigenous people thereby they could be aware of their rights.

Some NGOs working for socio-economic development of the indigenous people jointly organised the workshop titled "We want separate land commission for the plain land indigenous people" at Nanking Darbarhall.

Local lawmaker Fazley Hossain Badsha addressed the workshop as the chief guest with General Secretary of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad Rabindra Nath Saren in the chair.

Badsha said the indigenous communities were all along deprived of the mainstream development process and the trend should be changed for betterment of the plain land indigenous people.

In the context of land rights, he said the plain land indigenous people have been facing more problems than that of the hilly indigenous people.

He stressed the need for undertaking an effective step to make the indigenous people competent in all aspects especially literacy and social empowerment so that they can ensure their welfare.

Besides, he called for proper enforcement of the laws and regulations relating to land transfer of the indigenous people to protect them from all sorts of harassments in this regard.

Jatiya Adibashi Parishad President Anil Marandi, indigenous leader Bishad Muni Tappa, Director of Barendra Unnayan Prochesta Foyzullah Chowdhury, BLAST Coordinator Advocate Abdus Samad, political leaders Rafiqul Islam Piarul, Abul Kalam Azad, Advocate Entazul Haque Babu and Ganesh Mardi also spoke at the meeting.

The speakers underlined the need for a concerted effort to bring the indigenous people in the mainstream of society for their substantial welfare protecting them from repression and oppression by the surrounding opportunists for their peaceful survival.

They said the indigenous people are hardworking and playing a vital role in increasing farm production. So, a holistic village-based community development approach has become indispensable for their substantial welfare, they added.

Stressing the need for protecting their rights, the speakers said importance should be given to protecting the underprivileged people from all sorts of deceptions by the surrounding privileged and muscle men.

Depicting grim pictures of their vulnerable lifestyle and other social context, some indigenous people called for taking special programmes to protect them from violation of human rights along with ending discrimination.

They also narrated their vulnerable social status saying that the minority people should be given opportunities of enjoying the fundamental rights for development of their socio-economic condition.

Apart from this, they underscored the need for a concerted effort of government, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure reproductive health and safe motherhood for the disadvantaged and poor indigenous community.



Hundreds of candidates stand in long queues on Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) office premises at Agargaon in the city yesterday to submit application forms for the 30th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations.

PHOTO: STAR



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visits injured former BNP lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam at United Hospital at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

FM MEETS WIPO DIRECTOR GENERAL Help to strengthen climate change adaptation assured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who is now in Geneva on an official visit, yesterday met with Francis Gurry, director general of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Dipu Moni appreciated the support provided by the WIPO to Bangladesh in the area of IT and intellectual property for realising the objectives of 'Digital Bangladesh'.

Gurry expressed his opinion to further cooperation to Bangladesh, including assistance for setting up a Technology and Innovation Support Centre.

The foreign minister underscored the need for access to affordable green technology to achieve sustainable development and strengthen climate change adaptation. The WIPO director general assured her of all possible support in this regard.

Dipu Moni also met with Dr Hamadoun I Touré, secretary general of International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The ITU secretary general recalled his successful visit to Bangladesh in March this year and highly appreciated the progress made by the government in establishing "Digital Bangladesh".

They talked various follow-up actions being taken on the issues discussed during the secretary general's visit. They also exchanged views on preparations for hosting the Connect Asia Pacific Summit in Dhaka in 2011.

The foreign minister said Bangladesh would send high-level delegations to the upcoming key ITU events to showcase the various achievements made under "Digital Bangladesh".

Nolok Babu, Priyanka hurt in Ctg road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Close up-1 Star Nolok Babu and three others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Shitalpur under Sitakunda upazila here early hours of yesterday.

Sources said Nolok, 25, and his co-singer Priyanka, 22, Monir Sheikh, 26, and driver Lokman, 30, were going to Cox's Bazar from Dhaka to attend a programme.

The accident occurred when a Chittagong city-bound goods-laden truck knocked the private car from behind around 3:00am on the highway at Shitalpur.

The accident left the four critically injured.

They were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition. Nolok and Priyanka were undergoing treatment at Neuron Surgery Ward while Monir at Ophthalmology and Lokman at Casualty Ward.

'Torture' of BNP men protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday strongly protested and condemned 'torture' on leaders and workers of the party by the members of pro-government organisations -- Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League -- across the country.

Delwar in a statement expressed his grave concern over the torture on his party people and claimed that pro-government men were also 'ransacking' houses and 'looting' their shops at different districts.

The BNP leader alleged that local Jubo League men of Durgapur upazila in Netrokona attacked central BNP leader Kaiser Kamal and kept him confined on Saturday.

A number of BNP men were injured in the attack, he said adding members of Jubo League and Chhatra League set fire to shops belong to BNP supporters.

He said pro-government people have recently attacked BNP men and looted their valuables at Belkuchi in Sirajganj and at Atharia in Pabna.

Delwar said the government has totally failed to give security to countrymen and it is rather trying to establish an autocracy. Members of the Awami League's associate bodies have created a terrible situation by adopting criminal activities across the country.

He called upon the government to take effective measures to put an end to the ongoing criminal activities by pro-government people and demanded exemplary punishment to those who attacked opposition workers.

In two separate statements, Delwar protested and condemned attacks on the residence of BNP worker Abdul Kader in Baulful upazila in Patuakhali and on Sramik Dal leader Nazrul Islam at Dhamrai by pro-government people.

Mohsin wins Chand Sultana Literacy Prize

METRO DESK

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has decided to award its Chand Sultana Literacy Prize 2009 to literacy expert, researcher and development activist Mohammad Mohsin in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the sector.

