METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Apply customary laws of indigenous people in dispute resolution

Legal experts say at book launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts yesterday called for effective application of customary laws of the indigenous people in dispute resolution at the preliminary level.

They also suggested setting up a cultural academy to nurture and promote the culture of indigenous communities.

The call came at the publication ceremony of 11 books on the indigenous community customary laws of 11 indigenous groups of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

A reception was also accorded to five freedom fighters from the indigenous community at the programme held at the National Museum auditorium in the city.

Kapo Sheba Sangha of Rangamati, which worked from March 2005 to February 2006 to collect, research and analyse the laws, published the books on the customary laws of the CHT indigenous groups -- Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Tonchonga, Mro, Bawm, recognition is one that the flexibility Rabbani called for the compilation Chak, Khumi, Pankhua, Lusai and publication.

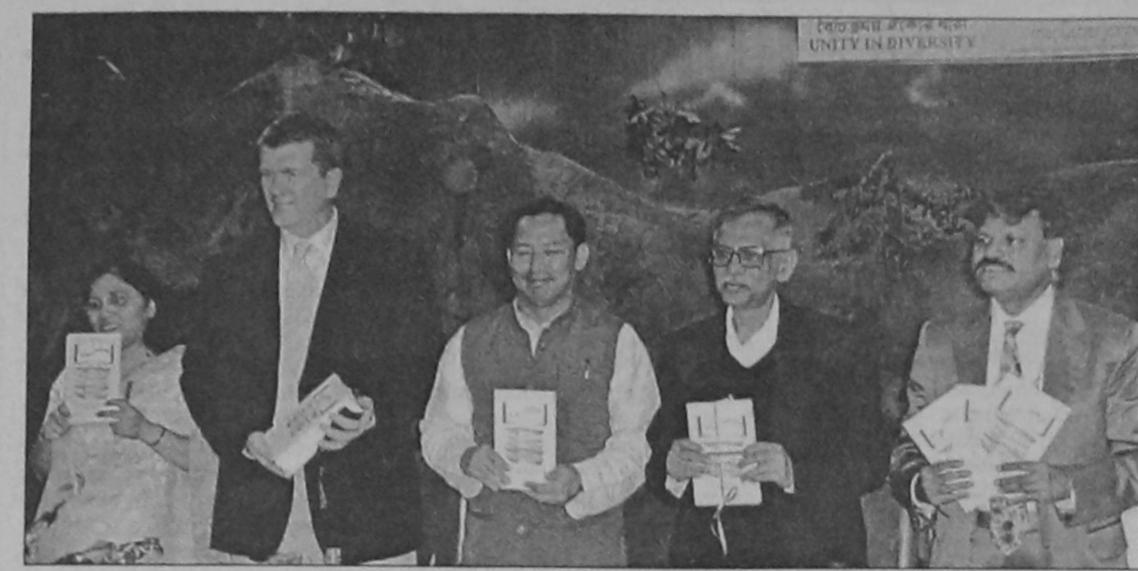
Speaking on the occasion, Raja affected negatively," he said. Debashish Roy, special assistant to Bangladeshi legal system recognises the customary laws, but not as formal statute.

BSF kills 2

Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

"The negative side of formal



The publication ceremony of 11 books on the indigenous community customary laws was held at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. From right are Prof Mizanur Rahman, Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani, Raja Debashish Roy, Chris Austin and Shaheen Anam.

with which different communities Khiang. Manusher Jonno can thrust and amend them through Foundation (MJF) financed the their own collective wisdom and participatory manner might be

He also supported the demand the chief adviser on CHT affairs, said for steps to train the government officials, who will serve in the CHT region, on indigenous community customary laws.

and publication of the customary laws of indigenous groups living in other parts of the country.

Prof Mizanur Rahman of law department, Dhaka University, underscored the need to resolve the issue of land rights of the indigenous people. Chris Austin, head of mission of

DFID Bangladesh, said it is the duty Justice Mohammad Golam of the majority people to ensure the

rights of minority community. MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam, who chaired the programme, stressed the need to

country. Advocate Pampu Protim Roy, an adviser to Kapo Sheba Sangha, made a presentation on content and process of documentation of the customary laws.

promote cultural diversity in the

Two books on Liberation War launched

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday shot dead two Bangladeshi cattle traders and injured another on Banglabandha border in Panchagarh. tion ceremony said yesterday.

The dead are Joynul Haque, 48, The nation should know the real former Union Parishad member of history of the Liberation War as a Banglabandha and Jahangir Alam, vested quarter is trying to defame 35, of Futkibari village. it, they said.

