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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

Add indigenous voices to nat'l youth policy
Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for a review of the National Youth Policy 2017 to make it more inclusive for indigenous youths.

They argued that the policy must ensure recognition, representation, and meaningful participation of indigenous youths in national development.

The Bangladesh Indigenous Youth Forum (BIYF) organised the dialogue titled "No One Left Behind: Ensuring Inclusion, Meaningful Participation, and Progress of Marginalised Indigenous Youths through Re-evaluation of the National Youth Policy 2017" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Presenting the keynote paper, BIYF General Secretary Monira Tripura said indigenous youths remain overlooked in policy and development plans despite their significant role in the country's workforce and culture.

Falguni Tripura, general secretary of the Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, said the lack of data on indigenous youths makes policymaking difficult.

"We need youth friendly spaces and counselling support, especially in the CHT and remote plains. We must work together for



Students of Government Science College in Tejgaon stage a protest at Farmgate in the capital yesterday, demanding the removal of illegal shops and rickshaw stands occupying the road and footpath near their institution to ensure safe and congestion-free movement for both students and commuters.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regular review of youth policy
- Data collection for accurate representation
- Promotion of youth-friendly spaces
- Addressing barriers in remote areas

a fairer and more inclusive future," she said.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, said the policy should be reviewed every five years. "Now is the right time to include indigenous voices. They are equal citizens of Bangladesh, and their rights are part of the state's responsibilities," he said.

Ripun Chandra Banai, an executive member of the forum, urged the government to ensure indigenous participation in the 2027 policy review and formally recognise the term "Adivasi" in state documents.

Writer and researcher Pavel Partha said the youth policy lacks an inclusive and pluralist vision and fails to represent rural and indigenous youths. He called for bilingual education, digital access, and protection of traditional skills.

Drinjo Chambugong, staff reporter at Prothom Alo, said indigenous organisations should gather accurate data before seeking stronger inclusion in policy. He suggested they prepare a 15- to 20-point action plan for the next review. BIYF President Anthony Rema, VP Tony Chiran and Finance Secretary Anannya Drong were also present.

RAKIB MADBER

Jagannath University (JnU), one of Bangladesh's oldest and historic institutions of higher learning, marks 20 years as a full-fledged public university today.

Renowned for its long legacy of education, culture, and activism, it has shaped generations of students and played a vital role in the country's political and intellectual life.

Yet, despite its proud past, the university continues to struggle with inadequate facilities for its nearly 19,000 students.

Chronic shortages of residential halls, classrooms, transportation, medical services, and library resources have long hindered academic progress and campus life.

JnU has only one residential hall that can house about 1,200 students. The rest live in rented houses or shared messes, which has become an added financial burden for many from outside Dhaka.



Although two decades have passed since its establishment, no new permanent dormitories have been built. Most halls from the college era were occupied after independence, and efforts to reclaim them have yielded little progress.

Recently, the university gained legal possession of the Habibur Rahman and Bani Bhaban halls, where new residential facilities are being developed under the supervision of the Bangladesh Army. However, students complain that construction is moving too slowly.

The seven-acre campus accommodates 38 departments and two institutes across eight academic buildings, leading to a severe shortage of classrooms. Some departments with five running batches are allotted only two or three rooms, forcing them to share space or reschedule classes.

JnU also operates only 23 buses for its 19,000 students, two of which have been out

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Media trials'
undermine
justice system
Says CA's press
secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser Shafiqul Alam yesterday warned that "media trials" and excessive public pressure are corroding the neutrality of Bangladesh's justice system, making it difficult for judges to adjudicate cases "calmly and rationally".

Speaking at a panel discussion titled "State & Trends of Death Penalty Sentencing Practices in Bangladesh," held at Drik Gallery in Panthapath, Alam said the country's justice system operates in a "toxic environment" where sensationalism often outweighs sober deliberation.

The event was organised by Dhaka-based research organisation Decage as part of an ongoing art exhibition called "Living on Death Row."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Car showroom owners protest extortion, threat
Keep 550 centres closed for half a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

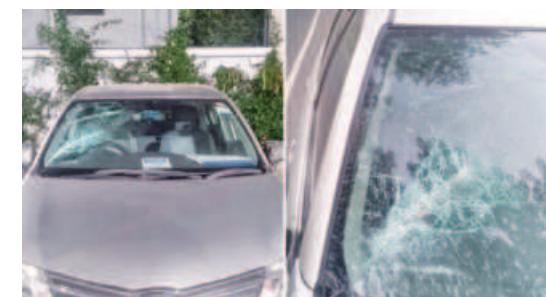
A reign of terror has gripped car showroom owners in the capital.

Extortionists demand large sums from these businesses, and when the owners refuse to pay, they send photos of assault rifles, hurl cocktails near the shops, and even threaten to kidnap their children.

The wave of threats and violence has left traders feeling helpless and customers scared to visit showrooms.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Motorcade of AK Azad attacked in Faridpur



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The motorcade of former independent MP from Faridpur-3 AK Azad came under attack, allegedly by a group of Jubo Dal activists, in Faridpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The incident occurred around 4:45pm at Parmanandapur Bazar under Krishnanagar union.

Witnesses said Azad, managing director of Ha-Meem Group, arrived at Parmanandapur around 4:00pm to prepare for his campaign when a procession led by Lutfar Rahman, former joint secretary of the upazila Jubo Dal, and Krishnanagar union Jubo Dal President Nannu Mollah reached the spot.

They shouted slogans, calling Azad an "ally of the fascist Awami League."

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