

## Call for united movement to protect indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national seminar yesterday said the rights of indigenous people would not be established until their philosophy, culture, wisdom and traditional knowledge are duly appreciated by the majority section of the country's population.

They said the ethnic communities are yet to get constitutional recognition, their languages are still neglected and they are projected negatively making them more marginalised.

The seminar titled 'Culture as livelihood, Culture as struggle' was jointly organised by Bangladesh Adibashi Forum and Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

In the first session of the seminar, findings of three researches conducted among various adivasi communities Garos, Mundas, Bunos, Santals, Khumis, Monipuris, Bawms and Chakmas were presented.

The researchers narrated how the people of ethnic community are neglected, their culture denigrated, land grabbed and language ignored.

Though the Santals had significant contributions to different movements including anti-British, Tevaga and Liberation War, they are still fighting for their rights, they added.

The researchers said Monipuri culture, which is popular around the world, is now on the verge of extinction

## NAT'L ENGLISH DEBATE IBA Team 1 becomes champion

DU CORRESPONDENT

The prize giving ceremony of the National English Debate Championship 2007 organised by the Communication Club of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University, was held at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city.

IBA (Team 1) emerged as the champion of the debate competition and Mohammad Arbaz Nayeem of IBA was adjudged the best speaker of the competition.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz attended the award giving ceremony as the chief guest while Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Managing Director of ACI Limited Arif Dowla were present as special guests. Prof Muhammad Ziaul Haq Mamun, director of IBA, presided over the ceremony.

A total of 24 teams from public and private universities took part in the debate competition that began on August 10.

IBA (Team 1) and the North South University (NSU 1) confronted each other at the final held on Saturday. The motion for the debate was 'China is better off with communism'.

The other teams were BRAC University, Dhaka University Debating Society, American International University-Bangladesh and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

as no initiative has been taken to promote the culture.

In the second session, three more research findings were presented where the researchers discussed the life and culture of Bunos and Mundas.

Bangladesh Adibashi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong, in his research, said life and culture of indigenous people is not properly projected in textbooks.

Quoting some lines from the textbooks, he said negative presentation of indigenous people also creates inferiority complex among the indigenous children.

Sanjeeb demanded inclusion of indigenous writers or experts before writing about them in textbooks.

The speakers said life and culture

of indigenous people is now at stake due to ignorance and carelessness of successive governments.

They said there are many marginalised indigenous communities in the country whose voice cannot be heard due to lack of leadership.

They called upon all to make concerted efforts and launch a united movement comprising the Bangalees and indigenous people to protect the rights of ethnic community.

Taslimur Rahman and Selina Hossain chaired the sessions while RIB Chairman Shamsul Bari, Prof Mesbah Kamal, Rehnuma Ahmed and many indigenous activists also spoke at the seminar.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Zahurul Karim and on his left is writer-columnist Syed Abul Maksud. (Story on Page 1)

## PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

### Task force to ensure closure of outer campuses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam yesterday said the caretaker government following the recommendation of the UGC decided to close down all approved and unapproved outer campuses established by different private universities because the activities of these institutes were against the interest of the nation.

"We directed to close down all outer campuses as these institutes have been selling certificates in the name of education. They do not have their own teachers and run their academic activities by hiring college-level teachers which is not acceptable," he said at a seminar.

The seminar on 'Raising co-ordination between private universities and UGC' was organised by Campus Magazine at its office in the city where vice-chancellors, deans and teachers of different private universities were present.

The UGC chairman said they have already issued letters to the authorities of outer campuses asking them not to enrol new students in their institutes.

"However, those who have already been enrolled will be given the chance

to complete their courses," he said.

A task force will be formed under the supervision of the education ministry to ensure closure of outer campuses, he added.

There are some universities, which opened around 90 outer campuses in different areas, UGC sources said.

The universities are Northern University of Bangladesh, Royal University, Prime University, Darul Ihsan University and the University of Information Technology and Sciences.

Prof Nazrul Islam also urged the authorities of private universities not to set up their campus in residential areas.

Editor of Campus Magazine M Helal moderated the seminar which was also addressed by National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, University of Asia Pacific VC Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patwari, Independent University VC Dr Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, Gono University Trustee Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, South East University VC Prof Dr M Shamsheer Ali and World University VC Prof Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

## CAMEL JOCKEYS IN UAE

### Bangladeshi children to get compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi children who worked as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at any time after January 1, 1993 and suffered physical and mental illness will get compensation from the UAE, says a press release.

The children who were under 18 during the period will be eligible for the compensation.

The UAE government decided to compensate following a memorandum of understanding signed with Bangladesh government on April 25.