Injured cattle trader Akkas Ali of Banglabandha village was admitted to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

BDR sources said when a group of cattle traders reached near pillar no 733/4S on Banglabandha border in Tetulia upazila, the BSF members of Narayan-Jhoth camp fired on them leaving Joynul and Jahangir dead on spot.

Akkas was injured while other cattle traders managed to escape unharmed.

BSF members took away the bodies.

BDR protested the killing and urged their counterpart to return the bodies immediately.

freedom fighters. Two books titled 'Dui Nong Taskforce Commander of Sector Ebong K Force Commander Khaleder Katha' (Sector No. 2 and

tale of K Force Commander Khaled) and 'Feni-Bilonia: Ranangoner Ek Prantar' (Feni-Bilonia: An area of the battle field) were launched at Sufia Kamal Museum in the city.

K Force during the Liberation War

The book on Feni-Bilonia, edited by Golam Mustafa, contains the accounts of experiences of the people during the war, their actions and planning.

The speakers said people can know the real history of the nation from these two books and that the government should encourage publication of such books for the sake of next generations.

Bilonia battle Lt Col (retd), Zafar-Imam, Maj Gen (retd) Jamil D Ahsan, Brig Gen (retd) MA Matin, Bir Protik, Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Ainuddin, Bir Protik, Lt Col (retd) HMA Gaffar, Bir Uttam, Maj (retd) ASM Shamsul Arefeen and Golam Mustafa spoke at the ceremony.

Maj Gen (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowhury presided over the discussion moderated by freedom fighter Shahidullah Khan Badal.

occupational accident and violence.

The report is prepared on the basis of

newspaper reports. Venue: BILS

The inaugural ceremony of education

UK exhibition 2008 will be held. British

Council organises the event. Venue:

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

The launching ceremony of three books

on agricultural issues authored by Dr

Jahangir Alam will be held. Venue:

Bangladesh Agricultural Research

Research and Development Collective

(RDC) and Voluntary Services

Overseas Bangladesh (VSO) will jointly

organise a roundtable on 'Policy per-

spectives on land rights and the

Adivasis', Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

68

79

49

Council auditorium. Time: 3:30am.

seminar room. Time: 11:00am.

Book launching

Roundtable

Time: 9:00am.

Education exhibition

Desa steps to address suffering of customers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) has introduced decentralised billing system and centralised monitoring to address the suffering of its subscribers, Desa Chairman Brig Gen Nazrul Hasan said yester-

Desa took the steps so that the subscribers don't need to pay additional electricity bills, he told journalists after a meeting with Desa subscribers in city's Dhanmondi circle. At the meeting Brig Gen Nazrul

listened to allegations, problems and views on the service of Desa from subscribers in Dhanmondi, Lalmatia, Sat Masjid Road, Shyamoli and Jhigatola areas.

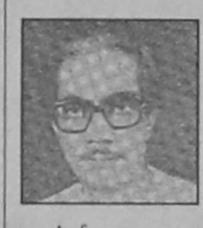
He also said that Desa has opened 18 selling and distributing circles in the city for quick processing and distribution of the bills.

He also said that around 100 officials and employees were sacked due to negligence in their duties and enquiry against another 200 is running now. "Desa installed a workshop

where 50 damaged transformers can be repaired every month. The workshop saves around Tk 30-35 crore yearly now," he also said. He also claimed that the system loss in electricity is now 8.5 and

hoped it will be reduced to a significant extent within the next few months.

Death anniversary



Today is the 24th death anniversary of Md Asaf-ud-Dowla Reza, a renowned journalist, says a press release.

A former news and executive editor of the daily Ittefaq, he also gained reputation as a radio and television broadcaster.

Bangladesh Television will air a special programme in his memory this evening.

His family will hold a doa mahfil at House #14, Road #7, Block #C Bansri, Rampura after Asr prayers.

A milad mahfil and discussion will also be held at Motijheel Colony Night School.

Obituary

ASM Jahirul Haque Bhuiya, customer service representative of Warid Telecom, passed away on February 12 at the age of 28, says a press release. The management of Warid

Telecom condoled the death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. His namaz-e-janaza was held after

Zohr prayers at Gazipur yesterday.

