



Left, BNP brought out two processions in the capital yesterday as part of its one-point movement demanding resignation of the government. This photo was taken in Rampura area. Right, Awami League led 14-party alliance held a “peace” rally protesting the “terror and anarchy” of BNP in Amir Complex area of Uttara.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, COLLECTED

Indigenous women should enter politics

It will help secure their rights, says Santu Larma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous women should participate in progressive politics if they want to secure their rights, said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, president of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti, at an event yesterday.

Jyotirindra, better known as Santu Larma, emphasised that this initiative should not be undertaken individually, rather it should be done through collaborative efforts within groups and organisations.

Larma, also president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said

awareness within various women's societies, including those of tribal origin. She expressed optimism about the potential for advancement through quality education.

“Whether it is indigenous women's society or any women's society, awareness has increased amongst all. If we can be well-educated, then we can go even further,” she said.

The speakers also said the government has promised development in the field of education, language and culture for the people living in the hills in the 7th five-year plan. However, in



PHOTO: STAR

this during a discussion titled “Role and actions of indigenous women's society in achieving self-determination rights” at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

The event was organised by Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network and Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha.

In his speech as the chief guest, Larma said the right to self-determination should be established by prioritising thoughts and ideas.

Minu Maria Mrong, convener of Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, chaired the discussion.

She highlighted the growing

reality, their condition is fragile.

In this situation, their entry into the workplace has become more difficult due to the abolition of the quota system, they added.

Speakers also made several recommendations at the event.

They include giving constitutional recognition to the people living in the CHT and full implementation of the peace accord.

Additionally, laws conflicting with the agreement should be amended, keeping a separate chapter for women living in the hills under the women's development policy.

REGULARISATION IN GREECE

Over 9,000 register at embassy



AT A GLANCE

- 9,194 registered with embassy as of August 1
- 12,000 expected to avail opportunity
- Deadline for application submission October 30
- Greece expected to hire 4,000 fresh Bangladeshi workers each year, but the process has not started yet

JAMIL MAHMUD

At least 9,194 undocumented Bangladeshi migrants have registered with the Bangladesh embassy in Greece as of August 1 for a regularisation programme of the Greek government, according to the Bangladesh mission in Athens.

An estimated 12,000 undocumented Bangladeshis are expected to avail the opportunity as the Greek government set a deadline for application submission on October 30 this year.

As part of the process, the Bangladeshis have to apply through an online platform created by the Greek government, reads a notice of the embassy issued on August 2.

The regularisation will be done in line with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries in February last year in Dhaka.

Greece is also expected to hire 4,000 fresh Bangladeshi workers each year, but the process has not started yet.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Greece Ashud Ahmed recently told this newspaper over the phone that they were “trying to streamline” the process of fresh workers' recruitment.

On the regularisation of undocumented Bangladeshis, the ambassador said they have estimated that about 12,000 Bangladeshis could avail the opportunity.

He, however, said the mission was yet to get a figure from the Greek authorities regarding

how many of the Bangladeshis have so far been regularised.

To be regularised, the undocumented Bangladeshis have to fulfil a set of conditions, reads a notice of the embassy issued in January this year.

One condition was to submit documents ensuring their entry to Greece before February 9, 2022.

Besides, the Bangladeshis have to obtain a passport with a validity of at least two years at the time of application and submit a “letter of willingness” from an employer on job availability.

Also, the undocumented Bangladeshis will have to pay €91 each through online banking as processing fee and for issuance of residence card for regularisation.

Once the applications are submitted properly, the workers will receive a “temporary residence permit” via email, which would enable them to live and work in Greece legally.

Later, upon scrutiny and approval of the applications by the Greek authorities, the migrants will be provided with a “residence card” for five years, which can be extended.

According to the Bangladesh mission, Bangladeshi migrant workers in Greece are exploited by trafficking rackets due to their irregular status.

Besides, undocumented Bangladeshi workers, especially those employed in the agriculture sector in Western Greece, receive wages less than the European country's minimum monthly wage.

Saline to be imported if necessary

Says health minister

UNB, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said all saline manufacturing companies in the country have been asked to increase production to meet the current surge in demand caused by the dengue outbreak.

If necessary, the ministry has been instructed to import saline from abroad, Maleque said.

The health minister was inaugurating the foundation stone for construction work of a 1.5km paved road in Dhakuli area of Manikganj Sadar upazila.

Maleque also said doctors and nurses are providing the best possible service in the hospitals.

“To prevent dengue, the institutions concerned have to be more dynamic,” he added.

Maleque said the health ministry has instructed the city corporations and municipalities to apply more effective mosquito-killing insecticide. People also need to be aware.”

He also said there is no shortage of dengue testing kits.

SUSTAINABLE BANGLADESH

TIB for ensuring youth participation

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International Bangladesh has stressed the need for participation of youths in building a sustainable Bangladesh.

“Youths must be equipped with ‘green skills’, especially to ensure employment in a competitive labour market,” said a TIB release yesterday, on the eve of the International Youth Day.

The organisation also came up with an eight-point recommendation.

The recommendations include formulation of a specific “National Green Skill Strategy” engaging the relevant stakeholders and experts, and adoption and implementation of short-, medium- and long-term action plans with priorities.

Besides, it recommended bringing changes in the education system incorporating renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly urban planning as well as enhancing teachers' skills.

BNP on the brink of collapse

Says Hasan Mahmud

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP was on the brink of collapse, and warned that should they choose to boycott the upcoming election, it would be met with a dire fate.

Hemade the remarks at an event commemorating the 93rd birth anniversary of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib at Jatiya Press Club.

Hasan, also Awami League joint general secretary, said, “BNP finds itself in a position where it cannot even participate in parliamentary or upazila elections, nor elect members for Union Parishad or city corporation councillors.”

He also said BNP's recent protests and acts of arson failed to yield any foreign support.

For years, BNP sought aid from foreign sources, yet they eventually realised that their pleas for backing their caretaker government were in vain, he said.

“Foreign representatives did not voice any support for BNP's demands during their visits,” he added.

‘Restructure our pay scale’

Protest for Tk 25,000 minimum wage continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RMG workers and leaders staged a demonstration in front of Rana Plaza collapse site in Savar yesterday, demanding Tk 25,000 minimum wage.

They also demanded a 65 percent increase in basic salary, 10 percent annual increment and the pay scale be restructured.

RMG export from Bangladesh has increased up to 31 percent this year, however, the factory owners and the government did not increase workers' salary, they said.

Taslina Akhter, a prominent worker leader, said, “Many RMG workers are failing to earn a square meal with the current salary in this time of high inflation. According to various studies, a RMG worker needs Tk 40,000 per month to lead a standard life.”

“They must make minimum wage Tk 25,000 per month within October this year,” she demanded. Other leaders, including Rupali Akhter, echoed her.

On Thursday, RMG workers said they would boycott the national polls if the government fails to guarantee Tk 25,000 as their minimum wage, at an event organised by 11 rights organisations in front of Jatiya Press Club.



A mother and her son navigate through a path dug up for a railway project near Malibagh level crossing yesterday. Recent rains have accumulated murky water in their way, but with careful steps on bricks and stones, they try to cross the site to go to the other side. The place is used as a shortcut to reach Malibagh Ansar camp area from Mogbazar and adjacent ones.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON