

Observe world's indigenous peoples day

Urge rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists and politicians yesterday demanded that the government officially observe the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9.

They strongly criticised some government officials for trying to keep indigenous people from celebrating the day.

They were addressing a human chain formed by National Coalition for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), an alliance of 307 non-government organisations working for indigenous people, in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The NCIP formed such human chains at 30 districts across the country simultaneously.

On March 11, the local government and rural development ministry, in a letter to district deputy commissioners, directed to refrain from celebrating the day and launch campaigns stating that there were no "indigenous" people in Bangladesh, they claimed.

Writer Shahriar Kabir said such decision of the government goes against the spirit of the Liberation War and violates the human rights of indigenous people.

The government should immediately take initiatives against Jamaat-e-Islami's conspiracy to form a new state comprising Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Arakan state of Myanmar, he added.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh Politburo Member Fazle Hossain Badsha said, "We strongly protest the government's decision to refuse the existence of indigenous people in Bangladesh."



National Coalition for Indigenous Peoples forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples by the state.

PHOTO: STAR

KILLING OF AN INDIAN SC upholds life term for Yasin Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld life term imprisonment of Yasin Rahman Tito, son of a Chittagong businessman, for his involvement in the murder of Indian citizen Jibrán Tayebi.

Talking to The Daily Star, Additional Attorney General MK Rahman said Jibrán Tayebi, son of a former director general of West Bengal Police TA Khan, was killed by miscreants in front of a Chinese restaurant on June 9, 1999 in Chittagong.

A six-member bench of Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday, by majority, dismissed an appeal filed by Tito against a High Court verdict that sentenced Tito to life term imprisonment.

EID ALLOWANCE

RMG workers for payment before 20th Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment factory owners should pay the apparel workers salary and Eid allowance before the 20th Ramadan to avoid any unrest in the sector, demanded different garment workers' associations.

At separate programmes in the capital, the leaders of the organisations made the demand so that the workers can spend Eid vacation with their families, said separate press releases yesterday.

Besides, Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Minimum Wages Board demanding, among others, reformation of the wage board for garment workers.

Meanwhile, a team from Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association met with the deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank for the assurance of package money for the association before Eid-ul-Fitr.

BDR MUTINEERS' DELEGATION Names of two were not listed

Says former SSF chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Names of two out of 14 BDR men who went to Jamuna, the prime minister's official residence, on the BDR mutiny's first day could not be listed, said the former director general of Special Security Forces yesterday.

This happened due to non-cooperation of the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) men, absence of their name tags and indiscipline at Jamuna, added Major General Mia Mohammad Joynul Abedin, currently the PM's military secretary.

He was testifying before the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court, set up temporarily at the Alia Madrasa playground in the capital's Bakshibazar, in the BDR carnage case.

Joynul said the 14-member BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) delegation arrived in Jamuna around 3:45pm that day, February 25, 2009, for negotiations with the government.

SSF men frisked the delegation and had to write down the names as stated by the

BDR men. Later, they found that some names had been misspelt, said Joynul.

In another testimony yesterday, an SSF official, Col Syed Ahmed Ali, said Joynul had handed over a video clip of the delegation at Jamuna and the name list to the case investigator on December 30, 2009.

He also said he did not know who captured the video and the investigator, CID Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akhand, had not quizzed him about the video.

When defence lawyers played the video and asked whether Ahmed could identify any of the BDR men, the latter answered in the negative.

Not all the names of the 12 listed BDR men were mentioned on the cover of the video's CD when he, the SSF DG and another SSF officer signed on it while making a seizure list, he said.

A total 74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed on the February 25-26, 2009 mutiny at the BDR Headquarters in Pilkhana.

Govt plans academy for autistic children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will establish an academy for autistic children in the country soon.

Officials at the education ministry said the ministry would take a project to set up the academy with facilities including a dormitory, educational apparatus, and an academic also administrative building.

The site for the academy would be selected after taking the project, the officials said.

Under the project, special training on autism issues will also be given to the country's 15,000 teachers at school and college level.

Issues about autism will be incorporated in the textbooks of class III, IV and V.

The decisions were taken yesterday at a meeting at the ministry's conference room with Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury in the chair.

Women leaders must for development

Says Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Women empowerment and leadership are necessary for social and political development of the country, said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday in Chittagong.

She was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a two-week long programme Women in Public Service Summer Institute organised at Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong.

Women leaders are more persuasive, patient and empathetic. They have the ability to read a situation more accurately, she said.

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said women are better budget managers as they have experience of managing budget in family life.

Terming women as change makers, she said women leadership is a process of trans-

formation. It is essential to bring women in positions of power in business, government and private sectors.

The state minister said women contribute to 40 percent of labour force in the world.

Women cannot become leaders unless gender equality is established, said Dr Rangita de Silva, who gave the keynote speech.

She said 19 percent of parliament members in the world are women and in Asia 18 percent of parliament members are women but there are nine countries where women absent in the parliament.

