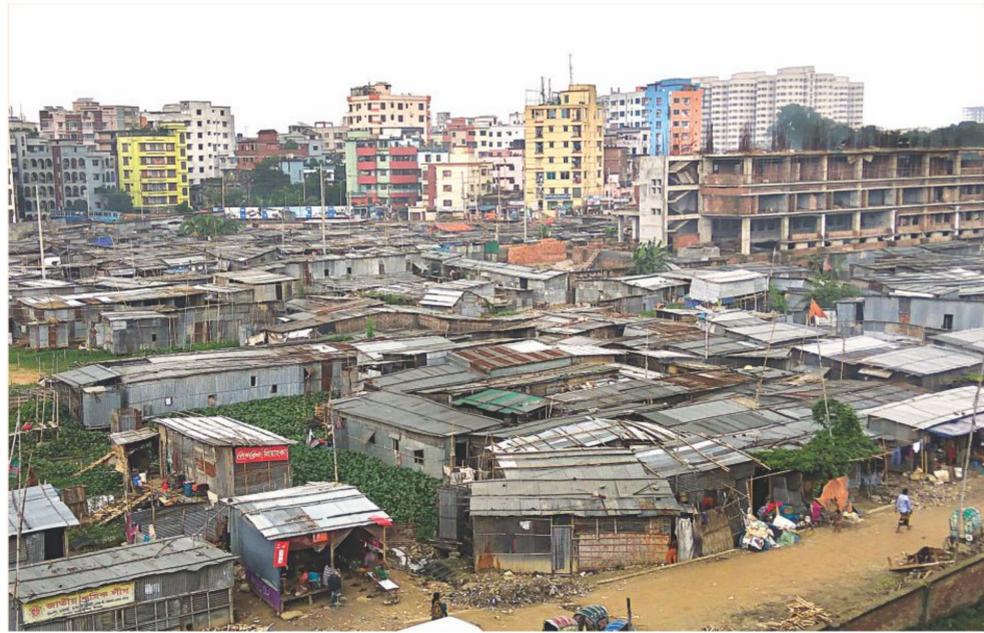


# ILLEGAL WATER SUPPLY GOES FAR



Left, Rubber pipes connected to a Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority supply line at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. The water is being used by the slum dwellers in the area, right. This illegal act not only bleeds the main supply grid putting legitimate clients in a water crisis, but also forces Wasa to incur loss. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTOS: RASHED SHUMON

## Minorities drowning in tide of development

Santu Larma tells press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh has recently been upgraded from low income country to lower-middle income one, it does not have any reflection on the lives of indigenous people living in the remote parts of the country, said Santu Larma yesterday.

"The government says country is riding on the high tide of development. But the reality is indigenous people, marginalised farmers ... and tens of thousands of poor people are drowning in that high tide of development," said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

He made the remarks at a press conference organised by the Forum at a city hotel on the eve of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, to be observed on August 9.

Larma, also chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council, said around 30 lakh indigenous people are deprived of their basic rights. Instead of getting the rights, they were heading towards an uncertain future.

"The communities are facing an existential crisis due to land grabbing, oppression and violence against them," he said. Also, continuous incidents of land grabbing turned them into minorities in their areas where they were the majority once, he added.

He also said they did not see the government take any proper initiatives after the recent massive landslides in the CHT that killed 131 people, and after the food crisis in Sajek of Rangamati where "around 3,000 families are still starving".

Speakers at the programme condemned the recent incidents of vio-

lence against the indigenous people in Gaibandha and Langadu. They said the incidents took place due to a negligence of the government as its different bodies and the ruling party leaders were involved in it.

They demanded that the government implement the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People as it has already given an assurance of the implementation.

They also urged the government to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord completely, and not to take any development initiative near the communities' habitats that may harm their livelihood.

Reading out a statement at the event, Larma said the prime minister assured them of implementing the UN declaration in 2009. "But it is a matter of sorrow

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## Misuse of section 57 suicidal: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The misuse of section 57 of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act is "suicidal" and a vested quarter is to blame for its abuse, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said.

"Applying section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act over trifling matters will have to be stopped," he said, adding that if failed, this ongoing trend of abuse will turn suicidal.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was addressing a programme marking the birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's elder son Sheikh Kamal at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Youth participation in politics a must

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Active participation of the youths in politics is required for building the future of Bangladesh, said youth representatives from different sectors at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

They said younger generation has to shun the mindset of "disliking politics" because their role is very important to carry forward the wheels of development in various sectors including education.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) and Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the roundtable on "Future Bangladesh: Our Hope and Expectation" at the newspaper office in the capital.

Twenty-three youths including researchers, entrepreneurs, journalists, professionals and students spoke on six thematic areas: future democracy and politics, future economics, spreading of fundamentalism

among youths, future technology, education and employment, and women's participation and empowerment.

AKM Tousif Tanzim Ahmed, a student of the Department of International Relations at Dhaka University, said most youths in the present day Bangladesh hate politics due to its corrupt nature.

