8TH SESSION OF UN PERMANENT FORUM

Govts urged to show respect for rights of indigenous people

REZAUL KARIM

The 8th annual session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples continued in New York yesterday with indigenous speakers decrying the governments' neartotal disregard for their rights in the development of roads, waterways and extractive projects, negotiation of free trade agreements and drafting of national legislation that have impacted their lives.

A representative of the Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus said the situation was desperate in his part of the world where indigenous peoples were losing their lands at an alarming rate due to development of hydropower and other projects, according to a message of UN Economic and Social Council received here.

Saying that they needed technical support to protect their natural resources, he called on the states, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions to consider alternative systems to fossil fuel-based energy, bio-energy and hydropower dams.

Echoing that call, a representative of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazonian River Basin (COICA) said the governments that signed contracts with multinational companies without considconsent.

water as a human right. He asked the forum as well as participating countries to demand implementation of environmental and social standards of the projects carried out in indigenous territories.

In the daylong meeting where almost 60 states that had not yet done so to swiftly endorse the Declaration on the Rights of matic, perfume and cosmetics industry viewed as an entrenched lack of respect for their values -- even existence -- laid bare in unjust laws and "policies of territorial manipulation".

consulted on the issues on which they were vulnerable and yet they lacked the ability to make real decisions in social, political and the private sector and indigenous people environmental spheres, they added.

Responding to those calls, a participant from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) discussed a training programme that aimed to strengthen indigenous representatives' ability to negotiate improvements in all areas under the forum's mandate: Health, education, culture, environment, economic and statements. social development and human rights.

challenges to indigenous peoples: Conflict over land and resource issues and Morocco, Spain, Congo and Uganda also people in his region were being repressed by marginalisation from political and eco-spoke. Speaking on behalf of the UN's nomic processes.

ering their right to free, prior and informed tatives of the governments -- participating as observers -- and international financial Moreover, indigenous peoples' access to institutions who stressed the need for water was not being prioritised and he con- conservation and the equitable sharing of demned the governments' refusal to declare benefits. For their part, the representatives defended measures taken to address challenges faced by indigenous peoples and outlined steps to improve health, education and other services in the areas in which they lived.

Offering another way forward, a represpeakers took the floor, indigenous repre- sentative from the Convention on sentatives from all regions called on the Biological Diversity said the natural resources stewardship circle of the aro-Indigenous Peoples and redress what they adopted a declaration that supported the goals of convention, declaration, global compact and ILO Convention No. 169.

That industrial sector -- a more than \$40 billion annual industry -- was sourced Indigenous peoples had a right to be largely by natural extracts directly from indigenous and local communities. Such "win-win" creative partnerships between benefited biodiversity, the environment and indigenous communities.

Also speaking were state representatives from Nicaragua, Brazil, Finland, Spain, Guatemala and Ecuador. A deputy director of special projects of the office of the prime minister of Namibia and assistant deputy attorney general of Canada made their

Representatives of Colombia, Chile, Most cases focused on the two greatest Spain and Vietnam spoke in exercise of the right of reply. Forum members from Bolivia, specialised agencies and other intergovern-The meeting also heard from represen- mental organisations were representatives of ILO, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and IOM.

Also delivering statements were representatives of the caucuses, umbrella organisations and indigenous groups, including Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus, IUCN, International Indigenous Women's Forum, Global Indigenous Women's Caucus and Australian Caucus of Non-Governmental Organisations.

Final hearing on proclamation of independence starts

Govt submits back issues of newspapers to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday produced the copies of the daily Ittefaq, the daily Sangbad and the daily Azad published from March 1, 1971 to March 25, 1971, before a High Court (HC) bench to examine the historical background on the

Journo Arif passes away

UNB, Dhaka



Arif Rahman, Dhaka, Reporters Unity (DRU) and senior reporter of

the Dainik Bhorer Dak, died of cardiac arrest in the city's Holy Family Hospital yesterday at the age of 40.

He left behind his wife, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

The namaz-e-janaza for Arif Rahman was held on the DRU premises at noon, said a DRU press release.

Later, his body was taken to his village home at Tithulia at Dhunat in Bogra district to be laid to eternal rest.

