



Customs officials at Chattogram Port open up boxes of various items including food and alcohol that were seized on July 23 for being imported illegally, in order to inventory the goods. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

There's still silence on the rights of plainland adivasis

Speakers tell policy dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people living in the plainlands find their existence at risk -- having lost ancestral land over decades against the backdrop of their rights and ethnic identity not yet recognised by the constitution and the government, speakers said at a dialogue yesterday.

The rights of adivasis living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts have come to the fore since the signing of CHT Peace Accord in 1997. While the move brought local and international rights organisations and civil society members to initiate talks over the matter and press home implementation of the accord, there is still on the rights of plainland adivasis, they said.

The policy dialogue was organised by Research and Development Collective (RDC) and the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People and Minorities, with help from Human Rights Programme, UNDP at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the capital. The event marked the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples -- observed on August 9.

The charge sheet that the Police Bureau of Investigation recently submitted with no mention of police involvement in the 2016 arson attack on the Santal community in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila was a

glaring example of falsehood and biased reporting on an issue involving plainland adivasis, said Fazle Hossain Badshah, MP and convener of the Parliamentary Caucus.

On behalf of the caucus, he said he rejected the charge sheet. Shahriar Kabir, chairperson of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (a forum for secular Bangladesh and trial of war criminals), said there was a distinct difference between aboriginals and indigenous people.

Both terms are translated in Bangla as "adivasi", he said, adding that government high-ups have a misconception that recognising the ethnic minorities as adivasis or indigenous people would require the government to acknowledge their rights as that of native people or aboriginals.

But according to the definition of the ILO or the United Nations, those who have preserved their culture, language, literature as they are and have not blended in with the mainstream population, fall under the category of indigenous people, Shahriar said.

Land rights of those in the CHT have been protected by the accord as Bengalis are forbidden to own land there. However, there is little implementation of the accord.

On the other hand, land rights of plainland adivasis are not even recognised. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DIABETES PREVENTION

Imams to help raise awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure that people with diabetes have access to proper care and knowledge on preventing non-communicable diseases, imams will be recruited as community health advocates.

The project, "Diabetes Prevention through Religious Leaders", was initiated yesterday during a meet the press at Diabetic Association of Bangladesh in Dhaka.

It was launched in association with the diabetic association, World Diabetes Foundation, Islamic Foundation and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) control programme of Directorate General of Health Services, said a press release.

Under the project, imams will recite khutba (sermon), drafted by Islamic Foundation, on diabetes prevention and other NCDs during juma prayers. Tablet computers will also be provided to the imams in this regard.

The approved khutba will be sent to the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia and will be shared with other Islamic countries in future.

Under the project, free diabetes screening of 2.5 lakh people will be held. High-ups of the diabetic association and DGHS were present at the meeting.

Govt didn't contact Khaleda's family about parole, says her lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

None of the family members of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia have applied to the government for her release from jail on parole, Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, a lawyer for Khaleda and a BNP leader, said yesterday.

He said, "The government is making different statements about her release on parole, without communicating with her family or lawyers. The government has intentionally kept her in jail."

He said this while replying to queries from journalists at a press briefing at Law Reporters Forum office on Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) premises.

Mahbub Uddin, also the secretary of SCBA, said he had worked for the release of Khaleda's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko on parole during the regime of the caretaker government.

He said the caretaker government had contacted the family and lawyers, and applications were filed with the government in this regard.

"Khaleda Zia is very sick. But the present government has not communicated with her family and relatives about her release on parole," said Mahbub Uddin.

Khaleda Zia landed in jail after she was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a Dhaka court on February 8 last year in Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The High Court on October 30 last year enhanced her sentence to 10 years' imprisonment in the same case.

On June 14 last year, Law Minister Anisul Huq ruled out the demand for her release on humanitarian grounds for better treatment.

If Khaleda Zia is released on parole, it will be a serious breach of the jail code, the minister had told The Daily Star.

Mahila Parishad demo protests 'alarming' rise in rape incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday staged a sit-in protesting rise of rape incidents at an "alarming rate" across the country.

At the event, demonstrators -- carrying various placards and banners with anti-rape messages -- demanded that the government take strict measures for prevention and elimination of the crime.

The hour long demonstration was held in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

In a written statement, the organisation said rape and violence against women and children have increased in an alarming rate recently, though Bangladesh has been making significant progress economically.

A mechanism should be introduced where rape accused have to prove their innocence, political shelter for rapists must be stopped, and a mass resistance against rape has to be formed, BMP proposed in the statement signed by its General Secretary Maleka Banu.

BMP Vice-President Fawzia Moslem, Joint General Secretary Rakhi Das Purkayastha and Shima Moslem were also present there.

IDP holds Australian education event

CITY DESK

IDP Education Bangladesh has hosted Australian education event in Chattogram and Dhaka recently, says a press release.

The first day of the event was held on August 1 in Chattogram with over 24 top Australian institutions followed by 32 institutions on August 2 and 3 in Dhaka.

Julia Niblett, Australian high commissioner in Bangladesh, inaugurated the event in Dhaka on August 2.

