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Struggle on in the hills

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples today

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Shing Rao Mro wants to go to school. He wants to study. But poverty compels him to work on the jhum field with his parents to help put food on the table.

The 10-year-old boy lives in remote Kumra Mro Para in Bandarban's Ruma upazila. Shing, like many other children of the area, never went to school, mainly due to extreme poverty. Every morning, the boy has to go to the field with his parents.

Moreover, there is no school in the village. The nearest one is about 15km from there.

"I want to go to school but there is no school here," Shing said while working on the field. Asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Shing replied, "I want to be a teacher."

A good number of children in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are deprived of basic education. They eventually follow in the footsteps of their parents who toil on the field -- day in, day out -- to survive in the hills.

Against such a backdrop, indigenous communities across the country will observe the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples today.

Around 25 families live in Kumra Mro Para (village). They hardly get access to fundamental rights.

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Carrying his brother on his back, Pran Sai Mro stands in front of his wooden hut at Kumra Mro Para in Bandarban's Ruma upazila. The boy, like many other children in the village, cannot attend school as poverty compels them to work with their parents on jhum fields. Top right, a view of Kumra Mro Para. Bottom right, an indigenous woman climbing down the wooden stairs of her house in Kolarjiri area of Lama upazila.



PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA



Akihito hints at abdication

The Japan emperor worried about fulfilling his duties due to health issues

AFP, Tokyo

Emperor Akihito said yesterday his advancing age and weakening health mean he may no longer be able to carry out his duties, setting the stage for Japan to prepare for a historic abdication.

"There are times when I feel various constraints such as in my physical fitness," the 82-year-old said in a national address.

"As we are in the midst of a rapidly ageing society, I would like to talk to you today about what would be a desirable role of the emperor in a time when the emperor, too, becomes advanced in age," he said. Speculation about Akihito's future

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Stop marketing of low-quality drugs

HC orders withdrawal of those drugs of 34 companies from market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to stop the marketing of sub-standard drugs of 20 pharmaceutical companies and antibiotics of 14 others and to withdraw those products from the markets.

Earlier on June 15, the Appellate Division upheld an HC order asking the government to halt the production of sub-standard drugs and antibiotics by these manufacturers.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh submitted a petition on July 31, saying medicines of the 34 companies were still in the market.

It appealed for an HC order on the authorities to stop the marketing of sub-standard drugs and antibiotics and to withdraw them from markets.

Responding to the petition, an HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo passed yesterday's order.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told reporters that those drugs and antibiotics pose risk to people's health.

Earlier on June 7, the HC following a writ petition by the rights organisation directed the government to halt operation of the 20 companies within seven days.

It also ordered 14 others to stop production of antibiotics within the same time, and issued a rule upon the authorities to explain why not cancelling licences of the 20 drug companies shouldn't be declared illegal.

The 20 drug companies are Aexim Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Avert Pharma Ltd, Bikolpo Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dolphin Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Drugland Ltd, Globe Laboratories (pvt) Ltd, Jalpha Laboratories Ltd, Kafma Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Medico Pharmaceuticals Ltd, National Drug Pharma

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POWER PLANTS 10-yr jail for subversive activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft of The Power Act-2016 that seeks to jail offenders for a maximum of 10 years and fine Tk 10 crore for damaging power establishments by carrying out subversive activities.

The approval came at the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam said the proposed law carries the maximum jail term or fine or both for destroying or damaging power establishments like power stations, sub-stations, power lines and electricity poles. The minimum jail term has been set at seven years.

According to a proposal of the draft law, a new institution named

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Bed and border

The hotel where you can sleep in two countries



MAIL ONLINE

Most hotels have just one address - but one property in Europe not only has two addresses, it's also simultaneously situated in two different countries.

The two-star Arbez Hotel straddles the border between France and Switzerland meaning that it has both a French and a Swiss address.

On the French side, the Arbez is on the Rue de la Frontera in La Cure while on the Swiss side, it's on the Route de France in Cure.

Once you're inside, you can walk from one country to the other in seconds.

The Arbez' unique position came about in 1862, when the French and Swiss governments signed a treaty to modify the border between the two countries, according to Swissinfo.

Jubo League, BCL men beat up teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Some activists of Jubo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up the headmaster of a high school in Kushtia for submitting names of its managing committee members without discussing with them yesterday.

Shamsul Alam, headmaster of Hasanbagh High School in Kushtia Sadar upazila, told journalists that he submitted names of some locals to Kushtia Sadar upazila education office to form the school's managing committee on Wednesday.

Following this, around 11:30am, some Jubo League and Chhatra League men, led by Saddam Hossain, Zillur Rahman and Anis, stormed the office room of the headmaster and started beating him up, said Shamsul.

Other teachers and locals rescued the teacher.

The attackers also

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FALSE REPORT ON JOY 3 journos of a news portal arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rab yesterday picked up three journalists of online news portal banglamail24.com from its office in the city's Nayapaltn for allegedly running a false report on prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

A team of Rapid Action Battalion-3 went to the office around 8:00pm on Sunday and arrested the trio around 3:00am yesterday, said colleagues of the

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Labourers repair the approach road to the Landing Station-4 at Daulatdia ferry terminal in Rajbari by dumping sand bags. Ferry movement on Paturia-Daulatdia river route was suspended on Sunday, as the mighty Padma washed away three of the four landing stations at the terminal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

DAULATDIA FERRY SERVICE Restoration to take 2-3 more days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The users of Paturia-Daulatdia ferry services may not see a respite from sufferings before the end of this week.

The ferry service on this route had been suspended since Sunday as three out of the four landing stages (ghaat) at the Daulatdia terminal under Goalanda upazila of Rajbari district remain out of service.

BIWTA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) hopes to bring ferry services at the terminal in full operation by this Thursday following the completion of repair work of the landing stages by Wednesday.

The BIWTA and Roads & Highways Department (RHD) of Rajbari are jointly working on to repair the out of order landing stations.

Nizam Uddin Pathan, executive engineer of BIWTA, said the repair work of the landing stages are expected to be completed by Wednesday. Bamboo piling and dumping of

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