

Land zoning act soon

Says minister

BSS, Jamalpur

Land Minister M Rezaul Karim Hira yesterday said the government is formulating land zoning act soon to ensure proper utilisation of land as well as to protect agricultural land for the national interest.

"We can check misuse of land after formulating the act," he said while speaking at a discussion marking the World Food Day at Shilpakala Academy here.

He said the government has taken various initiatives through inventing high yielding seeds as well as increasing subsidy for achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

Hira said all need to work unitedly in ensuring food security across the country amid declination of agricultural land due to flood, draught, natural calamities, climate change and population growth.

He urged all concerned to invent easy methods of food production as well as food storage for ensuring food security.

Earlier, the land minister led a rally from Jamalpur central Shaheed Minar to Shilpakala Academy, marking the day.



The Daily Star and Brac organise a policy dialogue on "Extreme Poverty Reduction: Challenges and Possibilities" at The Daily Star conference room yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Hold officials, cops liable for graft in my constituency

Sohel Taj asks media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Tanjim Ahmad Sohel yesterday called upon the media to hold police and government officials at his Gazipur constituency accountable to the people.

He also asked the local administration to show zero tolerance towards corruption and irregularities, irrespective of the identity of ruling party men who might be involved.

Sohel Taj, an ex-state minister for home, was speaking at an anti-drug campaign at Kapacia, Gazipur.

Awami Jubo League organised the campaign where several thousand people formed a human chain to say no to all kinds of drugs and eradicate those from Kapacia.

Addressing the campaign, Sohel Taj directed police to take all-out measures in stopping drug trade in his constituency.

"Any negligence in duty to deal with drug, corruption and irregularities will result in action from the government high ups," he warned the local administration.

He also urged the media to keep a close eye on the local administration as to whether they are serving people and taking measures to stop corruption, misconduct and irregularities.

Sohel Taj said the present government that assumed office to bring a change in the country has been working to this end at its best and he would give his maximum effort to implement government's charter for change.

Earlier, he also addressed another programme titled "We want safe roads", initiated by actor Ilias Kanchan.

Sohel Taj, while assuming office in the home ministry, took comprehensive initiatives on road safety.

Ctg port unrest: 60 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a total of 60 workers and leaders till yesterday in separate raids during the last three days in connection with recent workers' unrest at Chittagong port.

Three at Chittagong also filed accusing over 800 workers in this connection.

In the latest raid conducted early hours yesterday, police arrested 13 workers from different adjoining areas of the port, said police.

Meanwhile on Thursday night, police and Chittagong port authority also filed two separate cases under special powers act in connection with recent unrest at the port.

Earlier, police arrested 29 workers during a clash between workers and police on Wednesday afternoon when the agitating workers brought out a procession defying a ban imposed on demonstration.

Police on Wednesday night filed a case against the 29 arrestees on charge of violating the ban.

During the five-day unrest since October 8, agitating workers on Tuesday broke open the

main gate of the jetty No# 12, entered into the port's protected areas, chased the port officials and manhandled two workers' leaders.

This incident was the first of its kind in the port's history.

Sources in the port said a total of 400 workers including 40 identified ones were accused in the case filed by police while the port authority filed the case accusing a total of 400 others including 62 identified ones.

Deputy Commissioner of the Port Kushum Dewan said they identified the workers and leaders involved in Tuesday's incident with the help of video footages.

Police in separate raids conducted till early hours yesterday arrested 31 workers and their leaders in connection with the two cases.

The leaders among the arrestees were identified as Chittagong port Lacing Unlacing Workers Union General Secretary Biplob Mazumder, leaders Abul Bashar, Mohammad Ilias, Staff Union leader Abu Mansur Dewan, Jatiya Sramik League leader Abul Kashem, Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Shomnonoy Parishad leaders Moharam Ali, Akter Hossain and Abdul Majid.

Jubo League programmes to protest BNP agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League, an associated youth organisation of ruling Awami League (AL), announced a two-week country-wide programme yesterday protesting the opposition BNP's recent agitations against the government.

Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam announced the programmes at a press conference at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

The programmes include protest rally in front of the Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue on October 19, district headquarters on October 25, upazila headquarters on October 28 and Muktagong in the city on October 30.

'Over 68pc rural children suffer from dental caries'

UNB, Dhaka

More than 68 percent of rural children aged between 8 to 15 years suffer from dental caries, says a recent study.

Among the study population, 31.84 percent of children were also found free from dental caries.

A group of students of Chittagong Medical College under the department of community medicine conducted the study.

The aim was to find prevalence of dental caries among the children of 8 to 15 years in a selected rural community of Sitakunda under the Residential Field Side Training programme.

The study said only 0.53 percent of the children were from upper class and 21.05 percent from the lower class in terms of socio-economic status.

"Around 92.89 percent of the children had the habit of cleaning their teeth before their main meal," said the study.

Of them, 56.32 percent used tooth-brushes and 7.1 percent used tree barks as a tooth-cleaning device.

Among them, 56.05 percent had not been treated before and were suggested to take medical advice.

Only 4.47 percent went to a dental surgeon prior to this study.

The study was conducted among 380 children, chosen by purposive sampling technique and aimed at evaluating the prevalence of dental caries among them.

