



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Shahbagh yesterday demanding steps to protect all water bodies from illegal encroachers.

'Save rivers from illegal encroachers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called on the government to take immediate steps to save the rivers and other water bodies in and around the capital from illegal encroachers.

They also urged the government to implement the Water Body Conservation Act on an urgent basis.

The rally was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city.

The speakers said regular dredging is needed to ensure navigability

and smooth flow of waters in these rivers.

Otherwise, a vast area of the capital will be inundated during rainy season in near future, they apprehended.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffar Ahmed said "We have urged the government again and again for immediate removal of all illegal structures constructed on the banks of Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakkhya which are shrinking the water flow and reducing the depth of the rivers. But the authorities concerned have turned deaf ears to our calls."

Representatives of Nagorik Uddog, Seed, Basa, The Hunger Project Bangladesh, Sunder Jibon, Jubo Union, Peace, Sramo Bikash, Sheba and other environmental and social organisations took part in the rally.

Students protest repression of minorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad, an organisation of Hindu students, yesterday protested the repression of minorities and attacks on temples at different places of the country.

At a rally in the city, the Parishad leaders also demanded arrest of and punishment to the attackers.

They also called for repeal of the fifth and eighth amendments to the constitution, saying that these were aimed at curbing religious freedom.

Hundreds of students joined the rally at the Central Shaheed Minar with a call to ensure safety of the minorities.

"Fundamentalist and communal forces are resorting to repression of minorities and attacking temples across the country, but the govern-

ment has failed to arrest the culprits," said Nirmal Kumar Chatterjee, general secretary of the Parishad.

He said the fanatics had destroyed idols at Doshana Gatra Temple in Gopalganj on August 29, at Toper Bari Temple in Dhamrai on August 30 and at Daspara Temple in Sreepur.

