



A sewage manhole overflows on Dhanmondi Road-6 in the city, causing suffering to pedestrians as well as passengers. Somebody has also kept a branch of a tree in the open manhole as a sign of warning. The situation continues for nearly a week, but the authorities remain indifferent.

Reduction in phone call charges demanded

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Advancement in the country's telecom sector is yet to create any impact on the 'call charges', the leaders of Citizen Rights Movement said urging the government to bring down call charges of T&T land phone and mobile phones to a tolerable level.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club,

they demanded the reduction in the BTTB's monthly line rent from Tk 150 to Tk 50 along with the increase of its call duration to 10 minutes in first unit and 5 minutes from second unit.

The organisation also demanded to fix mobile call rate at Tk 0.50 per minute for all operators.

Former BTRC chairman Syed Marghub Morshed said BTTB,

mobile telephone operators as well as BTRC will have to be compelled to reduce call charges by initiating a specific guideline and consumer protection law.

"We would go for legal action if necessary," he said adding that the movement involving people of all walks of life would be more effective in this regard.

Mobile users of the country under the banner of Citizen Rights Movement will form a

human chain in front of the National Museum at 10:00am on February 11 to realise their eight-point demand, including reduction in call charges to Tk .50 per minute.

The call charge in the country is higher than any other country in the South Asian region.

They will continue their campaign for lower rates until their demands are met, they added.

NOTUN KURI 2005

Guardians protest cancellation of folk dance result

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of a contestant of 'Notun Kuri 2005', a national television competition for child artistes, yesterday protested the cancellation of the final result of the folk dance of Group-B.

At a press conference, the parents of Anannya Banik who secured 2nd position in general dance and 1st position in each of the classical, folk and group dances in the competition, said an influential quarter has motivated the Notun Kuri authorities to cancel the result to serve their evil design.

"The result of the folk dance of Group- B was cancelled after six months of the announcement of final result, and the BTV has been announcing the news of cancellation since the last five days saying that it will hold the competition again at a later time." Anannya's mother Lipi Banik said, adding, "the authorities did not give us anything in written regarding the cancellation."

Pointing out to Anwara Begum Laiju, mother of another competitor Tahmina Anwar Anika, she said the lady was

desperately trying to make her daughter champion.

As the girl could not secure any position in folk dance, the influential lady managed a group of high officials of Notun Kuri authority and cancelled it, Lipi Banik claimed.

She also alleged that Anika showed false certificates to take part in the competition and her parents spread fake news about Anannya and her family to harass them.

The parents said Anannya is now very upset and urged the authorities concerned to restore the previous result.

Muggers stab businessman to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed a businessman to death and looted cash and ornaments from his wife at Demra in the city on Friday night.

Manir Hossain, 50, a paper importer and resident of Shanir Akhra in Demra, and his wife were returning home by a rickshaw when the muggers waylaid them in Banspati area at around 8:45pm.

As the gang started snatching the purse and gold ornaments of his wife, Manir tried to resist them, but the muggers stabbed him in his chest and stomach.

Critically injured Manir was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

No one was arrested in this connection as of yesterday afternoon.