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100 indigenous families at a loss

Govt gives Marma land to BGB for building office in Bandarban

TAMANNA KHAN, SHAHADAT HOSSAIN and SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

The acquisition of land for building BGB sector headquarters in Bandarban threatens the means of livelihood of more than 100 indigenous families.

More than a month ago, the home ministry gave its approval to acquire 34 acres of land for building the headquarters along the Bandarban-Rowangchhari road in Bandarban Sadar upazila.

Inhabitants of two Marma villages claimed that the community land, which provided them with a livelihood and a cremation ground, fall within the area earmarked for the headquarters. The area was sealed off with a barbed wire fence by the BGB a month ago.

The villages are Krykhyong of Hlapaikhyong mouza under Bandarban sadar and Hangsama of Tarachha mouza under Rowangchhari upazila.

"Of the 200 people living in this village, only 30 own land. Most of the landless people earn a living from jhum cultivation and working as land labourers on the community land," said Mong Kya Ching, a 27-year-old youth of Krykhyong village.

Landless peasant Ada Fru Marma provides for eight members of his family by collecting firewood and working in the orchards inside the area.

Speaking through an interpreter, he said, "After the BGB surrounded the land with wired fences, I could not enter the place."

Only 450 acres of land are currently available for jhum cultivation for 500 landless families in 11 villages of the mouza, said Nue Mong Pru,

This barbed-wire fence has been put up around 34 acres of land to build the BGB headquarters in Bandarban. People of two Marma villages are dependant on the land. Inset, BGB men bar indigenous people from entering the Krykhyongpara cremation ground which too falls within the demarcated area. The photos were taken last week.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Husband horrific

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Locals caught a man and handed him over to police while he was trying to flee with the body of his six-month pregnant wife in the city's Madhabbari area yesterday morning.

Garment official Rafiqul Islam, 31, of Monohardi upazila in Narsingdi, strangled Nazmunnahar Begum, 24, to death five days ago at their rented house in the area, said police.

The alleged killer who is also a part-time teacher at a local coaching centre hired a pick-up van around 7:30am yesterday to shift the body covered in a carton along with other furniture to his village home in Narsingdi's Sukundi.



Rafiqul Islam

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PARTIES & FAIR POLLS

Funding by the state

Recommends election observer alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The absence of public funding for political parties creates scope for private interest groups to influence polls outcomes and policy decisions of the government, an election monitoring alliance said yesterday.

The Election Working Group (EWG) recommended introduction of state funding to political parties in the next general election to ensure transparency in campaign spending.

"The absence of transparency in financial transactions may lead to corruption, influence the election outcome and ultimately, could result in post-election poor governance," the EWG said in a policy paper.

The research styled "Bringing Transparency in Political Finance to Bangladesh" observed that quality of a government and efficacy of democracy could be damaged if there is no transparency in political parties and funding of candidates undermines elections.

Presently, the political parties are allowed to

collect electoral fund from various private sources.

The platform also suggested the Election Commission makes mandatory the disclosure of campaign expenditures by the parties and candidates during electioneering; fix expenditure limit for parties and their chiefs; and specify the sources of private donations.

Under the existing electoral rules, the party chiefs can spend an unlimited amount of money for electioneering and the parties do not need to disclose their expenditure to anybody.

Speaking at a discussion on the issue at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital, three leaders of the Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party stressed the need for strengthening the EC for proper enforcement of electoral laws.

Mahabub-ul-Alam Hanif, AL joint general secretary, said absence of national consensus is the main reason preventing politicians from establishing a democratic process.

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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Gender gap cut remarkably

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh has substantially narrowed the gender gap, moving 23 notches up, over just eight years, according to a report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) yesterday.

The results were achieved by ensuring wider female participation in the economic sphere and creating access to better health and education services, said the Global Gender Gap Reports.

This is the highest ever overall score achieved by Bangladesh.