Our staff correspondent adds: Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun and State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

They also conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Altaf Mahmud, Dhaka Union of Journalists President Shah Alamgir, General Secretary Omar Faruq, DRU President Shamim Ahmad, General Secretary Pathik Saha, Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh President Akhtaruzzaman Bablu and General Secretary Abu Saleh Akan, Dhaka Writers Forum and Dhaka Reporters' Unity Bahumukhi Samobay Samity Ltd also condoled his death.

Rasheda Khanam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khanam, mother of Mahbubul Alam Khan, president of Gazi Bhaban

Rasheda

Shopping Centre Shop Owners' Welfare Association, passed away at her residence in Dhaka on Monday at the age of 70, says a press release.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Kapashia-

Bakoadi on Tuesday. Her qulkhwani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at House No. 2, Road No 20, Nikunja-2 in Dhaka. Friends and well-wishers are requested to attend.

Mostafa Zaman Islam on the events regarding the declaration of independence, as the bench yesterday began its final hearing on the writ petition will be held today.

proclaimer of independence. that historically documenting

declaration of independence of proclaimer of Bangladesh's independence is a violation of Deputy Attorney General the law and the constitution.

behalf of the government Lt Gen (retd) Harun-or-Rashid produced the back issues of the filed an application on behalf of dailies containing reports on the Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) for becoming an additional party in the case.

challenging the validity of On April 20, the HC-upon a official documentation of writ petition issued a rule upon Major Ziaur Rahman as the the government to explain why direction should not be given on April 19.

During the hearing before to proscribe the impugned the bench of Justice ABM 2004 edition of the Bangladesh Khairul Haque and Justice M War of Liberation inserting Maj Momtazuddin Ahmed, the Ziaur Rahman as the propetitioner's counsel advocate claimer of the independence Manzill Murshid told the court on March 26, 1971.

The court in the rule asked the member of Major Ziaur Rahman as the government to explain why it

should not be directed to ban the set of books that distorted the fact

It also directed the government to produce all the newspapers published from March 1, 1971 to March 25, 1971, kept in the national archive of Bangladesh, before the court Hearing of the application during the hearing of the rule.

Dr MA Salam, a freedom fighter and a private practitioner, filed the writ petition as public-interest litigation (PIL)

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, who was involved in drafting the Proclamation of Independence, and Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim placed submissions as amicus curiae (friends of court) on the issue yesterday.

Dhaka to work closely with new govt

Dipu Moni tells Pranab over phone

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Congratulating victory of Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said Bangladesh would work closely with the new government of India to enhance the relations between the two

Dipu Moni, who is now visiting different countries, phoned Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee from London Tuesday evening to welcome the "grand victory" of Congress-led UPA in the just concluded election.

During the talks over telephone, Dipu Moni expressed the hope that discussions on issues of mutual interest would continue with UPA government as it once again assumed power, according to a release of the foreign ministry yesterday.

She said Bangladesh enjoys excellent bilateral relations with India. "Steps would be taken to strengthen and deepen the relations in the days to come," she added.

The Foreign Minister said in spite of immense potentials, South Asia had been the least integrated zone in the world. To harness the potentials, she stressed on people-to-people connection and cooperation among the countries of the

Pranab Mukherjee invited Dr. Dipu Moni to visit New Delhi at a convenient time immediately after her return from London. Accepting the invitation, she said the visit would take place at a mutually

convenient time. During the conversation Dr. Dipu Moni extended her good wishes and greetings in advance for the new govern-

ment of India.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:37pm today and rises at

5:13am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 36.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Ishwardi and lowest 22.4

degrees Celsius at Sylhet. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperaturein **Humidity** in City/Town percentage Celsius Evening Min Morning Max 27.5 59 36.4 Dhaka 74 26.0 66 33.5 Chittagong 26.2 36.6 Rajshahi 52 27.2 66 36.2 Khulna 74 26.6 69 34.8 Barisal 68 22.4 34.8 Sylhet 66 26.3 Cox's Bazar 34.5

regarding the proclamation. Meanwhile, former army chief

Traffic sergeant's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun and State Minister Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj yesterday condoled the death of traffic sergeant Mohammad Abdul Baset, says a press release.

Baset was killed in a road accident on Mirpur Road on Tuesday in the city on May 19. In a message of condo-

lence, they prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family. They also conveyed sym-

pathy and prayed for early recovery of two female students of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University who were injured in the accident.



Seminar

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organises a seminar on 'Combating child trafficking: Context Bangladesh citizen's role'. Venue: Nurul Amin Hall, Biam, Time: 9:30am.

