

PLAIN LAND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Govt ready to form separate land commission: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would consider forming separate land commission for indigenous people of the plain land like the land commission for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) if the demand comes from them, said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafiq Ahmed yesterday.

"There is a provision that nobody can buy any land of indigenous people without their permission. But if you [indigenous people] don't want the provision to exist the law can be amended because many people buy the land by manipulating the provision," he said.

The minister was speaking at a dialogue on 'Human Rights of Indigenous Women: Experience from Implementing DSK

Project' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Commenting on the constitutional rights of the indigenous people the minister said like every other citizen of the country indigenous people were also given their rights in the constitution but the matter is to implement them.

He said the government will investigate the murders, rapes, land grabbing, setting fire to houses and other crimes against the indigenous people and punish the persons involved in those crimes.

The minister suggested indigenous people to lodge complaints with the Human Rights Commission in this regard.

Shafiq said the government has finalised a law for the ethnic minority people yesterday to establish their rights.

Addressing the dialogue as special guest Dhaka University Professor MM Akash said human rights are ensured only for the rich people of the country as they control wealth, and the poorest of the poor do not have any kind of human rights.

He said it is the duty of the state to ensure the human rights of every citizen including the indigenous people.

Adivashi Unnayan Parishad General Secretary Rabindranath Saren said the indigenous people are suffering from insecurity and state can ensure their security.

The dialogue was also addressed by indigenous community leader Sanjib Drong, Assistant Editor of the Sangbad Khandaker Muniruzzaman, and Deputy Editor of the Samakal Mozammel Hossain Manju.



PHOTO STAR

Litterateur Selina Hossain addresses a discussion at the central Kanchi Kanchar Mela auditorium in the city yesterday marking the 68th birth anniversary of journalist Bazul Rahman.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Dr Adiluzzaman Khan, a veteran general practitioner at Kent in the UK, passed away in Sydney, Australia on July 11.

He was laid to rest in Gillingham Sunni Mosque, Canterbury Street in The United Kingdom on July 30.

Dr Khan is the fourth son of late Badrul Hoque Khan, a renowned lawyer and former Member of National Assembly (MNA) of Pakistan.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Bahadur Sardar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bahadur Sardar, a freedom fighter, passed away due to old age complications at his residence at village Basantapur in Debhata upazila on Sunday night at the age of 78.

He was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard at village Bahadurpur yesterday.

He left behind his five sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Freedom fighters Abu Ahmed, Abu Bakar Siddique and Subhas Ghosh consoled the death. They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Kazi Manirul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Kazi Manirul Islam, father of late national cricketer Kazi Manzarul Islam Rana, passed away due to cancer at LabAid Hospital in Dhaka at the age of 61.

He will be buried beside his son Rana at the family graveyard.

Manjarul Islam Rana was killed in a road accident on March 16 in 2007 at Chuknagar under Dumuria upazila of Khulna district.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Nurul Islam Hawlader, a teacher of Betagi Girls' High School of Betagi in Barisal after Zohr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away due to old age complications on July 31 at the age of 73.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

Check extortion in transport sector
PM asks shipping minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the newly inducted Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan to check extortion in the transport sector.

Hasina said this when Shahjahan, known as a popular trade union leader, attended the cabinet meeting for the first time since his appointment on Friday.

"You know how extortion takes place in the transport sector. You also know who are behind this crime. So you take the responsibility for stopping it," a cabinet minister quoted the prime minister as saying.

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League (AL), gave the instruction following frequent incidents of extortions in the transport sector in recent months.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to restrict participation of the state ministers and advisers to the PM at the cabinet meeting.

Only three out of seven advisers were allowed to attend the yesterday's cabinet meeting.

They were Adviser to PM on Establishment and Administration HT Imam, Finance Adviser to PM Moshir Rahman and Adviser to PM for Education Social Development and Political Affairs Dr Alauddin Ahmed.

"It is decided that two advisers HT Imam and

Moshir Rahman will regularly attend the cabinet meeting from now on," the cabinet minister told The Daily Star.

He said the state ministers will attend the meeting in absence of the ministers.

The state minister will represent the ministries having no full minister, he added.

Dr Shafiqul succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Md Shafiqul Islam, joint secretary of the district unit of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) and treasurer of Bangladesh Medical Association in Jessore, succumbed to his injuries at BSMU hospital yesterday, says a press release.

The deceased was seriously injured by some miscreants at his own chamber in the district town on July 29.

SCP President Prof AFM Ruhul Haque MP and General Secretary Prof M Iqbal Arslan expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Central committee members of the Parishad at a protest rally in the city demanded immediate arrest of the miscreants and exemplary punishment to them.