The country jumped from the 91st spot in 2006 to the 68th among 142 countries this year.

Iceland tops the list in the overall rankings for the sixth straight year, with Yemen placed last. The WEF looked at economic factors, health, education and political participation in the countries studied.

Just six nations - Sri Lanka, Mali, Croatia, Macedonia, Jordan and Tunisia - have seen their

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3 Bangladeshis beaten dead in Tripura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three Bangladeshi cattle traders were beaten to death by locals at Khowai town in the Indian state of Tripura yesterday.

The dead are Sujan Mia, 22, Param Ali, 40, and Akkel Mia, 19, from Gazipur union of Chunarughat upazila, Amulya Kumar Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Chunarughat Police Station, told The Daily Star.

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PRAYER TIMING October 29		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



A young crocodile is roped to a tree by the river Ramnabad in Patuakhali after it was netted by fishermen on Sunday night. The next day forest officials released the reptile into the river. PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with ACC final report on Padma Bridge graft case that there had been no conspiracy taken place in the project?

Yes (9%)
No (91%)

TOTAL VOTES: 260

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the Hasina's government is running the country in a "fascist and autocratic manner"?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Fake clown stalking

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

French police are on high alert after fake clowns caused panic across France in a spreading phenomenon that has led to violence and a response by vigilantes.

Fourteen teenagers dressed as clowns and carrying pistols, knives and baseball bats were arrested on

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JS goes into session on Nov 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into the fourth session on November 13.

President Abdul Hamid convened the session yesterday, a parliament secretariat release said.

The fourth session will be a brief one, sources at parliament said.

According to the constitution, there can be a maximum 60 days' gap between the end of a session and

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আয়করে প্রবৃদ্ধি দেশ ও দেশের সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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“পঞ্চাশতে চিতাইনন, রেজিস্ট্রেশন একেবারে সোজা”

আপনি জানেন কি? ২০১৪-১৫ করবর্ষে রিটার্ন দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ২রা নভেম্বর, ২০১৪। নিম্নোক্ত সকল করদাতার আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করা বাধ্যতামূলক।

- যে কোনো ব্যবসা অথবা পেশা পরিচালনার জন্য আপনার ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এবং ব্যাংক এ্যাকাউন্ট থাকলে
- সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থা অথবা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের টেন্ডারে অংশগ্রহণকারী সকল ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান
- আয়বর্ষের পূর্ববর্তী তিন বছরের যে কোন বছর করযোগ্য আয় নিরূপিত হলে
- এনজিও এ্যাক্শনারি ব্যুরোতে নিবন্ধিত যে কোনো এনজিও
- ডাক্তার, দস্ত চিকিৎসক, আইনজীবী, আয়কর আইনজীবী, চার্টার্ড এ্যাকাউন্টেন্ট, কস্ট এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট একাউন্টেন্ট, প্রকৌশলী, স্থপতি, সার্ভেয়ার অথবা সমাজতীয় পেশায় নিয়োজিত সকল ব্যক্তিবর্গ
- সিটি কর্পোরেশন অথবা পৌরসভা অথবা বিভাগীয় শহর অথবা জেলা শহরে বসবাসকারী যে কেউ একটি গাড়ির মালিক হলে অথবা মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইনে নিবন্ধিত কোন ক্রাবের সদস্য হলে
- চেম্বার অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ অথবা ট্রেড এসোসিয়েশনের সকল সদস্য
- আয়বর্ষে আপনার করযোগ্য আয় থাকলে
- পৌরসভা অথবা সিটি কর্পোরেশন অথবা জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে সকল পদপ্রার্থী

১২ ডিজিটের ই-টিআইএনধারী যে সকল করদাতা ৩০ জুন, ২০১৪ এর পূর্বে ই-টিআইএন গ্রহণ করেছেন তাঁদেরকেও ২০১৪-১৫ করবর্ষে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করতে হবে।

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