

# Form nat'l body to protect indigenous people

Recommends JS caucus body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The technical committee of Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People recommended forming a national commission to protect and promote the rights of the indigenous people.

Prof Mezbah Kamal, coordinator of the technical committee responsible for preparing a draft law for the indigenous people, made the recommendation at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

The caucus, in association with Research and Development Collective and Oxfam, organised the meeting on "Socio-Economic Situation and Relevance of Indigenous People's Rights Act" at Cirdap Auditorium in the city.

Prof Kamal, said a seven-member national commission on indigenous people, as a primary government agency, to be made for the formulation and implementation of the policies, plans and programmes to pro-

tect and promote the interest and well being of the indigenous people.

He told The Daily Star that the technical committee has prepared and submitted the draft law to the caucus, who will now discuss over it in their forum and take opinion from different stakeholders before finalising the law.

He added that the indigenous community of the country has been traditionally deprived of their socio-economic, cultural and political rights.

Rashed Khan Menon, convener of Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People, said there are many laws relating to the indigenous people in the country, but most of these are ineffective, thus allowing violation of the rights of the community.

"So, a specific law is needed to protect the rights of the indigenous people and the caucus has taken initiative to enact a law to ensure their rights," said Menon, also the president of Bangladesh Workers Party, an ally of the Awami League-led grand alliance.



Journalists from both electronic and print media observe a one-hour work abstention from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm across the country yesterday, demanding arrest of the killers of Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Rumi. The photo was taken from in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) jointly called the programme. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

# Amanul gifts history to War Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran photographer Amanul Haq, one of the very few who captured the historic moments of the Language Movement through the lens, donated the Ekushey Padak to received last year to Liberation War Museum yesterday.

Amanul, who captured the photograph of Shaheed Rafiquddin Ahmed with his skull partially blown off from a gunshot, a testament to time, was presented with the award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Language Movement.

At a simple programme at his Aziz Co-operative Housing Society residence, the 87-year-old Amanul handed over the prize to Mofidul Hoque, one of the museum trustees.

"It was not my contribution alone in the Language Movement. There are many known and unknown persons who also contributed to the movement. I want to give this award to pay respect to the memories of all these known and unknown people," he said.

The award belongs to history and the new generation will get to see it in the museum, he added.



Veteran photographer Amanul Haq, one of the very few who captured the historic moments of the Language Movement through the lens, presents his Ekushey Padak to Mofidul Hoque, a trustee of Liberation War Museum, as a donation to the museum, at his Aziz Co-operative Housing Society residence in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Mofidul said the veteran photographer, who captured many images of people's lives and struggles, has donated many photographs, including the one on Shaheed Rafiquddin, to the museum.

"This award is not only a valuable gift to us, it is a homage to the martyrs

of the Language Movement and the numerous people who laid down their lives in the Liberation War," he said.

Amanul was quite close to the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, who compared one of Amanul's photographs to one taken by the world famous photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson.

# Stop construction of Anwara plant

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to stop the construction of a coal-fired power plant in Anwara upazila of Chittagong till further order.

The order was passed after Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman prayed for an adjournment of hearing on the rule issued on October 12, 2010.

The rule, following a writ petition, asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to stop the construction of any coal-fired power plant at Anwara.

Mokhlesur sought the adjournment since Attorney General Mahubey Alam, who was to place arguments against the rule yesterday, could not appear due to illness.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Md Farid Ahmed also adjourned the hearing on the rule for two weeks.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the petition on October 12, 2010 as public interest litigation, challenging the government decision to acquire 645 acres of land at Rangadia and Majherchar Mouzas in Anwara for the plant.

It stated that the Chittagong port, Shah Amanat International Airport, air force base, the people and the area's environment will face serious pollution due to the plant.

The rights organisation also sought HC direction on the government to stop the plant's construction to save the environment.

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