

Progress made

FROM PAGE 2
public governance and ensuring transparency in the conduct of public affairs by making sure that anti-corruption legislation is strictly enforced and that all those involved in corruption, particularly high-level officials and politicians, are prosecuted without exception and also by enhancing independence and efficacy of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The committee said it was concerned about the absence of explicit constitutional and legislative recognition of the rights of "tribes", "minor races", "ethnic sects and communities".

Repeated reports of expropriation of ancestral land of indigenous people without meeting the requirements of free, prior and informed consent were also a matter of concern, said the UN body.

It said there was lack of appropriate mechanisms for affected indigenous people and communities to take part in the decision-making processes.

The committee suggested that the government should expedite the enactment of a law recognising and protecting the rights of indigenous people in full compliance with relevant international human rights standards; set up appropriate mechanisms to ensure the representation and participation of indigenous people -- both in the hill tracts and plains -- in all decision-making processes.

The authorities should ensure that the requirements of free, prior and informed consent are met in all cases of expropriation of land of indigenous people. They should provide effective mechanisms through which indigenous people can seek remedies for the deprivation of ancestral land and also should ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989, said the UN body.

About the Chittagong Hill Tracts accord, the committee said it was concerned at the insufficient level of implementation of the deal, particularly relating to land dispute resolution. It regretted the lack of information on the status of decisions made on the land dispute applications brought to the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission.

Social media

FROM PAGE 2
instructed to increase vigilance regarding the activities of banned militant outfits and anarchists.

Police would also take security measures at bus, launch and railway stations, to ensure safe movement of people. Many plainclothes policemen would also be deployed to ward off criminal elements, he added.

Responding to a query about BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the minister said the government would take necessary measures on her treatment and follow the recommendations of the medical board.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital sent the BNP chief's health report to the jail authorities yesterday, said Prof Shamsuzzaman, head of the DMCH orthopaedics department and also the chief of the four-member medical board for Khaleda.

The medical board also suggested conducting X-rays on her shoulder, waist and hip-joints along with a blood test. They also prescribed her a few new medicines, he added.

Banks now

FROM PAGE 1
a caretaker government, said the decisions to cut the CRR and the repo rate were made on political consideration to facilitate some cash-strapped banks.

The moves will make funds cheaper for banks. And the excess money supply will increase defaulted loans further as many banks frequently breach the rules and regulations while sanctioning loans, he pointed out.

Such practice has already eroded the depositors' confidence in the banking sector, and the latest decisions contradict the tightened monetary policy taken up by the central bank just two months ago, said Mirza.

With an aim to tighten the money supply, the BB in its monetary policy in January set the private sector credit growth target at 16.8 percent against a previous projection of 16.3 percent for January-June, he said.

But the policy will not be effective because of the latest decisions that came amid pressure from directors of banks, he added.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research Institute, said the country's current account deficit has recently surpassed \$5 billion, and this needs to be addressed immediately.

This deficit problem can be solved through tightened monetary policy and cautious fiscal policy. But the latest move will aggravate this problem, he said.

CHILD CUSTODY

HC asks Tangail magistrate to explain order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the executive magistrate of "Ka" region of Tangail, Nure Alam Siddiqui, to appear before it on April 9 and explain why he awarded the custody of an 18-month-old child to a maternal aunt instead of the baby's mother.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the officer-in-charge of Ghatail Police Station in Tangail to produce before it Shova Rani Guho, the maternal aunt, and her husband, Biplab Guho, along with the child, Angshuman Dey.

The HC asked the executive magistrate to explain under what authority he ordered Angshuman's custody to be given to his maternal aunt instead of his mother.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Jeba Rani Dey, mother of the child, challenging the legality of

the executive magistrate's order.

Petitioner's lawyer SM Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that Jeba Rani became ill after giving birth to Angshuman in October 2016.

Shova and Biplab used to visit Jeba at her home in Chandshi village and often took Angshuman to their home.

They would return the child after some days, the lawyer said.

