



PHOTO: STAR  
11-Party, a combine of liberal and left-leaning political parties, forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding steps to protect lives and properties of indigenous people.

## JS passes Novo Theatre, High-Tech Park Authority bills

UNB, Dhaka  
The Jatiya Sangsad passed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre Bill 2010 and Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority Bill 2010

yesterday, amid absence of opposition BNP lawmakers. Both the Bills were passed by voice vote without discussion, as the main opposition didn't turn up. The parliament session resumed yesterday after a few days' adjournment.

State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology Yeafesh Osman had piloted the bills and the parliamentary standing committee concerned scrutinised them.

As per the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre Bill, the Novo Theatre has been made an autonomous institution so that its activities can be run properly.

The Novo Theatre opened to public on September 25, 2004. As per the Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority Bill,

a High-Tech Park will be established at Kaliakoir in the first phase and subsequently in other places to develop high-tech technologies to build Bangladesh as a middle-income country.

### ATTACKS ON DALITS

## Punishment to culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Repression on Dalits or lower caste people has increased in Jessore and Jhenidah recently, creating panic among the Dalit community living in the two districts.

Members of the Dalit community are being tortured and killed regularly, but the law enforcement agencies are not paying heed to their pleas for protection, community members said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

In the last two months, two Dalits were killed and attacks were also made on Dalit colonies in Jessore and Jhenidah, they said.

They also demanded an investigation into the incidents, punishment to the killers and attackers and enactment of a

special law declaring caste-based discrimination a punishable offence.

Robin Das of Jhenidah was killed on January 22, Ashim Kumar Mallik of Jhikorgachha on February 13 and Bijoy Das of Chougachha was killed on February 14.

Armed goons attacked their colonies at Kotchandpur in Jhenidah on January 16 and 17, injuring eight people.

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) in association with Nagorik Udyog organised the press conference.

Bibhutosh Roy, secretary (Information and Research) of BDERM, said the entire community of Dalits are being socially persecuted for their identity and they cannot protect themselves due to lack of social and legal support.

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