



ADIVASI PRIDE UNVANQUISHED

The country celebrated International Day of the World's Indigenous People yesterday. This year the theme was "Right to culture and self-identity of indigenous people".

Clad in vibrantly colourful clothing and silver jewellery, Adivasis of different ethnic communities showcased their cultural diversity through dance and song performances in the morning at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

The day is observed all across the world since 1994 to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population, and to celebrate cultural diversity.

Amid the celebration in Bangladesh yesterday, the demand for quick and thorough implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, and for constitutional recognition of the indigenous communities featured quite prominently.

According to the government estimate around 12 lakh indigenous people of 27 ethnic groups live in the country. Non-government organisations however put the number of ethnic groups between 40 and 50 with a total population of 20 lakh.

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

