

A day with birds

JU CORRESPONDENT

A daylong bird fair was held on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus drawing a huge crowd of bird lovers yesterday.

The fair, third of its kind, was jointly organised by Prothom Alo Bandhusava, Bangladesh Birds Club and Nature Club of JU.

A large number of nature-loving people from in and around the capital including university students thronged the fair to enjoy their holiday.

The flying of birds in flocks throughout the day created a pleasant scene for the spectators.

The programme of the fair began in the early morning with the watching of guest and local birds through the telescope in front of the lake of the administrative building.

A photography exhibition of bird was held at Shaheed Minar premises where the visitors learned about the identity and habitat of about 26 species of bird.

An art competition for the children and quiz competition on bird were also held.

Besides, an inter-university competition on bird identification was held. Students of Dhaka University (DU) Rajshahi University, Independent University and JU took part.

A seminar on "Birds of Bangladesh" was also held at the seminar room of the auditorium where seven papers on birds and their habitats were presented by the teachers and students of DU and JU.

"This type of fair plays a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance in the country," said Peter Naulon, an architect of Holland. He also praised the natural beauty of JU campus.

"Within three years, the bird fair has become a popular event," said Dr. Enamul Huq, a prominent photographer and bird specialist.

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Mofizul Kabir, and Dr. Aminul Islam were present at the fair.



The Communist Party of Bangladesh (left) and the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (right) took out processions in the city yesterday to mobilise support for today's dawn-to-dusk nationwide shutdown.



PHOTO: STAR

BFUJ, DUJ leaders condemn police action on journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) have condemned the police action on journalists on the Dhaka University campus on Wednesday.

In a joint statement on Thursday, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan and DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Shah Alamgir said the ruling party cadres and police attacked the on-duty journalists without any provocation.

They also demanded punishment to the ruling party cadres and policemen who attacked the journalists.

The BFUJ and the DUJ leaders said the journalists would be forced to initiate united movement if the attack on newsmen is not stopped immediately.

Allow trade unions in garment industries

Speakers tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the government to allow trade unions in garment industries to maintain good relationship between the owners and the workers.

They said the government is violating the convention of International Labour Organisation by barring the workers to form trade union both in the garment factories and the Export Processing Zones.

The rally was organised by Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) at Muktangan in the city.

The speakers said the wage of garment workers must be compatible with price-hike of essentials and devaluation of currency.

They demanded implementation of health rule, maternity leave for female garment workers and their service security in line with the Factory Law of 1965 and Factory Rule of 1979.

Shamima Nasreen, member of the central executive committee of the council, alleged that female workers are still subjected to harassment at their workplaces.

"The government and factory owners are dilly-dallying to give the garment workers their legal rights even after two decades," she added.

"Garment workers are not paid their salaries in due time which causes sufferings to them," said Selim Reza,

another member of the central executive committee.

The speakers urged a factory owner of Chittagong to pay Tk 2 lakh as compensation to the family members of two female workers who died in accident while on duty on Wednesday.

They also demanded of the factory owners to implement the agreement signed between the council and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The BGWUC will lay seize to the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishment on March 18 and threatened to go for tougher agitation if their demands are not met within 90 days.

Presided over by council coordinator Towhidur Rahman, the rally was also addressed by Salahuddin Swapon, Abul Hossain, Quazi Mohammad Ali, Khadija Begum and Arif Chowdhury.



A discussion was held on the book 'Nirbachito Golpo O Onyanya' (Selected stories and others) by Ata Sarkar at the Jatiya Press Club on Wednesday. Dr Waqil Ahmad, chairman of Bangla Academy, presided over the discussion.

'Ensure quality education'

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday underscored the need for quality education in educational institutions so that the students could make significant contributions to the development of the country.

He was speaking as chief guest at a function organised by Happy Times International School to mark its 25th founding anniversary at Shaheed Zia auditorium of National Museum at Shahbagh.

Prof. Dilara Chowdhury of the government and politics department of Jahangirnagar University attended

the function as special guest. Principal of the school Rahat Sarwar presided over the function.

The foreign minister said the present government has given top priority to the education sector.

A number of programmes have already been implemented to increase the facilities in educational institutions of the country, he added.

Morshed Khan also called upon the private sector to come forward to make their best efforts to ensure quality education in their respective institutions.

Later, a cultural function was held to mark the silver jubilee of the school.