

30,000 families

FROM PAGE 3

Referring to a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report, the LNSP report on Matarbari project says the Japan-funded project could not gain its standard of neutrality because of possibility of a "conflict of interest" over its environmental impact assessment (EIA), done by Tokyo Electric Power Services Company Limited.

It says the two views-exchange meetings of stakeholders held over the project did not take place in the project area, but in an adjacent area.

As many as 199 people took part in the meetings but most of them were representatives of funding organisation Jica, government officials, teachers of government schools, journalists, traders, local government representatives and NGO officials.

According to the meetings' lists, 24 of the participants were affected people. However, identities of only seven of them could be known, it says.

Attending locals affected by the project alleged that the meetings were dominated by people who spoke for the project's interest or those who had no land in project area.

Some 45 families were displaced due to the coal power project, according to the report, that says due to landfill for the project, locals have faced severe waterlogging for half the time over the past three years.

Addressing the programme, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said priority had to be given on ensuring economic opportunities and rehabilitation of those who were affected directly by the projects.

Similar initiative should be taken for people affected by such development projects in other areas, he said.

Iftekharuzzaman said there could be collective approach for providing such affected people with legal assistance. Protests should continue against the kind of development activities which have dragged people back.

"Development excluding people's rights and democracy never sustained," he added.

Instead of just paying compensation, due rights of people affected by such development projects should be met properly, said ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir.

With displacement, these people also lost their occupational opportunities. They should be resettled, re-skilled, and provided with occupational opportunities or assistance for self-employment opportunity, she said.

Moderating the dialogue, LNSP Coordinator and Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said they would work on to challenge big investors who funded such development projects "without compliance".

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Employment Opportunity

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Candidates are requested to send their application via email to **recruitment@ihlbd.org** along with a detailed CV, with attested scanned copy of supporting documents & one recent passport size photo quoting the title of the post by **May 18, 2019**. Hard copy may also be submitted by addressing to **Chairman, Imperial Hospital Limited; Zakir Hossain Road, Pahartali, Chattogram-4202, Bangladesh**

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Registrar





Battery-run rickshaw-vans and auto-rickshaws continue to ply highways -- meant for high-speed vehicles like buses and trucks, putting themselves as well as oncoming ones at risk of accidents. The lighter and slow-moving vehicles are banned to keep highways safe, but to no avail. The photo was taken on Khulna-Satkhira highway in Zero Point area of Khulna last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Family longs

FROM PAGE 5

Ananta, an advocate for secularism and science, became the third victim in a spate of attacks against free-thinkers by militant groups in 2015, following science writer Avijit Roy and Oyasiquir Rahman.

Today, marking Ananta's death anniversary, his friends and well-wishers are organising a programme at his memorial. The monument, "Gyaner Jyoti Chorabe Ananta, Anantakal" (Ananta will radiate the light of knowledge for eternity), was unveiled on May 12, 2016, at the same spot where Ananta was murdered.

2,100 tonnes of pumpkin exported from Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Pumpkin produced in char areas in Rangpur are being exported abroad, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

After meeting local demand, around 2,100 tonnes of pumpkins have been exported to Malaysia from the areas since January this year, they added.

With help of Practical Action Bangladesh, an NGO, farmers were trained and produced various vegetables on sandy beds of the river Teesta, they said.

In association with the NGO, Deputy Commissioner's office in Rangpur held the meeting at its conference hall.

The speakers said around 4,200 hectares of char land have been brought under pumpkin cultivation in the two upazilas of Rangpur since 2005, and some 1.30 lakh tonnes of pumpkin have been produced. Farmers have earned Tk 103.20 crore by selling and exporting those produces till date.

Devote yourselves

FROM PAGE 5

graduates to work for the less fortunate people.

"As leaders of your community, you can help people in their advancement," he told the graduates.

"While we see wealth and power in one corner of the world, there is poverty and suffering in another corner," he said and urged the graduates to work for reducing disparity in the society.

Kamal Ahmad, president and CEO of AUW Support Foundation, and Prof Nirmala Rao, vice chancellor of AUW, spoke among others, while Rokia Afzal Rahman, member of AUW Board of Advisors, and AUW Registrar Dr David Dowland were present among others.

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BNP cannot 'digest' dev: Hanif

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League joint secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday termed BNP an anti-development party, saying they cannot "digest" development.

Speaking at the special extended party meeting of Chattogram division at International Convention Centre at Kazir Dewri, Hanif criticised the stance of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Padma bridge and

Karnaphuli tunnel, saying "They can't digest development which they were never able to make happen."

The AL central leader also reiterated that BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman would be brought to justice, by bringing him back to the country.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud and Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel were present at the meeting, among others.

**Career Opportunity**

Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC), a tertiary multidisciplinary Eye Care Institution is looking for Doctors for the following positions:

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