Couple of months ago, Shova and Biplab refused to return the baby. Jeba applied for custody of the child to the executive magistrate on January 16 this year.

On January 18, he passed an order and gave the baby's custody to his mother Jeba.

Rezaul said during another hearing on the case on March 21, the same magistrate ordered Jeba to give the baby to Shova's custody.

The lawyer also said an executive magistrate could not pass such an order.

FB tools used

FROM PAGE 16
Nations and several Western countries have said the crackdown constitutes ethnic cleansing. Myanmar rejects that, saying its forces have been waging a legitimate campaign against "terrorists" who attacked government forces.

Vox editor-at-large Ezra Klein, who interviewed Zuckerberg, referred to the violence, saying: "One of the scary stories I've read about Facebook over the past year is that it had become a real source of anti-Rohingya propaganda in Myanmar, and thus become part of an ethnic cleansing."

He asked Zuckerberg if Facebook is too big to manage its global scale in some countries effectively.

He cited comments made by Phil Robertson, a deputy director of Human Rights Watch in Asia, that while Facebook is dominant as a source of news information in Myanmar, the country is not an incredibly important market for Facebook - which has led to Facebook being like an "absentee landlord" in South-east Asia.

"It doesn't get the attention we give things that go wrong in America. I doubt you have a proportionate amount of staff in Myanmar to what you have in America," Klein said.

Zuckerberg said Facebook does need to become "a more global company".

"We have offices all over the world, so we're already quite global. But our headquarters is here in California and the vast majority of our community is not even in the US, and it's a constant challenge to make sure that we're putting due attention on all of the people in different parts of the community around the world," he said.

Probe body

FROM PAGE 16
submitted its report to Bidhan Tripura, superintendent of Habiganj police.

The body thoroughly investigated the rape and murder of Beauty, 16, and submitted its report within three working days, said Bidhan.

ASM Shamsur Rahman Bhuiyan, additional superintendent of Habiganj police and also the probe body chief, said Zakir, who was the IO of the rape and abduction case, was closed for dillydallying over dealing with the case.

"Had he taken right initiatives at the right time, Beauty would have been with us today," he added.

Beauty, of Brahmondora village in Shayestaganj upazila, was stalked and harassed on her way to workplace by Babul Mia and his accomplices. After she told her parents about the matter, she was kidnapped from home, taken to an unknown place where she was kept hostage for a month (January 21-February 21) and raped, said victim's father Sayed Ali in a case statement.

On March 1, Sayed Ali, a labourer, filed the rape and abduction case against 11 people, including Babul and his mother, a UP member, with Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Habiganj.

Zakir was made the IO of the case. But he did not take any action against the accused. So, Beauty lost her life, Shamsur added.

Babul then threatened Beauty's family with dire consequences, if the case was not withdrawn. On March 13, Sayed sent his daughter to a relative's house in Lakhai upazila. On March 16, Babul kidnapped her again, raped and killed her. Later, her body was dumped in a haor.

On March 18, Beauty's father lodged the rape and murder case with Shayestaganj Police Station against Babul and several unknown people.

No MCQ

FROM PAGE 1
secretaries Md Gias Uddin Ahmed and Akram-al Hossain were present, among others.

According to a UNB report, the minister said a total of 82,473 students have got scholarships in the PEC exams last year. The scholarships were given in two categories -- talent pool and general -- on the basis of highest marks obtained in the exams held in November last year.

Among the students, 32,998 got scholarships in talent pool and 49,475 in general category.

Usually, 82,500 students get scholarships, including 33,000 in talent pool and 49,500 in general category. But, this time the quota was not used up for short-age of two students in talent pool and 25 in general category.

Paying for own land!

FROM PAGE 1
Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and the old airport in Tejgaon.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved the draft proposal yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

The local government ministry proposed the two-year scheme to be implemented by Dhaka Wasa by December next year.

Asked about the justification for land acquisition to recover the canals, Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan said parts of the canals were on government land. But they need to acquire some private land for the continuation of the canals.