Workshop PKSF organises a workshop on fodder cultivation and artificial insemination. Venue: PKSF auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable

Imagine a New South Asia organises a roundtable marking The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

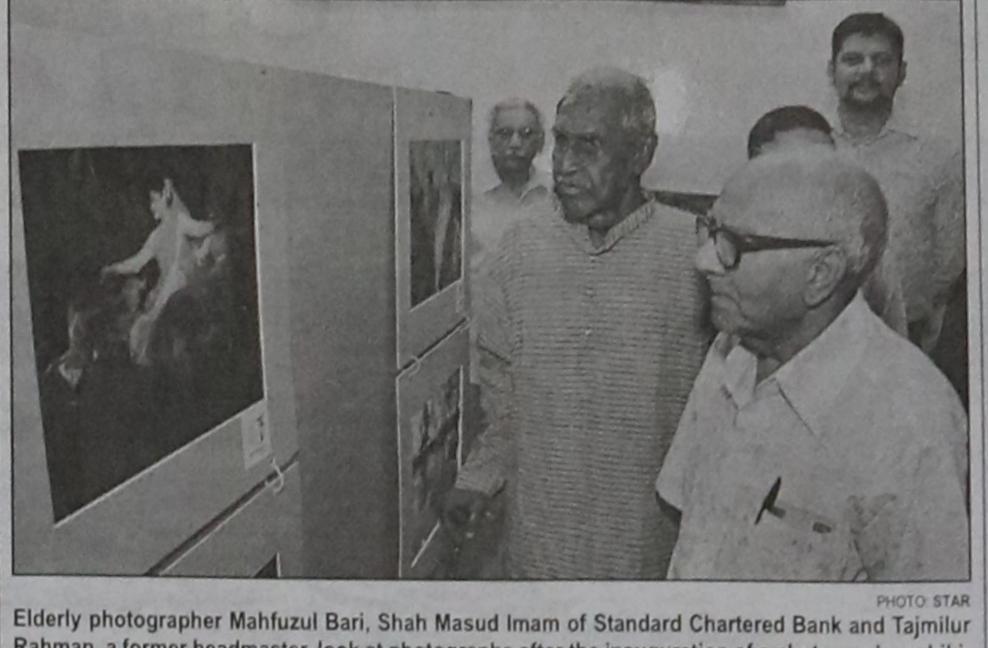
Seminar

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro organises a seminar on 'Conflict between lawmakers and upazila chairmen: Crisis in local government system'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar on swine flu ICDDR,B and Brac University jointly organise a seminar on 'Swine flu: Global and local perspective'. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR,B, Time:

3:30pm. Roundtable

Governance Advocacy Forum organises a roundtable on budget and local government. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.



Rahman, a former headmaster, look at photographs after the inauguration of a photography exhibition at Bogra Zila Parishad auditorium yesterday. The photography exhibition is part of a week-long festival titled 'Celebrating Life' that kicked off yesterday. The Daily Star and the Standard Chartered Bank jointly organised the event.

'Celebrating Life' kicks off in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, from Bogra

People in Bogra enjoyed a rare taste of 'Celebrating Life', as The Daily Star and the Standard Chartered Bank yesterday kicked off the district-level festival featuring fabulous songs and dance by eminent artists and a photo exhibition in the district town.

The enthusiastic people flocked to Titu Milonayatan, an auditorium at the heart of the northern district, to enjoy the songs by noted singer Fahmida Nabi and others and dance by now become a very important part of life. Spandan in the evening.

photo exhibition at Bogra Zilla Parishad auditorium and daylong film show at Titu Milonayatan. A rally was also brought out in the morning to mark the inauguration of the festival titled 'Celebrating Life'.

-- and the photographs from the contest titled 'Celebrating Life 2008', a joint initiative of The Daily Star and the Standard Chartered Bank, are being shown in the festival. Similar festivals will also be they will continue to help organise more heldin 11 other districts across the country. "This is something different and excep-

photography exhibition. students of colleges and universities, are very can participate in similar contest in 2009, he

enthusiastic about the programmes, she said. At the inaugural ceremony of the photo exhibition-featuring over 100 pictures of rural Bogra Fila School said the exhibition impears give students a lot of opportunities to learn the media partners of the festival.

many more things outside their classrooms. Fayruz Fannana Shamma, a second year student of SOS Hermann Gmeiner College came to the photo exhibition.

interest about the photo exhibition and film show here. All our friends will surely again visit the exhibition to see films," she said excitedly. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the

photo exhibition, Mahfuzul Bari, an elderly

photographer in Bogra, said photography has Besides bringing to light the joy and sorrow The week-long festival features a six-day of common people, photography plays a special role in identifying criminals, he noted.

