

## Call to protect rights of indigenous people

BSS, Dhaka

Leading anthropologists of Bangladesh and India yesterday said lives and cultures of over 4,000 ethnic minority groups across the world have been threatened due to unjust explosion of the so-called modern science and technology.

The whole civilisation and mankind would be threatened if due rights of the ethnic minorities were not realised, they observed at a two-day international seminar on "Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh and Eastern India: Emerging Problems" being held at the BIAM auditorium in the city.

A local think tank, Research and Development Collective (RDC), in collaboration with the Anthropology Department of Kolkata University organised the seminar to share problems and prospects of the indigenous people of Bangladesh and India.

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the seminar while Dr Ambedkar Chair Professor of Kol-

kata University Prof Buddhadeb Chaudhuri addressed the inaugural session as chief guest.

Environment and Forest Secretary Mahfuzul Islam and Chairperson of the Anthropology Department of Kolkata University Prof Ranjana Roy were present at the inaugural ceremony as special guests while General Secretary of RDC Mesbah Kamal spoke at the session.

The speakers said diversity is a must for smooth running of the globe, as nature is fond of diversity.

They said all human beings are similar to some extent but it is cultural pattern that differs them.

The definition of nationhood should be changed to accommodate culture and heritage of all the ethnic minorities, they added.

Most of the participants observed that the historic CHT peace accord has recognised the due demands of the tribal people of the region.

Some of them, however, said implementation of the accord should be expedited.

## BTTB cautions against mobile phone fraud

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) is not receiving any application to provide mobile telephones, a T&T press release said here yesterday.

Distribution of mobile telephones through BTTB has not started yet, the press release added.

The board has received allegations that a vested quarter is collecting money from members of the public in the name of providing mobile phones and selling so-called application forms.

The BTTB has requested all concerned not to collect any form from the vested quarter.

## RU summer vacation begins May 23

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) will remain closed for 39 days from May 23 due to summer vacation, Akhari Chahar Somba and Eid-e-Miladunabi, official sources said.

All the classes and administrative activities will resume on July 1.

Some departments of the University will take their scheduled classes and examinations during the vacation to ease session jam.

## Lawyers urged to protect rights of the oppressed

BSS, Dhaka

Eminent jurist Justice Naveemuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the lawyers to contribute more to protect the rights of the oppressed in society considering themselves as human rights activists.

Speaking as chief guest at a certificate awarding ceremony at Bangladesh Bar Council Bhaban, he expressed his concern over the growing reports of violation of human rights at the private level.

"Not only the government machinery is violating human rights, but also individuals are violating the rights of oppressed in the society," he said.

Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI) of Bar Council organised the function as part of the winding up of a week-long courses on human rights training programme (HRTIP) and training of trainers (TOT).

Advocate MA Salam Talukder chaired the function, which was also addressed by Advocate Mahbubul Huq, Advocate Dilruba Aftab and Advocate Rabiul Hasan Young.

Salam Talukder, who is the chairman of the human rights committee of Bar Council, called upon the lawyers to help strengthen their respective Human Rights Monitoring Cells to provide legal support to the victims of human rights violation.

## President, PM greet president of Paraguay

BSS, Dhaka

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated the President of Paraguay on the occasion of the national day of the country.

In a message, President Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed hope that the existing bonds of relationship and co-operation between the two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come.

He also wished for the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Paraguay.

In another message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her warm greetings to the President and the people of Paraguay on the occasion of the national day of that country.



Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Bir Pratik, speaking at a seminar on 'Recent border dispute clashes between Bangladesh and India' organised by Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies in the city yesterday.

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## Copy-free HSC Examination declared at Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur

Bold and dynamic leader Al-Haj Mockbul Hossain, the Honourable Member of the Parliament from Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur (Dhaka-9), ensured fair and copy-free examination in all the past SSC, HSC and Degree examinations that were held in Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur areas. Likewise, the leader has already declared necessary precautions to organize a fair and copy-free examination environment under his keen overseeing to conduct the HSC examination which is being held from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2001. We appreciate the cooperation and assistance from the Honourable Prime Minister, Education Minister, State Minister, National University authority and all the concerned bodies including the teachers, students, guardians, journalists, news-media and mass-media to ensure the healthy examination atmosphere.

### Responsible persons

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