



PHOTO: STAR  
Sunder Jiban, Sabdadushan Protirodh Committee and Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children jointly formed a human chain in the city yesterday demanding steps to check noise pollution.

## Enact laws to check noise pollution

### Environmentalists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday formed a human chain demanding that the government take effective measures to enact new laws to check noise pollution created by unnecessary use of powerful vehicular horns.

They organised the demonstration with a view to rescuing people, including children, from the negative effects of the ever-increasing noise pollution in the city.

Indiscriminate and unnecessary use of powerful vehicular horns is the primary reason behind noise pollution while there are also constant noises from faulty vehicles, construction sites, loudspeakers and thousands of public meetings, they said.

The demonstration was organised jointly by Sunder Jiban, Sabdadushan Protirodh Committee and Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children (Sahic).

The environmentalists blamed the government for its indifference to enact the Noise Pollution Control Act-2004.

"Ministry of Forest and Environment drafted an amendment to the Noise Pollution Control Act early last year to implement it by June

2004. But the final draft has yet to be finalised", said Mohidul Haq Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribeshbadi Andolan (Bapa).

"According to World Health Organisation (WHO), the accessible noise is 45 decibel but the level of noise in the capital is 68 to 106 decibel," said Sirajul Islam Mollah, general secretary of Sunder Jiban.

Ninety-seven percent of the students in the capital are victims of the pollution, he added.

The environmentalists urged the government to restrict the usage of hydraulic horns, mikes, loud speakers, brick-grinding machines and generators for the greater interests of the countrymen.

A good number of school goes also joined the demonstration carrying different banners, festoons and placards.

It was addressed, among others, by Amit Ranjan Dey of Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB), Ibnul Syed Rana of Ushika, Jayanta Roy Chowdhury and Azad Abul Kamal of Sahic.

Representatives of different social, environmental and human rights organisations, including those of Bapa, Sawshikkha, Young Fifty, Ushika and WBB Trust took part.



PHOTO: STAR  
Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a roundtable organised by the AL sub-committee on Education and Human Resources Development at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## Politicisation erodes quality of higher education

### Speakers say at roundtable

DU CORRESPONDENT

Over 1,000 teachers and 5,000 officers and employees were appointed on political consideration in different public universities in the last three years of BNP-Jamaat alliance government, eroding the quality of higher education, according to a keynote paper presented at a roundtable yesterday.

The paper titled 'The state of higher education in Bangladesh under Awami League (AL) and BNP-Jamaat rules: a comparative study with suggestion for reforms' was presented by former Dhaka University (DU) vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury at a roundtable titled 'Prevailing crisis in the education sector' at the National Press Club. AL sub-committee on Education and Human Resource Development organised the roundtable.

The paper stated that session jam, unscheduled closures, and violent incidents have increased in all public universities under the present regime.

Speakers at the roundtable said politicisation, irregularities, corruption, distortion of history, threat and killing of freethinking teachers, and leakage of question papers are undermining the education system.

They said merit should be the sole consideration for the appointment of teachers, officers and employees at public universities and colleges for the betterment of higher education.

The speakers stressed the need for formulating an education policy suiting the needs of the country.

They said the government is distorting the history of the liberation war to misguide the new generation, and establish the fundamentalist forces in the country.

Addressing the roundtable, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil underscored the need for an education system that will uphold the spirit of the liberation war among the present and future generation.

He said the coalition government has been trying to introduce a 'fundamentalist education system.'

Former education minister AHSK Sadeque said politicisation in educa-

tion sector has reached its peak.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury has urged all to resist all evil attempts of the government.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the education system of a country should be free from all political influences.

Former state minister for information Prof Abu Sayed Chowdhury, former DU VC Prof M Shamsul Haq, Prof Saleh Uddin, Dr SA Malek, Dr Kazi Khalekuzzaman Ahmed, Prof Kazi Farook Ahmed, Principal Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, and Prof Noor M Talukder also spoke.

Teachers' representatives from primary and secondary schools, technical colleges, and agricultural universities also focused their problems at the discussion.

Presided over by former Rajshahi University VC Prof Abdul Khalek, the roundtable was conducted by Nurul Islam Nahid, secretary of AL Education and Human Resource Development Sub-Committee.

## 'Govt spends Tk 1,400cr for development of Ctg port'

BSS, Chittagong

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-Al Noman said the government is spending Tk 1,400 crore for development of Chittagong port to increase its capacity and efficiency as it is the 'heart of the country's economy.'

Noman, who is also the joint secretary of the BNP, said this while addressing a rally of Bandar Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (BJSD) yesterday ahead of the Chittagong Port CBA election.

The election to the Chittagong Port CBA (Collective Bargaining

Agents) is scheduled to be held on April 10. The meeting was held in the port's East Colony, with BJSD President Shamsul Alam in the chair.

Noman said formulation of a separate payscale for the port employees is now under active consideration of the government.

He said all the vacant posts in the port authority have been filled up to bring dynamism in the port operational activities.

The minister assured the port workers and employees that the present government has no plan to privatise it and is pledge-bound to its continued development.



PHOTO: STAR  
Members of the Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela perform a dance in observance of the 80th birth anniversary of Dadabhai in the city yesterday.

## Two killed in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified men were killed in separate road accidents in the capital in a span of 10 hours since Thursday night while two men were beaten and injured over previous enmity.

A 22-year-old youth died when he was run over by a speeding vehicle on the DIT Road at Alambagh in Badda. He was crossing the road at around 8:15am when the vehicle hit him.

In the other incident, a speeding vehicle knocked down a 20-year-old youth at Banani level Crossing at around 10:30pm, killing him on the spot.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a gang of four youths beat Manik, 20, a rickshaw-van driver of Motijheel High School, in Maniknagar Pukurpar area, Sabujbagh, at around 2:30pm.

In another incident, three youths beat up a rickshawpuller Alal Haq, 35, at a garage at Madhya Begunbari in Tejgaon at 11:00am when he went there to collect Tk 6,000 from one Zahirul, who borrowed the money from him a few months ago.

Manik and Haq are now undergoing treatment at the DMCH.