Celebrating Life Festival ends in Rangamati

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The two-day Celebrating Life Festival, jointly organised by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, ended in the hilly town of Rangamati last night with a concert featuring patriotic and modern Bangla songs and dance.

"It's really an effective way to highlight various roles of women in society while such arrangement would also help remove prevailing negative attitude towards women," said an overwhelmed Ripa Chakma, a housewife, who came to the Rangamati Tribal Culture Institute to enjoy the concert.

A daylong screening of films and documentaries, which won prizes in the Celebrating Life-2008 contest, was also held at the Rangamati Government College on Sunday as part of the festival.

The concert began in the evening, but the small auditorium of Tribal Culture Institute became full of enthusiastic people by the afternoon.

Delivering the welcome address, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam called on all to enjoy every moment of life and to overcome the problems with positive outlook.

"By arranging such programme across the country, we are trying to search for young talented artists who can depict different aspects of life with their creativity," he said.

Mahfuzur Rahman, regional head of the Standard Chartered Bank in Chittagong, said the bank is honoured to be associated with such competition that could find out many creative artists.

Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy thanked the organisers for arranging such programme in Rangamati.

Artists of Spandan, a dance group from Dhaka, performed several dance numbers in the concert while singer Samina Chowdhury enthralled the audience with her songs.

2 Huji men on remand for 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two of the six Harkatul Jihad al Islami members arrested on Saturday in the capital and elsewhere were placed on a three-day remand by a Dhaka court yesterday after police placed them before the court seeking a five-day remand.

Earlier on Sunday night, Sub-Inspector Abul Kashem of Rab-4 filed a case against Abul Khair and Mohammad Musa with Shah Ali Police Station in the capital under the Anti-Terrorism Act-2008.

Boy missing

METRO DESK



Ibrahim Khalilullah, an 11-year-old boy, has been missing from his residence at Jhigatala in the city since July 11, says a press release.

The boy, only son of Md Jamal Uddin, a driver of PWD Project Division-1, is 4 feet and 5 inches. He was wearing a white punjabi and pyjama. His complexion is fair.

A general diary has been filed with Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection.

Anybody knowing his whereabouts has been requested to call at 1817114438 or 01719894446.



PHOTO STAR

Chakma King Devasish Roy speaks at a roundtable titled 'Preserving Our Culture and Heritage, Facing the Dual Challenges of Economic and Educational Development', organised by The Daily Star in the conference room of Rangamati District Sport Association yesterday. On his right is The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam. (Story on Page 16)

Protect traditional species of fish: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked for taking effective measures for protecting country's traditional species of fish alongside developing aquatic biodiversity considering people's interest.

He said the fisheries sector contributes significantly to the GDP and has the potential for earning more foreign exchange.

"Not merely to fulfill the domestic demand, the fisheries export destinations will have to be extended to earn foreign currencies," he said while releasing fish fry into the pond in the Bangabhaban compound marking the National Fisheries Week (2009).

Describing Bangladesh as a naturally versatile and rich

US to continue help in health, agri sectors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

US Ambassador James F. Moriarty yesterday said the US government will continue to help Bangladesh meet the most pressing needs in health, disaster management and agriculture sectors.

The country's economic growth depends largely on international trade and Bangladesh's ability to tap into it will depend on the economic policy, he said at a meeting with business leaders, organised by the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI).

SCCI President Junnun Mahmud Khan presided over the meeting held at a hotel in the city.

The SCCI president said the government had selected a site of 1000 acres of land beside the Sylhet-Tamabil highway for setting up a special economic zone.

It would create a greater scope for investment by Non-Resident Bangladeshis as well as others, he said and hoped that it would be a reality very soon.

Welcoming the idea of setting up a Special Economic Zone, the US ambassador said innovative policy ideas will help Bangladesh navigate the current economic challenges and reap the benefits of the global economic system by attracting more foreign investment and cultivating an open business climate that fosters sustainable and broad economic growth.

Moriarty also said Bangladesh has become an important partner in global commerce and a leading advocate for the interests of least developed countries.

SCCI Vice-President Khondaker Shipar Ahmed also spoke.

Nat'l security at stake unless citizens' welfare ensured

Experts say at lecture session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National security remains at stake unless welfare and well-being of the citizens can be ensured and protected, said the experts at a lecture session in the city yesterday.

"Very objective of the national security will remain unaccomplished unless the welfare and well-being of the citizens of a nation can be protected and ensured," said Maj Gen Muhammad Firdaus Mian, chairman of the Board of Governors of Bangladesh Institute of International and

country with lots of marine resources, the president said country's all rivers, canals, ponds-tanks, haors-baors, sea and the natural wetlands are the fertile lands for fish cultivation. "Huge fishes are produced in these wetlands from time immemorial."

