



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University students take to the streets at Shahbagh in the city yesterday disrupting traffic for about three hours following a road accident that injured a DU student.

Formulate food policy to ensure quality

Food traders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food manufacturers and traders at a press conference in the city urged the government to formulate a food policy and amend Pure Food Act, 1959.

They also demanded proper implementation of policies to ensure quality food in restaurants and food shops.

Bangladesh Khadya Babshayee Parishad (BKBP), a platform of six food manufacturing and selling organisations, organised the press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday to press their demands.

Their demands also include uninterrupted power supply, treating food industry as cottage industry,

removing all types of complexities to get BSTI certificates and setting up training institutes for the staffs working in restaurants and food shops.

They said the government should consult the business leaders in food sector before making any move to upgrade the conditions of the bakeries, restaurants and food

shops.

Seeking time from the government, Md Jalal Uddin, joint convener of the parishad, said, "We are used to traditional method of manufacturing food for years and it is not possible to achieve European standard overnight. The government should give us enough time to improve".

Expressing resentment about power outage, the leaders said their production is being hampered due to frequent power outages that often make their food and food making materials rotten.

They also alleged that most of the Anti-Adulteration Drives do not include any expert and they usually impose a huge fine before chemically testing the food.

Sometimes, they charge a huge fine for minor offence, they added.

If the government does not pay heed to their demands in 15 days, they will light candles on Shaheed Minar premises on May 25, they threatened.

They will hold a rally in the city in June to press the government for their demands.

Khondakar Ruhul Amin, convener of BKBP, read out a written statement while parishad leaders Swapan Kumar Ghosh, Kamal Uddin Khokon and Shauddin Ahmed were also present at the press conference.

Shahed Kamal undergoes chest surgery

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Shahed Kamal, a noted journalist, Dhaka University teacher and son of eminent poet Begum Sufia Kamal underwent chest surgery yesterday afternoon at the city's new 'Al Rajee Hospital'.

He is now at the 'Post Operative Care Unit' of the hospital and his condition is stable, a relative of Shahed Kamal said.

Earlier, on duty doctor Toufiq Imam informed that Shahed Kamal was admitted to the hospital with discomfort in chest. He has been suffering since mid February.

Chest specialist Dr AKM Razzaque, Dr Kamrul Alam and chief Anaesthetist of National Heart Foundation Dr ATM Khalil were in the team that conducted the surgery.



PHOTO: STAR

Saarc Secretary General Chenkyab Dorji speaks at the Fifth Saarc Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Call for massive production of herbal plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for massive production of herbal plants in Saarc countries for healthcare as well as for earning foreign currencies.

They said apart from their traditional use in ayurvedic, unani and siddha medicines, herbal plants are being used in different parts of the world to manufacture medicines by using modern technology.

The seminar titled 'Medicinal plants: An opportunity for Saarc countries' was organised by Saarc Agricultural Information Centre (Saic) at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Barc) auditorium in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper Dr VP Kamboj, former director of Central Drug Research Institute of Lucknow, India said herbal medicines, which are very effective for

the treatment of cancer and malaria, can also cure age-related diseases including metabolic and immune disorders.

Around 75-80 percent population of Saarc countries have been using ayurvedic, unani and siddha medicines, he added.

Explaining the reasons for growing demand of herbal drugs in world market Kamboj said two of the 10 best selling medicinal plants—allium sativum (garlic) and aloe vera (aloe gel) grow in Saarc countries.

He laid emphasis on standardisation of herbal medicines by using modern technology to get hold of international market being dominated by China and Thailand other than India.

During a question-answer session, Kamboj demonstrated various aspects of medicinal approach to herbal plants.

Experts and representatives from different government and

private organisations including Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Hamdard, National Herbarium, Drug Testing Laboratory Institute of Public Health, Saic and Barc officials attended the seminar.

Answering a question on whether India would provide technological support to standardise the herbal drug industry of Bangladesh, he suggested Bangladesh should institutionalise the sector by means of a comprehensive approach in the production of herbal plants before seeking collaboration from India.

Farid Uddin Ahmed, member director of Natural Resource Management (NRM), BARC presided over the seminar while Dr Wais Uddin Ahmed, director of SAIC and Samdrup Rigyal, deputy director (Planning and Policy) of SAIC also spoke on the occasion.

Journos urged to publish positive news

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called upon journalists to publish development news with utmost importance.

"Development news helps people become optimistic and move towards progress," he said while inaugurating a two-day workshop on development journalism organised by Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city.

Presided over by Director General of PIB Dr Rezwan Siddique, the inaugural function was addressed among others, by Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Ruhul Amin Gazi and Director of PIB Shah Mohammad Ali.

Laying emphasis on development journalism, the information minister said it is nothing but doing injustice to people when journalists fail to publish development stories as people always want positive news.

Shamsul Islam said development stories should get adequate coverage as people have the right to know all negative and positive sides of the government.

"I think the press should highlight good things through which people feel encouraged to go ahead," he added.

Gazi said journalists should publish constructive stories along with criticising the government.