

Indigenous people

FROM PAGE 16
to speak for their benefits.
The government must give a clear roadmap concerning final implementation of the CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts) Peace Accord, 1997, and settlement of land disputes between Bengalee settlers and Adivasis, said the participants at the programme organised by BIFE.

Hinting at the land survey in CHT declared by the CHT Land Commission in September last year, they said conducting the survey before resolving the disputes over the ownership of lands goes against the spirit of 1997 peace accord and the traditional land ownership systems in the hills.

Every year the day is observed on August 9 to protect the rights of the world's indigenous people. This year the theme of the day was "right to culture and self-identity of indigenous people".

Former justice Golam Rabbani inaugurated the programme. The celebration started with a vibrant cultural programme performed by Adivasi artists from all across the country followed by discussion and a rally.

Shantu Larma, chairman of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, said, "It has been about 20 months since the Awami League-led government came to power but it has not fulfilled the promises made in the election manifesto."

Expressing disapproval he said the government often violates the CHT accord instead of implementing it.

Larma, also the chairman of the CHT Regional Council, opposed the plan for land survey before resolving land disputes.

The survey was supposed to begin from October 2009, and the indigenous communities opposed the plan ever since the announcement was made.

Criticising the role of the CHT Land Commission, Larma said its responsibility is to resolve the disputes over land ownership issues, not to conduct a survey.

According to a census conducted by the government in 1991, around 1.2 million indigenous people of 27 ethnic groups live in the country. However, non-government bodies estimated that there are 40 to 50 ethnic groups and their population stands at about 2 million.

These communities mainly live in the southeast (Chittagong Hill Tracts) region, north, north-central plains, northeast region and in the coastal belt.

Meanwhile, in a special message to Adivasis of Bangladesh, Dr Stefan Frowein, head of EU Delegation to Bangladesh, said, "I know very well that indigenous people here still face major problems, but from an international perspective the general level of respect in Bangladesh for indigenous peoples' rights can be considered one of the success stories of Bangladesh's democratic development."

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, DU vice-chancellor; lawmaker Hasanul Haque Inu; Khushi Kabir, chairperson of ALRD; Manzurul Ahsan Khan, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh; Pankaj Bhattacharya, presidium member, Ganaforum; Mamunur Rashid, actor and theatre activist; HKS Arefeen, Dalem Ch Barman, among others, addressed the gathering.

Stop expulsion of Bangladeshis

Dipu Moni urges Iran

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday called on Iran to stop deportation of expatriate Bangladeshis from that country, and to legalise undocumented workers under a general amnesty, says a ministry press release.

Dipu Moni made the request when Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Hossein Aminian Tousi called on her at the ministry.

The foreign minister appreciated Iran's interest in extending cooperation to Bangladesh in the areas of energy, oil, gas and fertiliser production.

During the meeting, Dipu Moni indicated that financial assistance proposed by Iran earlier will be used in the health sector.

They underscored the need for foreign secretary level consultation between the two countries and talked about holding of the 5th meeting of the Joint Economic Commission.

HC cancels

FROM PAGE 16
convicting him on charges of amassing wealth illegally, and concealing relevant information.

The HC gave bail to Lobi following his appeal filed on September 9, 2008, which challenged the lower court's judgment.

The case against Lobi, also the former president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, was filed with Gulshan Police Station on March 21, 2007.

An ACC probe report following filing of the case claimed Lobi had wealth worth in excess of Tk 36.67 crore, of which sources of Tk 24.97 crore could not be known.

Lobi concealed information about a house in his wife's name at Gulshan-2, gold worth over Tk 71 lakh, and a BMW car in the wealth statement, alleged the report.

68 dodgy

FROM PAGE 1
visits to the public hospitals at Gazipur, Sreepur, Kaliakoir, Tongi and Kapasia, Shibpur, Mirzapur, Satoria, Titas and Daudkandi, Chandpur and Sonargaon.

The teams, comprising senior officials from the health ministry and directorate of health, during their visit to the hospitals found the doctors absent when patients were waiting for long.