Zillur observed that production of fishes has mostly decreased in the country due to population growth, shrinkage of open wetlands and various manmade and natural causes as well as the diminishing of various species of indigenous tasty fishes. "Efforts will have to be made to protect our traditional species of fishes and develop watery biodiversity for the interest of the people."

Bangladesh has floodplains of 28 lakh hectares and the area increases during the rainy season. "At present some 500 organisations are involved in pisciculture and its marketing and management activities in about 450 floodplains," Zillur mentioned.

The president hoped that fish production and employment would increase in the country if the fishes are cultivated in all floodplains by using modern methods and technologies. The slogan of the fisheries week of this year 'Fish Cultivation in Floodplains-Good Wind of Change' is letter-perfect, he said.

Zillur noted that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has

declared a programme for making Bangladesh self-sufficient in food by 2013 alongside fish production under the roadmap of vision-2021, and the government has already taken various steps in this regard for developing and protecting the fisheries.

"Beside the government activities, all-out cooperation of the country's people is needed for complete implementation of these steps," he said.

The president urged all concerned to gear up the 'social movement' already created across the country for further extension of fish cultivation.

Pointing out the economic aspect, he said the fisheries sector has been playing an important role in creating jobs, earning foreign currencies and alleviating poverty in the country.

"I have come to know that the contribution fish production to the country's GDP is some 3.74 percent in the fiscal year 2008-2009," he told his audience, adding that country's 60 percent of animal protein as well as some 40 percent of export earnings come from the fisheries sector.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas also spoke on the occasion while Rafiqul Islam, DG of the Fisheries Department, presented a report on Fish Cultivation in four ponds in the Bangabhaban area.

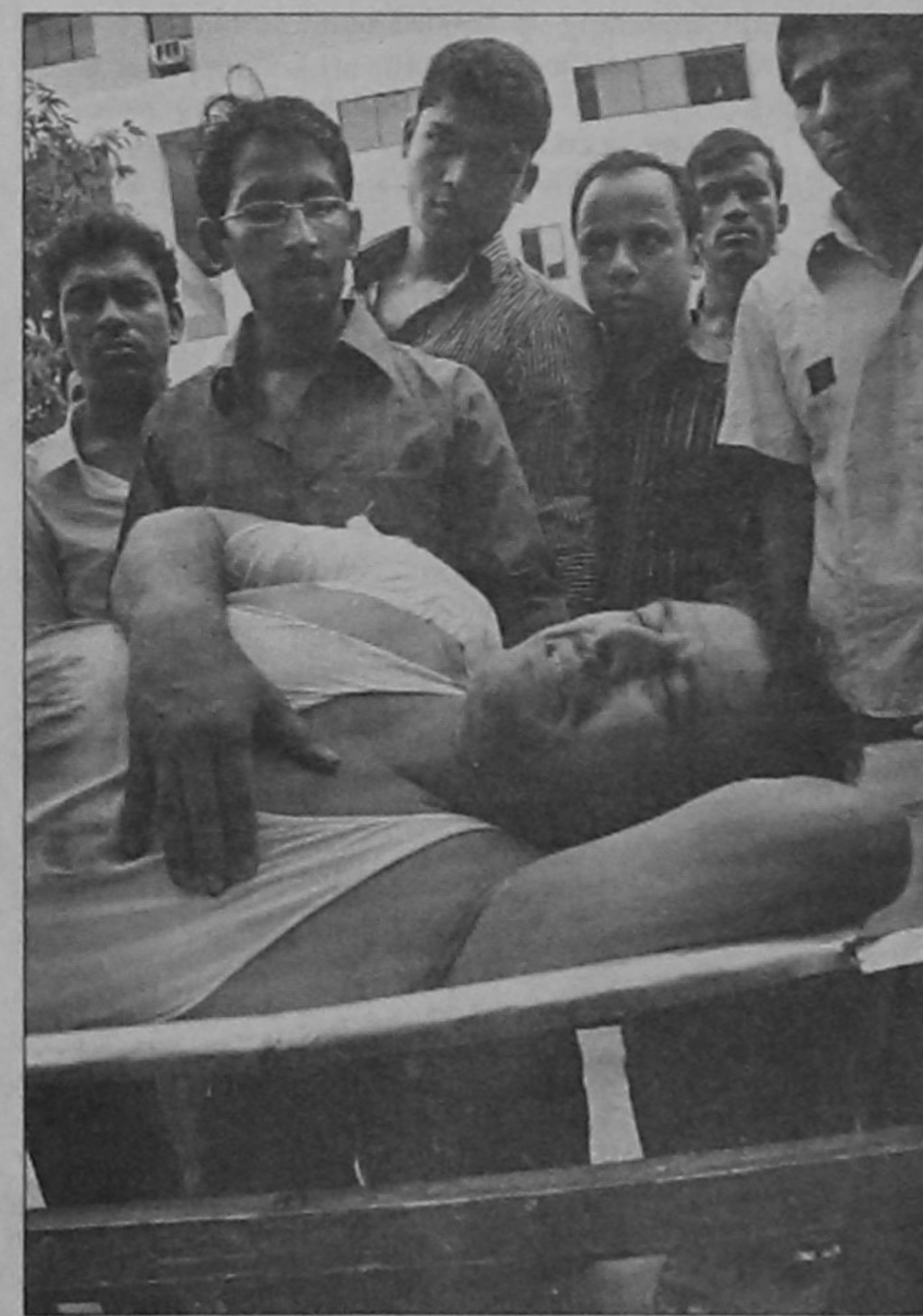
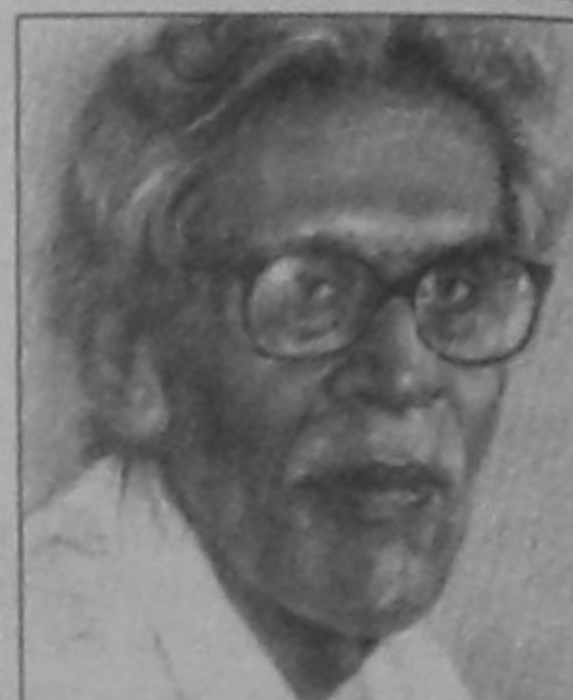


