

Remove illegal brick kilns to save Basila

Locals stage a demonstration on mechanised boats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Local people have demanded immediate removal of all illegal brick kilns which diverted a channel of the Buriganga devouring 27 houses at Basila since August 13.

The river yesterday devoured one more house and threatened several others with erosion.

In support of their demand, about a hundred people demonstrated on mechanised boats in the river carrying banners and placards pleading for saving the suburban locality from

destruction.

They also demanded immediate installation of culverts under the one-kilometer-long Basila Road, which they said, was necessary for quick flow of huge floodwaters.

The demonstrators urged the authorities concerned to take action against the real estate developers who are rapidly filling up miles of flood plains.

They said the 250-year-old Basila might be wiped out from the map rendering thousands of families homeless if the authorities do not take those actions

immediately.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday announced through loudspeakers in the river about the ban on navigation from 6:00pm yesterday to 6:00pm on September 2.

Acting Chairman of BIWTA Sunil Kanti Bose told The Daily Star that by dredging an alternative channel near the brick kilns, they were trying to divert the violent current from Basila.

"Alongside the dredging, we shall dump the dug-out-earth on the eroded part of Basila from tomorrow to cut

down the force of the current," he added.

Engineers, present at the dredging site, said unless the brick kilns are removed, Basila would always be exposed to serious erosion.

They said the brick kilns would continue to divert the river channel in the future also as at least one kilns is situated on the river channel.

"The kilns must go, otherwise all efforts to save the locality would bear no fruit," a senior engineer pointed out.

According to Savar land administration, an eviction notice has already been served to the owners of the kilns.



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Basila stage a demonstration yesterday demanding restoration of the river channel and eviction of encroachers to save their locality from destruction.

Protect bio-diversity, wildlife

Tariqul says at seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Animal lovers will now have an opportunity to see 44 wild animals, the new arrivals, in three zoos and one natural park.

The animals, including two pairs of Royal Bengal Tigers and Indian lions, were handed over to Dulhazara Safari Park and others to the authorities of Chittagong, Comilla and Khulnazoos.

Environment and Forests Minister Tariqul Islam handed over the animals to the zoo authorities in the city yesterday.

Addressing a seminar on the occasion, Tariqul stressed greater awareness among the people to keep environment free from pollution to protect the bio-diversity and wildlife.

"If the present trend of environment pollution continues with the use of polybags, two-stroke vehicles, deforestation and other ways, it will create a detrimental consequence for the bio-diversity and as well as the flora and fauna," he said.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and State Minister for Environment and Forests Jafrul Islam Chowdhury also addressed the function as special guests.

Tariqul said Bangladesh was committed to protect the bio-diversity and signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) along with other countries of the world in 1994. CBD is one of the three main outcomes of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, he said.

He, however, criticised the developed countries for not providing adequate support to the developing countries to protect their nature and bio-diversity.

"Developed countries are largely responsible for depletion of ozone layer and pollution of environment through dumping of wastes in the developing countries," he said.

He referred to the government's efforts to protect the bio-diversity and said a Taka 400 crore project was undertaken to protect the Sunderbans, the largest mangrove forests of the world, in south-western Bangladesh.

Noman described development and environment as inextricably linked

with each other and urged all to put in their best efforts towards protecting environment for sustainable development.

He called for concerted efforts among the upper riparian countries to protect environment as he said Bangladesh as the lower riparian country was bearing the brunt of all natural disasters.

With Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Begum Rokeya Sultana in the chair, Curator of the Dhaka Zoo M Mofizur Rahman also spoke.

Prof Dr M Muzaffar Hossain of Bangladesh Agricultural University and chief scientist of Dhaka Zoo Dr Syed Ali Ahsan presented the key-note papers.

18 stations to check overloading of trucks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to set up 18 monitoring stations at important points on major highways to check overloading of trucks and other vehicles.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Advisory Council on road transport in the city on Saturday with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda in the chair.

The meeting was told that around Tk

71 crore would be required for the construction of the stations by the Roads and Highways Department.

The government decided to take actions against those responsible for overloading trucks.

The meeting also decided to file cases against the owners of illegal structures such as shops, bazars and factories on the highways to ensure smooth transportation and safety of the passengers.

Woman gets bail for being pregnant

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A woman accused in a murder case obtained bail on the grounds of her eight-month pregnancy though her husband died three years back.

Mosammat Feroza Begum of Kanthaldia under Badda Police Station in the city, arrested on charges of killing of her daughter-in-law (son's wife) Tania Akhter Lucki, was released on bail on August 4 following an order of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

In its order, the Judge Mohammad Motiur Rahman mentioned that Feroza Begum is pregnant of eight months. If she is kept in the custody she may lose her baby's life. So considering the facts, circumstances and evidences on record, the woman was granted ad-interim bail upon a bond of Tk30,000 with two guarantors.

In the certificate issued by Abu Sayed Khan, Chairman of Dumni Union Parishad, it was said that Feroza's husband Abdur Rahman died at about 7:30am on September 28, 2001.

Moreover, in the forwarding reports submitted by sub-inspector SM Badiuzzaman, also investigation officer of the case on June 7 and 13 this year, it was stated that Feroza Begum, wife of late Abdur Rahman, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and was taken on a four-day remand in two phases.

But Feroza obtained bail on grounds that she was pregnant of eight months and the court mentioned in its order of her eight months pregnancy.

Lucky Akhter, 22, was killed by her husband Shafiqul Islam with the help of his family members for dowry in June this year. Later, a murder case was filed with Badda Police Station accusing Shafiqul Islam and five others on June 5.