Problems of the hospitals, including scarcity of medicines, were identified and measures to address them also recommended, officials said.

The government has apparently taken a firm stand against the dishonest physicians of the public hospitals following the recent directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The PM had warned of stern action against the doctors who will not attend patients in the public hospitals, especially in rural areas.

Officials said the special teams would continue surprise visit to other public hospitals to monitor the situation.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
invitation letter to the prime minister's PS Selima Begum at the PM's office at about 12:30 pm yesterday.

On Sunday, Hasina invited the BNP chairperson to an iftar party on the fifth of Ramadan at the Gono Bhaban.

BNP also invited the ministers and leaders of the ruling party to the iftar apart from the leaders of other political parties.

Jamaat leaders

FROM PAGE 1
the highest policymaking body of the party, police said.

He was accused in a case filed on June 30 under the Explosive Substances Act, said Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station.

Malek led some 50 Jamaat and Islamic Chhatra Shibir men while bringing out a procession in the city on that day, the OC said.

They also blasted some cocktails during the procession and clashed with police in Sonadighi area, he said.

"We arrested Malek as we found his involvement in the case during our investigation," the OC added.

Earlier, police arrested five other Jamaat leaders in connection with the case.

Our Chapinawabganj correspondent reports, Sadar police arrested Mokhlesur Rahman around 10:00am in front of Balugram College of the upazila for his alleged involvement in subversive activities.

Ahsanul Hoque, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said, police arrested Mokhlesur following information from detective branch that he was trying to create anarchic situation by organising leaders and activists of the party.

OMS of rice

FROM PAGE 1
year, he said.

The market will open at 9:00am and continue till 5:00pm in Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Narsingdi and the divisional headquarters. The dealers may remain open till 8:00pm if required.

The programme will run five days a week, except on Fridays and Tuesdays, said Razzaque.

A total of 265 dealers will sell rice from trucks under OMS in all divisional headquarters. However, in the flood-hit districts, where 33,000 tonnes of rice has been allocated, the dealers will sell rice from shops as well.

Dr Abdur Razzaque said the government would also start a food rationing programme through fair price cards from August 16 to distribute 20 kg of rice per family each month at Tk 24 a kg. The poor and the underprivileged will be benefited from the programme, he said.

"With the help of the MPs and local representatives, we have already selected a total of 8.56 lakh people for the programme and the numbers may rise," he said. "We want to make it a permanent programme to help the ultra poor," he added.

The government will also provide food under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme prior to the Eid, he said.

When asked about the present food stock, the minister said currently there are

Reckless bus

FROM PAGE 1
OC Noman said they were in pursuit of both the buses and also the driver of the vehicle that hit their colleague.

On Sunday, Nasiruddin, 28, A postgraduate student of English department at Government Titumir College, and Yasmin Akhter Ria, 20, a BBA student of Northern University -- died after a tanker knocking the rickshaw carrying the two.

Mojahid and Seyede were arrested on June 29 after a Dhaka court issued arrest warrants against them in connection with a case filed for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims while Kamaruzzaman and Quader Molla were arrested on July 13 in connection with a case filed with Pallabi police for killing 345 people during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Later they were shown arrested in a dozen of criminal cases and remanded for several days for their alleged involvement with different charges.

Sayedee was sent to jail yesterday on completion of his 12-day remand in five phases in the case on an attempt to kill Humayun Azad.

3 workers

FROM PAGE 1
remained out of the factory for lunch.

The fire damaged the machinery and other materials of only the winding section located at an additional tinshed room built on the top of the four-storey building of the factory.

Witness knitting operator Asadul Islam of the factory said they could realise the fire when black smokes were coming out from the factory.

He said they tried to stop the fire from being spread and later they joined the fire fighters.

FSCD officials said they fought for over three hours to douse the fire. But they could not ascertain the cause of it.

However, former BNP state minister Maj (ret'd) Kamrul Islam, who is one of the directors of the factory, said the fire was originated from an electric short circuit.

He said around 650 employees work in the factory and over 60 workers in the winding section.