"Space has to be given to those who want to serve the country through practicing healthy politics," he added.

Rakibul Hasan, founder of Peace Empire and Erasmus Scholar, said the political parties cannot accept diversity due to extensive practice of partisan politics.

Therefore, youths show reluctance to join politics, he added.

Fahmida Faiza, youth adviser of World Federation of United Nations Association, said more participation of youths in global competitions and events will encourage others to get involved in different activities.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



The materials left on a footpath force pedestrians to walk on the road. The cleaning workers of Dhaka South City Corporation apparently kept those beside Elephant Road. The photo was taken on Friday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## High hope for tourism

Govt plans to set up park in Cox's Bazar to transform the sector

UNB, Dhaka

The government is moving ahead with its plan to have its first exclusive tourism park in Cox's Bazar with a view to transforming the tourism industry.

Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) has taken the initiative, "Sabrang Tourism" that encompasses an area of around 1,100 acres.

Hotel complexes, eco-tourism, recreational tourism, business tourism, sports, water tourism, education and health tourism will be developed there.

"A feasibility study on the establishment of Sabrang Exclusive Tourism Zone has been completed," said BEZA Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury.

He said a draft summary has been sent to the Prime Minister's Office seeking CCEA's (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) approval for appointing Chittagong Dry Dock Limited (CDDL) to construct an embankment for protecting the tourism park.

The BEZA chief said they are also working on sending another proposal over land filling

and developing a drainage system for the zone.

Some 884 acres of land, according to BEZA officials, have already been acquired while the initial site assessment is also completed.

Director of Tour Operators' Association of Bangladesh (Toab) Taufiq Rahman welcomed the decision and said inbound tourism will certainly flourish if it is properly implemented.

Taufiq, also secretary general of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Bangladesh Chapter, said its success depends on which model the government follows to attract foreign tourists.

BEZA has also kept security issues in mind as the site is close to Myanmar border and is planning to invite foreign tourists through Myanmar smoothly having a stopover there.

The Toab leader said around 30 kilometres of beach from Cox's Bazar to Inani is already occupied with various commercial establishments. "So, we need to think of proper utilisation of the remaining 90 kilometres of beach if we claim that it's a 120-kilometre beach."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## Stalker accused of assaulting youth arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested Fahim, the prime accused in a case filed for beating a youth who protested stalking in the capital's Mirpur area on Friday.

Fahim was held in Fakirpool area while he was trying to catch a Cox's Bazar-bound bus in the morning, said Nazrul Islam, OC of Mirpur Police Station.

Several stalkers, including Fahim, hit Ali Imam Rakib, 20, with iron rods as he protested stalking of his cousin in Shewra Para, said Rakib's mother Sharmi Jaman, National Human Rights Commission's Women Affairs Secretary.

Sharmin yesterday told The Daily Star that she helped a rape victim in Mirpur last month and two of the accused in the rape case are close relatives of Fahim.

## A ray of light

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Injured college student Siddiqur Rahman perceives little light after the bandage of his left eye was removed yesterday following the latest surgery at Sankara Nethralaya in India's Chennai, doctors said.

Dr Zahidul Ahsan Menon, assistant professor of National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO) in Dhaka, who is accompanying Siddiqur, told The Daily Star: "He (Siddiqur) said he can perceive little light on the left eye after the bandage was removed yesterday."

"It's a good sign, let's hope for the best," Dr Zahidul said.

It may take four to six weeks to say for sure if Siddiqur will be able to see or not, the doctor added.

On Friday, Dr Lingam Gopal, a senior retina specialist, conducted the three-hour surgery on Siddiqur's left eye.

Earlier, Lingam said he saw little hope of Siddiqur getting his eyesight back even if a surgery was conducted. But he left it up to Siddiqur to take a decision about the operation.

Tomorrow, the doctor will examine Siddiqur again to observe his eye condition.

On July 20, students of seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University, including Titumir, were demonstrating at the capital's Shahbagh to press for their seven-point demand that included announcement of their exam dates.

While dispersing the protesters, a policeman shot a teargas canister directly at some agitating students. A video footage of the incident shows

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Bir Protik Taramon Bibi transferred to Dhaka CMH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram



Bir Protik Taramon Bibi, one of the only two women who received the "Bir Protik" award for gallantry in the 1971 Liberation War, was transferred to Dhaka CMH (Combined Military Hospital) from Rangpur CMH yesterday afternoon.

A military helicopter medevacked the valiant freedom fighter around 2:30pm with deteriorating respiratory complications, her son Abu Taher said over cellphone.

Haripado Sarkar, assistant professor of cardiology at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, who visited the elderly patient at the Rangpur CMH earlier yesterday morning, said she was being treated for respiratory complications including COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and dyspnoea.

"No major cardiac [heart-related] problems

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



This structure was built as part of a beautification project to enhance the aesthetic look of the place. But due to a lack of proper maintenance by the authorities concerned, the site -- with shrubs and garbage -- has turned into an eyesore. The photo was taken on airport road near the capital's Nikunja on Thursday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN