

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.0 L 27.2	H 31.7 L 27.0	H 33.6 L 26.6	H 33.5 L 25.0	H 34.2 L 26.5	H 34.0 L 27.8	H 33.2 L 26.8	H 33.2 L 25.7	H 32.2 L 26.0

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong & Sylhet and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh & Dhaka divisions, with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:32am. City/Town temperature in Celsius



**NOT WITHOUT QUESTION...** Indigenous women put forward the question, "Where is the roadmap to implement the CHT Peace Accord?" as they perform dance at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka to celebrate International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Media failing indigenous people

Santu Larma tells MJF seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The media fails to portray the true picture of the repression of indigenous people due to pressure of the communal, undemocratic, non-progressive and discriminatory governing system of the country, indigenous leader Santu Larma said yesterday.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Violence against Indigenous Women: Role of Media," at Bangla Academy, he said many historical and social aspects were also playing a bigger role in the repression, and this situation would not improve only through law enforcement.

Manusher Jonno Foundation organised the event to mark International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, with its Executive Director Shaheen Anam in the chair.

The chief guest of the event, Larma said the people representing electronic and print media have individual perspectives, which are reflected when they publish or broadcast news about the ethnic minorities.

Journalists often judge an incident tied to the indigenous community with the psychological and emotional baggage they carry, said the president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity that signed the peace accord with the government in 1997.

By forging stronger relationships with journalists, editors and relevant personnel, "we can change the popular perspective, help them come out of stereotypical ideas about indigenous people," said Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

Ainoon Nahar, professor of anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, said, "We demand that the government let the press work freely."

Zobaiyda Nasreen, associate professor of anthropology, Dhaka University, presented an article on media's role in ensuring justice to indigenous women.

She said the media often ignored the plights of indigenous communities living on plain lands since it mostly focused on those in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Criticising the government's position regarding the indigenous community, she drew attention to an advertisement of Bangladesh Parjatan

Corporation where indigenous women and their culture were shown as beautiful features of Bangladesh to attract foreign visitors.

But the word "indigenous" was missing in the video clip because of the "no-Adivasi-lives-here" stance of the state, Zobaiyda said in the article.

She also blamed the media for seeing indige-

Shaheen Anam said the rights organisations' efforts to ensure justice for indigenous people go in vain since the state is completely indifferent to them.

Freelance journalist Julfikar Ali Manik said the media should welcome criticism about its role.

The society is divided, and so is the media.



**Guests at a programme on "Violence against Indigenous Women: Role of Media" at Bangla Academy yesterday. From left, Kanak Chapa Chakma, Julfikar Ali Manik, Santu Larma, Ainoon Nahar, and Sanjeeb Drong.**

PHOTO: STAR

nous people's problems through the eyes of the majority. To the media, indigenous issues are still local issues, not national issues, she said.

"The incidents [torture, rape, gang rape of Adivasi women] are reported without historical and political aspects, which is why the crimes happen repeatedly," Zobaiyda noted.

However, he said the mainstream media should have an impartial role and know how to identify facts from analysis and opinions.

"Analysis and opinions can vary but facts can't," Julfikar said.

"It is people's trust in a news organisation that makes its work credible, acceptable," he added.



**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina comforts two women while providing financial assistance at her office yesterday.**

PHOTO: BSS

## PM gives financial aid to slain JIL leader's family, 4 individuals

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday provided Tk 10 lakh as financial assistance to the family of Joypurhat Jubo League (JL) leader Towhidul Islam Sabuj who was killed by BNP-Jamaat terrorists in 2013.

Sabuj's father Afzal Hossain received a cheque from PM at her office in Dhaka.

Sabuj was the organising secretary of Jubo League's Matrai union unit. BNP-Jamaat terrorists stormed his house on April 7, 2013 and set the house on fire after vandalising and looting it. Later, they picked up Sabuj and killed him in broad daylight.

Sabuj's family was going through financial hardship as his brother Rezwan Hossain, 25, died of cardiac arrest in 2016.

Sheikh Hasina also provided financial assistance amounting to Tk 60 lakh to four other individuals.

Former national footballer Jalal Uddin Molla, and Shabrina Khatun, wife of late Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ramizur Rahman Molla, received Tk 20 lakh each.

PM also provided Tk 10 lakh each to Farzana Yeasmin Merry, wife of late BCS cadre Mohammad Nazrul Islam, and Sultanara Begum, wife of freedom fighter Amir Hossain.

## Culture of impunity allows oppression

Speakers say at Adivasi Forum's programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday said that lack of trust among the country's indigenous community is due to inadequate initiative from the government to ensure their fundamental rights.

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF) arranged the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in Dhaka, marking International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

They said that the prevailing culture of impunity allows perpetrators to continue oppression of indigenous women while land belonging to ethnic minorities is grabbed with help from influential quarters, forcing migration.

Presiding over the programme, indigenous leader and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, better known as Santu Larma, said that political and economic factors are main reasons behind oppression of indigenous people.

He criticised the state's "limitations" in giving due recognition of indigenous communities.

"The state's attitude towards indigenous people is not democratic," he said.

Santu Larma, also president of BAF, said their relentless struggle over the years has been proven "insufficient" while youngsters have come forward with tougher movements to earn their rights.

"Greater movement is necessary if we want to persuade them [the rulers] to ensure our fundamental rights," he said.

He wished three million indigenous people living in Bangladesh well, and demanded full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord-1997.

He also urged the country's left-leaning and progressive bodies to support their struggle. Indigenous people want recognition of their identities and the state has to play its rightful role to this end, said Sultana Kamal, co-chair of

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## SC upholds HC's compensation order

Jabal-e-Noor owner confesses negligence in assessing driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that directed Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan to pay Tk 5 lakh to each of the families of two students who were killed in the road crash on Airport Road in Dhaka on July 29.

Abdul Karim alias Rajib Uddin Rajib, 18, and Dia Khanam Mim, 17, who were students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College, were run over and killed by a bus of the transport company on July 29.

Nine other students of the college were injured when the bus ploughed into a crowd waiting to board a bus.

Yesterday, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, passed "no order" on a peti-

tion filed by Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan seeking a stay on the HC order.

Following a writ petition filed by Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, an SC lawyer, the HC on July 31 ordered Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan to pay Tk 5 lakh to each of the families of Rajib and Dia in seven days and to bear the expenses for treatment of the injured.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why a directive should not be issued on the owner of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan to give Tk 2 crore as compensation to each of the families of the two students who were killed.

After the SC's chamber judge passed the order yesterday, Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal told The Daily Star that the HC order will remain in force following the SC order

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## SC sets Aug 12 to decide on stay of Khaleda's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed August 12 for passing an order on a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the High Court order that granted bail to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia in an arson case filed in Comilla under the Special Powers Act, 1974 in 2015.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain set the date after concluding hearing on the petition.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam argued for the government while Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali, and Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon appeared for Khaleda Zia.

The HC on August 6 granted six months' bail to Khaleda Zia in the arson case. The following day, the government filed the petition with the SC seeking a stay on the HC order of bail.

**HC ADJOURNS HEARING**

Yesterday, the HC heard for the 14th day the appeal filed by Khaleda challenging the lawyer court verdict that convicted her in this case.

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## MOVEMENT FOR SAFE ROADS Run independent probe into attack on students: HRFB



**From right, Sultana Kamal, Tahmina Rahman, Shaheen Anam and Sheepa Hafiza at the press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Human Rights Forum Bangladesh organised the programme.**

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a platform of 20 rights and development organisations, yesterday demanded an unbiased investigation into the attacks on student demonstrations demanding safe roads.

In a press conference held at Jatiya Press Club, they also demanded release of noted photographer Shahidul Alam immediately, lifting the case filed against him and other students detained under ICT Act.

Coordinator of the platform Tamanna Haque Riti placed the five-point demand of HRFB at the press conference.

They demanded forming an unbiased probe committee to investigate the recent attacks on students and journalists, and take actions against culprits irrespective of their political allegiance.

Referring to the recent incidents, eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said "We have to sadly raise the question why we cannot differentiate this pro-liberation government's attitude from an autocratic one."

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), said there is lack of transparency surrounding the arrests made in connection with the student movement.

On another note, she said they do not condone anarchy

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