Kaimun Nesa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikgan,

Kaimun Nesa, mother of Mustaque Ahmed, Manikganj correspondent of The Bangladesh Observer, passed away due to heart failure at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 73. She left behind her five sons and

four daughters to mourn her death. She was buried at her family graveyard at Bandutia village in Manikganj yesterday. Her qulkhwani will be held after

Jumma prayers at her residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A taskforce of the National Coordination Committee to Combat Corruption and Serious Crimes has sent the lists of illgotten gains of 68 former and present employees of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd. to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Fifteen of the corrupt suspects were among 136 employees who had earlier promised to return their wealth obtained through illegal means. These 15 employees did not fulfil their commitment.

Although the lists of wealth of the remaining 53 employees, out of 68, were sent to the ACC, they did not confess to corruption.

The 15 staffs are former meter readers Abul Kashem, Abdus Salam and Mahbubur Rahman, helpers Mokter Hossain and Monwar Hossain, sales assistant Altaf Hossain, technician Habibur Rahman, cashier Abu Saleh Siddique, welder Foyez Ahmed Liton, supervisers Abu Taleb, Sohrab Hossain Didar, Sohrab Ali Didar, Ali Ahmad and Didarul Alam and junior technician Monir Hossain Shahin.

The other 53 staffs are general managers Kawsar Azizur Rahman, Amir Ahmed, Khurshidul Hasan, Md Khalid Hasan and engineer M Manjurul Huq, managers Aminul Huq and Rana Akbar Haidari, deputy managers Shafiqul Islam and Nazrul Islam, assistant manager Md Jahangir, manager M Saif Ullah, deputy managers AKM Nurul Islam, Rezaul Huq and Helal Uddun Talukder, managers Fakhrul Islam and GKM Nazrul Islam, deputy manager Abdul Mukit, assistant engineer BM Torab Hossain, deputy assistant engineer Nizam Uddin, DGM Olifa Akhter, assistant engineers Moshiur Rahman, Nazrul Islam, Ali Ahmed, Siddiqur Rahman, and Abdur Razzak, assistant managers Nazrul Islam and ABM Mizanur Rahman, deputy managers Kazi Andalib Hasan, Maksudur Rahim, Kazi Anwarul Azim, Farid Uddin, Mafizul Islam, Oliar Rahman Talukder, Madhab Chandra Biswas, Suzat Ali and Abul Bashar, director Maj (retd) Moktadir Ali, assistant engineer Moklesur Rahman Bhuiyan, deputy manager SM Mahfuzul Huq, managing director AQM Selim, deputy managing director Khaleguzzaman Faruk, assistant coordination officer Sultan Alam, deputy manager Osman Goni, superviser Israfil Alam, meter reader Azizul Huq Mojumder, superviser Abdul Baten, former sales assistant Kadir Mollah, assistant accountants Faruq Hassan and Md Shahjahan, assistant cashiers Mosharraf Hossain and Shamsul Huq, sales assistant SM Zillur Rahman and assistant superviser Hedayetul Islam.

