

Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 1

Following the exchange, Bangladesh will get 10,048 acres, but its population might increase up to 50,000 if the Indian citizens agree to change their nationalities under the plan.

The matter has its roots in pre-partition period (before 1947). Historians say these territories were part of high stake card or chess games between the kings of Cooch Behar and Rangpur and handed over to each other in payment for the gambling debts.

In 1974, Bangladesh ratified the Mujib-Indira Land Boundary Agreement to resolve the problems, but India has yet to ratify the agreement.

Sources in New Delhi told The Daily Star that the Indian government will soon approach the Cabinet Committee on Security to get clearance for the implementation of the treaty.

They said officials concerned of both sides are working hard to complete the procedures necessary for the exchange ahead of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's trip to Bangladesh in the next few months.

During the visit, Bangladesh hopes to sign several deals including the one on exchange of enclaves.

Diplomatic sources said the exchange will work as a major confidence building measure between Dhaka and New Delhi, remove suffering of the residents, and more importantly, it will de-escalate border conflict.

In Dhaka, home ministry

sources told The Daily Star that the recent meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Group made significant progress in solving the outstanding issues of 6.5km undemarcated border, 162 enclaves and 6,500 acres of adversely possessed land in each other's territories.

As there is not that much complexity in swap of enclaves, they said, the two sides agreed to settle it first and continue talks on undemarcated border and adversely possessed lands.

Officials of foreign affairs ministry said they along with officials from the other ministries concerned will soon visit the enclaves in India and representatives from India will visit the enclaves in Bangladesh.

Besides, the two countries will soon launch a joint survey of enclave population. Bangladesh has already formed 10 committees, now awaiting Indian response, to launch the headcount, the minister argued.

According to unofficial estimates, the population of the 111 Indian enclaves is over one lakh while the 51 Bangladeshi enclaves inside India have around 44,000 people.

The residents of the enclaves on both sides of the border will be given the option to decide which country they want to live in. Sources said most of the residents of the enclaves had earlier agreed to change their nationalities under the exchange plans. They will be given further chance to migrate once the exchanges are made.

Make Bangla an official language

Nahid urges UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid urged the United Nations to include Bangla as one of its official languages.

Amar Ekushey is now observed worldwide as the International Mother Language Day after getting UNESCO recognition. Bangla ranks as one of the leading languages in terms of the number of its speakers living in different countries, the minister argued.

He made the comments while addressing a discussion on the International Mother Language Day as the chief guest at Government Teachers' Training College in the capital.

Referring to Bangladeshi expatriates in Canada who paved the way for the UNESCO recognition, Nahid said they acted just like language martyrs Salam, Jabbar and Barkat.

According to the United Nations website, the official languages used at the UN are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Talking at the discussion, the education minister said the government has set up the International Mother Language Institute where an exhibition on all languages would be held. "We will try to save the near extinct languages," the minister said.

He added all the languages in the country including the indigenous ones would be exercised at the International Mother Language Institute.

On the Education Policy, the minister said it has been accepted by different sections, adding, the policy would be made available at the ongoing book fair soon.

Earlier, Nahid inaugurated the newly built Shaheed Miner on the TT College premises.

Paying tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in all previous movements, lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh in his speech as the special guest said teachers can make a perfection.

Chaired by Prof Md Shafiqur Rahman, principal of the college, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Directorate Prof Md Nomanur Rashid.

Boy succumbs

FROM PAGE 20
join a crowd celebrating the WC.

Two youths came to Polash house to inform the members that he was stampeded and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at about 11:30pm, Shamim added.

After fighting for life for 12 hours, he succumbed to his injury yesterday at about 11:30am.

Sab - Inspector Nasiruddin of Mirpur Police Station confirmed the incident and said family members received the body without any autopsy.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

He said seven insurgents had attacked the bank, three of them detonating explosive vests inside the building. The motive was not immediately clear.

13 killed

The injured were admitted to Jessore General Hospital and other local hospitals.

Tropical forests

FROM PAGE 20

forests - it will influence a lot of ecosystem services and processes," explained co-author Brian Enquist from the University of Arizona.

"For example, we need to know how much carbon tropical forests are storing, and will store in the future. We also need to know how much CO₂ they are taking out of the air."

Professor Enquist and his team examined how an area of forest had changed between 1976 and 1996.

"We were fortunate that between the two dates, there was a series of quite impressive droughts - those droughts have been increasing in severity over the longer term," he told BBC News.

He said that there had been a "tremendous reduction" in the total number of trees in the forest.

"Most of that reduction was in the smallest trees - such as the saplings and the smaller trees in the understorey," Professor Enquist observed.

"That was the first change that we immediately noticed, but then we began to look very closely and asked what was causing those trees to die."

"What we found was that there was a very distinctive signal in the types of trees that tended to survive and the types of trees that died - it came down to basic differ-

ences on how these trees functioned and worked.

"We found that those species that tended to require more moist conditions were the ones that dropped out very quickly, and those that were able to handle more drought-like conditions persisted."

Professor Enquist said the species that favoured such conditions were deciduous, canopy trees, and if the trend of drier conditions continued into the future then it would change the characteristics of tropical forests.

"The ecosystem implication is that those types of forests (dominated by deciduous, canopy species) tend to store less carbon and hold less biomass, which would then have a detrimental impact in terms of the entire biosphere's ability to help regulate or mitigate the effects of global climate change."

He said the study's findings, when combined with other results from other similar projects, created a picture of tropical forests that were changing "rather quickly".

Professor Enquist added that these forests appeared to be quite susceptible to changes in rainfall, and that future projections of changes in rainfall patterns were likely to have "immediate or very quick consequences".

Gaddafi faces

FROM PAGE 20

New York-based Human Rights Watch said the killings on Friday took to 84 its estimate for the death toll over three days of protests - most of its focused in the restive region around Benghazi.

Earlier, Nahid inaugurated the newly built Shaheed Miner on the TT College premises.

Paying tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in all previous movements, lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh in his speech as the special guest said teachers can make a perfection.

Chaired by Prof Md Shafiqur Rahman, principal of the college, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Directorate Prof Md Nomanur Rashid.

Boy succumbs

FROM PAGE 20
join a crowd celebrating the WC.

Two youths came to Polash house to inform the members that he was stampeded and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at about 11:30pm, Shamim added.

After fighting for life for 12 hours, he succumbed to his injury yesterday at about 11:30am.

Sab - Inspector Nasiruddin of Mirpur Police Station confirmed the incident and said family members received the body without any autopsy.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Harun and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

4 robbers

FROM PAGE 20
The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabdul Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were