Meanwhile, the home ministry has formed a three-member administrative board to look after the procedure of giving compensation.

The camel jockeys have been asked to submit their applications for compensation to deputy commissioners in a prescribed form by October 31.

The forms will be available at the district administration office free of cost.

A technical committee will scrutinise the applications and arrange the medical test for the children concerned at the deputy commissioners' office.

## Minor tremor jolts capital

UNB, Dhaka

A minor earthquake, measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale, jolted the capital and adjoining areas yesterday.

The epicentre of the tremor that was felt at about 14 hours 28 minutes 41.71 seconds (BST) was about 337 kms from Dhaka Seismic Observatory.

## Lutfur made Ctg Customs (Import) Commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Lutfur Rahman, commissioner of VAT Appeal Commissionerate Chittagong, took over the office of Commissioner of Chittagong Customs (Import) here yesterday.

Belal Hossain, Joint commissioner of Jessore Customs, took the charge as Joint-Commissioner -1 and Muhammad Ashraf Ali Faruq joined as the Joint Commissioner -2 of Chittagong Customs (Import).

Of them, Joint Commissioner Belal Hossain replaced Mashuk Al Hossain who was promoted to the post of additional commissioner at Chittagong Customs (Export) while Ashraf Ali replaced Matiuur Rahman who was transferred to the VAT commissionerate in Rajshahi.

The NBR in a massive reshuffle in the revenue sector on August 2 transferred 12 top officials of Chittagong Customs (Export and Import).

Md Farid Uddin, commissioner of export and import customs of Chittagong, and Additional Commissioner Saiful Islam of Chittagong Customs (Export) were among the top officials transferred from Chittagong Customs House.

## Ensure access to ICT to boost rural economy

### Experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring access to information and communication technology (ICT) for the rural people would help reduce the cost of doing business and boost rural economy, experts at a workshop said yesterday.

Once the rural people are equipped with information about agriculture, health, education, legal and human rights, prices of agricultural produces and government services, they would be empowered enough to improve their living condition, they added.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN) organised the two-day 'Workshop on Sustainable Community Based Electronic Centre (CeC)' at IDB Bhabhan in the city.

Speaking at the programme, Co-ordinator of CeC team of UNDP Naimuzzaman said around 700 telecentres, under the umbrella of BTN, are operating in rural areas to provide information through internet service. Besides, a number of private telecentres also operate in different areas, he added.

But in most cases, contents available on the web portals are not demand-driven, he observed.

The requirements of the people are not the same throughout the country, he said, adding that people living in the hilly areas of Chittagong may not need the same information required by the people living in haor areas.

Besides, experts should also address the language barrier, he said. Most people in the rural areas are not accustomed to textual information on the web portal, rather they would easily understand information containing pictures and voice.

He also said that if the forms of different service providing agencies could be downloaded from these telecentres and be submitted through internet, people would not have to undergo hassles merely to collect and submit forms.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Deputy Country Director of UNDP Larry Maramis said Bangladesh has marked considerable growth in information and communication technology since 1980s.

He also said that with the establishment of telecentres across the country, people's access to information would be easier and their cost of doing businesses would reduce. BTN President Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury said, "We plan to establish 40,000 telecentres across Bangladesh by 2011."

Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Dr Asaduzzaman, Country Director of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Tawfiq Elahi Chowdhury and Executive Director of D.Net Dr Ananya Raihan also spoke at the programme chaired by Programme Manager of e-Governance and Development Cluster, UNDP, KAM Morshed.



Officials of Chittagong Club hand over a cheque for Tk 21 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday for the flood victims. Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed was also present.



Chairman of BASIC Bank Limited Dr Md Nurul Amin along with Managing Director AH Ekbal Hossain hands over a cheque for Tk 25 lakh - two days' salary of the bank employees - to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday.



Employees of Ericsson Bangladesh Limited (EBL) donated Tk 25 lakh to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund. EBL Managing Director Arun Bansal hands over the cheque to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday. EBL Finance Director Mats Karlsson was also present.

## ELECTRONIC UNIVERSITY U21 GLOBAL INAUGURATED

### Build knowledge-based society: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed called upon various organisations and well-off sections of the people to help foster talents and genius for building a knowledge-based society that could lead the nation on a higher plane of development.

"Education, both general and technical, is the main tool to elevate the intrinsic value of every individual with a view to fostering knowledge and wisdom," he said.

Iajuddin, while inaugurating the Electronic University U21 Global yesterday, also expressed the hope that all concerned, including students, teachers, guardians, as well as the civil society would come forward to build a healthy and prosperous society for the well-being of

the nation. Aiminlife organised the function at a city hotel for the launch of the Electronic University U21 Global and Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Scholarship Awards for poor but bright and meritorious students.

