

# INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS First universal pact launched in Sweden

Indigenous peoples could soon regain some control of their native forests with the creation of a new global institution dedicated to securing their land rights.

The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility, formally launched in Stockholm yesterday, aims to help countries in Peru, Mali, Indonesia and elsewhere with climate change.

Funded by Sweden, Norway and the Ford Foundation, a US charity, the Tenure Facility, formally launched in Stockholm yesterday, aims to help countries in Peru, Mali, Indonesia and elsewhere with climate change.

Disputes over resources can prove deadly. According to non-governmental organisation Global Witness, more than 200 environmental campaigners were murdered in 2016 alone - nearly half from indigenous tribes.

# Qamrul

WATCHDOG SUGGESTED THAT THE ministry formulate a "food stock policy" on an emergency basis as part of the ministry's move to keep price of food products under control.

"We were not satisfied with the minister's many explanations following the committee members' queries about why the ministry had failed to control the price of rice," said Wadud, chief of the Jaiya Sangsad body, told The Daily Star.

"We have told the minister that the government as well as lawmakers earned a bad name and faced fiscal crisis because of the price hike of rice. We think the government should have avoided the criticism if the ministry concerned acted promptly and in a coordinated manner," he added.

At a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said the committee members told the minister that the ministry would have to take responsibility for its failure to bring soaring price of rice under control.

Committee led by lawmaker Fazle Nur Tapash, who was present at the meeting, grilled the food minister on the failure despite the standing committees' call to take measures in this regard.



Minhaj Chowdhury, cofounder and CEO of Drinkwell, receiving "Under 30 Impact Challenge" prize at the Forbes Under 30 Summit in Boston on Monday.

# Law minister

FROM PAGE 1  
Law Minister Anisul Huq said those who were "speculating" that the government put pressure on the CJ to go on leave were in fact hatching "some kind of conspiracy" to thwart the continuation of democracy.

"They have started crying presuming that they may fail in their attempt," he said.

Earlier in the day, the SCBA, which is dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, held an emergency meeting at its conference room.

After the meeting its president Zainul Abedin said, "The Supreme Court Bar Association thinks tremendous pressure was put on him [CJ] so that he will go on leave."

"You all know, the nation and people of the world know that a political party and the government was pressuring him after a judgment. We believe that he was sent on leave yesterday [Thursday] as a result of pressure. He was forced to go on leave."

Justice Sinha recently faced sharp criticisms from senior ministers and Awami League leaders over the 16th amendment verdict. Some of them even demanded his resignation, accusing him of undermining parliament and Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The apex court on August 1 released the full text of its verdict in the 16th amendment case, scrapping the constitutional amendment that had empowered parliament to remove SC judges for misconduct or incapacity.

Some pro-AL organisations including the Bangladesh Awami Jaiya Parishad, held protest programmes against the CJ. Parishad leaders threatened to launch a tougher agitation if the CJ did not step down.

Justice Sinha on September 13 passed a resolution calling for legal steps to nullify the SC verdict. The law minister will seek several occasions said the government would review the judgment.

Yesterday afternoon, the SCAR held its case against the minister and his former ministers and secretaries, and expressed grave concern over the sudden leave of the justice chief.

"It is an unexpected leave. We are shocked," said Zainul Abedin, also a vice-chairman of BNP.

Senior lawyers Khairul Mubashir Hossain, AI Mohammad Ali, Aminul Haque, Subrata Chowdhury, Moinul Hossain, MK Rahman, Jamir Uddin Sicalar (ex-Speaker), former justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, among others, attended the meeting.

SCBA ALLEGATIONS BASELESS: AG Mahbubey Alam refuted SCBA's allegations and said the Association was "tarnishing the image of the judiciary as if [the SCBA] was controlled by a particular political party."

"The chief justice went on leave and the law minister has already talked about the reason. We know that he is a cancer patient and had been under treatment in the past. It's completely his personal matter. The government is baseless," he told reporters at his office.

He also said the notion that the CJ was under house arrest was "totally baseless."

Replying to a question, Mahbubey Alam said he had no contact with the CJ since his return on September 23 after visiting Canada and Japan.

