



Indigenous people bring out a colourful procession in Panchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district marking International Day of the World's Indigenous People yesterday, left, and Garo artistes performing their traditional cultural functions at the premises of Corpus Christi High School in Madhupur upazila under Tangail district offer a captivating sight the same day.



PHOTO: STAR

Int'l Day of Indigenous Peoples observed in dists

The ethnic communities reiterate their demand for constitutional, other rights

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Indigenous people in different areas of the country observed International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples yesterday with demand for ensuring their constitutional recognition as well as political, economic, social and land rights.

Colourful processions, cultural programmes and discussions were held on the occasion.

People joined different programmes in Bandarban district town yesterday demanding full execution of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, reports our Bandarban correspondent.

The speakers at a rally in the town urged the people from all walks of life to refrain from buying and selling all kinds of essentials in all seven upazilas of the district on August 19, announcing a dawn-to-dusk "Bazaar boycott" programme as part of a non-cooperation movement to press for the full implementation of the peace accord.

Chaired by KS Mong Marma, member of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, the rally was addressed, among others, by Joli Mong Marma, member of Bangladesh Adivashi Forum, Loyel David Bawm, U Ky Sa Prue

Marma, and Donai Prue Neli.

Earlier, a colourful procession paraded the main roads of the district town.

People of different communities including Marma, Chakma, Tripura, Tongchyanga, Khyang, Bawm, Mro, Lusai, Khumi and Chak celebrated the day with festivities and programmes.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports: The district celebration committee of International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples organised a rally at Tong community centre of the district town.

Convener of the committee Rabi Sankar Talukdar presided over the programme while leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (MN Larma faction) Sudhakar Chakma was present as chief guest.

The speakers urged saving the indigenous people from torture and violence and ensuring their rights.

Earlier, hundreds of indigenous people brought out a colourful procession in the district town.

The day was also observed in Panchhari, Mahalchhari, Matiranga, and Dighinala upazilas of the district with rallies and processions.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports: International Day of

World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated in Thakurgaon town with the theme 'Post 2015 Agenda: Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being'.

Thakurgaon district unit of Jatiya Adivashi Parishad, a platform of the indigenous people, and ESDO Premdip Project jointly organised the programmes.

In the afternoon, a colourful procession was brought out in the town.

Later, a discussion was held at the auditorium of Thakurgaon Press Club where law maker of Thakurgaon-3 constituency Yasin Ali attended as chief guest and district unit President of Jatiya Adivashi Parishad Sujo Mormu presided.

The speakers demanded realisation of their nine-point demands including establishing constitutional rights of the indigenous people and formation of a separate land commission to protect land rights of the indigenous people living on plain lands.

Our Tangail correspondent reports: Garo people in Madhupur upazila under the district wearing their eye catching traditional colourful dresses brought out a procession in Madhupur upazila headquarter in the morning to observe the International Day of the

World's Indigenous Peoples yesterday.

They later took part in a cultural function, sports competition and a discussion on the premises of Corpus Christi High School at Jalchhatra.

The Garo artistes performed their traditional songs and dances at the cultural event with their traditional musical instruments.

Lawmaker from Tangail-1 (Madhupur-Dhanbari) Dr Abdul Razzaque attended and addressed the events as the chief guest.

With Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad president Eugene Nokrek in the chair, local indigenous people's leader William Dajel spoke at the discussion as the main speaker.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: A discussion and cultural programme was organised at Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium marking the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples.

The indigenous artistes from greater Mymensingh region performed at the cultural show with traditional musical instruments and wearing their traditional costumes.

Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out in the town.

Teacher shot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A high school teacher suffered bullet wounds at his head and abdomen when a gang opened fire in Jaldhaka upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Bullet-hit Madhab Chandra Roy, 40, son of Keshab Chandra Roy of Dalia road in the upazila, also a teacher of Golmunda High School, is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Quoting locals police said Madhab was going to his workplace on a battery driven auto-rickshaw around 9:45am.

On his way to the school, four youths, aged about 20/25 years, boarded on the vehicle and started poking and irritating the teacher.

As he protested the irritation, one of the youths shot Madhab with a pistol hidden and got down at Mominur Danga.

After getting down from the three-wheeler, the four youths boarded on two motorbikes of their cohorts and fled the scene, said Rataneshwar Roy, one of Madhab's colleagues, also a co-passenger of the auto-rickshaw.

Hearing screams, locals rescued Madhab and rushed him to Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex, from where he was referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Police detained the auto rickshaw driver for interrogation.

4 kids hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Four children were injured when three crude bombs blew up while they were playing with those at Abhaynagar upazila in Jessore yesterday.

They are Munna, Anik, Ashikul and Fatema, aged between 7 and 8 years.

They went to collect palm near a pond at Noapara village around 8:15am, where they found an abandoned bag containing four crude bombs. Three of the bombs went off when they started playing with them, mistaking them to be toys, said Sheikh Nasir Uddin, OC of Abhaynagar Police station.

