

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OBSERVED

# Vote for progressive democratic candidates

### Shantu Larma urges indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ethnic people of the country celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous People yesterday amid festivity, with a call to ensure their rights to territory, land and natural resources.

At a discussion at the Engineers' Institution, Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, called on the indigenous people to cast their votes for progressive democratic forces in the upcoming election to help establish a pro-people government, which he said will take effective measures to protect their rights.

"We are small in number but we can play a vital role in the next general election through forging a unity and joining hands with the pro-liberation and progressive democratic forces in order to install a pro-people government," he said.

Only a pro-people and democratic government can put an end to repression on and discrimination against the indigenous people, said Larma, also the president of Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity.

Several thousand indigenous people from across the country converged on the Central Shaheed

Minar in the morning under the banner of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and demanded constitutional recognition of their rights.

Dressed in ethnic costumes, people from Chakma, Marma, Garo, Khasia, Tripura and Santal communities sang and danced as part of a daylong cultural programme at the Shaheed Minar, inaugurated by Prof Hasan Azizul Haq.

Indigenous community leader Sanjeeb Drong, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Khushi Kabir, Golam Kuddus, Haji Abdus Samad, Dilip Barua, Mesbah Kamal, Rabindranath Saran, Remond Areng, Dr Nim Chandra Bhaumik and Gobinda Barman spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

At 1:00pm, they took out a colourful procession that marched to the Engineers' Institution, where a discussion was held.

Accusing the government of violating the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace treaty, Shantu Larma said the indigenous people are still facing various forms of repression by Bangla-speaking people with direct or indirect support from the government.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser of the caretaker government, said the minority communities, including

the ethnic people, have always been deprived of their rights.

Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan said the leaders of indigenous communities should discuss with both BNP and Awami League, the mainstream political parties, to resolve their problems.

He urged the indigenous people to come forward and take part in the mainstream development activities in order to improve their lives.

Awami League leader Promod Mankin MP said the Bangalee settlers have been grabbing the land property of ethnic people, but the government is not taking any action against the persons responsible.

He also called on the government to withdraw army camps from the CHT immediately.

It is very alarming that repression on minority communities, including the indigenous people, is increasing day by day, said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno.

She also urged the indigenous people to forge a unity to establish their rights.

Raja Dabashish Roy said, "The government has been grabbing the land of ethnic people in the name of khas land while the forest department declared their lands as reserve forests, displacing thou-

sands of indigenous people."

The indigenous people also demanded ensuring their rights to land and forest, withdrawal of army camps from the CHT, immediate implementation of the CHT peace treaty, cancellation of the eco-park project in Modhupur forest and an end to repression.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Adivasi Union held a rally at Purna Paltan intersection where speakers called upon all sections of society to come forward to establish the rights of the indigenous people in the country.

Later, they took out a procession that paraded through different roads and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Fight for Equal Rights in CHT also organised separate programmes, including discussion, to mark of the day.

The Indigenous Peoples' Day has been observed in 70 countries since 1995 to highlight the rights of the ethnic people.



Students of Dhaka University form a human chain at the foot of the Aparajevo Bangla yesterday demanding construction of new buildings and renovation of the old ones.

## Opposition's road march begins in Bogra today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The district level road march programme organised by the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine begins today at Bogra.

The opposition combine will organise road marches in Kustia on August 12, Barisal on August 19, Jessore on August 20, Rajbari on August 24, Rangpur on August 26, Chittagong on August 28 and Sylhet on August 30.

Senior leaders of the opposition combine will lead the road march programmes.

Seeing spontaneous participation in the six-day - four in Dhaka and two in upazila and district headquarter levels - road march programmes, the opposition combine at a meeting decided to organise more road march programmes at the districts where the ruling BNP has prominence.

The opposition alliance has announced road march programmes aiming to involve thousands of people in the street agitation to force BNP-Jamaat alliance government to accept reforms in the caretaker government and in the Election Commission (EC).

AL General Secretary and 14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil called upon people of all walks of life to join the road march programmes to show no confidence to the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

## NISHORGO ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION Winners awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The winners of Nishorgo Support Project's Architectural Competition were awarded yesterday at a ceremony for designing a Visitor's Information Centre at Lawachara National Park in Srimongal.

The architects Ehsan Khan, Iqbal Habib, Ishiaque Zahir, Shuvojit Chowdhury and Shoed-Al-Rahe of the firm Viti Sthapati Brindo Ltd received a cheque for Tk 1,00,000 and crests for the winning design.

The first and second runners-up Kashif Mahboob Chowdhury and Marina Tabassum received a cheque for Tk 60,000 and Tk 40,000 respectively.

Nishorgo Support Project, funded by USAID, organised the award giving ceremony at National Museum auditorium in the city.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury handed over the cheques to the winners.

Speaking as the chief guest, the minister urged all to come forward for preserving the country's remaining forest with a view to saving the environment.

The government has taken many initiatives for conservation of the forests and Nishorgo project is one of them, he said.

Lauding the competition, he said this kind of ceremony would inspire the young architects and the country people as well.

