



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Madartek Abdul Aziz School and College stage a demonstration at Paltan intersection yesterday, causing a gridlock on the city's one of the busiest roads. The students held the rally demanding resignation of their principal.

World Indigenous People's Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous peoples' land has for long been grabbed, their culture denigrated or directly attacked, languages and customs suppressed, wisdom and traditional knowledge overlooked or exploited, and sustainable ways of developing natural resources dismissed.

Moreover, some have even faced the threat of extinction. These are the general situation of the 41 indigenous communities of the country.

Against such backdrop, the International Day of the World's Indigenous People will be observed today in the country as elsewhere around the globe with a pledge to ensure human rights for the indigenous people.

The Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum has taken a daylong programme to mark the occasion. The programme includes a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:00am, and discussion, exhibition and cultural show in the evening.

This year the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum has fixed their theme of the day as 'Indigenous Peoples have the right to self determination'.

Eminent dramatist Mamunur Rashid will inaugurate the rally. A discussion will be held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium. Dr Kamal Hossain, president of Gono Forum, will be the chief guest while Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma will chair the discussion.

Bangla-India JRC meet in Dhaka August 30-31

BSS, Dhaka

The 36th ministerial meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission (JRC) is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on August 30-31, water resources ministry sources told the news agency yesterday.

The last JRC meeting was held nearly two years ago.

Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and his Indian counterpart Priya Ranjan Das Munshi will

lead their respective sides in the meeting.

The Indian water resources minister is expected to arrive in Dhaka on August 29, the sources said.

Water Sharing Treaty-1996, Indian plan to construct barrage at Tipaimukh on the river Barak and the adverse effects of the proposed inter-river linking project on Bangladesh will be the main features of discussion in the meeting,

sources added.

Apart from this, the meeting is likely to focus on river erosion in the bordering areas and boosting cooperation between the two countries in different common issues, including flood forecasting and monitoring.

The 35th JRC meeting was held in New Delhi on September 2003.

Japanese minister's visit cancelled

BSS, Dhaka

Japanese Senior Minister for General Affairs Asa Taro, who was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on a two-day official visit following dissolution of the cabinet by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a foreign office source said yesterday.

Asa Taro was also in charge of the interior ministry.

Prime Minister Koizumi was obliged to call snap polls as the bill to privatise his country's postal system was defeated in parliament, the source said.