



Load shedding during the last few days in the city brought distress to the everyday life of city dwellers. Fish traders in Karwan Bazar yesterday noon had to carry out sales under candlelight due to unavailability of electricity. PHOTO: STAR

Include indigenous people's rights in constitution

Suggests CHT Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission recommends explicit recognition of the distinctive identity, culture and rights of the indigenous people in the constitution.

This was one of the advices from a five-point recommendation that the commission placed before the government in a press statement yesterday.

The commission disclosed its recommendations with a hope that the government and other concerned parties would take immediate steps to implement the advices.

The recommendations are based on findings that come out following the commission's visit to the CHT area last month.

In the list, the commission suggested a high level independent enquiry to make a detailed and impartial investigation into the arson attacks and killings in Baghaihat and Khagrachhari town in February 2010.

It also recommended amendment of CHT Land Dispute Settlement Commission Act 2001 in accordance with the articles of the CHT Accord and the recommendations forwarded by the regional council.

The commission also advised a phased withdrawal of temporary military camps from the region in accordance with the CHT Accord to restore normalcy and full civilian administration in the region.

It also advised on implementation of all clauses of the CHT Accord with a clear process and timeline.

The CHT Commission conducted the mission to Bangladesh from September 4 to 10 including a visit to the CHT region.

Its purpose was to assess the overall political developments related to the CHT Accord and follow up on issues raised in the commission's memo to the prime minister following its visit to the region in June 2010.

The commission has been heartened by the prime minister's repeated assurances that the implementation of the accord is a personal commitment on her side. But there is concern from various groups about the slow progress of implementation in general and the controversial activities of the land commission in particular, read the press statement.

There has been no headway in initiating an independent investigation into the February arson attacks in Baghaihat and Khagrachhari though some ministers assured the commission members of such.

The ministers said there would be an inter-ministerial meeting and subsequently a series of meetings to bridge the misunderstandings amongst the different parties, the commission observed.

There still seems to be disagreement between the administration and the indigenous leaders about whether to first carry out a land survey or settle the disputes pertaining to land, the press statement adds.

All indigenous political and citizen's groups of the CHT region renewed their demands for incorporating provisions on their distinctive identity and rights in the constitution ahead of expected constitutional amendments.

The mission members visited Rangamati and Khagrachhari and spoke to various civil society and political groups and enquired about the current situation.

The indigenous groups from the Baghaihat-Sajek area informed the commission members that there had been no further arson attacks and violence upon them after the incidents of February 2010.

However, they claimed that the army has been constantly keeping watch and harassing them since then.

Three Co-Chairs of the CHT Commission Eric Avebury, Sultana Kamal and Ida Nicolaisen were signatories to the press statement.

Bangladesh a secular democratic country

Says US state dept official

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A high official of the US State Department said Bangladesh is now a secular democracy of increasing regional stature and strategic importance to the United States.

"Today, Bangladesh is a secular democracy, with a vibrant civil society and a history of religious and ethnic tolerance," said US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O Blake. He was addressing the San Diego World Affairs Council in California on September 30.

Blake was speaking on US policy in South Asia and highlighting some of the lesser-known success stories coming out of South Asia.

He said the national elections that brought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to power in January 2009 was hailed as the freest and fairest in the nation's history.

Just as encouraging, he said Hasina's government put high priority on improving relations with its neighbors, particularly India.

"Her government has also taken a strong stand against terrorism, arresting and capturing key leaders of a number of small extremist groups, including the JMB, which masterminded a series of coordinated bomb blasts throughout the country in 2005," Blake added.

The United Nations held a Summit in New

York last week to measure the progress developing countries are making to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Blake listed out Bangladesh's success in reducing child mortality, the number of chronically food insecure people, from 40 to 27 million, and gender inequality in schools and in the labour force.

Many of these successes were in part due to the \$5 billion that the US and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) invested in Bangladesh over the past four decades, he observed.

"Bangladesh is now the world's third-largest exporter of ready-made garments. I will be willing to bet that the clothes that a number of you are wearing today were made by some of the millions of Bangladeshi garment workers, majority of whom are women," said Blake.

He said Bangladesh can be proud of its vibrant civil society, with outstanding global citizens as Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus.

Another Bangladeshi, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founded the world's largest non-governmental organisation Brac, employing more than 100,000 people, while operating schools, providing basic health care and offering microcredit to the poor.

US delivers 92,380 tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US government has delivered 92,380 tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its 'Title-2' food aid programme.

The shipment, which arrived at Chittagong port between September 22 and 28, is the first installment for the initial year of the Programme, which aims to deliver food grains worth \$210 million over five years, said a press release yesterday.

The food will be used to generate funds to create income opportunities, promote health, hygiene and nutrition, and empower women. It will also help to promote disaster management systems, educate communities to adapt to climate change issues and build infrastructure for under developed communities.

USAID works with the government of Bangladesh to improve the way of living of approximately nine million extremely poor and malnourished people, it said.

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Shackling Montu in jail violates constitution

Say 51 distinguished persons

Staff Correspondent

Keeping Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court and freedom fighter Montu Gosh in shackles inside the jail is a violation of the constitution, says a statement yesterday signed by 51 distinguished persons.

They condemned the incident and demanded a stop to all types of torture on Montu, withdrawal of cases against him and his release.

The statement referred to the jail code as saying prisoners are put in shackle in rare incidents. But the rule was not followed in the case of Montu Gosh, also Narayanjanji unit general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh.

A shackle on his feet, Montu was produced before the court on September 8. The prosecution could not cite reasons for shackling when

Montu's lawyer enquired, said the statement.

"We are deeply upset and annoyed about the incident," read the statement.

Also an adviser to Bangladesh Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra, Montu was arrested on July 31 in connection with garment workers' demonstration, but without any arrest warrant. He has been in jail since then.

The signatories to the statement include Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Chairperson Hameeda Hossain, ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal, jurist Shahdeen Malik, Barrister Sara Hossain, Prof MM Akash, Prof Saaduddin, Prof Manzoorul Islam, Prof Anu Muhammad, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel, social worker Tarik Ali, and human rights activist Khushi Kabir.



Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) forms a human chain in front of the Lalbagh Fort in the city yesterday demanding to free the historical site from encroachers. (Story on Page 3) PHOTO: STAR

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• Required to understand the business issues and driving key human resource activities through implementing strategic human resource management & development planning to ensure competitive business environment
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Requirements
• 12-15 years Banking Experience. At least 5 years experience in legal control and compliance issues.
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Requirements
• 12-15 years Banking Experience. At least 5 years experience in any of the Islamic Bank in Bangladesh or abroad.
• Sound knowledge about Islamic Banking Operation and Islamic Shariah Principles, Islamic Banking Deposit & Investment Products (Mudara, Musharaka, Al-Wadeeah, Bai-Murabaha, Bai-Muajjal, Bai-Salam, Shirkatul Meelk etc.)
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• 10-12 years Experience in any reputed Commercial Bank with minimum 3 years experience as Branch Manager.
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Requirements
• 10-15 years related experience. Working in banking/education/development/research based organization will be given preference.
• Sound track record in educational career having graduation/masters in Economics/Finance/Accounting/Business studies/Statistics
• Sound knowledge about balance sheet of bank, Non performing Loan, Basel-II Accord and other related banking activities
• Should be well conversant with national and international economics, monetary policy, GDP, GNP, other financial laws & acts, Bangladesh Bank Publications & Industrial Publications as well etc.
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• 5-10 years Banking Experience. At least 3 years experience in credit department of a large branch
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