U21 is an institution that compiles 19 of the world's leading universities to provide online education and training to students, academics and researchers.

Foreign Adviser Itekar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chief Adviser of Aiminlife and chairperson of the session Syed Margub Morshed and president of the International Institute of Business

Analysis, Bangladesh Yussuf A Harun were present on the occasion.

## More bodies come to aid of flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More organisations and individuals came to the aid of flood-affected people yesterday as relief operations continued in areas reeling under floods.

They distributed relief materials, including rice, lentil, biscuit, oral saline and medicines, to displaced flood victims.

Besides, foreign countries have provided succour for the flood-affected people.

Royal Thai Embassy: The Royal Thai embassy in Dhaka together with Thai community in Bangladesh is organising a charity fair on 'Food against Flood: Helping Hands for Flood Relief' on August 24 and 25 on the embassy premises to raise funds for the flood victims. The stalls would offer Thai food, Thai fruits, drinks, dessert and lucky draw.

The event is open to public with entrance fee of Tk 300 for adults and Tk 100 for children under 12 years and each will receive food coupon of equivalent value. The proceeds will be donated to flood victims.

Dhaka DC: Kamaluddin, deputy commissioner of Dhaka, distributed relief packages, containing 10 kg of rice, 1 kg of pulse, 1 litre of soybean, 1 kg of salt, six candles and six matches, among 500 flood-affected people at Kamrangir Char.

Muslim Aid UK and Jalalabad foundation: The two organisations jointly distributed relief materials among 500 families at Kanaighat in Sylhet. Each family received 10 kg of rice, 2 kg of pulse and 10 packets of oral saline.

The Muslim Aid would also launch water and sanitation programme at Kanaighat after floodwater recedes.

Actionaid: The non-government organisation has started relief distribution since August 1 and recently identified 1800 flood-affected families in Sirajganj, 2200 in Jamalpur and 1000 in Gaibandha. The families will be provided with 5 kg flattened rice, 1 kg molasses, 4 candles, 1 lighter, 10 water purification tablets, 1 soap, 4 packets of oral saline, dettol, suji and sugar. Moreover, the organisation is assisting the pregnant women and child delivery.

CARITAS: CARITAS has decided to spend Tk 15 crore on food, medicine, agricultural rehabilitation, generation of employment opportunities through repair of damaged roads and shelters for flood victims. Under the present relief programme, CARITAS is distributing 100 tons of rice, 20 tons of pulse, 10 tons of salt and 10,000 litres of soybean oil among 10,000 families.

FBCCI: The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) distributed relief in Madaripur and Shariatpur. The FBCCI is conducting relief operation in

38 flood-affected districts.

BGMEA: Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association distributed 1000 packets of relief materials, including rice, pulse, oil, salt, candles, matches and oral saline, at Nagarkanda in Faridpur. BEPZA: The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the investors of EPZs have donated Tk 1.52 crore to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund. The contributions include one day's salary of the BEPZA employees.

Awami Jubo League: The youth wing of Bangladesh Awami League distributed rice among 1000 people at Trimohini and Nodipara in Dhaka. Each person received 5 kg of rice. AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury led the relief operation.

JSD: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal launched a programme to prepare oral saline for the distressed people. JSD President Hasanul Haque NU inaugurated the programme at Shahid Col Taher auditorium in the city.

BSD: Central committee members of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal distributed rice, pulse, oral saline and medicine at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj.

CPB: Members of Dhaka committee of Communist Party of Bangladesh donated their one day's earning to its relief cell. Besides, it distributed relief among 150 families at Dariaapur Bazar in Gaibandha. Each family received 5 kg of rice.

Charon Sangskriti Kendro: The DU unit of the organisation has distributed 6000 packets of oral saline among the people in Kurigram and Gaibandha. Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity: The organisation distributed 1000 kg of rice and pulse among 250 families at Ulipur in Kurigram.

Bangladesh Students' Union: The organisation has distributed flattened rice, molasses, rice, pulse, water purifying tablets and 30000 packets of oral saline among the flood victims at Adabar, Madartek, Manikganj, Faridpur and Sirajganj.

Bangladesh Chhahra Motiree: Bangladesh Chhahra Motiree and Sagnik Sahitya Sangskritik Parishad jointly distributed relief among the flood-hit people in Brahmanbaria.

Chhahra Motiree is also running a relief cell at its office and urged all to call at 01712746749, 01912465329 and 01556352897 if they want to donate relief materials or money.