The Mission will hand over the award to Mohsin at a formal ceremony soon.

The award carries a cheque for Tk 30000, a crest and a certificate.

Mohammad Mohsin has been contributing to the field of non-formal education for three decades.

He worked in various fields of non-formal education, including policy formation and development of education materials. He developed eight primers and developed guidance materials for children and adults.

Besides, he authored adult literacy primer under Primary and Mass Education Programme and first, second and third part of development primer-Chetona.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF SC JUDGE'S MONEY

Police pick up two Sonali Bank staffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday picked up two Sonali Bank officials in connection with misappropriation of around Tk 70 lakh by the personal officer (PO) of Appellate Division Judge Joyntul Abedin.

PO Lokman Hossain withdrew the money from Joyntul and his wife's accounts with the Supreme Court branch of Sonali Bank by forging their signatures on 22 cheques.

The cheques and the entire transaction documents of the accounts have also been seized.

However, Lokman, of Deokhali village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila, is on the run.

Sonali Bank senior officers Nazrul Islam and Selim Reza were taken to police custody for interrogation as they had cleared the cheques.

Police said the PO took away around Tk 41 lakh from the judge's account and Tk 29 lakh from his wife Hasina Akhter's account.

The judge filed a case with Shabbagh Police Station Sunday night.

In the case statement, he mentioned that some dishonest employees of the branch might have been involved in the forgery.

Assistant General Manager of the branch Gauranga Chandra Dey said "We are yet to ascertain the fact. Let the police complete the investigation".

He said the justice had opened his account on June 22, 1992 and his wife on August 13, 2002.

The AGM added that the amount was withdrawn on different dates from October 20, 2009.

Sub-Inspector of Shabbagh Police Station Kazi Didarul Islam who is the investigation officer of the case said they picked up the employees as part of their investigation.



Injured Close up-1 Star Nolok Babu and his co-singer Priyanka.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA.COM

3 bullet-hit among five arrested snatchers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five snatchers, three of them bullet-hit, in separate drives at Tikatuli and Rampura in the city yesterday.

Rab-10 arrested bullet-hit Mafiz Chowdhury, 25, Nazrul Islam, 28, and their two cohorts after a gunfight at Baldha Garden in Tikatuli around 7:30pm while bullet-hit Tariqul Islam Milton, 35, was arrested from Mohanagar project at Rampura around 5:30am by Rab-3.

Members of Rab arrested Mafiz, Nazrul and their two accomplices on an autorickshaw while they were taking preparation for snatching from an autorickshaw in front of Baldha Garden.

Senior ASP Enamul Kabir said the criminals fired at the Rab personnel when they intercepted the gang, prompting them (Rab) to fire back that left two people injured.

In the other incident Rab arrested Milton while he along with his gang was trying to snatch belongings from a pedestrian.

The criminals opened fire on the Rab. Milton was shot during the gunfight while his cohorts managed to escape.

The bullet-hit snatchers are now under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Health policy by this year Hope speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a press conference in Chittagong yesterday hoped that the National Health Policy 2010 would be finalised by this year after taking opinions from different classes of people across the country.

They underscored the need for collecting opinions from professionals working in grass-roots level to know people's demand to make a mass-oriented health policy.

The press conference was organised at the Training and Research Centre of Brac in the port city as part of a daylong workshop on the draft of National Health Policy 2010.

Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali was the chief guest at the workshop with Convener of National Health Policy 2010 Finalization Committee Prof Dr Khondokar Md Sifayet Ullah in the chair.

Around 90 people from different professions of Chittagong division including doctors, teachers, lawyers, nurses, health workers, businessmen and religious leaders participated in the workshop.

The workshop in Chittagong was the second of its kind and similar programmes would be arranged in four other divisional cities to collect opinions.

The first workshop was held at Barisal and a national workshop will be held in Dhaka at last, he said.

Prof Sifayet said the draft policy was displayed on the website after it was presented by the Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque on January 16 this year.

"So far, we've received around 39 thousand suggestions and opinions on the draft policy from people and at least 61 organisations gave suggestions through internet," he said.

Director (Health) of Chittagong division Dr Md Siddikiur Rahman, Director (Family Planning) of Chittagong division Kazi Md Saiful Alam, General Secretary to Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Chittagong chapter Dr Nasiruddin Mahmud, Chittagong Medical College Principal Prof Selim Md Jahangir, Associate Director of Brac Health Programme Jalaluddin Ahmad, members of National Health Policy 2010 Finalization Committee Dr Md Sayedur Rahman and Dr Khairul Islam also spoke at the workshop.

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Find your sweet home at **Niketon...**

Roza Green
... a lifestyle of modern luxury

Amin Mohammad Foundation Ltd. (A Sister Concern of Amin Mohammad Group.)

Corporate Office: 752 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi C/A, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 9124538-42, 8155101-5, Mobile: 01819-261912, 01817-031031, 01817-031035, 01819-261913, 01817-031079, 01817-031066. **Motijheel Office:** Phone: 7162017-8, 7172789. Mobile: 01817-031081, 01817-031036. **Uttara Office:** Mobile: 01817-031074, 01817-145905, 01817-031032, 01817-031040. Fax: 9127120. Web: www.amgbd.com, E-mail: amfi@amgbd.com

committed to build the best...

Amin Mohammad Foundation

- ▶ 55% open space
- ▶ Opening to the South
- ▶ Outstanding elevation
- ▶ Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, Leisure Club
- ▶ Exclusive community living with natural garden, play ground

MEMBER REHAB