

Govt assurance

FROM PAGE 5
general language used in higher education."

Save the Children Adviser (education sector) Habibur Rahman advocated for recruiting and training teachers and developing elements of the languages.

Prof Prosanto Kumar Tripura said, "Many indigenous languages have been lost. So the initial efforts should be on preserving the

remaining ones...inclusion of only five indigenous languages might discourage children of other communities."

Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs, said the government should take steps for the continuation of 332 village education centres in CHT as their funding from United Nations Development Programme will no longer continue from next year.

It's BNP's fault

FROM PAGE 3
Pakistan National Assembly resolution criticising war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah's execution.

"It hurts her (Khaleda) to speak up against Pakistan. She does not want an independent Bangladesh. So, she need not stay here. She should go to Pakistan," said the premier.

On Khaleda's warning to take to the streets to intensify the ongoing anti-government movement, Hasina said Khaleda must cite reasons for staying silent before starting the movement.

She again urged BNP to cut ties with Jamaat-e-Islami, saying that a fresh election would be held after dissolving the 10th parliament if consensus is reached. "Talks are going on and it will continue," she added.

Hasina reaffirmed her government's firm stance to carry on the trial of war criminals.

"We faced many obstacles for holding the trial. I

received several phone calls from the highest places telling not to execute Quader Mollah. But I do not fear for my life. I will do everything required for people's welfare," she said.

On the opposition's ongoing agitation, she said blockades were being enforced only to save war criminals. She urged people to build up resistance against the blockade.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam vowed to reinstate the constitution of 1972 if AL came to power again. "We have made the constitution more democratic by bringing amendments," he said.

AL leader Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury presided over the discussion, attended by other leaders including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Mofazzul Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Ahmod Hossain, Hasan Mahmud and Asim Kumar Ukil.

35 hand bombs

FROM PAGE 3
Friday's recovery, the elite force decided to raid the camp again yesterday morning, he said.

"We suspect that miscreants might have hidden the bombs and other objects there to carry out subversive

acts during the ongoing political violence," he said.

Meanwhile, Rab recovered 14 petrol bombs abandoned in Agargaon water tank area in the afternoon, four hours after the raid in Geneva Camp, said Rab official Raihan Uddin.

US senator briefed

FROM PAGE 3
on composition of the election-time government.

The government's intention to uphold people's right to franchise through holding of free and fair elections in terms of the constitutional provisions also figured in the meeting.

Senator McCain inquired about the status of Bangladesh's government

before the election, the judicial system and its independence while touching upon safety issues of the garment workers.

The talks centred round Senate Resolution 318 regarding "the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh" recently approved at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Participants at a discussion, "Child Nutrition: Multisectoral Approach for Investing in the Future", organised in the capital's The Daily Star Centre by The Daily Star, Brac and Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

RMG workers

FROM PAGE 5
an altercation with him.

Managing Director Arif Moinuddin said the workers joined their works after lunch hour.

Our Narayanjan correspondent adds, the workers of Harvest Reach Ltd in Rupganj upazila blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Aukhab area around 11:45am demanding their arrears for two months.

Quoting witnesses, police said the workers also demonstrated at the factory over the matter.

Comprehensive

FROM PAGE 5
"We are very much frustrated about the draft of the broadcasting policy, as the writers do not have practical knowledge."

The government should have worked with the academics while framing the policy so that the interests of the investors, journalists and the government could be addressed, he said.

Zakaria Kazal, head of news of Jamuna Television, said the policy should create a win-win result for all the stakeholders where government was a stakeholder, not a controller.

Deferment of Jan 5 polls

FROM PAGE 3
His opinion comes against the backdrop of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement on Thursday that a fresh election would be held after dissolving the 10th parliament if an understanding is reached.

That too will happen only when BNP shuns violence and severs ties with Jamaat-e-Islami, she said.

Imam and another discussant, Supreme Court lawyer Tania Amir, termed advice from abroad over the election "pressure" for an independent country like Bangladesh.

However, Faruk and another participant, former ambassador Humayun Kabir, said friendly countries can give advice for the betterment of the country.

In response to a question from the audience, Tania and Kabir affirmed that politics in Bangladesh has simply become a way to amass wealth.