BASIC bank: The employees of BASIC Bank Limited donated their two-days' salary to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund for flood-affected people. Chairman of the bank and Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Dr Md Nurul Amin handed over the cheque for Tk 25 lakh to the chief adviser yesterday.

Banglalink: Banglalink has distributed relief materials among 1860 families at Mollarchar in Gaibandha. Banglalink is also conducting relief

operations in Sylhet and Rajshahi.

Beximco Pharma: Officials of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited extended relief materials to flood-hit people in Tangail on Sunday.

Beximco Pharma officials in cooperation with local administration distributed relief materials among the Char people in Bhupaur, says a press release.

The officials and staff of Beximco Pharma have created a relief fund at their own initiative to collect and distribute relief materials.

Each relief packets includes flattened rice, molasses, biscuit and water purifying tablets.

Our Correspondent in Narayanganj adds: Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BKMEA) and the police jointly conducted a relief distribution programme in Shitalakkhya pool area in Narayanganj yesterday.

Local Government and Rural Development Adviser Anwarul Iqbal distributed relief materials among the flood victims.

Speaking on the occasion, he said farmers would be given loans with a low interest rate after the flood situation improves.

Rice, lentil, potato, oral saline and medicine were distributed among 500 families. Each family also received Tk 100.

BKMEA President Fazul Haque, NCC President Mohammad Ali, Deputy Inspector General, Dhaka, Nazmul Haque were also present.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad also distributed relief materials among 1200 families in Allitek.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Agriculture adviser Dr CS Karim visited the flood-affected areas at Fulchhari and distributed relief materials among 555 families.

Besides, CARE Bangladesh, Oxfam GB, Practical Action, Gono Unnayan Kendro, Samaj Kallyan Sangstha also distributed relief materials among the flood victims in different parts of the district.

Flood Aid Concert Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and Radio Foorti are jointly organising 'Flood Aid Concert-2007' to raise funds for the flood victims. The concert will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at 4:00pm today.

Tickets are available at Eastern Bank Ltd, Dhanmondi and Gulshan branches. The prices of the tickets are Tk 500 and Tk 1000. Radio Foorti will air the concert live.

## Obituary

Munima Ashraf, wife of former whip Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, passed away due to kidney disease at the age of 63, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at the mosque on the Jute Research Institute premises at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan condole the death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

## Rezaul Karim



Rezaul Karim, former director general of Al-Baraka Bank, passed away on August 9 at the age of 69, says a press release.

Colleagues, friends and relatives are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Enayet Ullah, a freedom fighter and younger brother of former speaker late Abdul Malek says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence in Noakhali. Feeding of the destitute will also be arranged.

## Qulqhwani

UNB, Dhaka

Qulqhwani of ambassador Abdul Momin will be held at his Gulshan residence in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulqhwani.

Momin, also a former secretary and freedom fighter, passed away on Saturday at the age of 86.

**Roundtable**  
Mass-line Media Centre will hold a roundtable on the scope of the rights to information act and its far-reaching effect. Venue: LGED seminar room, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

**Workshop**  
The opening session of a workshop on the formulation of a national policy for rehabilitating the people evicted for implementing development projects. It has been organised jointly by the land ministry and the Asian Development Bank. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.

**Seminar**  
Islamic University of Technology organises a seminar on drinking water disinfection for rural areas and for emergencies using solar energy. Venue: IUT auditorium. Time: 2.30pm.

**FTF roundtable**  
The Free Thinkers Forum Bangladesh will hold a roundtable on on-going process of reforms and people's expectation. Venue: VIP lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 3.30pm.

**Conference**  
Relief International-Schools Online organises a conference on ICT and persons with disability. The context of Bangladesh. Venue: Brac Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 10.00am.

**Book launch**  
A book on Husna Banu Khanom, a pioneering cultural activist, will be launched. Venue: Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm.

## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said in a forecast.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Rangamat.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:34am 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	30.5	27.0	93	83
Chittagong	29.5	25.5	89	97
Rajshahi	29.6	26.2	97	97
Khulna	30.5	26.8	93	80
Barisal	30.0	26.7	97	90
Sylhet	32.7	26.0	80	97
Cox's Bazar	30.2	25.9	81	90



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited donated two lakh packets of rice saline, two lakh packets of oral saline, 50,000 water purifying tablets and 10,000 bags of IV cholera saline for the victims of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases. Bank Chairman Abul Hasnat Md Rashidul Islam and other officials hand over the packets to Health Adviser ASM Matiuur Rahman at his office yesterday.



Officials of Gulshan Club distributed relief materials among flood victims at Bhupaur in Tangail and Belkuchi in Sirajganj recently.



Prothom Alo Bandhusava distributes relief among the flood victims at Basabo in the city yesterday.