



PHOTO: STAR

A motorcycle rider is oblivious of the dangers he is putting himself and others into at Banglamotor in the city yesterday by talking on a mobile phone while riding and not wearing a helmet, despite an ongoing BRTA drive against motor vehicle ordinance violators.

## Ensure indigenous communities' identity in constitution

Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Culture and identities of over 46 indigenous communities in Bangladesh should be recognised through amending the constitution, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said members of the indigenous communities have been living on this land for centuries, enhancing its beauty and developing their own culture, rules and identities.

So, the indigenous communities deserve the constitutional recognition to their own culture, identities and land where they have been living for years, they added.

They told this at the discussion on Conventional rights of members of indigenous communities on lands, Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Treaty and constitutional recognition of indigenous communities at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the city.

Barrister Sara Hossain said the word Adivasi should be written clearly in the

constitution in the case of identifying members of the indigenous communities. The matter of receiving equal opportunities from the society by the indigenous people should be mentioned in the constitution too.

She said law should be enforced in proper way in Chittagong Hill Tracts area for upholding the rights of indigenous communities.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan Prof Mesbah Kamal said it should be written clearly in the constitution that Bangladesh is a land of people of multi-diversity and plurality.

The matter of diversity in culture and communities should also be mentioned in the preamble of the constitution as the preamble sets the tone of an entire constitution, said Mesbah, also a teacher of Dhaka University.

He demanded a list of communities having own culture, tradition and identities for attaching to the constitution and avert problems in future.

Member of International Commission for Chittagong Hill Tracts Dr Shawpan Adnan said the conventional law of indigenous communities on land should be prepared in written form and rules should be made considering the conventional law.

He said the process of grabbing lands from the members of indigenous communities is going on though the CHT Peace Treaty was signed to stop the process. He expressed concerns as a good number of indigenous community members are leaving their houses following grabbing of land by settlers and different companies.

Presenting the keynote paper, Information and Publicity Secretary of Parbartya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity demanded reserve seats in the parliament for the members of indigenous communities and constitutional recognition of indigenous people's rights on land and natural resources.

## Sweden ready to help fight climate change

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

King of Sweden Carl Gustaf Folke Hubertus said his country is ready to support Bangladesh in its battle against climate change.

The King told the newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden AFM Gousal Azam Sarker who called on His Majesty to present his credentials on 27 October, says a foreign ministry press release.

King Gustaf said Sweden encouraged its ambassador to work for enhancing and widening bilateral cooperation. He also expressed happiness at the commercial presence and investment of his country in Bangladesh and at the steady growth in trade.

The Bangladesh ambassador highlighted that Bangladesh maintains its relations with Sweden, a significant development and trade and investment partner.

He also told the King of the Vision 2021 set by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to graduate Bangladesh to a technologically advanced and a middle income country by that year.

Sarker sought support and assistance of the Swedish government particularly in the areas of renewable energy, technology transfer, industrialisation, higher education, human resources development, shipbuilding and IT. The Swedish King assured him of all cooperation and support.

The ambassador conveyed the best wishes and greetings from Bangladesh president and prime minister to the King and the people of Sweden. The King in response requested him to convey the same.

## Uphold communal harmony: President

BSS, DHAKA

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called upon all to remain united and resist the individual and quarters who are trying to destroy country's strong foundation of communal harmony and coexistence in the name of Islam.

"Bangladesh is a liberal democratic country and communal harmony is its ornaments, we have to uphold this tradition at any cost," he said while speaking at a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium here.

Islamic Foundation organised the function to distribute gold medals among the national winners of the 'Hifz' and essay competition marking the 'National Mourning Day-2010' and 36th martyrdom day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

State Minister for Islamic Affairs M

Shahjahan Mia presided over the function while Governor of Islamic Foundation Board of Governors Bazlul Huq Harun, MP, and Director General of the foundation Sameem Mohammad Afzal also spoke.

Zillur Rahman said there is no place for terrorism or militancy in Islam. "All need to be vigilant so that anyone can't instigate such harmful activities using the name of Islam," he added. He said showing tolerance to others' opinion is a great invaluable quality of Bangladesh which is also the essence of Islam.

"I would like to firmly say, we have to maintain Bengalee's thousand year old tradition of communal harmony unitedly," he said. The president expressed hope that Islamic Foundation would take various programmes to realise the dream of Bangabandhu.

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কনকর্ড থেকে গ্র্যাপার্টমেন্ট কিনতেই সর্বোচ্চ

**স্টিল ২৯৩ ২৯৪ ও ২৯৫**

৪ থেকে ৮ নভেম্বর ২০১০  
ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলার মার্চ

**২৫** পর্যন্ত ছাড়

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