On hearing the news of the bail order, it created a sensation among the litigants and the lawyers on the court premises.

Low-key celebrations of Janmastami on September 6

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad (BPUP) has decided to observe Janmastami in a simple way on September 6 in view of the devastating floods and present situation in the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting with BPUP acting President Chitta Ranjan Sarker in the chair, on the Dhakeswari temple premises on Saturday.

The meeting also decided to take out a "simple Janmastami rally" instead of festive one in celebration of the birth of Lord Krishna, a press release said yesterday.

Unite against crime: Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman H M Ershad yesterday urged the people to unite against terrorism.

Addressing a rally in the city, he said the country cannot run in a way where there is no security of life.

The former president said his party will fight against terrorism with the support of the people.

In this fight, the JP will not join any alliance, he added.

Presided over by City unit JP Convenor Syed Abu Hossain Babla, the rally was also addressed by JP Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Presidium Member M A Hannan, Sardar Amzad Hossain, Mostafa Jamal Haider, Golam Kibria Tipu, Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu and Ismail Hossain Bengal.

The speakers expressed grave concern at the deteriorating law and order of the country.

They also demanded withdrawal of false cases against Ershad.

Later, a procession was brought out from Muktangan that ended at Kakrail crossing.

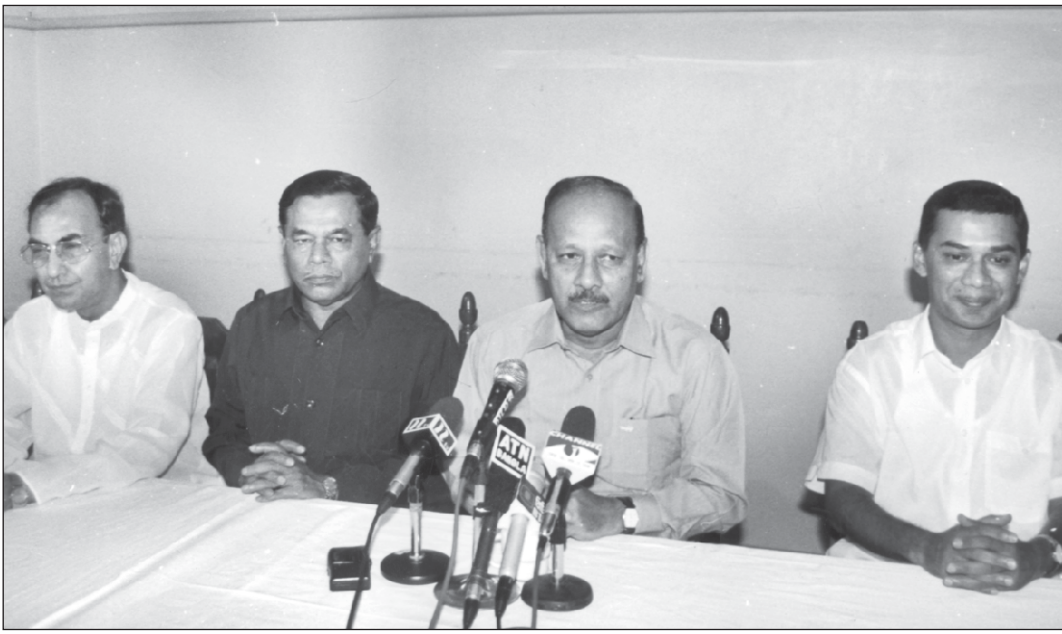


PHOTO: STAR

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a press conference at the party office yesterday.

Neutral probe a must for political stability

Chinese diplomat tells Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

China's Charge d'affaires in Bangladesh Duan Zhiqian yesterday called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence and conveyed sympathies from the Communist Party of China and their Dhaka mission over the August 21 grenade attack on AL rally.

"The attack on Hasina was the attack on democracy and it should be investigated properly and neutrally. Proper and neutral investigation is a must for political stability in Bangladesh," said Awami League MP Syed Abul Hossain quoting the Chinese diplomat.

Hasina told the Chinese Charge d'affaires that this was a "planned attack against the secular democratic forces in Bangladesh and international neutral probe is needed without involvement of the government".

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP, Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad

were present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Manabadihikar Samannay Parishad, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangladesh Ahaley Sunnat Wall Jamayat also called on Sheikh Hasina at her residence yesterday.

Benazir Bhutto

Meanwhile, former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday expressed her deep concern and sorrow over the grenade attack on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her party workers at a rally in Dhaka on August 21.

"Unfortunately political violence and hatred has overtaken tolerance," Benazir said in a message yesterday to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina who escaped narrowly the assassination attempt on August 21.

On behalf of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and herself, She expressed sympathies for the bereaved families of those killed in the attack and hoped for speedy recovery of those injured.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad speaks at a public meeting at Muktangan yesterday.

DHAKA
TODAY

Memorial discussion
Liberation War Museum will hold a discussion in memory of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud, a noted singer. It will be followed by a musical soiree to be performed by Kranti Shilpi Gosthi. Venue: Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar
A national seminar on 'WTO TRIPS Agreement' will be held with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute, Karwan Bazar. Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable
A roundtable on 'Flood rehabilitation in Bangladesh and our duty' organised by the Projonmo Academy, will be held with

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eminent water expert Professor Inun Nishat in the chair. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 3:00pm.

Rally
Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad organises a seminar to protest the grenade attack on Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21. Venue: National Press Club Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Protest meeting
Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad will hold a meeting to protest the grenade attack on Awami League rally on August 21. Venue: South Hall of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Time: 1:00pm.