He claimed 40 of the swing machines and 14 winding machines were damaged and huge quantities of threads were gutted.

Islami Bank

FROM PAGE 16
The foundation also gets money from the earning of Islami Bank Hospital, Community Hospital (Rajshahi), medical college, homeopathy clinics and zakat, and also from some other sources.

The BB investigators doubted the transparency of the foundation's spending.

The organisation has been running the credit programme for the last three years with around 700 borrowers, the foundation sources said.

According to the MRA Act, to obtain a licence, any non-government organisation must have either Tk 40 lakh in outstanding credit or at least 1,000 borrowers.

The chairman of Islami Bank, Abu Nasser Muhammad Abdus Zaher told The Daily Star in mid July that the foundation no longer operated micro-credit programme. It was now running Rural Development Scheme (RDS), an Islamic micro-finance model, since December last.

He, however, admitted that the foundation distributed micro-credit among the poor till November 2009. The programme was stopped

nearly 700,000 tonnes of rice and 60,000 tonnes of wheat in the public stock. More than 7 lakh tonnes of rice will be imported soon and there is no need to worry about food stock for now, he added.

He said prices of rice were higher than expected due to damage caused by flash flood and impact of international market. In spite of the floods, the country experienced a bumper boro harvest and the farmers also got a better price for boro this year, he added, hoping the programmes will lower the food prices.

Criminal cases

FROM PAGE 16
June 27, one with Bimanbandu on June 9 and the other one was filed with Ramna on February 27, 2004.

Mojahid was accused of holding "a secret meeting" with various government officials at the Artisan Ceramics Ltd business office of Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, in the city's Uttara area on November 24 of 2006.

Sayedee was accused of making an attempt to kill late Prof Humayun Azad on February 27, 2004 while Kamaruzzaman and Quader Molla were accused of vandalising president's vehicles and preventing police from discharging their duties.

Judge (In Charge) Ismail Hossain of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after the lawyers of the four Jamaat leaders submitted bail petitions against the rejection order of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on different dates.

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CU teacher

FROM PAGE 1
of sexually abusing her at the department and at her dormitory in October last year.

Mamun was sent on forced leave in April this year after a committee headed by Professor Dr Md Mohiuddin of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences primarily found him guilty.

A second committee, formed to further probe the matter, also found the allegation to be true, the VCs said.

The syndicate also terminated Mohammad Fayezullah, deputy registrar of examinations controller's office, on charge of recruiting two employees in exchange of money during the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance government.

Top aide

FROM PAGE 16
alias Tablet Babu and his accomplice Abdul Mannan alias Rana. They were arrested at Larmini Street at around 10:30pm while they were plotting to realise toll from a man who was selling land in the area, said Assistant Commissioner of DB Nasir Uddin Khan.

He said they recovered the firearm and bullets from Tablet Babu's possession.

Babu, who was accused in several cases including murder, took over the charge of second-in-command of Shahid few months back as former second-in-command Biddiut was arrested in a murder case.

Nasir Uddin said in preliminary interrogation Babu admitted that in July he (Babu) sent Tk 1.60 crore in two phases to Dakat Shahid who is now absconding in Nepal.

"Babu sent the money with the help of a trader Islam in old Dhaka," he said adding, "Islam with the help of his Indian business partner, a marwari, reached Shahid the extorted money".

Babu also said Shahid demands money as extortion from businessmen and the persons who buy lands or flats at Katwali, Sutrapur, Bongshal, Lalbagh, Gendaria, Kadamtali and Jatrabari areas.

Nasir Uddin said Shahid made Babu secretary of Dhulaikhal Truck Stand and started realising from trucks.

Police prayed for a 10-day remand for these two criminals after they were produced at a Dhaka court.

BCS results

FROM PAGE 1
continues holding the position even after revelation of errors in the question paper of BCS exam? He should have resigned of the office immediately afterwards", the bench observed.

The bench said the PSC chairman cannot absolve the liabilities.

The court allowed the PSC to publish the result following a petition submitted by the PSC authorities yesterday saying that they have already taken steps to solve the crisis.

