



PHOTO: STAR

Landless people form a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding khas land for them.

## Landless demand khas land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Landless people from across the country yesterday formed a human chain in the city demanding allocation of khas land for them.

They also demanded proper investigation of tortures unleashed on them by vested quarters.

More than one thousand landless people comprising male and female from Kaliganj, Boiragir Chak and Chingri Khali of Satkhira, Gangachara of Rangpur, Goalanda, Baliakandi and Pangsha of Rajbari, Chatmohor of Pabna, Boraigram of Natore, greater Noakhali, Tanore and Sarda of Rajshahi and Charmantaj of Patuakhali joined the human chain.

Samata, a non-government organisation working for the land rights of the marginal people, organised the one-kilometer-long human chain opposite to High Court.

The participants at the human chain were holding different placards that read 'Resettle those people who were driven out from their homes', 'To compensate those who were victimised by the land grabbers', and 'To investigate all inci-

dents of torture and punish the culprits'.

"I have come to demand my right. My house was devoured by the Padma six years ago. Now I have been living by the side of the road with my family. The government must do something for us," said landless Ramjan Ali who came from Goalanda.

Samata Executive Director Abdul Kader, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of ALRD, Zakir Hossain of Nagorik Udyog and Shamsul Huda were present on the occasion.

### 1,366 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,366 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.



### Farida Sarkar passes away

Farida Sarkar, wife of former power and energy minister Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, died of cancer at Shikder Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 48, says a press release.

Earlier, she was under treatment at Harvard University Hospital of USA and Bumrungrad Hospital of Bangkok.

She left behind her husband and only son.

A former newscaster of Voice of America, Farida Sarkar was an English teacher at the North South University and Prime Asia University of the city. She also taught English at Eden Govt. University College and Notre Dame College.

She joined the Bangladesh Civil Service (administration) in 1984.

Farida Sarkar was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur yesterday.

Her Qulhwani will be held at her husband's residence at House 8, Road 124, Gulshan-1 in the city after Asr prayers on March 10.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

### 3-year-old girl strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of a three-year-old girl, who was strangled on Saturday night, was recovered from a pond in city's Kafrul area.

Police said two women, who are neighbours of the girl, abducted her from near her house and killed her.

The girl is identified as Eti Rani, daughter of Yusuf Ali Sardar of 142/2 North Bhansantek under Kafrul police station.

Eti's father said the two women -- Sabina, 20, and Rowsan Ara, 25, -- threatened to kill one of his children a month back over a trifle incident.

Sabina lost Tk 500 and suspected Eti's elder sister Irani, an 8-year-old, for the theft, said Yusuf.

Locals suspected the two women and handed them over to police. They confessed to the killing, police said.