He declined to comment on their plan to reclaim the canals from grabbers.

An official present at yesterday's Ecneec meeting said the PM questioned the need for land acquisition given the canals are on public land.

In reply, a ministry official said they only made a proposal and that they would not spend the money if not required.

After the meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that the PM asked the authorities to demolish all structures to reclaim the canals.

Project documents show the local government ministry argued for land acquisition, saying it was necessary for

widening of the existing canals and excavation of a new one.

The storm drainage system in the city is largely dependent on the five canals and their excavation will help ease the city's perennial waterlogging problem, it said.

The planning commission recommended approving the project.

Urban planners say an inadequate drainage system managed by seven authorities with little coordination and reckless destruction of wetlands and flood flow areas are the key reasons for Dhaka's waterlogging.

They repeatedly warned against the continued destruction of the flood plains and wetland for "mindless commercial gains".

The city's natural drainage system, comprised of a network of 65 canal and four rivers, numerous water retention areas (ponds, ditches), extensive low-lying areas and flood flow zones -- has been consistently destroyed in the name of development, they said.

Canals, rivers and water retention areas collect, carry and retain rainwater and are connected to each other as a drainage network.

The low-lying wetlands and flood flow zones earmarked in the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka city no longer exist as those have been filled up, in many cases with government's approval, resulting in severe urban waterlogging.

It's based on 'fake news'

FROM PAGE 1
The government was trying to keep BNP away from politics. The evil attempt, however, would not work, he alleged.

Recently, the ACC has opened an enquiry into eight BNP leaders over their alleged involvement in money laundering and amassing of wealth illegally.

BNP Standing Committee members Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Nazrul Islam Khan and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury; vice chairmen Abdul Awal Mintoo and Morshed Khan; Executive Committee Member Tabitha Awal, and Joint Secretary General Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel were being interrogated, said ACC Director (Enquiry and Investigation) Kazi Safikul Alam.

In an official reaction, Nazrul alleged that the government had ordered the ACC to take steps against the BNP leaders to keep them away from anti-government movements.

"The ACC claimed to be an independent body but in reality, the government is using it as one of its weapons," he said.

On the news portals, the BNP leader said no one should write anything against anyone if that was untrue.

"I will say that they [the news portals] will have to seek apology or else we will take legal actions against them," he added.

Amir Khosru alleged that the government was trying to mislead the nation through falsehood.

"Awami League has opened 25 fake news portals as part of its strategy to spread falsehood," he said.

He accused the government of destroying the ACC through politicisation.

Abdul Awal Mintoo said, "I do business and my bank transactions are normal. It has recently been reported that I have transactions in some banks. In fact, I don't even have any account there. The news is completely motivated."

At another programme yesterday, BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed alleged that the government and its "agent" ACC were working together with the same goal which is keeping the BNP away from

the upcoming general elections.

He was addressing a discussion organised by National People's Party at the Jatiya Press Club demanding Khaleda Zia's release from jail.

The BNP leader said, "I would like to tell them [the government and the ACC] that the BNP will join the polls, no matter what plots and repressive measures you plan".

He termed the allegation against the BNP leaders, being investigated by the ACC, baseless.

"They [ACC] did it as part of their plot to weaken BNP," he added.

Meanwhile, in response to the allegations, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif last night told The Daily Star that the BNP leaders were lying to mislead people and hide their misdeeds.

"How did they get the information that the Awami League is using 25 news portals? Awami League has nothing to do with it. It is the ACC that has started the enquiry as the BNP leaders had abnormal transactions in their bank accounts. They don't need to worry if they are innocent," he added.

Smiles after

FROM PAGE 1
Afroj Ali, a farmer in Sunamganj's Jagannathpur upazila, said, "I cultivated paddy on 28 acres last year. But everything was washed away. This year, I cultivated on 22 acres and I am happy to see the ripe paddy."

Altabor Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Sylhet, said, "We are having a nice weather amid a few sudden nor'easters. The paddy is ripe enough. If the nice weather continues for a couple of weeks, we will have a splendid harvest."