TITAS GRAFT SUSPECTS



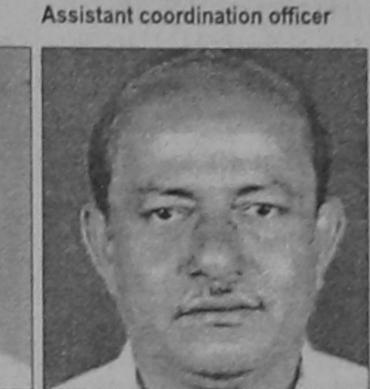
Sultan Alam



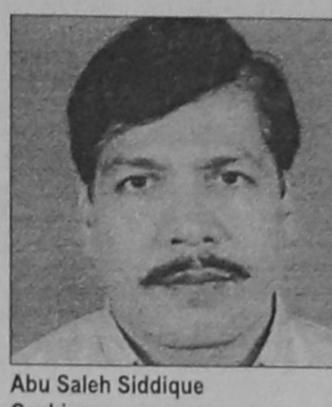
Mokter Hossain Helper



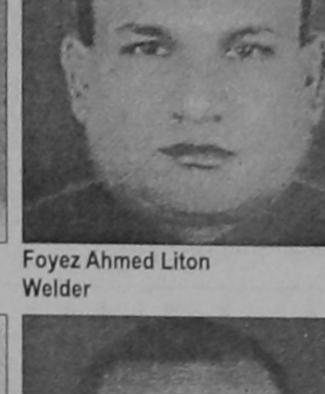
Sales assistant



Abdus Salam Meter reader

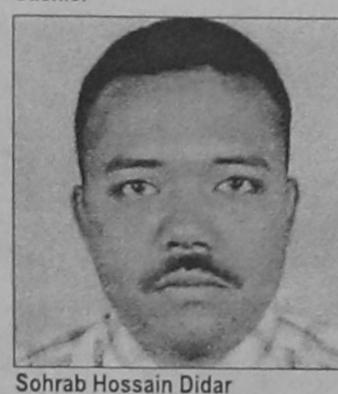


Cashier





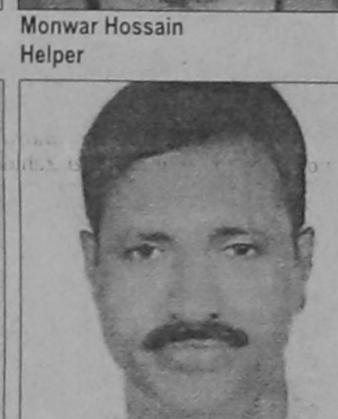
Superviser



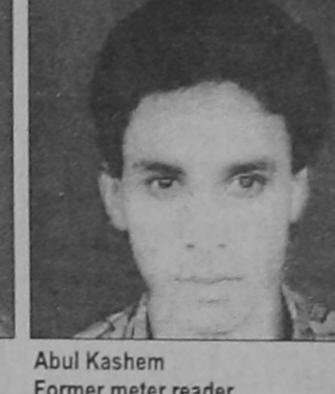
Superviser



Mahbubur Rahman Meter reader



Didarul Alam Superviser





Afroza Khanam, wife of meter reader Mahbubur Rahman

DR SOHEL MURDER Family rejects

probe findings STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members and colleagues of slain Dr Mofakkharul Ahmed Sohel yesterday rejected the findings unearthed so far during the police investigation into the murder.

According to the police, the caretaker of the house killed Dr Sohel as he used to scold him (caretaker).

Dr Sohel's mother Firoza Begum at a press conference at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday said her son would not have been killed for such a silly

She said there are definitely other motives and other people are involved in the killing. She urged the government to take necessary measures to find out the real cul-

Firoza said Saiful was brought to their family when he was only a four-year-old boy. It is hard to believe that Saiful has killed Sohel for such a silly matter, she added. Sliced parts of the body of Sohel

former registrar of Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, were recovered in Gaibandha on January 18, eight days after his disappear

Later, detectives and members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four people, including Sohel's caretaker Saiful Islam, Saiful's cousin Firoj and their associates Bulu and Md Shahin -in connection with the murder. She requested the government

to hold trial of the case in a speedy trial tribunal for quick disposal.

Dr MA Rouf Sardar, Sohel's colleague and a deputy director of the hospital, quoting the doctors at the forensic department of Rangpur Medical College Hospital said the way the body of Sohel was cut into pieces proved that professional killers were involved in it. "It is not possible for the persons like Saiful or Firoz to do so," he said. Dr Sohel along with Saiful and

two other employees had resided at their West Dhanmondi residence, as all other members of his family have been staying abroad. Sohel's brother, other relatives and colleagues were present at the

press conference.

Trade relations with Bangladesh growing

New French envoy tells CA

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed French Ambassador Charley Causeret the country is advancing through yesterday paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and discussed bilateral cooperation, trade, business and investment during the meeting. The ambassador, who was in

early 70s, remarked that now he sees a real change in Bangladesh. Causeret said trade relations between Bangladesh and France are growing and new opportunities

Bangladesh for some years in the

opening up. He said he is impressed with Bangladesh people's capacity to adapt and mentioned that casualty figures were less and there was no epidemic during the two consecutive floods and powerful cyclone Sidr.

"Bangladesh's approach is very practical, like microfinance scheme, and despite difficulties, the country is heading towards progress," he said.

The CA said Bangladesh's entrepreneurship is really appreciable, particularly the enterprise of farmers. "More than two million women are working in garment sector, which

is bringing about social transforma-Fakhruddin told the envoy that

education and microfinance and it has successfully overcome post-MFA situation in the RMG sector. The French envoy said after Germany, France imports bulk amounts of RMG from Bangladesh

and more French companies are

interested to invest here, particularly

in IT sector. Already a French com

pany, Lafarge, has invested here. He said a business delegation from France will visit Bangladesh to explore the prospects for investment.

The CA said the government is attaching priority to IT and telecommunications sectors and taking major policy initiatives. "Bangla desh offers a better business and investment opportunity with a comparatively cheap labour force."

He referred to his letters to G8 leaders regarding duty-free market access of least developed countries and effects of climate change on the LDCs. The ambassador said France is

open to those matters.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim was also present.



