



Kusumika Chakma cradles her daughter who is yet to set her eyes upon her home in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila, at a human chain Dighinala Bhumi Rakkha Committee formed at the High Court's Mazar Gate yesterday. Over 80 indigenous people of some 21 families have been left homeless since June 10 last year after being displaced from their ancestral lands in Shashi Mohon Karbari Para and Jatna Mohon Karbari Para for Border Guard Bangladesh's 51 Battalion headquarters.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# BGB 51 BATTALION HQ IN DIGHINALA Adivasis again demand relocation on eve of Independence Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"I want my daughter to grow up in my own home. I will not accept any (compensation) offer. Nothing is as good as returning home," said Kusumika Chakma.

She named her child Biplobi, in Bangla, meaning a revolutionary. Biplobi was sleeping peacefully in her arms, undisturbed by the human chain Kusumika joined at the High Court's Mazar Gate in the capital yesterday, on the eve of Independence Day, demanding return of their ancestral land in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila.

She told The Daily Star about her longing to sit in her front yard with the family around her smiling, welcoming the new member.

What instead now menacingly encircles Shashi Mohon Karbari Para and adjoining Jatna Mohon Karbari Para is a barbed wire fence erected last March by Border Guard Bangladesh marking its 51 Battalion headquarters.

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# Rangamati Medical College set to commence Saturday despite indigenous resistance

## Students fear violence

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Students of the maiden academic session at Rangamati Medical College fear more than a year of session jam, with the classes withheld for about two months, since the local indigenous people fiercely opposed to the institution's founding and Awami League affiliated people clashed on the day of its inauguration on January 10, injuring over 30 people.

However, the authorities concerned are yet to take any plausible step to dispel uncertainty.

Principal of the college Prof Tipu Sultan said the health ministry decided at a meeting on March 18 to start the academic activities in Rangamati General Hospital on March 28. But amid prevailing tension, the 51 students of the college, 30 of them female, fear attending classes there.

Earlier, the principal said the students might have to take classes outside Rangamati for the time being.

Najmus Sahar Mahera, a student, said, "We haven't yet got any official announcement

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