



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Adivasi Forum forms a human chain in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous people.

Recognise the indigenous in constitution

Adivasi Forum urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum yesterday reiterated its demand for constitutional recognition of the ethnicity, language and culture of the country's indigenous people.

They also demanded constitutional recognition of the indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for their political, economic, social, cultural and religious security.

The forum placed the demands at a human chain programme in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city yesterday.

Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya said the 1972 consti-

tution did not give any recognition to the indigenous people, which is a historical mistake.

"Since the government has taken initiative to amend the constitution, I request them to include the recognition of indigenous people and their rights in the constitution."

He, however, said some government people are reluctant to give such indigenous recognition.

The forum also demanded seats reserved for the indigenous people in parliament as well as the local government.

The forum leaders also called on the government for keeping a guarantee provision in the constitution to take their

opinion when amending the constitution and laws in indigenous people's interest.

They said the government should also give constitutional recognition to the CHT Peace Agreement.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said the government assured him that the indigenous people's rights would be protected in the amended constitution.

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum also organised similar programmes throughout the country including Rangamati, Chittagong and Rajshahi in support of their demand.

Sylhet JCD leader arrested

UNB, Sylhet

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was arrested in connection with an extortion case from Sonatola Bazar in the city on Friday night.

The arrested was identified as Murad Hossain, son of Akmal Hossain of village Moglao in sadar upazila and former information and research affairs assistant secretary of Metropolitan unit of JCD.

Kotwali Model thana police said Murad was a wanted criminal and an accused in an extortion case.

Court sent him to jail as he was produced before it yesterday.

Keraniganj AL leader hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League leader was hacked to death in Keraniganj of the capital yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Jahangir Alam, 32, vice president of Awami League, ward-6 of Taranagar union.

Quoting the family of the deceased, Keraniganj police said a group of men called Jahangir out of his residence on Friday around 10:00pm. Since then Jahangir remained missing.

Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Keraniganj Police Station, said police recovered Jahangir's corpse from an abandoned house of Bangla Nagar village of the union yesterday morning. Police are investigating to know the inside story of the killing, he added.

However, wife of the deceased, Sumi Begum said her husband had a feud with his cousins over land. Five months ago, Jahangir was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his cousins seriously injured him with sharp weapons, she added.

Jahangir's cousins might be involved in the killing, she alleged. A case was filed with Keraniganj Police Station in this connection, said the OC.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

SC Reopens Today 13 HC benches reconstituted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) reopens today after a one-month annual vacation.

The Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court went on vacation on August 26.

A bench of the Appellate Division and another bench of the High Court Division heard some urgent matters during the vacation.

The chief justice reconstituted 13 benches of the High Court Division recently, sources said.

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