

WHAT WILL BNP, AL TELL THIS GIRL?



"We want to go to school without fear." The simple plea comes from a tearful Mrittika, 9, a fourth grader, scarred by the gory pictures and scenes she sees every day on the media. She was one of the 200 children who joined a human chain of Bangladesh Shishu Academy in front of the institution yesterday, condemning the ongoing political violence all over the country.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Govt to start scrutinising freedom fighters' list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon start scrutinising the list of 55,000 freedom fighters, who were included during the rule of both past Awami League and BNP-Jamaat-led governments, said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq yesterday.

Freedom fighters who have applied to be included in the list will also be scrutinised at the same time, he said at a rally organised by the National Freedom Fighters Foundation at BMA auditorium in the capital.

The minister said freedom fighters of an upazila would be involved in the scrutiny based on the list of Lal Muktibarta and a list prepared by India.

He further said that people, irrespective of their profession, who had worked under the Mujibnagar government during the Liberation War would also be enlisted as freedom fighters.

The rally was held protesting the "recent devastation and militancy of BNP and Jamaat".

Mozammel Huq called BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia an undeclared ameer of SEE PAGE 5 COL 7, SEE PHOTO ONLINE

PERSECUTION OF ADIVASIS

Impunity reflects racism among Bangalees

Human chain told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Impunity to the persecutors of indigenous people reveals the prevalence of a racist mindset of Bangalees, activists and politicians told a human chain yesterday, against the backdrop of at least three recent attacks in Sylhet region only.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon MA Matin said, "We need to set ourselves apart from the Pakistani occupation army by treating the indigenous people with respect."

In Moulvibazar, Mona Lisa Nangrat, 18, a Garo girl, was found dead with her throat slit on January 30, while 72 Khasi families have been living in panic since a tea estate owner decided to decimate 2,000 trees, which they used to farm betel leaf. Just one month before, on December 29, a Monipuri village populated by 90 families was attacked in Sylhet.

These atrocities are the result of "fascist nationalism", Matin told the human chain in front of the capital's National Museum, SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

INDIGENOUS, DALIT PEOPLE IN RAJSHAHI

Digital land management sparks fear of loss

Govt cooperation sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The indigenous and Dalit people of Rajshahi division may lose land during the upcoming digital land record management due to their ignorance and administrative complexities, Adivasi leaders told a meeting in Rajshahi city yesterday, asking for preventive measures by the government.

Reading out the keynote paper, Chitta Ranjan Sardar, convener of the Rajshahi chapter of Human Rights Defenders

Foundation, said the indigenous people were unwilling to update their land documents including mutation papers because of harassment by land officials.

"If they can't update the documents, they might lose land during the survey," he told the programme at Swapnil Community Centre, organised by Adivasi Sangkritik Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) with support from the European Union and Oxfam.

The indigenous people have deeds, SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

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