The study found 43.68 percent children of 8 to 10 years, 29.47 percent of 10 to 12 years and 26.85 percent of 12-15 years affected by dental caries.

"The study showed the prevalence rate in males were 53.42 percent and in females were 46.58 percent."

This work on dental caries emphasised the need for increasing awareness to further prevent the problem by undertaking appropriate care and cure programmes.

Schoolboy stabbed to death

UNB, Saver

A schoolboy was stabbed to death by his friends at Gajir Chat Munshi Para of Ashulia outskirts of Dhaka on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Sujon Miah, 15, son of Jakir Hossain of Gajir Chat Munshi Para and a student of class ten of Gajir Chat M High School.

Family sources said Sujon's friend Saiful called him out of the house on Friday evening.

He was taken the backside of a garment factory where Sujon was stabbed mercilessly that left him seriously wounded.

He was rushed to a local clinic immediately and later shifted to Square Hospital in the capital where doctors declared him dead.

Sujon's father filed a case in this connection.

22 senior ASPs get new postings after promotion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 22 senior assistant superintends of police (ASPs) were promoted to additional superintendent of police and given postings to different places yesterday, police headquarters sources said.

Senior ASP Dipak Chandra Gupta has been transferred as additional SP to Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Sirajul Hoque to Shilpachal Police Range, Maruf Hossain Sardar to 10th Police Battalion (APBN) of Khagrachhari, Shah Jalal to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Mohiul Islam to Training Reserve (TR), Anwar Hossain to

Shilpachal Police Range, Mir Muddasser Hossain to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Abdus Salam to Rangamati, Moktar Hossain to Chittagong, Abdus Salam to Barisal, Mizanur Rahman to 6th APBN of Barisal, Uttam Kumar Pal 3rd APBN Khulna, Sanjit Kumar Roy to Police Training Centre (PTC) of Rangpur, Shehela Parvin to Traffic and Driving School, Dhaka, Shamima Akhter to Rab, Sayed Abu Sayem to 4th APBN of Bogra, Tanvir Momtaz to Faridpur, Mozzammel Haque to Pirojpur, Shukh Ranjan Somaddar to Bhola, Khandaker Abdur Razzak to Bogra, Nur Ahmed to Nilphamari and Nurjahan Chowdhury to Special Branch (SB) in Dhaka.

Mahanavami celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of Hindu devotees celebrated Mahanavami puja across the country yesterday, the fourth day of Durga Puja.

Navami Bhog was offered to the goddess Durga and distributed among the devotees who gathered at the puja mandaps.

In the city, people from all walks of life visited different Puja mandaps at Dhakeshwari Temple, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, Kalabagan ground, and the temples of Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar and Bangla Bazar.

Leaders of different socio-culture and political organisations visited the Durga Puja mandaps in the city and exchanged greetings with people.

Prof Mijanur Rahman, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, visited Puja Mandaps at Kalabagan ground in Dhanmondi and DU Jagannath Hall to greet the Hindus.

President of Workers Party of Bangladesh, Rashed Khan Menon, visited several puja mandaps.

Assailants burn 10 boats in Turag



PHOTO: STAR

A group of people vandalise and set fire to around 10 boats in Turag River at Dour in the city yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of people vandalised and set fire to around 10 boats, injuring at least 15 people taking pleasure trips on the boats on Turag River at Dour in the city yesterday.

However, the cause behind the attack could not be immediately known.

Witnesses said around 25 people, mostly bearded, arrived in several boats at around 11:30am and swooped on the boat passengers.

They damaged the boats and set those on fire at one stage of the attack.

At least 15 passengers sustained minor injuries while they were trying to escape the attack.

People from different areas come to the spot everyday and enjoy boat rides.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abu Saleh Mohammad Ansar Uddin of Turag Police Station said yesterday's attackers came from Ashulia and managed to escape the scene.

He added that they are investigation into the matter.

Deep depression over Bay moves towards Orissa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The met office yesterday advised the maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla to withdraw cautionary signal as the deep depression over west central Bay and its adjoining northwest gradually moved westwards and crossed Orissa coast of India near Gopalpur at 3:00am yesterday.

As of the last official bulletin, the depression was staying over Orissa and its adjoining areas as a land depression.

It is likely to move in a westerly direction, added the bulletin, and weaken gradually with rainfall.

It, however, influencing steep pressure gradient to persist over north Bay, though squally weather is unlikely.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman blows on a 'Sankha' (conch shell) in front of the idol of Goddess Durga at Ramna Kali Mandir yesterday on Mahanavami, the fourth day of Durga Puja.

Scouts jamboree inaugurated

METRO DESK

Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, the chief of Air staff, inaugurated two-day long Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), on the Internet (JOTI) and on the SMS (JOTS) at BAF Shaheen Hall in the city's Tejgaon yesterday.

World Scout Organisation at the same time worldwide arranged the 53rd JOTA and 14th JOTI on Saturday and Sunday of the third week of October every year. Along with JOTA and JOTI, Bangladesh Scouts organised the 2nd JOTS this year.

Bangladesh Scouts is a century old historic voluntary organisation, which arranges different trainings and occasions to make the country's children, teenage and youth honest, self-dependent and patriotic.

On inaugural ceremony, senior military and civil officers from Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Scouts and a large number of Scouts were present among others.

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