Country Director Ravi Chandran and Country Manager Mosharraf

Khan along with IDP Bangladesh team and faculty members, regional representatives as well admission officials from 32 Australian institutions were present.

Thousands of students and parents availed the opportunity to meet the university officials directly and got admission offers as well as scholarships.

They were also guided by the IDP experts on their journey to Australia.

IDP has been providing education services to international students for over 50 years. It is also a co-owner of IELTS examination.



A memorandum of understanding was signed between The Daily Star and Four Points by Sheraton Dhaka yesterday. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Four Points by Sheraton Dhaka General Manager Noeke Kusuma signed the MoU for their respective organisations. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Man drowns while trying to escape police check

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man drowned yesterday after he jumped into a pond to escape police check in Rajshahi's Chalkpara, said police.

The victim was Iqbal Hossain, 48, said Masud Parvez, officer-in-charge of Shahmahkum Police Station. Divers of fire service recovered his body around 5am, he added.

On Saturday night, a patrol team of police asked a motorcycle to pull over at Chalkpara. Iqbal was the pillion passenger while his son was driving the bike.

As police started to check his son, Iqbal ran and jumped into a pond, the OC said, adding that they seized a bottle of liquor from him.

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Memo No-46.47.4900.002.14.199.17.601 Date: 01.08.19

Invitation for Tenders (Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2019-20

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages:

Sl No.	Tender ID, package No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender documents selling	Last date and Time of tender closing	Last date and time of tender security submission
01	323966, zpk1819db 01	Construction of 2-Storeyed Proto type Rest House at Rajarhat Upazila in own land of Zila Parishad Kurigram	02-Sep-2019 12:00	03-Sep-2019 13:00	03-Sep-2019 11:30
02	336193, zpk1819db 02	Construction of 2-Storeyed Proto type Rest House at Chilmari Upazila in own land of Zila Parishad Kurigram	02-Sep-2019 12:00	03-Sep-2019 13:00	03-Sep-2019 11:30
03.	347604, zpk1819db 03	zpkdb03. Construction of 2-Storeyed Proto type Rest House at Rajibpur Upazila in own land of Zila Parishad Kurigram	02-Sep-2019 12:00	03-Sep-2019 13:00	03-Sep-2019 11:30
04	346830, zpknx2	(a) Vertical Ext of 1st floor Annex-2 Bhaban of Zila Parishad Sadar Dak Banglow in own land of Zila Parishad Kurigram. (b) Construction of 2nd floor 2 room vertical Ext Building at Zila Parishad office Kurigram	02-Sep-2019 12:00	03-Sep-2019 13:00	03-Sep-2019 11:30

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any Registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Md Mamunur Rashid
Assistant Engineer
Zila Parishad, Kurigram
ae@zpkurigram.gov.bd

GD-1318

Writ petition seeks nationalisation of DNMC, DNMI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday, to direct the government to take over Dhaka National Medical College (DNMC) and its hospital Dhaka National Medical Institute (DNMI) as a public medical college and hospital.

Advocate Eunus Ali Akond, a member of the governing body of DNMC, submitted the petition as a public interest litigation, saying discrimination and business are taking place in running DNMC, and the practices will stop if DNMC and DNMI are made public institutions.

He said 500 to 600 students including many foreign students are studying at DNMC, which is a medical institute of international standard.

The DNMC was established at old part of Dhaka in 1926, but it has not been nationalised, he said in the petition.

In the petition, Advocate Akond said admission fee at a public medical college is Tk 10,000 but the admission fee at DNMC is Tk 18 lakh, which is a discrimination.

Authorities of DNMC are charging double from foreign students and "running business with education", which are contradictory to the constitution, he said in the petition.

Memorial meeting for Supriyo Chakravarty

CITY DESK

A memorial meeting for Supriyo Chakravarty, a freedom fighter and husband of rights activist Sultana Kamal, will be held at Chhayanaut auditorium in Dhaka today.

Relatives, friends and colleagues of Supriyo are organising the event titled "Priyo Supriyo", where his loved ones and civil society representatives will be present, said a press release.

Supriyo, also a cultural activist and an income tax lawyer, passed away in Dhaka on July 29.

Mosquito spray to be used in buses leaving Dhaka before Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All long-route bus operators will spray mosquito repellent inside buses leaving Dhaka before Eid-ul-Azha.

Mosquito repellent will be sprayed three times every day at four major inter-district bus terminals in Dhaka from August 6. The four terminals are: Sayedabad, Mohakhali, Phulbaria and Gulistan.

The decision was taken in a joint meeting of transport owners and workers at Dhaka Road Transport Owners Association in the capital's Bangla Motor yesterday.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, general secretary of the association, made the announcement at the meeting.

The decision came at a time when the dengue outbreak has taken an alarming turn in the country. After the disease reached every district in the country, health experts now fear the viral fever will spread further and faster during Eid vacation, when lakhs of people are expected to head home.

As per the decision, a dengue prevention committee will be formed at the four bus terminals.

Each terminal will buy a fogger machine to destroy Aedes mosquitoes. All the decisions will be implemented from August 6.