



Communal group behind changes

TIB study finds influence, misuse of power in making changes to textbook contents, anomalies in publication, distribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board made changes in several school textbooks of this year under pressure from a communal group, according to a study of Transparency International Bangladesh.

Sixteen pieces were omitted from five textbooks of primary and secondary levels and they include eleven poems that were removed to meet the demand of that particular communal group, it said.

In the absence of a clear policy on formulating curriculum and manuscripts, the

ideologies of communal forces as well as of the party in power come into play in the selection of topics and words of textbooks, stated the TIB report.

It also found that the process of formulating manuscripts by the NCTB and the publication and distribution of textbooks are riddled with irregularities and corruption.

Besides, a section of NCTB officials and staff are involved in malpractices. The institution is also plagued by manpower shortage and needs experts and skilled hands.

The graft watchdog yesterday launched

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EC favours deployment of army

Decision later on how troops will be engaged in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army will be deployed in the next general election but the method behind the deployment has not been decided yet, said Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar.

Speaking to some reporters at the Election Commission yesterday, he said there remained a "but" as the time has not come yet to say how the army

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POLLS-TIME GOVT AL, BNP firm on their stances

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

While the BNP sticks to its demand for holding the next national elections under a non-partisan polls-time government, the ruling Awami League insists the elections will be conducted as per constitutional provisions.

The AL presumes that the BNP might take to the streets and carry out destructive activities to press home its demand. Some AL leaders said the government would put down any such activities with an iron hand.

The BNP, however, has reiterated its call for holding a dialogue on the election-time government to reach a consensus on the issue.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a rally in the city's Suhrawardy Udyana on Sunday categorically said fair elections

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People including rescue personnel conduct search and rescue work following a 7.3-magnitude earthquake at Sarpol-e Zahab in Iran's Kermanshah province yesterday. The earthquake shook the mountainous Iran-Iraq border triggering landslides that were hindering rescue efforts. More on page 8.

PHOTO: AFP

Deadly quake kills over 400 in Iran, Iraq

At least 7,200 injured in the world's deadliest earthquake this year; hunt for survivors on; death toll to rise, say officials

AFP, Tehran

Teams of Iranian rescuers dug through rubble in a hunt for survivors yesterday after a major earthquake struck the Iran-Iraq border, killing at least 415 people and injuring thousands.

The 7.3-magnitude quake rocked a border area 30 kilometres southwest of Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan around 9:20 pm (1820 GMT) on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

Many people would have been at home when the

quake hit in Iran's western province of Kermanshah, where authorities said it killed at least 407 people and injured 6,700.

Across the border in more sparsely populated areas of Iraq, the health ministry said eight people had died and several hundred were injured.

Iraq's Red Crescent reported nine dead and more than 400 injured.

As dusk approached yesterday, tens of thousands of Iranians were forced to sleep outside in the cold for a

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4 BCL men held over gang rape, murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police have arrested four Chhatra League leaders in Barguna's Patharghata upazila for their alleged involvement in killing a girl after raping her around three months ago.

The BCL central committee suspended the four yesterday, said Jobayer Adnan Anik, president of Barguna district unit BCL, a pro-Awami League student body.

The arrestees are: Patharghata College unit BCL President Ruhi Anan Danial, Secretary Saddam Hossen Chotto, Organising Secretary Mahidul Islam Rayhan, and Assistant

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RANGPUR MAYHEM Many Hindu families still in panic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Scared, the Hindus of Thakurpara in Gangachara of Rangpur are staying put.

They have confined themselves to the village since Friday's attack on their village by zealots and this is hurting them badly as most of them are labourers and depend on daily work outside their village.

"We are sitting idle as we are scared of going out of the village," said Polash Chandra Roy even though a

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