

Ministry's alleged lake-grab bid sparks protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About four hundred people yesterday protested a ministry's bid to grab the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake.

Environmental activists and locals gathered in front of the lake to protest the move by the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, which grabbed about seven and a half acres of the wetland to implement a project of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

Following a report recently published in The Daily Star, the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) organised a rally joined by the Gulshan-Baridhara-

Banani Society, the Sylhet Division Development Council, Biswa Sahitya Kendra and the Independent University of Bangladesh.

The Daily Star reported that the ministry's manpower bureau set up a signboard that reads -- 'the expatriates welfare ministry owns the land'. The report also said the ministry filled up a big portion of the wetland, violating environmental laws.

The demonstrators yesterday urged the government to protect the lake from encroachers to ensure a healthy environment for living in the areas like Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara.

Prior to the rally, they brought out a procession in

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WB for gasoline levy to realise road tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) has proposed to levy charges on gasoline to realise road tax instead of the current fixed-rate system.

Under the new system, if implemented, an amount of proceeds from gasoline tax will be spent on road maintenance.

The proposal came when a six-member WB delegation called on

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his Secretariat office yesterday.

The current process of tax collection for road maintenance is not effective, the delegation said.

The LGRD minister referred the proposal of tax on gasoline to the finance minister.

The delegation also proposed demarcation of highways, feeder

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Deposit licensed arms by Nov 15: Home Ministry

BSS, Dhaka

The government has issued an order asking the holders of licensed arms to deposit their arms and ammunition by November 15 with the authorities concerned.

As per the order, licensed guns, rifles, pistols, revolvers, shot guns and all other firearms have to be deposited with the nearby police stations or arms depots (malkhana) of the deputy commissioners (DC), the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

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PHOTO: STAR

A traffic chaos on the busy Topkhana Road in the city yesterday caused suffering to the commuters. The picture was taken at noon.

Businessmen may be kept out of self-assessment

STAR REPORT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the government might stop accepting self-assessment of income tax return from businessmen because of its widespread misuse.

"Most businessmen submit low income tax return and we believe the self-assessment system has widely been misused and should be discon-

tinued," Saifur told newsmen at his Secretariat office.

Some 700 people pay 50 per cent of the total income tax and in the first four months of the current fiscal there has been around Tk 120 crore in income tax shortfall, he said.

The finance minister said wealthy people, who use costly cars, live in luxurious apartments, do not pay tax and tax officials are now

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BCS form chaos at banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of prospective candidates for the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination could not yet collect the form for registration of their candidature due to utter negligence of a section of bank officials, it is alleged.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, many of the candidates said they were yet to have the required form.

A female candidate standing in a long queue in front of a Sonali Bank branch in the city yesterday fainted on hearing that there was no form for sale.

Sale of the form will continue till November 9.

Six branches of the Sonali Bank in the city and 23 other branches in 23 districts were authorised to sell

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 6		5-16 pm
Nov 7	6-08 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-23	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Army arrest of lawmakers AL MPs to meet Speaker today

REAZ AHMAD

Lawmakers belonging to opposition Awami League may again meet the Speaker today to urge him to protect the dignity and privilege of parliament members.

They will express AL's grave concern at 'infringement on lawmakers' privileges and prestige' during the ongoing army-led drive against criminals, party sources said.

Three lawmakers have so far been arrested just ahead of the fifth session of parliament, beginning on November 14.

Before meeting the Speaker, AL legislators will have a meeting this morning to take stock of the latest situation.

AL lawmakers earlier met Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar on

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