

Allocate more funds for indigenous people

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the government to allocate more funds in the national budget for the development of indigenous people.

The allocation in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the indigenous people is too inadequate and that the tribal people living in plain land are more deprived than those living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in terms of allocation of funds, they said.

Research and Development Collective (RDC) in association with Oxfam-GB organised the roundtable on 'Budget and Indigenous People' at the National Press Club in the city.

Md Iftekhar Hossain, assistant professor of economics department of Dhaka University, and Sheikh Md Shahid Uddin Iskander, lecturer of health economics department, presented a research report on 'Allocation for Adivasi in the ADP-- A Macro Analysis' at the roundtable.

The report said that the allocation for the indigenous people under the ADP is only 40 percent of the total ADP and only 7.62 percent of the allocation or Tk 8 crore is earmarked for the tribal people living in plainland.

It recommended allocating more funds for the tribal people and utilising them in a planned way so that indigenous people of plain land are



Prof Md Iftekhar Hossain presents a research report on 'Allocation for Adivasi in the ADP-- A Macro Analysis' at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

not deprived.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Golam Rabbani said, "The indigenous people participated in the liberation war along with the Bangalees; they did not commit any betrayal although some Bangalees did so. So, they deserve more attention for their development."

He called on the government to set up an 'Adivasi Foundation' for the welfare of tribal people and open a department in the universities on 'Adivasi studies'.

Prof Dr Abul Barkat called for constitutional recognition of the

indigenous people and more allocations in the ADP for them.

The government, the people and the media should adopt a planned approach for their development, he added.

Snajida Akhter, a lecturer of women and gender studies at Dhaka University, said there should be separate allocation for the development of tribal women.

Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Adivasi Odhikar Andolon, Prof Dr MM Akash and RDC General Secretary Prof Mesbah Kamal also spoke.

Criminals fire gunshots at transport office in city

One injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of armed criminals fired gunshots at Sobag Paribahan office at Malibagh in the city yesterday afternoon, leaving one of its sales executives injured.

The victim, Ruhul Amin, 30, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He received a bullet in his left thigh, hospital sources said.

"The armed criminals stormed into the office at around 3:00pm and started firing indiscriminately," Ruhul told The Daily Star.

Soon after the firing, the criminals fled the scene, he said.

Sub-Inspector Jahangir Alam of Ramna Police Station said the gang of four armed criminals made the attack but did not loot anything.

The reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained, he added.

Clay art exhibition begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

The week-long clay art exhibition of five young artists of Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University began at Zainul Gallery of the institute yesterday.

The artists are Md Anwar Hossain Jani, Jozia Abedin Tani, Md Rani Habib, ASM Abdullah and Sharif Ahmed. The exhibition will remain open till June 30 from 12:00pm to 8:00pm everyday.



Outgoing World Bank Vice President Praful C Patel calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Meghna-Gomati bridge opens to traffic

UNB, Comilla

Meghna-Gomati bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong highway opened to traffic yesterday afternoon after an emergency repairing on its segment joints.

The roads and highways authorities imposed a ban on the movement of heavy transports, including truck, bus and cargo van, on the Meghna-Gomati Bridge for emergency repairing from May 15 this year.

The bridge opened at about 3:40pm yesterday before four days of the scheduled date after a Japanese construction firm completed its repairing work at 17 joints of the bridge.



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