Addressing the audience at the packed auditorium, Managing Editor of The Daily Star Syed Fahim Munaim said The Daily Star always appreciates and highlights the issues concern-The best films -- documentaries and fictions ing the people and their life. The daily will continue to do so in future, he added.

Shah Masud Imam, regional head of corpo-

programmes of such nature in future. Rafi Hossain, coordinator of the 'Celebrating tional. We rarely enjoy such photography exhi- Life', said there are many talented people in bition and film shows in Bogra," said Runa different fields in the country, but they cannot

rate affairs of Standard Chartered Bank, said

Rahman, a student of law, who came to see the display their talents due to lack of opportunities. The Daily Star and the Standard Chartered People from all walks of life, especially the Bank have created such opportunities and all

said at Titu Milonayatan. Cultural activist Zahurul Haque Babla, banker SM Zahurul Huque and many other life (Tapharur) Rationan, a former headmaster of noted personalities of the district were present in Patricia Musica Charmely Stapuntik 201811 to be of great significance. Such exhibitions will Radio ABC, Urmi Group and dots & marks are

KILLING OF 2 SISTERS

Alleged killer arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the alleged killer of two sisters who were murdered brutally by their brother in the city on Tuesday.

At a press briefing Deputy Commissioner of Motijheel Zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Khandaker Mohiuddin said Reza has confessed to his involvement in the killing.

He said with the help of his wife Zayeda, Reza was asked to come to a foam factory at Maona in Gazipur and was arrested from there in the morning.

According to his confessional statement police also recovered the knife from the bathroom of the flat at Sepoybagh where he killed the two women and injured another girl Bristi, Mohiuddin residing at Maghbazar.

sex trade.

Reza told the police that he killed his sister Shanta and cousin Halima as they got involved in sex trade.

He told this correspondent

that he entered the flat with a

knife in his pocket at 8:00pm on Monday and killed Shanta at around 3:00am on Tuesday when she was sleeping. He also slaughtered his cousin Halima as she woke up at that moment, and injured Bristi

as she started screaming while he was escaping from the scene. Reza alleged that in the guise of modelling for music videos, Shanta was engaged in

She also brought Halima to the city from her village home for a job in a garment factory but she engaged her in the illicit trade.

Reza is a jobless youth

ESSAY COMPETITION BPC hands

government body to promote day gave away prizes among the winners of an essay writing competition on tourism.

Speaking at the function as chief guest, Hedayetullah Al Mamun, acting secretary for the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, urged the young generation to be more enthusiastic on tourism.

Increase budgetary allocation for cultural ministry

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to increase budgetary allocation for the cultural ministry and incorporate concerned stakeholders while preparing any project of the ministry to help flourish culture

belonging and, thus, an identity, but the ministry of cultural change this mindset.

The speakers demanded steps to create a scope for the cultural groups and organisations to use the government auditoriums and other structures with a reasonable cost.

organised the roundtable titled 'Culture of budget: Budget for Clubin the city. International Theatre Institute (ITI) President Ramendu

tures in the country, but those structures are not maintained properly due to lack of adequate finance and manpower, he said, adding, "We want more budgetary allocation and the opportunity to use the government structures at a reasonable cost."

Culture is the mirror of an for a cultural policy, saying that there is a scope for the government to control the cultural arena if there is no policy. A cultural revolution is a must to build a new secular and progressive nation, he said,

Cultural personality Syed

bring a change in the people's mindset. Noted writer Syed Shamsul Hug said there should be only one cultural policy in the coun-

try so that the government Sammilita Sangskritik Jote cannot have any control on culture. culture' at the National Press tural groups or organisations in the country which basically run Theatre personality and on grants, voluntary donations and advertisements, he said,

> become self-reliant. Speaking as the chief guest, also spoke.

over awards STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), the sole tourism of the country, yester-

A total of nine students in three categories -- secondary, higher secondary and university level -- own the prizes for writing essays on tourism.

