

**SESSIONS**

BIAM, Dhaka



Former secretary general of Amnesty International Irene Khan speaks at the concluding session of third annual conference of South Asian Women's Network (SWAN) at BIAM Auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right is Veena Sikri and on her left are Shaheen Anam and Jaya Jaitley. South Asia Foundation, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi organised the two-day conference. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

**Proposed forest act to serve land grabbers**

*Says Indigenous People's Forum*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting draft amendments of the forest act and wildlife conservation act, a rights organisation, Greater Sylhet Indigenous People's Forum (GISPF), yesterday called upon the government not to enact the laws without taking opinion from mass people.

GISPF also urged the similar organisations to raise greater movement against the section 2(8) of the draft wildlife conservation act where living places of forest people are proposed to be used for tourism in the name of creating Eco Park.

Pidison Pradhan, chairperson of GISPF, made the call while addressing a press conference at Jaitya Press Club in the city.

Pidison also said the proposed act will not able to save forests and wildlife rather it will save the interest of land grabbers.

Pidison urged the government to stop eviction of indigenous people in name of saving national parks, eco parks, safari parks, reserve forests and social forestation.

"The responsibilities of the Department of Forest are not defined which will give them total control over forest and its people. Their responsibilities should be defined," he said.

GISPF as an umbrella organisation of indigenous organisations and communities, include Khasi, Manipuri, Tripuri, Hajong, Patro, Garo and the indigenous communities of the tea estates into a same platform for an effective and collective movement.

**Birth registration for future planning stressed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said birth registration is important for the country's future planning.

"For example, birth registration is important for health planning, how much schools will be needed in the country in future, how much people will be needed for job, among many others," he said while addressing a discussion at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium at Central Public Library in the capital.

The minister said in the future birth registration would be needed to control population and reduce maternal mortality rates. He said over 14.24 crore people have already completed birth registration.

The government has started online birth registration with the help of Unicef to make the registration easier, he said hoping that in the coming days the government tends to register all the people under the birth registration process.

He said if the birth registration is made biometric it would help a lot in all aspects of life.

Local Government Division (LGD) under

the LGRD and Cooperatives ministry organised the discussion marking the Birth Registration Day 2011 in cooperation with Unicef.

This year's slogan of the day is "Digital Birth Registration-My Life Will Be Easy".

Secretary of Local Government Division Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan chaired the discussion where project director of Birth and Death Registration Project AKM Saiful Islam Chowdhury presented a keynote paper.

Country Representative of Unicef, Carel de Rooy also spoke.

A cultural function was also held after the discussion. Prizes were distributed among the winners of the essay competition.

Nadia Rahman of Nurjahan High School at Ishwardi, Pabna, Md Musfiq Elahi of Rajuk Uttara Model College, Dhaka and Tasfia Arbee of City Govt Girls High School, Chittagong obtained first, second and third prizes respectively under group A.

Sadi Islam and Golam Rabbi of Dhaka University and Mehedi Hasan of Abdur Rob Serniabat Textile Engineering College, Barisal secured first, second and third position respectively under group B.

**TORTURE OF WIFE Court rejects cop report, orders fresh investigation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday ordered Detective Branch of Police to conduct fresh investigation into a case filed against a police sergeant by his wife.

Judge Biresh Chandra Sikder of the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression passed the order after rejecting the final investigation report prepared by Officer-in-Charge Khondoker Naoroj of Kotwali Police Station, court sources informed.

Lipi Sultana Setu, wife of the sergeant Molla Taslim Hossain of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, prayed for rejecting the police report which acquitted Taslim, against whom she brought charges of torture.

In the case filed on April 21, 2011, Lipi alleged that Taslim developed an affair with a policewoman while serving in a United Nations peacekeeping mission and demanded dowry from her, otherwise threatened of divorce.

Since then she and her two sons were living in Dhaka, said Lipi.

Earlier Lipi had filed another case in the capital accusing Taslim of sending her divorce papers without following the legal procedures. On April 13, Taslim asked her to come to Sylhet to discuss over the matter but when she went there, he beat her mercilessly with some others, she said.

She was admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital for the next two days. The police station at that time denied recording the complaint, she claimed.

**Two killed, 40 hurt in road accident**

UNB, Comilla

At least two people were killed and 40 others injured as two buses collided head-on and fell into a roadside ditch at Raipur in Daudkandi upazila yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately.

Locals said two buses fell into a roadside ditch after hitting each other on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 6:00pm.

Local people recovered the two bodies from a bus.

The injured were admitted to different local hospitals.

**CTG WALL COLLAPSE**

**Two committees begin probe**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The two committees yesterday started investigation into the wall collapse at Batali Hill which left 17 people dead on Friday.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) started breaking the remaining part of the wall to avoid any further mishap. The wall was built to protect the hill.

The seven-member probe committee of the city corporation seized all files and documents regarding the project of the wall.

The body's Convener Ward Councillor SM Iqbal Hossain said they would study the documents and visit the spot today.

Meanwhile, the district administration's five-member committee sat in a meeting at Chittagong Circuit House around 11:00am yesterday and then visited the spot.

The committee Convener Ehsane Elahi said they would try to find whether it was a landslide or faulty construction of the wall and whether there was any hole present in the wall for the discharge of rainwater.

Ehsane, also additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong, however, said it would be difficult for them to detect the main technical faults since the committee was not an expert one. But they would

try to find out what they can from their observations.

He said it appears that the base of the wall was not strong enough and soil at the base was removed.

Ehsane said they would also put forward recommendations on the management of risky hills in the city.

Other members of the committee are CCC Executive Engineer Rafiqul Islam, Public Works Department Executive Engineer Mostafa Kamal, Assistant Estate Officer of Bangladesh Railway east zone Md Abdul Bari and Assistant Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Manjur Morshed.



Chittagong City Corporation yesterday breaks the remaining part of the wall on Batali Hill which collapsed on Friday, leaving 17 people dead.

PHOTO: STAR

**As the festival of Eid approaches, The Daily Star is putting together the Star Fashion- Eid Album 2011, ahead of the country's largest shopping season.**

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