Asked about the CJ's whereabouts, the country's top law officer said, "I don't know...I'm not supposed to know the whereabouts of the CJ."

Replying to another question, he said he would try to meet the CJ if the latter were in the country.

NO GOVT PRESSURE: LAW MINISTER The law minister claimed the government did not put any pressure on Justice Sinha for taking leave.

"Those who are talking about this have no evidence. I don't find any reason to respond to such useless comments," he told reporters at his residence.

He also ruled out that there was any link between the CJ's leave, the 16th amendment verdict and the government move for legal steps to nullify the SC verdict.

With reference to the CJ's leave application, Anisul Huq said the CJ mentioned that he had been suffering from cancer and other diseases.

"That's why he has mentioned [in the letter] that he needs more rest. He has taken one month's leave to take rest," he said.

The minister hoped that the CJ would return work after the leave.

# Bangladeshi youth

FROM PAGE 16  
Water supply is often contaminated with arsenic, fluoride and iron.

They are the only ones who are my. Flew into Boston straight from Dhaka last night to participate in the Forbes Under 30 \$500,000 Impact Challenge this morning while still jetlagged," he wrote in a Facebook post.

"20 minutes after the pitch I learn that WE WON! We'll be receiving a fund investment from TPC Rise Fund, a \$2 billion fund co-managed by Bono of U2 whose funders include Richard Branson of the Virgin Group."

"What a way to start the next stage of growth for Drinkwell - SO PROUD OF MY AMAZING TEAM!!!" Drinkwell has also created employment for 500 people and in 2015 Minhaj was selected in Forbes' 30 Under 30 list, Forbes said in a report on Monday.

Drinkwell is a market-leading water technology company operating in Bangladesh and India, is combating the arsenic, fluoride and iron water contamination in the region.

As the winner of the "Under 30 Impact Challenge", Minhaj's Drinkwell on Monday received a sum of \$500,000 of which \$250,000 is investment from The Rise Fund, and \$250,000 from Forbes as a media grant. It will also receive consulting from The Bridgespan Group, a non-profit which works with social entrepreneurs.

On the way to achieve the feat, Drinkwell faced some tough challenges as it contested with Chakr Innovation, an Indian firm which converts inert soil and paint, thus making a significant impact in providing clean water to the rural population. An Amazon-like platform for farmers in Africa to boost their incomes by providing access to information, products and services, both online and offline, Forbes said in the report.

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# Lift duties to cut trade deficit

FROM PAGE 1  
India as Bangladesh's export to the neighbouring country has not increased because of the tariff, non-tariff and anti-dumping measures imposed by New Delhi.

In fiscal 2017, Bangladesh imported goods worth \$6.17 billion from India against its export worth \$672.40 million. In the previous year, Bangladesh imported goods worth \$5.46 billion, while its export to the neighbouring country stood at \$689.62 million.

"There is a big trade gap between the two countries. The Indian government should remove the tariff and non-tariff barriers to help increase exports from Bangladesh," Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said yesterday.

"I will also request our Indian friends [Indian Finance Minister] to remove the anti-dumping duty on exports of jute and jute goods from Bangladesh," he said while addressing the businesspeople of the two countries at a meeting at the Pacific Sonargang hotel in the capital.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) organised the meeting on the occasion of the visit of Indian Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur.

Export of jute and jute goods to India has come under strain because of sudden imposition of anti-dumping duty by Indian authorities.

The existing duty on export of garment items to the Indian market is also hurting Bangladesh, Tofail said.

He appreciated the Indian government's decision to accept the product certification by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) for 21 products from Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE 16  
From the district administrations, fisheries department, police and coast guard.

Meanwhile, fishermen were yet to get the promised food support in compensation from the government for complying with the ban. Each of the 3 lakh fishermen is supposed to get 20kg rice in compensation.

"No rice is being distributed among the fishermen. We haven't got any allocation of rice from the disaster management and relief ministry yet," he said.

However, told The Daily Star, they were catching the fish in rivers and storing them.

