



The authorities couldn't care less! Frustrated local residents and pedestrians wonder why they have to suffer for the authorities' unplanned road digging that goes on for months. This picture was taken from the city's Fakirpool area yesterday.

'Include true history in textbooks'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of different schools and colleges yesterday threatened to abstain from teaching 'distorted history' unless the government include true and accurate history in the textbooks with a national consensus.

They were addressing a press conference organised by Jatiya Shikshak Karmachari Front at its office in the city protesting repression on the teachers and students throughout the country.

The teachers said the government did not fulfil its electoral pledge of nationalising the jobs of the non-government primary school teachers.

They said if the government doesn't take necessary steps to stop repression on teachers and their illegal suspension, the front would ask the UN Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and ILO to send representatives to observe the situation.

"A large scale politicisation is taking place in this sector. The law enforcers even tend to spoil the dignity of a teacher," said the front President Kazi Farooq Ahmed while reading out the written speech.

Among others, Bangladesh College Shikshak Samity General Secretary Prof Asadul Haque, Bangladesh Karigori College Shikshak Samity President Principal MA Sattar, Bangladesh Shikshak Shamity Acting General Secretary Khan Musharraf Hossain and Bangladesh College Karmachari Union President Mohammad Julfikar Ali Bhutto were also present at the press conference.

Resist conspiracy against judiciary: Moudud

BSS, Dhaka

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said everybody should unitedly resist those who are hatching conspiracy to destroy the freedom of judiciary system and trying to tarnish the image of the government.

"There should be a consensus among all political parties on the national issues as well as independence of our judiciary," he said while addressing a co-ordination meeting of the lawyers as the chief guest at a local hotel.

The Jatiyatabadi Lawyers Forum organised the meeting where 42 leaders from various district lawyers' associations took part in the discussion.

The law minister said the nationalist forces would play a significant role in resisting all sorts of conspiracy hatched by the opposition party.

Moudud, also a member of the standing committee of BNP, said repeated adjournments and stay orders by the courts have been creating obstacles to delivering quick judgement, piling up the cases.

Highlighting various efforts of the government, he said the government is committed to implementing the directive of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on separation of the judiciary from the executive.

Accordingly, the authorities have been finalising rules for the judicial service, he added.

Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Hoque, former speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Khandakar Mahub Uddin Ahmad, Barrister Ziaur Rahman, Advocate Naitai Roy Chowdhury, General Secretary of Dhaka Lawyers' Association Advocate Khorshed Alam, Advocate Saidur Rahman, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukdar and Advocate Sanaullah Miah also spoke while Justice TH Khan presided.

'4 lakh illegal arms in hands of criminals, cadres'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals and cadres of the mainstream political parties are using about four lakh illegal and 25,000 licensed firearms to commit crimes across the country.

Bangladesh Development Partnership Center (BDPC) revealed this at a press conference held in the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The BDPC also announced its one-month nationwide campaign programme against illicit use and trade of small firearms. The programme will mark the upcoming United Nations biennial conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects to be held at the UN headquarters on July 11-15.

Besides using the arms against

political rivals, the cadres and criminals also use them in tender snatching, extortion, mugging, robbery, abduction and other crimes, said BDPC Director Sharif AKafi.

At least 124 syndicates, which were estimated 80 in 2000, operate criminal activities across the country, said the BDPC and other NGOs including Nari o Manobadhikar Foundation (NAMAF) and Bangladesh Coalition for Child Rights (BCCR).

Moreover, three to four local armed groups, who keep regular contact with the main syndicates, are active in every district town and upazila headquarters.

"These crime syndicates don't have any political goal. They involve themselves with the political parties to use their power in favour of crimi-

nal activities," said Shaifir.

He urged the government to ratify the UN firearms protocol, which is an agreement among the countries to check production, export, import and transit of the firearms.

The BDPC programmes ahead of the UN conference started yesterday and will continue until July 3.