It also adjourned hearing on the petition till October 3, saying that this court will not stay the process of publishing the results of preliminary test, since such order can disrupt the appointment process in the BCS cadre.

It also said it will wait to see whether the PSC authorities take effective steps to solve the crisis.

Nineteen candidates filed a writ petition on Sunday seeking its directive for cancellation of the test, saying the PSC failed to hold a fair examination.

The petitioners said nearly 50,000 candidates would be affected because of errors and inconsistencies in set-2 question paper.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza yesterday told The Daily Star that there is no bar to publish the preliminary results of 30th BCS by the PSC following the HC order.

Advocate Manzil Murshid, lawyer for the petitioner, however, said the PSC cannot publish the results until further court order, as the court will pass order after examining PSC's decision to solve the problem.

Advocate M Asadullah appeared for PSC.

Junior School

FROM PAGE 16
and second paper, English first paper and second paper, General Mathematics, General Science, Samajik Bigyan, Religion and Krishi Shikha / Home Economics. There will be no practical examinations.

Detailed schedule will be given around a month before the examinations. Results will be based on Grade Point Average (GPA) system and academic transcripts, not certificates, will be issued after the results are published.

Asked about the JSC examinations, Chairman of Dhaka Board Prof Fahima Khatun said, "The educational institutions in rural areas which lag behind the urban ones will have an opportunity to compete in an examination held on equal standard."

She added, "We have almost completed necessary preparations."

Meanwhile, the government last year introduced primary terminal examinations for students of class five. Around 18.23 lakh students sat for the examinations in which 88.84 percent came out successful.

Introduction of the terminal examinations is aimed at bringing qualitative changes in the education system and reducing the gap between the standard of education in urban and rural areas, said a senior official of the education ministry.

NKorea fires artillery near disputed border with South

AP, Seoul

North Korea fired about 110 rounds of artillery yesterday near its disputed sea border with South Korea, the South's military said, amid high tension over the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on North Korea.

The firing came shortly after South Korea ended five-day naval drills off the west coast that the North called a rehearsal for an invasion, vowing to retaliate.

All the artillery shells harmlessly landed into the North's waters and caused no damage to the South, a South Korean Joint Chief of Staff officer said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy.

South Korea considered the firing to be part of a military drill by North Korea but still bolstered its military readiness against further provocation, the officer said. The South also warned Pyongyang over the firing by naval radio, he said.

"This was their way of saying 'We'll respond to military drills with military drills,'" said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean studies.

Yang said the firing is also aimed at highlighting the instability of the Korean peninsula to apply pressure on the United States to start talks on the signing of a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. The conflict ended with an armistice, thus leaving the peninsula technically at state of war.

North Korea has long sought a peace treaty and diplomatic relations with Washington to guarantee that the U.S., which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, would not invade and topple Kim Jong Il's government. The U.S. has repeatedly said it has no intention of attacking the North.

Tension on the Korean peninsula is running high in the wake of the March sinking of the South Korean warship that an international investigation blamed on a North Korean torpedo attack. The North flatly denies the accusation and has warned any punishment would trigger war.

Tension deepened last week when South Korea launched large-scale naval training in response to the sinking, prompting its communist neighbor to warn it would

\$1b loan

FROM PAGE 1
ending at Moghbazar crossing at 7:00pm, worsened traffic congestion in the city.

From an open-roof jeep, the opposition leader waved to those waiting at the roadside to catch a glimpse of her. Police in riot gear guarded the procession all along.

Earlier, leaders and workers of BNP and associated bodies began streaming into Paltan Maidan at around 2:00pm.

Though the programme was scheduled to start at 3:00pm, it began after the BNP chief arrived at the venue at 5:15pm.

After a welcome speech by city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Khaleda addressed the rally from her car.

She said the government has failed to implement its electoral pledges. It has turned parliament into a "fish market and zoo".

Lambasting the loan deal with India, she said the country will have to pay a lot for this. Even those who are not born yet will have to shoulder the burden.

"Awami League had signed a pact of slavery after the Liberation War. And this loan deal is of that kind," she added.