Many of the farmers are, however, worried about finding workers for the task of harvesting.

Deepak Sarkar of Sunamganj's Shalla upazila, who has been trying to hire workers for last few days, said many labourers left the area after the last two years' floods and had not returned yet.

Taking advantage of the crisis, some people are demanding exorbitant sums for the jobs, he said.

“শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ, ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ”

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সূত্র নং: এপিএসসিএল/প্রকিউরমেন্ট-০২/২০১৮/৮৮৮ তারিখঃ ০৩/০৪/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ

“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”	
০১) মঙ্গলালয়/ বিভাগ	বিদ্যুৎ, ছাদানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মঙ্গলালয়/ বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ
০২) এজেন্সী/ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	আশুগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (এপিএসসিএল)
০৩) প্রকিউরমেন্ট শেখড	উন্নত দরপত্র
০৪) কাছের টেন্ড	আশুগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর নিম্ন বর্ণিত
০৫) দরপত্র আহ্বানের তারিখ	০৩/০৪/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ
০৬) দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৪/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
০৭) দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০৪/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২ঃ ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৮) দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০৪/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২ঃ ১৫ ঘটিকা
০৯) দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ক) কোম্পানী সচিব এর দপ্তর, এপিএসসিএল কর্পোরেট অফিস: নাজনা রহিম আরডেট সেন্টে-১) ১৬-৪, শহীদ সোহান নজরুল ইসলাম ফার্ম, পল্টন, ঢাকা। খ) ব্যবস্থাপক (অর্থ), আশুগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, রান্ধাবাড়িয়া।
১০) দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও ঘোষণার স্থান	ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট)-এর দপ্তর, এপিএসসিএল, আশুগঞ্জ, রান্ধাবাড়িয়া।
১১) সরবরাহকারী/সিদ্ধাকারের যোগ্যতা	প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/ সিদ্ধাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান (দরপত্র দাখিলে বর্ণিত শর্ত মোতাবেক)।
১২) : :	

ক্রমিক নং	বিষয়	দরপত্র দাখিলের সূত্র (অফিসের নাম)	দরপত্র আহ্বানের পরিমাণ	সরবরাহ/কাছের সময়সীমা (দরপত্র দাখিলে বর্ণিত পর্যালোচনা)
ক	এপিএসসিএল-এর আইডিসি ব্লক-এ বিভাগের জন্য বিভিন্ন ধরনের Technician Tools সরবরাহকরণ।	টাকা ১,৫০০.০০	টাকা ৫৫,০০০.০০	১০ দিন
খ	এপিএসসিএল-এর টারবাইন সরবরাহ বিভাগের সরবরাহ কাছের জন্য লোকবল সরবরাহকরণ।	টাকা ১,০০০.০০	টাকা ২০,০০০.০০	০১ বছর
গ	এপিএসসিএল-এর কেন্দ্রীয় বিভাগের বিভিন্ন রাসায়নিক হ্রাদানির মিশ্রণ তৈরি, পরিবহন, টাকা ও ঠাণ্ডে পরিষ্কারকরণ কাছের জন্য লোকবল সরবরাহকরণ।	টাকা ১,০০০.০০	টাকা ১৫,০০০.০০	০১ বছর

১৩) বিশেষ শর্তাবলী : :
ক) দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল আশুগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আশুগঞ্জ, রান্ধাবাড়িয়া-এর অনুমোদিত বায়োমেট্রিক যে কোন সিস্টেম থাকে হলে বায়ক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার আকারে মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র দাখিল ক্রয় করতে হবে।
খ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অবস্থা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/ বাতিল, সংশোধন, পরিবর্তন বা এতদসংক্রান্ত যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সরবরাহ করেন।

(মোঃ রফিকুল হোসেন)
ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট)
এপিএসসিএল, আশুগঞ্জ, রান্ধাবাড়িয়া
ফোনঃ ০৮৫২৮-৭৪০১৪