



Bangladesh Citizens Alliance Against Trafficking (BCAAT) stages a demonstration against the US State Department's 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2004' at Muktangon in the city yesterday.

US report on human trafficking motivated

Speakers tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US report on human trafficking in Bangladesh is completely motivated, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

They said the United States wants to create pressure on Bangladesh to deploy its troops in Iraq in the name of imposing sanctions for its alleged 'worsening' trafficking situation.

The rally was jointly organised by Bangladesh Citizens Alliance Against Trafficking (BCAAT) and Sushasone Janno Procharajon (SUPRO) at Muktangon in the city.

The speakers said most of the Bangladeshi victims of trafficking were abused severely in some Middle East countries, but Bangladesh was relegated to Tier three of the US State Department's 'Human Trafficking in Persons Report 2004' which put those countries at Tier two.

The US has no authority to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh, said alliance Convenor Farida Aktar.

She said, "The poor are not criminal, rather they are the victims of trafficking. Poverty is the main cause of human trafficking and the US should look into it."

The US should also realise that sanctions would not help reduce trafficking in Bangladesh, she added.

SUPRO Secretary Rezaul Karim termed the sanction a device of imperialism to achieve its purposes.

He cautioned the government to abstain from entering any deal with the United States that goes against the interest of the country.

Later, a procession was brought out protesting US relegation of Bangladesh on trafficking and its possible sanctions.



Chhayanat, Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Kanthasheelan and Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad jointly conducted relief activities at Gazaria in Munshiganj recently.



Members of the Zonta Club Dhaka 111 distribute relief among the flood-affected people at Pakuria Bazar at Shivalaya thana in Manikganj recently.



Unnayan Sahayak Sangstha (USS) Founding Chairman Abdul Quadir Mahmud distributes relief among flood victims at Apar Kagabola Union in Moulvibazar recently.



Major General (Retd) Md Subid Ali Bhuiyan distributes relief among the flood victims at different shelters in Daudkandi upazila on Saturday.



Dr Khalilur Rahman, pro-vice-chancellor of the National University, distributes relief among the flood victims at Shaturia upazila in Manikganj on Saturday.



Human Dignity Society (HDS), a social welfare organisation, distributes cooked food at Armanitola High School flood shelter in the city yesterday.

Free main roads from non-motorised vehicles

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for an integrated urban transport policy comprising road, rail and waterways to resolve problems in the city's transport sector through short- and long-term planning.

They said rickshaws are mainly responsible for traffic congestion and called for freeing main roads from non-motorised vehicles.

They also underscored the need for better coordination among Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Tar and Telephone Board (T&T) and other utility agencies.

The Louis Berger Group of USA and Bangladesh Consultants Ltd organised the roundtable on 'Urban Transport Policy' under the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) project study for Dhaka city.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) has been carrying out the nine-month STP study involving Tk

10 crore. Funded by the World Bank, the study will be completed in December.

The speakers suggested incorporating different issues into the policy, such as ensuring road safety, enforcing traffic rules, stopping use of fake driving licence, expanding the footpath and preventing encroachment on water bodies.

DTCB Chairman Quamrul Islam Siddique said rickshaws are occupying 73 percent spaces of the city's road

Death anniversary

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Dr Syeda Firoza Begum, renowned gynaecologist, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhani and doa mahfil will be held at her village home at Chandina in Comilla. Foods will also be distributed among the orphans.

M Wajed Ali Mia

Today is the fourth death anniversary of M Wajed Ali Mia, a sports organiser, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhani and milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed at different orphanages.

Jatiya Krira Parishad, Football Federation, Sonali Atit Club, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Dhaka Samity and Dhaka Jubo Sangstha will also organise discussion and milad mahfil cards among the affected families.

Dr MA Hashem

Today is the 34th death anniversary of Dr MA Hashem, an eminent physician and social worker.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at Kodom Mobarak Shahi Jame Mosque at Momin Road in the port city after Asr prayers.