Leaders and activists of Justice For Bangladesh Genocide 1971, a Sydneybased organisation, join a gathering outside Parliament House in Canberra yesterday to express solidarity as Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a historic apology to the country's aboriginal people for past mistreatment.

Autocracy resistance day today STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations will observe today the Swairashashok Protirodh Dibash (autocracy resistance day), a day when students revolted against the autocratic government in 1983.

On this day in 1983, a truck crushed students like Jafar, Joynal and Dipali under its wheels as per the directive of the then autocratic government.

BCL will place wreath at the memorial square in front of the Shikkha Bhaban at 9:00am. Moddho February Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad organises a get-together of former student leaders in front of the High Courtat8.00am

Chhatra Federation and Gonotantrik Baam Morcha will also observe the day.

Meanwhile, BCL, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front yesterday observed the death anniversary of Roufun Bosuniya, who was killed in the anti-Ershad student upsurge in 1983.

Australian govt apologises to aborigines

BBC ONLINE

The Australian government has made a formal apology for the past wrongs caused by successive governments on the indigenous aboriginal population.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised in parliament to all aborigines for laws and policies that "inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss" He singled out the "Stolen

Generations" of thousands of children forcibly removed from their families. The apology, beamed live around the country on TV, was met

with cheers. But some aborigines say it should have been accompanied with compensation for their suffering.

In a motion passed unanimously by Australian MPs yesterday morning, Mr Rudd acknowledged the "past mistreatment" of all of his country's aboriginal population.

in April 2008, says a press release. Interested Laboratorians are requested to attend the Preparatory Meeting at the Teachers' Meeting

Room on the school premises at

5:00pm today. For further information people are asked to contact Mosud Mannan of Lab '77, (01552-639601), Masum Ahmed Chowdhury of Lab '81 (01715-057070) and Rubel of Lab '91 (01819-232428).

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Mosharraf, the commander of the

The government should take necessary steps to write the sectorwise history of the Liberation War, freedom fighters at a book publica-

They also demanded steps to prepare sector-wise lists of the

Auditorium of the National

Edited by Maj Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan, the book on Sector No. 2 depicts the courage, patriotism and sacrifice of Khaled

Software exposition

The inaugural ceremony of the BASIS

software exposition will be held.

Bangladesh Association of Software &

Information Services (BASIS) organ-

Bangaldesh-China Friendship

Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute

(BFTI) organises a dialogue on price

control measures. Venue: BFTI confer-

STI/AIDS Network of Bangladesh will

organise a workshop on prevention of

STI/AIDS among young people in

Bangladesh. Venue: Level 12, LGED

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies

(BILS) will release a review report on

Dry weather likely

over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

day at Teknaf and lowest 7.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky

regions of Faridpur, Comilla, Srimongal, Jessore and Tangail may

country during early morning, it said, predicting nearly unchanged

Mild cold wave that is sweeping over Rajshahi division and the

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the

Highest temperature 27.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yester-

The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 6:32am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Temperature

Max Min

23.9 11.6

24.2 14.3

24.0 08.4

24.0 12.6

24.5 11.2

24.5 11.3

27.4 17.3

in celsius

ence room. Time: 3:00pm.

building. Time: 9:30am.

Report release

UNB, Dhaka

tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

continue, Met office said.

night temperature over the country.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

ises the exposition. Venue:

Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Dialogue

Workshop

celebrated

Pahela Falgun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Pahela Falgun, the first day of the spring, was celebrated with due festivity in the city yesterday.

Different socio-cultural and

educational institutions organised different programmes to mark the Jatiyo Bashanto Utshav Udjapon Parishad organised a cultural

programme at Institute of Fine Arts

of Dhaka University.

Thousands of visitors came to enjoy the colourful event that includes various chorus, folk dance, folk music, recitation, musical drama, jatrapala and rally in the

university arena. Banglalink sponsored the main entrance and venue of the programme while Channel i telecasted the event live.

observed the day by arranging a musical programme in front of the arts building of Dhaka University. North South University (NSU)

Samageet Sanskrit Prangon

Shangskritik Shangathan organised the Spring Festival at NSU campus. Special greetings card and flowers were also distributed amongst the audience at Mahila Samity, Jatiya Natyashala and Experimental Theatre in association with Group

OLsA meeting today

Theatre Federation.

Old Laboratorians Association (OLsA), the alumni association of Government Laboratory High School, Dhaka will organise its next reunion and publish a membership directory

DHAKA