

Dhaka condemns all forms of terrorism

BSS, New York

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury has said "Bangladesh condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

He was speaking at the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday. The recently concluded summit of world leaders has mandated the Sixth Committee to draft a Comprehensive International Convention on Terrorism. "Bangladesh unequivocally supports such a convention," he added.

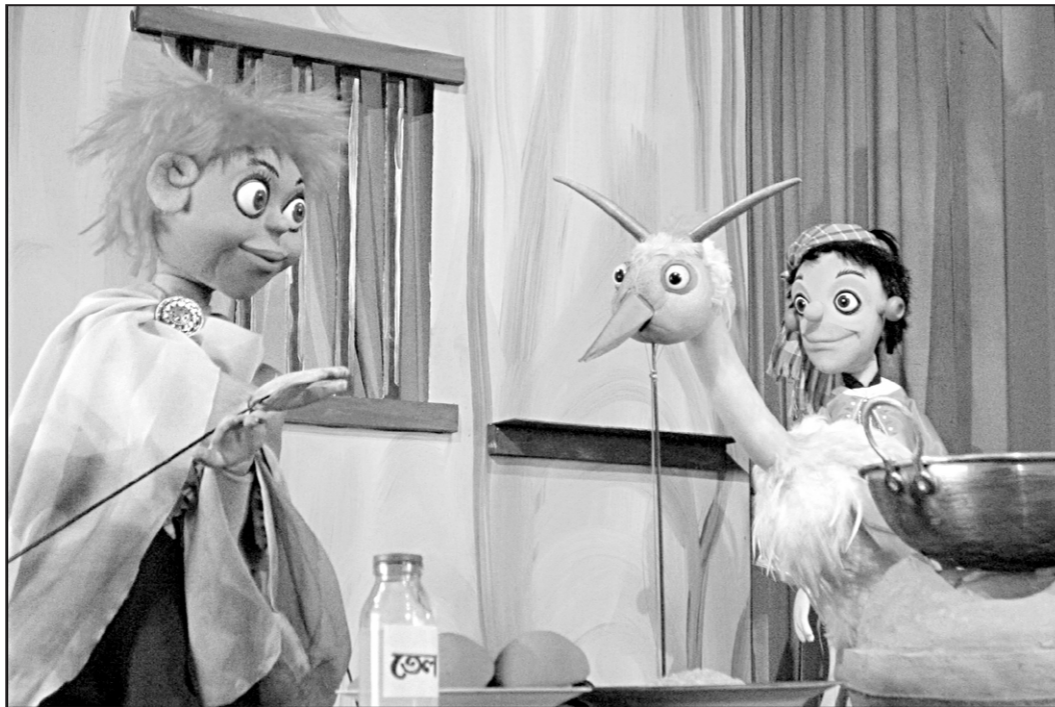
Ambassador Chowdhury criticised the current tendency in some quarters to link terrorism with certain religions. "We would like to stress

that the phenomenon of terrorism is against the teachings of Islam, which advocates peace, tolerance, non-violence and harmony," he said.

The Bangladesh Ambassador is of the view that "the menace of terrorism cannot be fought by military means alone. A holistic approach addressing the causes is essential to confront this scourge."

He added that there was also the need to distinguish terrorism from the legitimate right for self-determination and struggle for independence of peoples under foreign occupation. He said these are critical elements that must be factored in while drawing up the convention.

The deliberations on the draft for the convention are likely to become intense in the coming days.



A scene from *Sisimpur*, an educational television series for children, which has been named a finalist for the prestigious Japan Prize.

JAPAN PRIZE

Sisimpur selected as finalist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sisimpur, an educational television series for children, has been selected as a finalist in the 'early education' category of the prestigious Japan Prize.

The names of the winners of the Japan Prize International Educational Programme Contest, initiated for the promotion of international understanding and cooperation, will be announced on October 31, says a press release.

"We are thrilled and honoured to be a finalist for the world's renowned Japan Prize," said Sara Zaker, executive director of *Sisimpur*. The Bangladesh Television has been airing the show since April this year.

"To be recognised for something

we love doing -- helping Bangladeshi children laugh and learn everyday -- is incredible. We hope to continue providing children with quality educational programme for many years to come," she said.

The TV series, produced by Dhaka-based Noyantara Communications and Sesame Workshop, a non-profit educational organisation, address both academic and social issues most relevant to Bangladeshi children.

It features colourful characters, music, animation and documentaries.

Local educators and child development experts have designed each episode of the *Sisimpur*, funded by the United States Agency for International Development.



Najmul Huq, director of Janata Jute Mills Ltd., receives the Best Producer of Jute Diversified Products Award-2005 from Jute and Textile Minister Shahjahan Siraj at a function at the BARC auditorium in the city recently.

Lightning kills four in Manikganj, Gaibandha

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Four people were killed by lightning in Gaibandha and Manikganj yesterday.

Two people, including a school student, were killed by lightning at Bengrui village under Sadar upazila.

Locals said Ripon, a school student and son of Motaleb Hossain, and his neighbour Captain, son of Jamsheer Ali were struck by the lightning when they went to lift water lily in a nearby beel (water body) during rain.

They died on way to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Meanwhile, a woman (38), wife of

Makbul Hossain of Tiagachha Bhabanipur village under Sadullahpur upazila in Gaibandha died when lightning struck her.

Another unidentified man died as thunderbolt struck him on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway.

Iraq announces new security measures

AP, Tikrit

The Iraqi government yesterday announced plans to clamp down with security measures including a curfew, weapons ban and a closure of the borders ahead of next week's constitutional referendum as Sunni Arabs geared up their campaign against the charter.

Politicians in Saddam Hussein's hometown, Tikrit, passed out copies of the constitution and urged followers to vote "no," while the main Sunni political factions were holding a meeting in Baghdad, apparently to organise their efforts to defeat the charter at the polls.

Elsewhere, violence continued a day after bomb blasts killed six Marines and the US military announced that it had completed a major sweep in western Iraq aimed at suppressing al-Qaida militants before the constitutional vote. Two Iraqis were killed and 12 wounded yesterday in a series of roadside bombs and drive-by shootings nationwide.

A delegation from the Arab League was arriving in Iraq on Saturday to get a firsthand look at the tensions ahead of a proposed Iraqi "national reconciliation" conference. It was the first time the organisation has tried to take a direct role in Iraq since the 2003 US-led

invasion.

"The situation is so tense there is a threat looming in the air about civil war that could erupt at any moment, although some people would say that it is already there," Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa told British Broadcasting Corp. radio in an interview yesterday.

"There is a policy to provoke and push communities against each other," Moussa said. "It is our policy in the Arab League that the time has come for us to talk seriously about bringing them together."