



(Left) Vice Chancellor of Comilla University Dr AHM Zehadul Karim speaks at an orientation meeting for the 'English in Schools' initiative jointly launched by The Daily Star and AKTEL. Sitting from left are Star Campus Editor Shahnoor Wahid, Prof Md Atiqur Rahman and Seguta Yesmin Samad. (Right) Participants of the orientation programme held at a hotel in Comilla yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



## Attempt to grab lands of indigenous people protested

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Marma Students' Council formed a human chain in front of the national museum in the city yesterday protesting alleged attempt to grab lands of indigenous people at Boroitali in Khagrachhari, says a press release.

They also condemned the attack on indigenous people by the settlers over a land dispute on June 14 in the area.

Ukkayano Marma, organising secretary of Bangladesh

Marma Students' Council, Tanjim Ahmed Khan, assistant professor of Department of International Relations of Dhaka University, Bulbul Chakma of Pahari Chhatri Parishad, Sohel Hajong of Adivasi Chhatri Sangram Parishad, Subid of Bangladesh Garo Chhatri Sangsad, Rajib Tripura of Tripura Students' Forum, and Saikat Mallik of Bangladesh Chhatri Federation expressed their solidarity with the protest by taking part at the human chain.

### PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

## Ensure implementation of HC guidelines

### Speakers tell meeting

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent High Court (HC) judgement on sexual harassment is a great achievement for the movement for equal rights of women, speakers at a dissemination meeting said yesterday.

However, the government, the civil society together with the people must ensure proper implementation of the guidelines, they added.

The HC on May 14 issued a set of guidelines defining sexual misdemeanours in order to prevent any kind of physical, mental or sexual harassment of women, girls and children at workplaces, educational institutions and other public places.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) organised the dissemination meeting on 'Judgment on prevention of sexual harassment' at the Bangladesh Press Club on May 14.

Salma Khan, president, Women for Women and former chairperson of Bangladesh CEDAW committee, said the verdict is an outcome of the extensive struggle of women for their equal rights.

Now educational institutions and offices have to make sure that the provisions are applied properly and the complaints are resolved quickly, she added.

The next focus should be on ensuring women's equal rights to inheritance, she said.

Prof Dilara Chowdhury said cases of sexual harassment prevail in workplaces as there is very little representation of women in the management. There is no

policy to address such issues either. This law is going to help women receive justice in workplace.

Prof Maleka Begum said, "We have to make sure that women in rural areas understand the judgement properly. So, an easy-to-understand Bangla version of it should be made available for them along with special awareness programme."

Issues relating to sexual harassment and the HC judgement should be incorporated in the school curriculum, she added.

Adv Fawzia Karim Firoze, president of BNWLA, Adv Kohinoor Begum, and Prof Mizanur Rahman also spoke.

### 'Resolve Tipaimukh dam issue thru' multilateral discussion'

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should address 'critical' issues concerning India such as Tipaimukh dam and Farakka Barrage through multilateral discussion, not bilateral discussion, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

The government should involve China, Nepal and Bhutan in the process of resolving such issues, they said.

Bangladesh Policy Forum, a pro-BNP-Jamaat non-governmental think tank, organised the discussion at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"Bilateral treaties with India on different issues brought little success in favour of our country," said Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

"We do not want India to behave like a big brother," he

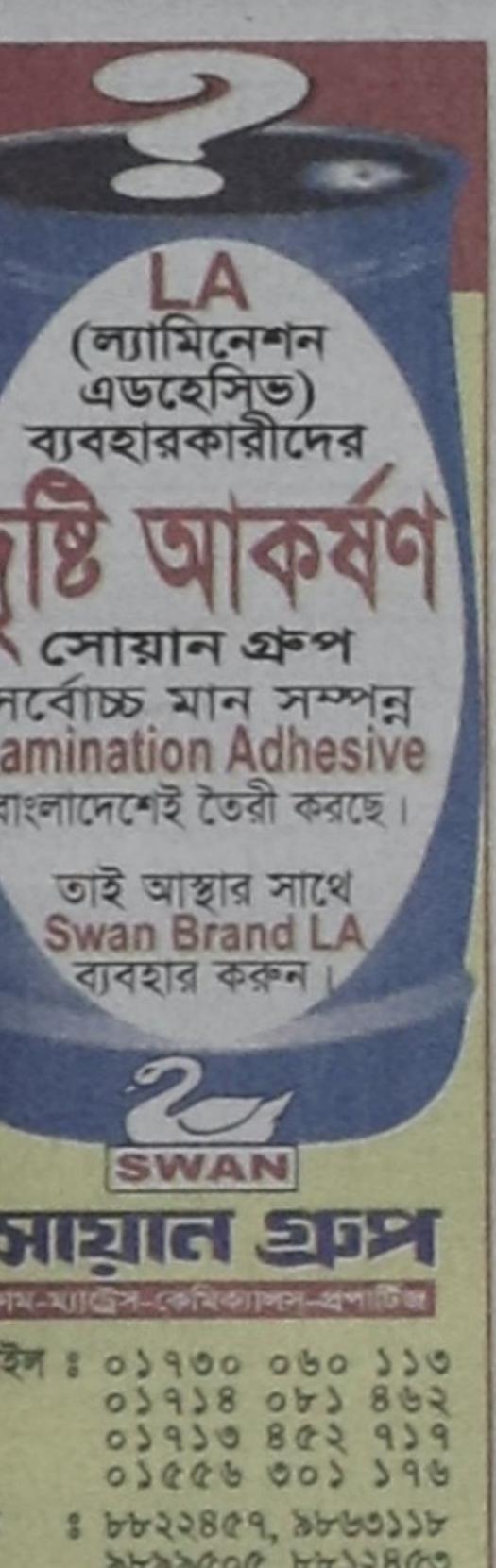
said. "Any bilateral treaties with India was not pleasant for us," he said and called on the government to resolve issues like controversial project Tipaimukh Dam and Farakka Barrage through multilateral discussion.

Emajuddin observed that the proposed Tipaimukh Dam on Barak River would be a 'death trap' for Bangladesh, which will turn the coastal region into desert.

"We will have to be very strong, if we want to survive as a state," he added.

BNP Chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah alleged that the present government is the major threat for the country.

Fazlur Rahman, former chief of BDR, called for forging unity to address national issues.



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