

Proposed Persian centre DU urged to change site, not to chop down trees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent citizens yesterday asked the Dhaka University authorities to change the site for a centre for Persian studies from the open space between the central library and the DUCSU building.

Addressing a solidarity rally organised by the 'Students Unity Against Unplanned Installation' (SUAU) on the campus yesterday, they said if the centre is built on the proposed site, it would damage the environment of the campus.

Dr MM Akash of the economics department of the university said, "We cannot allow construction of a building on the campus by chopping down trees."

"A big project has been taken to construct the proposed centre. But what is the necessity of it?" he asked. "We need to consider its social, economic and environmental necessity."

Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed said the natural beauty of Dhaka University is now at stake due to unplanned and unnecessary constructions on the campus.

"A section of the authorities is desperately trying to construct buildings haphazardly, putting at

stake the existing environmental friendly atmosphere of the campus," he alleged.

He said the DU authorities should seek opinions both from the teachers and the students before construction of any building on the campus.

Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury said a centre should not be constructed just because fund is available.

"We are not against the centre, but it should not be constructed haphazardly," he said and urged the DU authorities to select an alternative site for the proposed building.

Student leaders addressing the rally said they want to see more trees, not brick blocks on the campus.

They also termed the idea of constructing the centre 'anti-environmental' and urged the authorities to shift site elsewhere.

They said hundreds of students use the green space for leisure and studies during their stay on the campus.

The university authorities selected the open space last month for the Centre for Persian Studies and decided to cut down 19 trees.

Bangabandhu Murder Case referred to CJ

BSS, Dhaka

The prosecution prayer seeking hearing on the leave to appeal petitions of the defence in Bangabandhu Murder Trial was referred to the Chief Justice yesterday with recommendations for formation of an Appellate Division bench to hear the case.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin referred the petition to the Chief Justice with the recommendation following a hearing of the petition, filed last week by special public prosecutor Anisul Haque.

Four convicts of the case retired lieutenants colonels Syed Farook Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Mohiuddin Ahmed (Artillery) and retired major Bazlul Huda filed separate petitions for leave to appeal before the Appellate Division.

Hearing of the petitions could not be held for want of necessary number of Appellate Division judges.

Recently two more Judges were appointed in the Appellate Division, paving ways for hearing the case.

Doctor nabbed for alleged rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor was arrested last night for his alleged involvement in rape in the city.

Dr. Ahsan Hafiz, 35, son of Abu Kashem and a resident of Uttar Piberbagh, allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl at Kamal Molla's slum in the same area on Friday night.

Last night, the victim filed a case with Mirpur Police Station against the doctor under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

The investigation officer of the case, Rawshan Ara, arrested the accused within an hour of filing of the case.

Ahsan Hafiz worked at the Nariya Health Complex in Sharifpur.

Sheltech

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rise buildings should be reviewed, updated and properly monitored. That will lead to well planned and orderly development of high-rise buildings. Such buildings would be able to cater to the growing demands of the city without affecting the environmental balance.

"The photographs published in the newspaper included Sheltech Tower at Panthapath. We would like to point out that this building has been constructed with proper RAJUK approval and in total compliance with the existing rules and regulations regarding high-rise construction. It would have been better if the reporters had known existing RAJUK regulations, some of which are inadequate. We would like to point out we would definitely like to contribute to review, amendment and addition to these regulations, along with the bodies concerned (RAJUK, REHAB etc) and interested groups like you.

Our Reply: According to the Managing Director of Sheltech, the Tower has a total of 14 residential apartments on seven top floors with 2,100 square metres of floor space. And the lower five floors of the 12-storey building have a commercial floor space of 1,400 square metres.

But according to our investigation, all the 14 car park facilities in the Tower's single basement are reserved for the 14 apartment owners of the building. The commercial part of the building does not have any parking facility and therefore most of the time visitors are forced to park on the road and footpath in front of it.

"We don't want to see anymore killing or mugging in the area. We also want to see the end of illegal drug trading for good," said Mizzan Molla, a resident of the area.

He also admitted that the forest department does not have special-ists to declare an elephant rogue.

IUCN elephant expert

Anisuzzaman Khan, who studied elephants in the early 1980s at Teknaf under a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) project, said before killing an elephant, careful study of its behaviour was to be done.

It should be captured with the help of tranquiliser gun, treated and then put back to its natural habitat.

Mayoral candidates

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is no congenial atmosphere for polls," Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

Alleging that the Chief Election Commissioner is not a neutral person, zillur said no election under him can be free and fair.

Since the announcement of polls schedule on March 12, aspirants in the four party alliance were lobbying hard to confirm party tickets both for the mayoral posts and the posts of ward commissioner in the three metropolitan cities.

Mayoral candidates have to submit nomination papers with security deposit of Tk 5,000 each and those for the posts of commissioner have to submit nomination papers with security deposit of Tk 2,000 each at the office of the respective returning officers (ROs) between 9 am and 4 pm.

The ROs will scrutinise those tomorrow and prepare draft lists of candidates. The Election Commission (EC) will announce the final lists of candidates after withdrawal of candidature on March 30.

The candidates would be allocated election symbols on the basis of their application or through lottery if more than one contender ask for the same symbol. The contestants will get 24 days for election campaign.

Earlier, the BNP-led four-party alliance had announced that it would contest the local body polls under one banner and that candidates for mayoral posts would be from BNP.

Housing and Public Works Minister and BNP leader Mirza Abbas and former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo also were DCC mayoral aspirants from the party.

Officially, elections of local bodies take place on non-party basis, but in reality the candidates take part in the race with the blessing of the party they belong to.

Since the main opposition AL and some other parties would not be in the polls race, aspirants from the ruling alliance think they would come out victorious once they get nomination.

Jatiya Party faction led by Nazir Manju and Jamaat-e-

Islam, two components of the ruling coalition, are likely to get alliance support in the polls race for a number of posts of ward commissioner.

There are 151 wards in three city corporations -- 90 in Dhaka, 31 in Khulna and 30 in Rajshahi. Besides, there are 50 wards in Dhaka and 10 each in Khulna and Rajshahi -- reserved for women commissioners, where direct election is taking place for the first time.

The Election Commission is now busy making preparations for the city corporation polls, being held more than three years after the expiry of tenures of the elected representatives. Elections were suspended due to court orders over fresh delimitation of some of the wards in the three city corporations.

The legal complexities were over a month ago as the court was informed of a government notification that nullified fresh delimitation.

Jatiya Party faction led by former president H M Ershad and some other small parties are participating in the polls while Communist Party of Bangladesh and an alliance of left-leaning parties criticised the EC announcement of election schedule without any dialogue with the political parties.

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