On demands to sever diplomatic ties with Pakistan for criticising war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah's execution, both Imam and Faruk avoided direct answers.

Imam said the government should decide it after discussions with the political parties while Faruk said it was the government's duty to decide and the opposition can provide opinions if it is sought.

Tania said the government should pressurise Pakistan through the United Nations and other channels for the trial of the 195 Pakistani soldiers released in 1974.

Ensure people's buying capacity

FROM PAGE 5
attendants' knowledge about early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of birth could ensure early childhood nutrition.

About central leadership, Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, director of the Centre for Nutrition and Food Security, ICDDR, B, said, "The prime minister should do stocktaking of the nutrition and food security and issue necessary directives to the ministries concerned at least once a year."

The speakers also called

upon the mass media to disseminate knowledge about nutrition.

Shahnoor Wahid, editor, special supplement, The Daily Star, moderated the roundtable, while Dr Kaosar Afsana, director, HNPP, Brac; SM Mustafizur Rahman, director, Institute of Public Health Nutrition Bangladesh; Dr Ferdousi Begum, nutrition activist; and Shishir Moral, special correspondent, Prothom Alo, also spoke on the occasion.

Aroj Ali Matubbar

FROM PAGE 5
attended a village maktab, mosque-based Islamic education system, and did not get higher education. He, however, taught himself extensively by borrowing books from libraries.

As a practicing Muslim and pious man, Matubbar spoke up against superstition and fanaticism and tried to restore the balance between science, philosophy and religion, said speakers. Shah Azizur Rahman Khokan, president of Darshanik Aroj Manjil Public Library; Manik Matubbar, its secretary; Ziaul Islam Sabu, local union chairman; Shohidul Alam, deputy com-

missioner; and Nurul Amin, divisional commissioner, among others, spoke.

Aroj Ali Matubbar, a farmer and land surveyor by profession, died on March 15, 1985 and donated his body to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Barisal city.

He authored several books including Satyer Sandhan (1973), Srirahasya (1977), Anuman (1983), and Mukhtaman (1988). Several of his writings were published posthumously under Aroj Ali Matubbar Rachanabali (works of Aroj Ali Matubbar).

National Immunisation

FROM PAGE 5
that the blockade had not affected activities. Attendance had not been affected because there were vaccination centers in the capital after every several hundred yards, said hospital sources.

However, Comilla and Brahmanbaria received fewer attendees than usual, claimed our correspondents.

Many centers in Comilla saw one-fourth of its estimated attendance.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu, Awami League lawmaker of Dhaka-6



constituency, died at Apollo Hospitals in the capital yesterday. He was 49.

Mizanur was brought to the hospital where doctors declared him dead around 6:59am, said Aminur Rahman, duty manager of the hospital.

Another source at the hospital said he died of brain hemorrhage.

Mizanur was buried at Jurain Graveyard around 4:00pm following three namaz-e-janazas at different places, including the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Dipu.

Dipu was elected MP from the constituency in 2008 and was also in the race for the same seat in the upcoming 10th parliamentary election.



Conference

Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh, and CUTS International, India will arrange a conference on "Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh". Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Punorjagoroney Bangladesh will hold a discussion on the current political crisis; Venue: Chayanaut; Time: 6:00pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Bandhu Samaj will arrange a roundtable meeting on the country's current situation; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.



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This is for information of all concerned that Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd. (A concern of Petrobangla) has approved the increase of gas load in the existing factory of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited from 1,18,839 cft/hour to 1,64,563 cft/hour i.e. from 16,79,879.17 cubic meter/month to 23,26,222.50 cubic meter/month for enhancement of the production capacity of the Company.

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Advisor – Skills for Employment and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SFE/TVET)

The Program Support Unit (PSU) of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), formerly CIDA, requires the services of a senior Consultant in the position of Advisor - Skills for Employment and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SFE/TVET).

Interested Consultants may obtain the "Request for Proposal" document comprising of the detailed Terms of Reference and instructions for proposal submission by e-mailing at sfetvet.rfp@gmail.com.

This is a full time, contractual position and the contract will be initially for a period of one year to up to 31 March 2015 with the possibility of renewal, subject to satisfactory performance and program requirements.

Proposal submission deadline for the position is 6 January 2014.
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