Earlier, BPC invited students to write essays on three different topics specified for each of three categories. A total of 102 students participated in the competition.

in the country.

ethnicity and it gives individuals an anchoring point, a sense of affairs always gets the lowest budget, they said, urging the authorities concerned to

Majumder said less than one necessary steps so that these percent of the total budget is allocated for the cultural ministry which is needed to increase

immediately.

There are many big struc- Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad said, "We have to work from our own position to save the country's 1000-years-old culture and heritage." A cultural policy can be formulated and a committee

government, he said. Hasan Imam stressed the need "All your demands deserve a special consideration, but it is not possible [to take all the proposals into account) at a time. I and my ministry are always with you and want to solve the problems with you,"

hesaid.

laying emphasis on folk culture The minister called on all to which needs patronisation to build a progressive social movement to fight fanaticism, terrorism and fundamentalism.

also be formed to this end which

will place the policy before the

Reading out a keynote paper, Trustee of Liberation War Museum Mafidul Haque demanded the government increase five times the budget-There are hundreds of cul- ary allocation for the cultural

President of the Jote

Nasiruddin Yousuf, General Secretary Golam Kuddus, CPB urging the government to take General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Bangladesh Group organisations do not depend on Theatre Federation Chairman grants or donations rather they M Hamid and cultural personality Pijush Bandyopadhyay

New DPRK envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The newly appointed Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Dhaka Sin Hong Chol called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's

Office (PMO) yesterday. The PM and the Korean envoy discussed matters of bilateral interest, including economy and development, as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

Hasina welcomed Sin Hong Chol to Bangladesh and assured of necessary cooperation from her government in discharging his duties as the ambassador.

Sin Hong hoped that Bangladesh would be able to attain its cherished sustainable development and prosperity under the leadership of Hasina.

Hasina recalled the sympathy the DPRK showed towards Bangladesh during the country's 1971 liberation war and said Bangladesh attaches due importance to its friendly relationship with the DPRK.

The prime minister also reiterated her government's strong commitment towards "This is a truly unique initiative. I found wide | establishing world peace and eradicating poverty from the

Death anniversary



anniversary of eminent journalist and writer Mohammad Nasir Uddin, says a press release.

Sawgat and also the founder of the Begum, one of the oldest magazines for women. A Qurankhwani will be held at his residence at 38 Sharatgupta Road, Narinda,

followed by a milad mahfil

He was the editor of the

Md Shamsuzzaman

after Asr prayers.

METRO DESK



38th death anniversary of Mohammad Shamsuzzam an, a martyred intellectual and the then chief engineer

of Chittagong Port Trust, says a press release. The Pakistani army took him away from his Bandar Bhaban office on May 21 in

1971 and he had remained missing since then. Pandit Nurul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

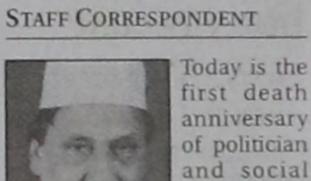
anniversary of Pandit Nurul Islam, former vice president of Brahmanbaria Awami League and founder of Bancharampur Thana Awami League. He was a freedom fighter.

On the occasion, a milad

mahfil will be held at his resi-

Today is the seventh death

dence at Kanchanpur village after Asr prayer today. Alhai Hedavetul Islam



press release.

of politician and social worker Alhaj Hedayetul Islam, says a He was the president of

mosques in the ward after Juma prayers tomorrow.

Hazaribagh Thana Awami

League and former commis-

sioner of the DCC ward No. 58.

mahfil will be held in all

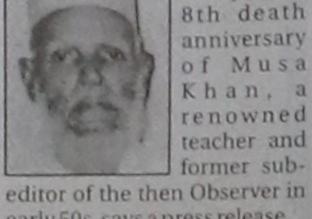
Qurankhwani and doa

Abdus Shukur Miah STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Md Abdus Shukur Miah (Shukpak), a freedom fighter, architect and artist, says a press release. A Qurankhwani will be held

at Zaman Manjil in Kamalapur and a milad mahfil after Asr prayers. Later, a discussion will be held at Shukpak Memorial Sangsad at Tetultala. Musa Khan

METRO DESK



former subearly 50s, says a press release. He also took part in the anti-British movement.

Today is the