Visiting Gora Padma area in Barguna's Patharghata upazila just before Monday evening, our correspondent got a glimpse of a fisherman at a trawler netting fish at the mouth of the Bishkhali river.

They caught a good quantity of hilsa there.

Of talking to the correspondent, one of the fishermen said he has been catching the fish only to run their families.

In Barisal region, around three lakh fishermen were waiting for the food support from the government, according to the fisheries department.

They had received 20kg of rice during last year's ban. However, this year it hasn't happened yet. We have already sent our proposal to the government.

"Their discovery shook the world," said Goran K Hansson, the head of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, which selected the Nobel recipients.

They made their discovery in September 2015 and announced it in February 2016, a historic achievement that culminated from decades of scientific research.

# US trio wins Nobel Prize

"Einstein was convinced it would never be possible to measure them. The LIGO project's achievement was using a pair of gigantic laser interferometers to measure the change in distance of times smaller than an atomic nucleus, as the gravitational waves passed the Earth."

Black holes emit no light and therefore can only be observed through the gravitational waves.

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"Gravitational waves, which rhythmically stretch and squeeze space, can be detected on Monday when three American astronomers - Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Roshab and Michael W. Young - for shedding light on the biological clock that governs the sleep-wake cycles of most living things."

The prize comes with nine million Swedish kronor (around \$1.1 million or 940,000 euros).

Last year, British scientists David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Hohenberg were awarded the prize for their groundbreaking research on topology, or unusual phases of matter, which may one day fuel superconductors.

The physics prize is the second of the 2017 Nobel awards, after the medicine prize on Monday when three American geneticists - Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Roshab and Michael W. Young - for shedding light on the biological clock that governs the sleep-wake cycles of most living things."

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# Uphold image of judiciary

FROM PAGE 1  
The image of the judiciary is not tarnished.

He also asked them to hold court proceedings timely and not to keep judgements pending after the completion of the bench's lounge yesterday, meeting sources said.

Justice Wahab Miah made the calls at the full court meeting attended by all judges of both the Appellate and High Court divisions at the Supreme Court Building yesterday, meeting sources said.

The meeting was called hours after Justice Wahab took the charge as Justice Sinha went on a one-month leave on health grounds.

On the day, he also reversed a decision taken by Justice Sinha which had constituted several benches of the HC on Monday.

Justice Wahab said the benches were constituted as they were before the vacation started late August. If needed, he will constitute the benches after talking to his fellow judges in the Appellate Division, he added.

# Drug trade

FROM PAGE 2  
Myanmar's western border zone is awash with methamphetamine, most destined for Bangladesh.

Large numbers of Myanmar militants, security forces and local businessmen get rich on drug trafficking - a trade that has cut across communal rivalries.

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# Rebels storm

FROM PAGE 2  
kingdom with Pakistan.

On Monday the Indian army said it killed five suspected rebels in two separate gun battles on the border.

India's Pakistan initiates cross-border firing to help rebels cross into Indian-administered Kashmir to launch attacks.

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# BCL man held

FROM PAGE 16  
Kakarai Church lives in Pagar area of Tongi, Feroz Talukder, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, told The Daily Star.

On the day afternoon, a man using a mobile SIM card of Shishir's sister rang up the priest and said his sister was critically ill, said the OC.

The priest Shishir reached Pagar area in a vaning, a group of men confined him to a room. They snatched his mobile phone and cash.

Using Shishir's mobile phone, the gang called one of his relatives and demanded Tk 3 lakh in ransom. They threatened to kill the individual if not paid.

Hearing him scream, some local inhabitants informed the police station about the incident.

# Law officers held

FROM PAGE 16  
The room and arrested Shourav. However, the case is being managed by the Shishir yesterday filed a case with Tongi Police Station, accusing several people involved in Shourav.

BCL leader Monzur said his organisation would not shoulder blame for the case involving the individual in question.

He said the BCL would take action against Shourav if he was found involved in the abduction.

Law officers later raided the room and arrested Shourav. However, the case is being managed by the Shishir yesterday filed a case with Tongi Police Station, accusing several people involved in Shourav.

BCL leader Monzur said his organisation would not shoulder blame for the case involving the individual in question.