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INDO-BANGLA BORDER Fencing to be completed by 2017

PTI, Agartala

Work for erection of barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangla International Border (IB) would be completed by 2017, a top official said.

"India has set a target of finishing the barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangla international border by 2017," Susheel Kuman, Secretary Border Management under the Union Home Ministry said. Kumar, who arrived here on a three-day tour on Friday, is now visiting the barbed wire construction works in different parts of Tripura border with Bangladesh.

He reviewed the progress of the fencing works in a meeting with officials of the state government, including the Chief Secretary Y P Singh, DGP, K Nagraj, District Magistrate and all the implementing agencies and BSF on Friday.

Kumar said this issue was discussed with all the bordering state governments including West

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Rickshaws stuck in a jam on Dhanmondi-1 yesterday. Ahead of every Eid-ul-Fitr, thousands of poor people from across the country flock to the capital and become seasonal rickshaw pullers for some extra money. However, with no idea about traffic rules, they often contribute to the worsening traffic situation in the city.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Take steps to bring them back

Families of missing people urge PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of the BNP leaders who fell victims to "forced disappearance" yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to immediately take steps for return of their near and dear ones.

"I do not like to observe the Eid without my father. Please return my father immediately," said Ridhi, daughter of missing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Parvez Hossain.

Ridhi, who is around six and has little knowledge about forced disappearance, said, "My father went to the land of abduction. He has been lost... I will find him out from abroad."

Parvez has been missing since December 2013.

Besides Ridhi, family members of four other missing leaders also spoke at a discussion marking the UN's International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances at the Institution of Engineers,

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CLIMATE CHANGE TAKES TOLL ON HOUSEHOLDS

18,424cr loss in 6yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The impact of climate change and natural disasters cost 43.61 lakh Bangladeshi households in disaster-prone areas Tk 18,424 crore between 2009 and 2014, said the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

In its first ever study on losses in calamities, the state agency released the report "Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics 2015: Climate Change and Natural Disaster Perspective".

The report said the agriculture sector suffered a loss of Tk 8,841 crore, 48 percent of the total loss.

During the period, crops of 36.2 percent households surveyed were lost, livestock of 4.76 percent, poultry of 1.21 percent, fisheries of 5.82 percent, land of 26.72 percent, and houses, kitchens and cattle sheds of 17.19 percent and trees of 8.10 percent households were damaged.

"Formulating effective plans and their implementation is imperative to facing the impacts of the natural disasters," said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal while releasing the report at the National Economic Council auditorium.

BBS surveyed 143,980 disaster-prone households

Agriculture sector suffered biggest loss of Tk 8,841cr, which is 48 percent of the total loss

Flood a major cause of loss from natural disasters, eating up Tk 4,280cr

Total damage would be more as loss calculated only on the basis on damage to households

Effective plans, their implementation imperative to facing impacts of the natural

The report said if there were no losses due to natural disasters at the household level, the gross domestic product output would have grown by 0.30 percent a year on average.

The BBS survey found that 74 percent of the households received financial assistance from the government, 15 percent from NGOs or international organisations, four percent from the rich, three percent from business firms and two percent from relatives and friends.

The BBS surveyed 143,980 households of 43.61 lakh in disaster-prone areas. About 2.2 crore people live in these disaster-prone areas, accounting for 12.64 percent of the population.

Among the causes of the natural disasters, flood was a major cause for losses, eating up Tk 4,280 crore. River and coastal erosions caused a loss of Tk 3,640 crore. Loss due to cyclones stood at Tk 2,838 crore.

Atiq Rahman, executive director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, a research organisation based in Dhaka, said the survey was a good beginning and pioneering initiative as it was based on a comprehensive database.

He, however, pointed out it had loopholes. He claimed that the damages to households revealed were six to 10 times less than the actual loss.

He said the survey was an attempt to calculate the damages to only one component, households, among six components. "This is an incomplete representation.

"The figure is incorrect, and should not be used as it will be misleading. The damage caused to households was taken into account."

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Life term is sentence unto death

Says CJ

UNB, Gazipur

Dispelling the confusion over the life imprisonment, Chief Justice SK Sinha yesterday said life term means imprisonment unto death.

"There are confusion and misinterpretation about life imprisonment. You think life imprisonment means 30 years. Actually, it's being misinterpreted. Life term means sentence for whole life," he said.

The chief justice came up the explanation while speaking at a view-exchange meeting with officials of Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur.

Noting that he alone passed dissenting order in the jail killing case, SK Sinha said there was a conspiracy behind the killings and it was proven. He lamented that those

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Walking with 40kg rock on head!



ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

A 54-year-old man from Jilin, China, is making international headlines for his bizarre exercise routine. Cong Yan claims daily walks with a 40-kilogram rock balancing on his head have helped him lose 30 kilograms in the last three years.

Cong Yan is a familiar, albeit unusual sight in Jilin parks. Every day, he can be seen walking on the narrow pathways, ascending and descending steps alongside other health-conscious Chinese trying to keep in shape. But what sets him apart from everybody else is the heavy-looking block of solid concrete dangling on top of his head.

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PRAN UHT Milk

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
21	27	6-53	
22	28	3-41	6-53
22	29	3-42	6-53

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 27

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 3-47 12-45 5-00 6-53 8-17

JAMAAT 3-52 1-15 5-15 7-03 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

COALMINE CASE Khaleda files appeal for a halt to trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed an appeal with the Supreme Court for scrapping the trial proceedings of Barapukuria coalmine corruption case against her.

Khaleda filed the leave to appeal petition challenging a High Court verdict, which in September last year cleared the way for a lower court to run the trial proceedings in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Khaleda's counsel AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, who submitted the leave to appeal petition, told The Daily Star that his client was not involved in any corruption.

Citing from the petition, he said the then deputy director of ACC Monirul Hoque, who was the first investigation officer, submitted a final report to the commission on June 1,

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Indigenous people from Bangladesh and an armed BGSB member during a BGSB-BSF meeting on the border in Habiganj yesterday. Fearing torture allegedly by forest officials, the indigenous people tried to trespass but were caught and brought back. Inset, the house of one of the indigenous people in Debrapara area of the district.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Leaving home in fear of torture

187 people from Habiganj tried to cross Tripura border

MINTU DESHWARA from Moulvibazar and SUBRATA ACHARJEE from Kolkata

Fearing torture and harassment allegedly by forest officials, around 187 Bangladeshi indigenous men, women and children of five villages under Kalenga Reserve Forest in Habiganj tried to cross into India on Saturday early morning.

Stopped by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), the villagers were brought back to Bangladesh after a four-hour-long meeting between BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members Saturday night.

The BSF found the villagers near the Indian Gumsibari border gate-50 Saturday morning, reported our Kolkata correspondent, quoting Indian media.

The place is in Khowai district, about 70km east of Indian state of Tripura's capital Agartala.

"The 187 people belong to Tripura community of Sanbari, Gungsimbari, Debrapara, Mongoliabari and Puranbari villages under Kalenga Reserve Forest in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj," BGB 55 Battalion

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