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EVICTED OF GAIBANDHA SANTALS

A year on, yet no sign of redress

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Even though a year has passed, the Santals who were evicted from the land of Sahebganj-Bagda sugarcane farm in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj were yet to be rehabilitated and compensated.

Rather, many of them are in fear of being arrested as cases were filed against them.

In a recent visit to the spot, this correspondent found that most of the evicted Santals were still living in shanties they had built almost a year ago. Their children were passing idle times as the authorities of the Rangpur Sugar Mills took control of their school.

On November 6, a tripartite clash broke out between the Santals, staffers of Rangpur Sugar Mills, and police over the eviction of the indigenous people from the disputed land, leaving three Santal men dead and 20 others, including nine policemen, injured.

Many of the injured are still suffering. The victims claimed that they did not get any promised compensation from the government.

Thomas Hembrom, of Jaipur Para village, told The Daily Star that they lodged a case against 33 people for torching their homes and evicting them from "their land", but police could arrest only one of the accused.

Police were to yet submit a charge sheet in the case, SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



A Santal man at Madarpur village in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj sticks posters for a protest rally of evicted members of the minority community yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

TIB ON ACC HEARINGS

3 out of 4 complaints unsolved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About three-quarters of the complaints against 12 public service-oriented institutions filed during Anti-Corruption Commission's mass hearings have not been disposed of, a Transparency International Bangladesh report revealed yesterday.

The TIB identified the institutions' non-cooperation, corruption and lack of initiatives as the main reasons behind the delays.

At ACC's 13 mass hearings between January, 2015 and June, 2016, people filed 181 complaints against institutions like upazila land offices, Palli Bidyut Samity offices, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakha and sub-register's offices. Of those complaints, 132 remain undisposed.

The TIB report cited many complainants who blamed the ACC along with the institutions concerned for their lack of follow-up activities to dispose of the complaints.

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11 Saudi Arabia princes detained

Unprecedented anti-graft purge consolidates the crown prince's authority

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has arrested dozens of senior figures including princes, ministers and a top business tycoon, with authorities yesterday pledging "fair" justice after a sweeping purge seen as consolidating the crown prince's hold on power.

Prominent billionaire Al-Waleed bin Talal was among the princes arrested late Saturday, a government source told AFP, immediately after a new anti-corruption commission headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was established by royal decree.

Separately, the head of the Saudi National Guard, once a leading contender to the throne, as well as the navy chief and the economy minister were replaced in a series of high-profile sackings that sent shock waves through the kingdom.

The dramatic shake-up comes at a time of unprecedented social and economic transformation in ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, as Prince Mohammed steps up his reform drive for a post-oil era.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

'No dictator' should underestimate US

Says Trump on tour; N Korea warns against reckless remarks; anti-Trump protest in Seoul

AFP, Tokyo

President Donald Trump yesterday issued a stern warning that "no dictator" should underestimate the United States as he kicked off an Asian tour dominated by the North Korea nuclear crisis.

Speaking to cheering military personnel at Yokota Air Base just west of Tokyo minutes after landing, Trump donned a bomber jacket and said "no one, no dictator, no regime and no nation should underestimate... American resolve".

"Every once in a while in the past, they underestimated us. It was not pleasant for them, was it?" roared Trump.

"We will never yield, never waver and never falter in defence of our people, our freedom and our great American flag."

Trump's marathon trip comes with the North Korea crisis at fever pitch, as US bombers fly sorties over the Korean peninsula and fears mount of another Pyongyang missile test.

According to the Washington Post, Pentagon officials have warned that the only way to locate and secure North Korea's nuclear weapons sites would be via a ground invasion.

North Korea itself welcomed Trump to the region with a rhetorical volley via the ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun, warning a "spiritually instable" president against making "reckless remarks".

N KOREANS 'GREAT PEOPLE'
The president's first stops are Japan and South Korea -- frontline US allies in the effort to force Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme, and the two countries with most to fear should a full-scale conflict break out.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Pilot, airport trade blame for delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Kuala Lumpur-bound flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was delayed by around 25 minutes at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday and the pilot and the pilot of the plane are blaming each other for it.

The pilot of flight BG 086 wrote to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) that the crew and passengers could not board the aeroplane as the entry door in the passenger holding area was locked.

"After completing the security check at gate-5 we found the pax [passenger] holding area entry door was locked," the pilot wrote in a letter to Caab Principal Operations Inspector Captain Fariduzzaman.

"Upon request, Caab security personnel replied

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Google CEO to fix burger emoji issue

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Google has promised to "drop everything" and fix a scandalous problem with its burger emoji.

The company's depiction of a burger has come under intense criticism for its layering of the burger, bread and lettuce. And the scandal has led to others to point to the company's other drawings of food, some of which appear more than a little strange.

Writer Thomas Baekdal's original tweet only suggested that we "need to talk about" the arrangement of the different parts of the burger. But a consensus very quickly emerged that Google had gone wrong and that the cheese should never appear low down in the burger.

Each of the burgers do include their own strange choices, like Apple's decision to put the lettuce on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

HC orders nationwide pneumatic horn ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop the use of pneumatic horns in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country.

The authorities have to form a surveillance team to keep sound pollution within limit at different places including Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Officers' Club area in the capital, set by the relevant environmental laws and rules, it said.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

4 held for 'raping' woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Gazipur

Joydebpur police have arrested four men in connection with gang rape of a woman in Gazipur.

The arrestees are Arab Ali, 32, of Gazipur; Monir Hossain, 34, of Gopalganj; Kawsar Ali, 20, of Tangail; and Mofazzal Hossain, 30, of Kurigram.

On Saturday night, police raided Baimail area in Gazipur and arrested Monir and Kawsar. Mofazzal and Arab were arrested at Konabari the next morning.

The rape incident took place on Thursday night, said Additional Police Super (Sadar Circle) Sakhawat Hossain, of Gazipur.

The victim was coming back home from Chandana Chowrasta by an auto rickshaw when the four men forced her to get down. They then took her to a boat anchored in a water body in Baimail and raped her. She was set free

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



A grower sorting his sweet mandarin in Suknacherra area of Juri upazila of Moulvibazar. Higher than usual temperature and lack of fog in early winter was resulting in many of the citrus fruits going bad or falling off the plants.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

MANDARIN FARMERS

Warm weather hits them hard

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The sweet, round mandarins that hang from the trees on the hilly terrain of the district usually bring much joy to the farmers of the region.

The juicy, citrus fruits are harvested once a year as an early winter fruit in the region where farmers hold ladders up to the trees that grow up to six feet in height and the branches are thinned by hand or knives.

But an unlikely scene is puzzling farmers this year, as fruits are dropping off from the branches even before ripening, leading to huge loss. The farmers can attribute this strange phenomenon to a spike in temperature and lack of fog compared to last few years.

Anisur Rahman, assistant meteorologist of Sreemangal weather monitoring office, said the average temperature recorded between October 1 and October 11 last year was 23.6 degrees Celsius, but it rose to 24 degrees in the same time this year.

"I am incurring huge loss as the fruits are falling off even before maturing," said Abdus Sahid, a resident mandarin farmer of Suknacherra village under Juri upazila. He cultivated mandarins on an acre of land and sold his produce at Tk 55,000 last season. However, sales dropped to Tk 30,000 this season.

Farid Uddin, another farmer of Kochurgul village in Juri, said the fruits are not maturing to its typical bright orange colour. "It is a bit faded colour and bitter in taste, lacking its distinctive sweetness."

Growers are apprehensive about recovering their investments as they have already spent on fertilisers, fencing to prevent theft and wages on workers to make sure the plants are deweeded and free of insects.

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