Speaking as a special guest, United States Embassy Charge d'

affaires Gene V George said the competition would raise awareness among the young architects, university students and the people about the remaining forest of the country.

He also said by assisting the Nishorgo project, USAID is also supporting Bangladesh in reducing poverty.

Osman Gani, chief conservator of forests and Tariq-ul-Islam, joint secretary of ministry of environment and forest also spoke at the occasion.

A short film titled 'A nimble walk through Nishorgo' by Enam ul Haque was also screened at the ceremony.

The organisers said the Forest Department launched Nishorgo Support Project to save the natural forest and heritage.

Nishorgo arranged this architectural design competition to facilitate eco-tourism at protected areas that support conservation under the Forest Department's Protected Forest Area Management, they said adding that USAID is funding the Nishorgo programme through the Nishorgo Support Project and the primary objective of the Nishorgo programme is to conserve biodiversity within the protected area of Bangladesh, they added.

The winning design will be built at Lawachara National Park and will later be adopted for other protected forest areas.

## Demolish old bldg, construct new one

Demand JN hall students DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) formed a human chain in front of the Arts Building on the campus yesterday demanding demolition of old building and construction of a new one.

They said students of the hall have been living in the old-aged East Building amid fear of its collapse any time.

They said the authorities are spending time in the name of renovation of the building but it is beyond renovation.

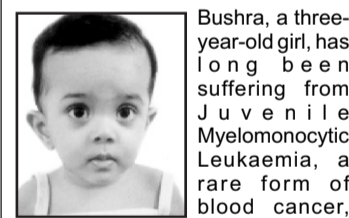
They demanded an eight-storey new building at the hall immediately.

A 'building-collapse' fear spread among the residential students of the hall, especially among the residents of East Building, as it was 'jolted heavily' by a mild earthquake on Saturday last night. They came out of the building running and took shelter at open space.

Thirty-nine students and employees and some of their relatives died in a building collapse at Jagannath Hall on October 15 in 1985. Many of the injured became disabled. Since then the day is being observed as DU Mourning Day.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bushra, a three-year-old girl, has long been suffering from Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia, a rare form of blood cancer, says a press

release. She has lost her ability to walk as her hands and legs grew thinner and spleen became large.

She feels unwell all the time and is given blood transfusion frequently. According to doctors, Bushra needs immediate bone marrow transplantation, which involves a huge amount of money.

But her parents could not afford such an expensive treatment. They appealed to all sections of the society to extend a helping hand to save the life of her daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Kazi Nazim Akhter, Savings A/C No. - 6662, Janata Bank, Shyamoli Branch, Dhaka. Telephone: 9110046, 01716157306, 0152479020.

## Ferdousi Binte Juned Lina

Ferdousi Binte Juned Lina, a meritorious student of Sriamgol Degree College, has been suffering from leukaemia since December 2005, says a press release.

Doctors have advised her family to take her abroad soon for bone marrow transplantation. But such treatment involves about Tk 35 lakh, which her father Juned Ahmed Chowdhury, a small trader, could not afford.

Her brother Shahed Ahmed Chowdhury, a student of English department, Dhaka University, appeals to the generous people to extend a helping hand for her treatment.

Contributions can be sent to Md Shahed Ahmed Chowdhury, Savings A/C No. - 9191, Uttara Bank Limited, Dilkusha branch, Motijheel, Dhaka, or Savings A/C No. - 1081030447, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Shantinagar Branch, Dhaka.



Community primary teachers continue fast-unto-death with their infants at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

## Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Gaibandha yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent Reports: Three people were killed in three separate road accidents and one was injured in the city and in Keraniganj.

The dead are Reazuddin, 57, of TV Gate at Gulshan in the city, Belal Mia, 27, a fruit trader, and an unidentified woman aged about 35.

An unknown vehicle hit Reazuddin, when he was returning home from a nearby mosque after offering Fajr prayer, Reazuddin's son Monir Hossain said.

Monir took critically injured

Reazuddin to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead at around 7:00am.

The unidentified woman died on the spot when a running bus struck her at city's Karwan Bazar.

Witnesses said she was crossing the road with her 5-year old daughter in her lap.

The minor girl received serious injuries and was admitted to DMCH in a critical condition. However, none claimed the body of the woman as of yesterday.

Fruit trader Belal was found dead at Ramerkandha of Keraniganj in the early hours of yesterday.

Locals said he died in a road accident at around 1:00am.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha

reports: Two persons were killed and seven others injured when a speeding truck rammmed a motorcycle and then crashed into a roadside shop on Gaibandha-Nakaihat road yesterday.

Saidur Rahman, 25, and Azad Hossain, 28, who were riding the motorcycle, died on the spot.

After hitting the two-wheeler, the Gaibandha-bound truck sped away but crashed into a roadside shop at Godown Bazar, leaving seven people injured.

Police sent the bodies to morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Palashbari Police Station.

## 13 govt officials promoted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday elevated 13 joint secretary level officials, mostly belong to administration cadre, by superseding 15 eligible officials of 1981 batch.