Khaleda blasted the government for failing to contain the price hike of essentials and resolve acute shortages of gas, power and water.

This administration, she observed, has proved an absolute failure in last 19 months and people now have no confidence in it.

"The government could not prevent the killing of Bangladeshis in border areas and raise issues like sharing of the common river water and maritime boundary disputes during the Indian finance minister's visit," Khaleda said.

She alleged that the opposition is not allowed to speak in parliament and observe democratic programmes outside.

The government is persecuting the BNP activists as it knows it has no ground beneath its feet. It is filing false cases against the opposition leaders and workers to cling to power, she said.

Describing the administration as "utterly politicised", she said those who have lost jobs during AL rule would be taken back if BNP is voted to power.

counter the maneuvers with a "strong physical retaliation."

On Sunday, North Korean authorities also seized four South Korean and three Chinese fishermen aboard a 41-ton South Korean fishing boat for an alleged violation of the North's exclusive economic zone. South Korea had demanded the North quickly release them but the North has not responded.

Country

FROM PAGE 1
"We get only 1,230MW of power against a demand of around 2,000MW in Dhaka district," said a DPDC official wishing anonymity.

Meanwhile, agitated people of Chandpur and Kishoreganj districts yesterday besieged and vandalised the palli bidyut offices in the areas protesting power outage, reports UNB.

In another incident at Keraniganj near Dhaka, agitated people blocked Dhaka-Maowa highway at Tejuria for several hours in protest.

The Daily Star yesterday tried to contact State Minister for Power Brig Gen (ret'd) Enamul Haque but his nephew told over the phone said that the minister was in a meeting at that time.

The government earlier took several steps, including DST initiative, reduction of business hours for shops, dividing the capital into seven zones and staggering weekly day-offs for shops and other commercial establishments, to tackle power crisis.

As the latest line of initiative, it issued a directive on limiting use of air conditioners, which only begot flak for the government.

Six female

FROM PAGE 16
arrested the workers. They were identified from footages and newspaper photos.

The arrested workers set out the turmoil in Tejaon Industrial Area which later spread to nearby localities including Mohakhali and Gulshan, said the Additional Deputy Commissioner of DB Mollah Nazrul Islam.

The detective said they identified two factory workers who prompted their fellows to vandalism. Police are on the hunt for the two who went into hiding.

Earlier on August 6, members of Rapid Action Battalion arrested nine workers in connection with the RMG violence that ravaged part of the capital and its outskirts last week.

Over five thousand workers rampaged through Tejaon Industrial Area, Banai Chairmanbari, Mohakhali and Gulshan Avenue on July 30, rejecting the new wage structure and demanding Tk 5,000 minimum wage from August.

The workers damaged around 200 business concerns, including several garment factories, and seven vehicles.

At least 20 people including five police personnel were injured in clashes between the law enforcers and agitating workers.

Another woman

FROM PAGE 1
Maksuda's husband Ashraf Uddin is an employee of a factory in Tejaon industrial area. He had been living in the area for long.

Maksuda's mother Karimunnisa said Ashraf mercilessly beat up his wife and forced her to leave the house on August 2 over his desire to marry another girl of his village. Maksuda then took shelter at her parent's village home in Arahazar.

On different occasions, Ashraf demanded dowry form Maksuda, said Karimunnisa adding that so far they have given Ashraf over Tk 1.5 lakh as per his demand.

"My father orally divorced my mother in the morning [Monday] and beat her unconscious when she went to my paternal grandparents' at Arahazar," said Nazmul.

Outraged by the divorced, she sold her gold earrings and came to Dhaka to commit suicide, he added.

Earlier on August 5, distraught over her husband's second marriage, Bilashi, 28, set fire to herself and her two children Abu Raihan and Rajani in the capital's Kamalapur. They all died at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of DMCH.

On June 11, aggrieved by her husband's negligence and second marriage Farzana Kabir Rita, her 12-year-old son Pabon and 10-year-old daughter Payel committed suicide by taking sedatives in the city's Jurain.