Moniruddin

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Moniruddin, a freedom fighter of Sector 11, says a press release.

On the occasion, foods will be distributed in orphanages and madrasas.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

A seminar on 'Strategic approach to management of flood', organised by The IBA Alumni Association of Dhaka University, will be held with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 5:00pm.

Documentary show

South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communism will screen a documentary titled 'Let Us Live Our Lives' by Shahriar Kabir. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organises a discussion to mark the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: Bishwashtiya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 4:00pm.

Ingmar Bergman retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with Alliance Francaise, will screen two films made by renowned Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman. The films are 'The Magic Flute' (1975) and 'Autumn Sonata' (1978). Venue: Alliance Francaise Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00pm and 7:15pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'When Harry Met Sally' (1989) and 'Body Shots' (1999). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm and 8:30pm.

Reunion

A reunion of Dhaka Sub-Editors Council will be held. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Distribution ceremony

Muslim Aid Bangladesh organises the



Mohila Muktijoddha Sangsad forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case.

PM receives Tk 5.43 cr for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

More organisations, ministries and individuals yesterday donated Tk 5.43 crore to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the flood-affected people.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia thanked the donors for coming up in aid of the flood victims while receiving cheques against the donations at the PM's office.

The contributors to the PM's Relief Fund include Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, Overseas Employment Ministry, Cabinet Division, Teacher-Employee Alliance, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Commercial Bank (Ceylon) Ltd., FICC, Khulna Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Diploma Engineers Association of Roads & Highways Department, The Hunger Project, Dhaner Shish national executive council and Rangamati district BNP.

network and most of them are unauthorised.

Md Ismail Hossain, former chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), said the motor vehicle act has to be reviewed for proper traffic management.

Dr Rahamatullah, head of transport division, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the Dhaka city is an unplanned subdivision of land.

He suggested earmarking waiting places for rickshaws.

Urban planner Prof. Nazrul Islam, Prof. Muhammad Masum of Jahangirnagar University, Mohi Uz Zaman Quazi, senior transport engineer, WB Dhaka office, Abu Naser Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, also spoke.

David H Jarrett, team leader of the STP study, moderated the discussion. The roundtable focused on 14 issues drafted in the first roundtable on the STP to formulate the urban transport policy.

Congratulations

Md Shahidul Islam has obtained Ph.D. in food technology from Kyushu University, Japan, under Monbusho scholarship, says a press release.

He did his research titled 'Study on the effects of moderate heat and hydrostatic pressure on microbial inactivation and food quality' under the supervision of Prof. Isao Hayakawa.

Shahidul is the second son of Md Abdul Mannan and Begum Fatematzohura.

Obituary

ABM Shamsul Haque, former DGM of Bangladesh Bank and life member of Motiror Samaj Kalyan Sangha, died of a cardiac arrest on August 7 at the age of 77, says a press release.

He is survived by two sons and five daughters.

His quirkhani will be held at his home after Asr prayers on August 13.

Md Shah Alam

Md Shah Alam, administrative officer of the Ministry of Education, died of brain tumour at the Metropolitan Medical Centre at Mohakhali in the city on August 9 at the age of 47, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and four daughters.

Education minister, state minister for education and education secretary condoled the death of Shah Alam and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Seminar

distribution ceremony of the computer and science lab instrument with Post and Tele-communication Minister Md Aminul Haque as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Blood donation

The Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: 3/3-B, Purana Paltan. Time: 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Youth poverty: Present context and future dimension', organised by Alliance for Development Support and Cooperation, will be held. Venue: Planning and Development Academy Auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop

Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association will organise a workshop on 'Discovering Grammar'. Venue: British Council Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Liberal Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion to mark its sixth founding anniversary. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Musical night

The Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will organise a musical night where radio, TV and stage performers will take part to raise fund for flood victims. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:00pm.

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