PHOTO STAR

Advocate Mia Mohammad Zakir Hossain was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday after being shot by a gang of unidentified criminals at the city's Kailash Ghosh Lane in court area. (Story on Page 16).



Santosh Gupta's anniversary of death tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow is the fifth death anniversary of eminent journalist and writer Santosh Gupta, says a press release.

He died on this day in 2004 due to brain hemorrhage at the age of 80.

He was the senior assistant editor of the Daily Sangbad.

Santosh Gupta, an honest and courageous writer, wrote 14 books on arts, poem, politics, literature and journalism and edited some 30 books.

For his outstanding contribution to journalism and literature he was awarded Ekushey Padak, Sher-e-Bangla Padak, Maulana Tarkabagish Padak and Jahur Hossain Memorial Padak.

Santosh Gupta, born in 1923 at Runshi village in dhakathi, was involved with left politics before starting journalism as a profession and jailed for 12 years. He started his career as journalist in 1957.

To mark his death anniversary, Santosh Gupta Smriti Parishad will place wreaths at his memorial at the Postagala crematorium at 9:00am.

A memorial meeting will be held at the National Press Club on August 8 at 6:00pm. A post card titled 'Santosh Gupta: A Legendary Journalist' will be launched on the occasion with 12 portraits of Santosh Gupta by famous 12 artists.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Academician Dr Anisuzzaman, Artist Qaiyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Golan Sarwar and Abed Khan will take part in the discussion with Santosh Gupta Smriti Parishad convenor Monayem Sarker in the chair.

Dr Nawab Ali



Today is the 32nd death anniversary of Dr Nawab Ali, a member of the then provincial legislative assembly and one of the few Bangalee Muslim MRCP of undivided India, says a press release.

He was professor of Medicine, Lake Medical College, Kolkata and founder principal of Dhaka Medical College and Surgeon General of erstwhile East Pakistan.

Lutfur Rahman Zulfiker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Lutfur Rahman Zulfiker, editor of the Natun Din Patrika, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Basabo Jame mosque in the city after Asr prayers today.

All are requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Aminul Islam Badsha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Aminul Islam Badsha, a Language Movement veteran, organiser of the War of Liberation and one of the founders of Gonotantri Party.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held on August 9 in Pabna, marking his death anniversary.