The four were first taken to Abhaynagar Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated, he added.

HSC EXAMINEES REJOICE IN SUCCESS



PHOTO: STAR

FROM TOP: Successful candidates in this year's HSC examinations, mostly GPA-5 achievers, from Dinajpur Holy Land College, Government Azizul Haque College in Bogra, Mominunessa Government Women's College in Mymensingh, Dinajpur Government Women's College, Al-Amin Academy in Chandpur, and Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College flash V-sign after knowing their glorious results yesterday.

Enclave exchange committee turns into citizens' rights body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

India, Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee has turned into a human rights organisation titled Citizen Rights Coordination Committee.

In a general meeting held on Saturday at Panchagarh Government Auditorium, the leaders of India, Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee decided to dissolve the committee and form a 21-member Citizen Rights Coordination Committee.

The meeting unanimously made Moinul Haque the convener and

Golam Mostafa and Mofizar Rahman joint conveners, while advocate Abraham Lincoln was made coordinator of the committee.

Lawmaker Selina Jahan Lita was the chief guest and advocate Abraham Lincoln was special guest at the meeting.

The leaders from former 111 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh participated in the programme.

The leaders of Bangladesh and India chapters of the committee held an emergency meeting through video conferencing yesterday.

In the meeting, the leaders decided to dissolve the com-

mittee and form the rights organisation with three units -- one for Bangladesh, one for India and one for the Indian enclave dwellers who opted to go to the Indian mainland.

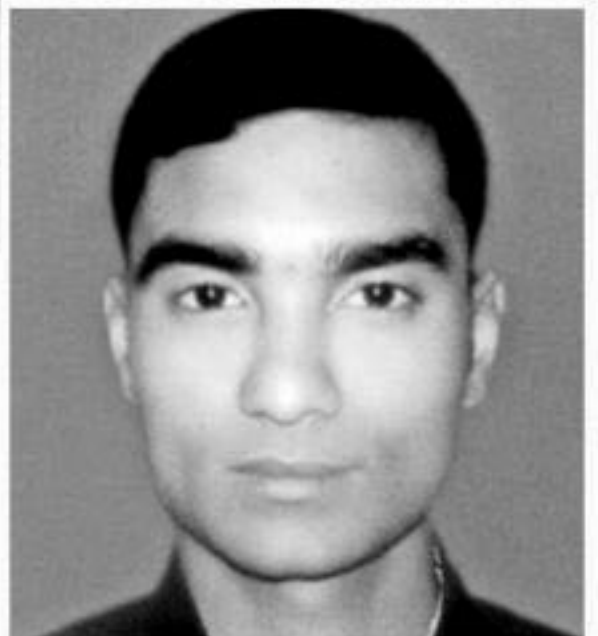
At midnight on July 31, 51 Bangladeshi enclaves inside Indian territory and 111 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh were attached to their respective countries. With this, about 40,000 people got identity in their states.

The leaders of the coordination committee told reporters that they are launching a new fight to protect human rights, history and heritage shared by the two countries.



PHOTO: STAR

People from the Harijan community form a human chain in front of Pabna Press Club in the town yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of those who killed Tulshi Das (inset), a member of the community, on August 1.



SNIPPETS

Schoolgirl raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, THAKURGAON

A schoolgirl was raped in Tangon Barrage area under Sadar upazila of the district on Friday. Police and locals said the 14-year-old fell in love with one Akhtarul Islam, 20, son of Abdul Jabbar of Atwary upazila headquarters in Panchagarh over cellphone. On Friday afternoon, the girl went to the area after receiving the youth's phone call. Akhtarul raped the girl and fled the scene, leaving her unconscious. She was later sent to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital. A case was filed, accusing Akhtarul in this connection, said Manoj Kumar, officer-in-charge of Atwary Police Station.

Construction worker dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A construction worker died when a large portion of a boundary wall collapsed on him in Kalinath Rayer Bazar area of Bhola municipality yesterday. The deceased is Nurunnobi, 45, son of late Bachchu Mollah of Algi village in Sadar upazila. Mobassir Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said Nurunnobi was demolishing the boundary wall of one Fazlul Kader Majnu Mollah in the area and suddenly a big chunk of plaster fell on him. He was rushed to Bhola Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Boy electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A schoolboy was electrocuted at Ektarpur village in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore district on Saturday. The deceased is Musa Shikder, 10, son of Shakwat Shikder of the village, and a student of Class V of Abhaynagar Primary School. Family sources said Musa came in contact with a live electric wire beside his house at night and died on the spot.

Fake dentist jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A mobile court here yesterday sentenced a fake dentist to two years' imprisonment. On information, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided Dental and Oral Surgery Clinic in Jailkhana intersection area of the town around 2:30pm. The elite force then asked clinic owner Mokhesur Rahman, who claimed himself as dentist, to show his dental certificates but he failed, said court sources. The Rab-12 team arrested the owner and produced him before the court, led by Executive Magistrate Jamal Uddin, which punished him.