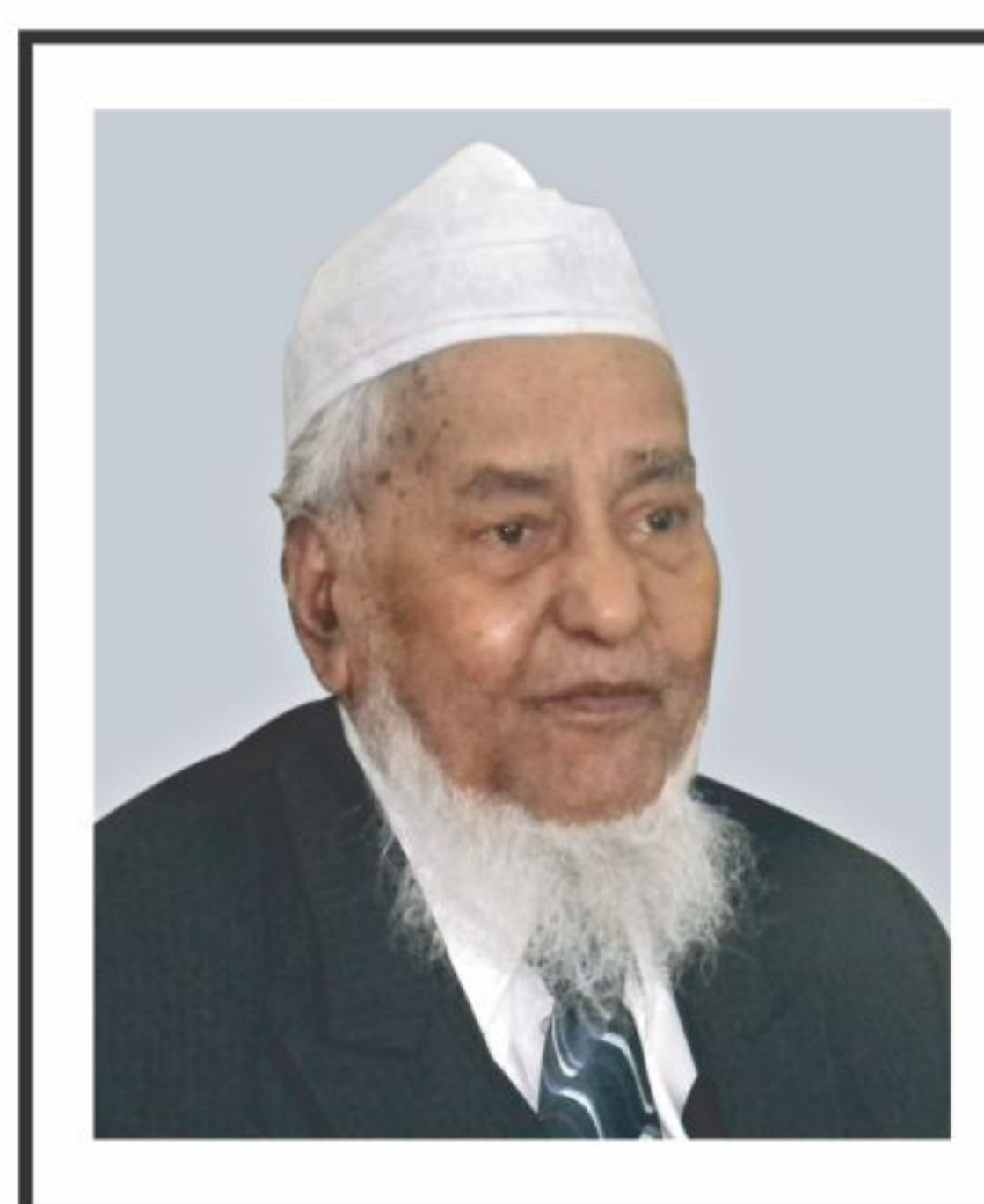
The two-week long programme will provide public service and leadership training to 40 students, from six different countries, of AUW, said Vice-Chancellor of AUW Dr Fahima Aziz.



Jatiya Garments Federation forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding salaries and bonuses for RMG workers before Ramadan 20.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary



Advocate Al-Haj Kamaluddin Ahmed Khan (1927-2012)

Mr. Khan passed away at 12:05 pm at Surgiscope Hospital, Katalganj, Chittagong on August 1, 2012. He was 85 years old.

We request all to pray for the eternal salvation of his departed soul.

His namaj-e-janaja will be held today at 11:00am at Lal Dighir Maidan, Chittagong and he will be buried at Station Road graveyard, Chittagong after the janaja.

Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Khan

Anis A. Khan & Monowar Anis Khan
Afsar A. Khan & Ameer Afsar
Asif A. Khan & Rupa Asif

Quamrun Nahar Selim
Meherun Nahar & SMA Zahir
Najmun Nahar & Shafiul Karim Quiyyum
Sharmin Fatema Jamil & Mir Jamil Ahmed

&
Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

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