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Rights denied in the hills

Amnesty urges govt to return land to indigenous people; report dwells on grim progress of CHT accord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Denying indigenous people their land rights in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) or adequate compensation for the land taken away from them is a clear violation of international human rights law.

The rights organisation Amnesty International says this in a report released today on its website. The report, titled 'Pushed to the Edge', documents how indigenous people are put in a cycle of conflict with the majority Bangalees in the CHT.

The Bangladesh government has failed to ensure land rights to indigenous people in 15 years since the signing of the CHT peace accord, Amnesty said, calling on the government to take concrete steps to return their land.

Deprivation of land has left indigenous people in chronic poverty. The poverty level

in their villages in the CHT region is higher than that in other parts of the country, the report says, citing a survey conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2009.

The average annual income of indigenous people is 74 percent of the national average. Sixty-five percent of them live below the poverty line while 44 percent are described as "hardcore poor," according to the report.

Clashes between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers over the use of land have led to the eviction of 90,000 indigenous families from their areas and the conflict will continue as long as land disputes remain unresolved, it says.

"The current situation, with violent clashes being fuelled by disputes over land, continues to cause immense insecurity and

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A boy working at a mechanic shop in Pahartali, Chittagong. As in other parts of the globe, Bangladesh will observe World Day against Child Labour today through seminars, human chains and other programmes. But children like the one in the picture will still continue to put their lives at risk for a living.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

MRP deal today without nod to final samples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a controversial move, the Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) will strike a Tk 267 crore deal today with the British firm De La Rue for procuring 15 million machine readable passport (MRP) booklets and as many laminations without approval of final samples.

It will be a gross violation of tender documents and runs contrary to the report of the technical evaluation committee.

"Before signing the contract, the bidder must submit sample passport booklets and laminations as per the specification and that should be

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US INTEL LEAK

Obama under pressure

Assange terms ex-CIA man a hero

AGENCIES

President Barack Obama was facing a mounting domestic and international backlash against the surveillance operations as his administration struggled to contain one of the most explosive national security leaks in US history.

Political opinion in the US was split with some members of Congress calling for the immediate extradition from Hong Kong of the whistleblower, Edward Snowden. But other senior politicians in both main parties questioned whether US surveillance practices had gone too far, reported The Guardian.

Meanwhile, WikiLeaks founder



Edward Snowden

Julian Assange yesterday hailed Snowden as a "hero" defending personal liberty. Assange urged nations around the world to offer safe haven to the young American.

Snowden, a 29-year-old technology expert working for a private firm

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TIPAIMUKH DAM

India forms committee for forest clearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian government has formed a special committee for forest department's clearance for construction of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Leaving Bangladesh not a solution

Transparency asks buyers, makers of garment to work with govt, local groups for workplace safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global clothing industry, including that of Bangladesh, must work with governments and local groups to improve factory safety

and working condition, said Transparency International (TI) yesterday.

Referring to media reports, TI's Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Fake police car keeps burglars away

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Who needs an expensive home security system when you have a police car parked right outside your home?

That's what Swiss entrepreneur Andras Birrer thought when he decided to rent out fake police cars to people who travel a lot or go away on long holidays.

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SQ CHY'S WAR TRIAL Defence berated for denying '71 mass killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday expressed anger at war-crime accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's counsel for disputing the mass killings committed during the Liberation War.

"No one denied the mass killings of 1971 in the [war crimes] cases that we have conducted so far at the two tribunals. Only Mr Hena [defence counsel] did so while cross-examining [an investigator]," the tribunal observed.

The tribunal-1 made the remarks as Ahsanul Huq Hena asked investigation

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Hard to survive with honesty

Quader blames power politics, black money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said it was difficult to survive with honesty and principles in the field of power politics.

"Due to the influence of black money in the election, it has become impossible for candidates like me to contest," he told a seminar in the capital.

The minister added that some people always crowded

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NOTICE

A four-page colour supplement on Bangladesh Business Awards organised by DHL Express and The Daily Star will come out tomorrow. Watch out for your copy.

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you think that the ACC will be able to probe the allegations against DMP deputy commissioner Mollah Nazrul Islam for extorting Tk 1 crore from a businessman in the capital?
Yes (15%)
No (84%)
TOTAL VOTES: 120
TODAY'S POLL
Don't you think that the government should take immediate initiative and make land policy effective to save farmland?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING June 12
Azan Jamaat
Fajr 4-05 4-40
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 5-00 5-15
Maghrib 6-50 6-55
Esha 8-15 8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation

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