According to an official notification, the newly promoted additional secretaries are: Director General of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Abdus Sattar, Divisional Commissioner of Barisal ATKM Ismail, Director of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Ataharul Islam, Managing Director of Jiban Bima Corporation Wazed Ali Khan, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture Abul Hasem, Joint Secretary of Cabinet Division Arfan Ali, Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Abdul Malek, Director General of Directorate of Food Zahid Hossain, Director General of Islamic Foundation Fazlur Rahman of BCS (Administration Cadre), Director General at the Prime Minister's Office Mohammad Shah Alam and Director General of WTO Cell under the Ministry of Commerce Nasiruddin Ahmed of BSC (Trade Cadre).

Two others are: Chief Electrical Adviser of Bangladesh Railway SM Shahjahan and Joint Secretary of Ministry of Information Major (Retd) M Masud.

Speakers at a rally yesterday called on the government to ensure equal rights to the indigenous people. They also said Banglees and indigenous people deserve similar rights in every sector and the development of the country depends on both of them.

Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh (CLNB) organised the rally at Muktangan in the city to mark the International Indigenous Day.

Addressing the rally as the chief guest, Comrade Nurul Haque Mehedi said the government should be concerned about the minor ethnic groups so that they do not face any discrimination.

He also urged the government to emphasise the development of education and health system of the minor ethnic groups.

While presiding over the rally, indigenous leader Marma Babushhi Chowdhury said a special indigenous community enjoys the facilities in the name of indigenous quota.

He also said the quota facility should be distributed among all the indigenous communities equally and the indigenous communities should be integrated in all the development activities.

He also stressed the need for enhancing law enforcing agency's drive in the hill areas to save peace and harmony.

CLNB Chairman Harunur Rashid, indigenous leaders Sanumong Marma, Ratneswar Chandra Singho also spoke at the rally.

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The winners of Nishorgo Support Project's Architectural Competition pose for photograph at National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury and United States Embassy Charge d' affaires Gene V George were also present.

## Man killed in trawler accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

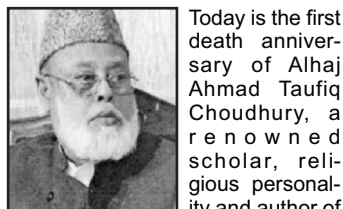
One man was killed in a trawler accident at Demra boat terminal in the city yesterday.

Md Mostafa, 42, a day laborer of a boat, hailed from Mothbaria upazila of Pirozpur district.

Witnesses said Mustafa received serious head injuries when two sand-loaded trawlers collided head-on and he was on board of a trawler.

His son, and other people rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

## Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Ahmad Taufiq Choudhury, a renowned scholar, religious personality and author of many books, says a press release. All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Seminar

Hortex Foundation will organise a seminar on 'Market access/entry and environmental requirements for horticultural export'. Venue: Foundation conference room. Time: 10:00am.

### National Consultation

Plan Bangladesh, Aparajevo-Bangladesh and Bangladesh national Women's Lawyers Association will jointly organise a 'National consultation on child helpline'. Venue: International Jute Research Institute. Time: 10:00am.

### Workshop

Research and Development Collective (RDC) will organise a daylong workshop on 'Primary education in Adivasi mother tongues: Expectations, constraints and the way forward'. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 10:00am.

### Memorial speech

Bangladesh Federation of Film

Societies will organise 'Hira Lal Sen Memorial Speech # 7', followed by screening of the movies 'Terminus' and 'The man with a movie camera'. Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra auditorium. Time: 4:15pm.

### Book Festival

Oitijhya will organise 'Oitijhya Book Festival'. The festival will end on August 26. Venue: Public library. Time: From 9:00am to 8:00pm everyday.

### Blue for peace

Members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members will stage a demonstration as part of their 'Blue for peace' programme. Venue: In front of Dhaka College. Time: 5:00pm.

### Drama

Centre for Asian Theatre will stage 'Resurrection', a play by Henrik Ibsen. Venue: Jatiya Natyashala. Time: 7:00pm.

## JAMAL UDDIN MURDER Court order over acceptance of charge sheet today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's court will give his order today regarding the acceptance of the charge sheet in the sensational case of abduction and murder of Jamal Uddin Ahmed, a business magnet and BNP leader.

After hearing arguments from both the defence and the prosecution yesterday, Magistrate Mohammed Akram Hossain fixed the date.

During the hearing, the accused, including Maruf Nizam, were present in the courtroom, sources said.

The police pressed charges on July 10 against 16 accused, including prime suspects Kasher Chairman, Shahid Chairman and Kaia Mahbub.

The first hearing of the case was held on July 23, sources said.

Jamal Uddin was kidnapped on his way home at Chandganj on July 24, 2003. He was later killed.

# WEATHER TODAY

## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over

Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 36.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.3 degree at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:36pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.2	26.0	68	66
Chittagong	34.2	26.4	74	82
Rajshahi	35.8	25.4	73	74
Khulna	34.1	26.5	81	80
Barisal	32.2	25.8	83	88
Sylhet	34.5	25.6	84	98
Cox's Bazar	32.6	25.0	88	95