They include sending letters through the high commissioners in Dhaka to the heads of state of South Asia, submitting memorandum to the prime minister, speaker, law, home and foreign ministers and holding rallies and human chains across the country.

Among others, Lina Jambil, member secretary, NAMAF, and Nadira Islam, member, BCCR, attended the conference.



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) forms a human chain in the city's Segun Bagicha area yesterday protesting the attacks on BDB rally in Thakurgaon and on the students of Dhaka University.

WEATHER TODAY graphic with sun and cloud icons.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to severe heat wave may continue over Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Chandpur, Noakhali and Patuakhali during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 41.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.8 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Zia united countrymen in 1971: Morshed

BSS, Chittagong

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said late president Ziaur Rahman united the people in 1971 and liberated the country from the occupation forces.

"Zia again introduced the politics of development through his 19-point agenda after he came to power in 1975," he said at a discussion marking the 24th death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman at Boalkhali upazila auditorium.

With Ahmed Khalil Khan, president of BNP Chittagong south district unit in the chair, the function was also addressed by Saifuddin Khaled Babul, S M Nazrul Islam, Abu Sufian, Mosharraf Hossain, Sheikh Mohiuddin and Haji Mohammad Rahman.

The foreign minister said the construction work of the third bridge on the river Karnaphuli would begin during the tenure of this government.

EU envoy calls for security of journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Esko Kentrschynsky has said the killing of journalists is an attack on press freedom and democracy.

He said security must be provided to journalists as free press is imperative for democracy.

The EU ambassador was exchanging views with the local journalists at Khulna Press Club on Thursday evening.

He said all killings in 'crossfire' must be investigated thoroughly. Esko Kentrschynsky, who led a two-member team during a two-day visit to different shrimp farms and processing plants in Khulna zone, paid homage to six journalists killed in the district in last five years.

"We are closely watching crossfire incidents and deeply concerned over the involvement of Rapid Action Battalion in extrajudicial killings," the EU envoy said.

He said shrimp industries in Bangladesh have bright prospects provided they maintain a high standard.

Bietris Martins, other member of the team, was present on the occasion.

Mohiuddin visits mazar of Bangabandhu

BDNEWS, Gopalganj

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, newly elected mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), visited the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday afternoon. He placed a wreath and offered prayers at the mazar.

During the visit, he was accompanied by his wife Hasina Mohiuddin, the commissioners of CCC and Nagarik Committee leaders.

Earlier on his arrival at Gopalganj, he was greeted by Awami League leaders, activists, and supporters.

Mayor Mohiuddin left Tungipara at night.

AL team to attend workshop in China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of the Awami League will attend a week-long workshop on youth leadership in China at the invitation of the Communist Party of China.

The delegation led by AL Joint General Secretary Obadiul Quader will leave for China on June 21.

Other members of the team are AL organising secretaries Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhtaruzzaman, Abdur Rahman and Bir Bahadur MP.

Mirsari Unnayan Forum formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-member central committee of Mirsari Unnayan Forum has been formed with industrialist MM Emran Chowdhury as its president.

The forum will work to improve the socio-economic condition of the people of Chittagong.

Other members of the committee are SM Masud Iqbal - general secretary, Nasir Uddin - organising secretary, Md AI Mamun - treasurer, Mohammad Salim - office secretary, Jasim Uddin - publicity secretary, and Anwarul Islam - executive member.

The Forum will also form Mirsarai Upazila committee and 16 union committees soon, said a press release.

New physiotherapy centre opens in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A physiotherapy centre was inaugurated in city's Mirpur area on Thursday through providing free medical treatment to a patient.

Noted physician and national Professor Dr MR Khan was present as the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony where MA Kashem and Enamul Haque addressed.

The new centre, a branch of The Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre, was established in collaboration with Central Hospital with active support from Dr AKM Salek, Prof Qaiyum Chowdhury, Prof Rafiqul Alam, Dr Mohammed Maniruzzaman, Dr Amina Khaleque, Dr Syed Mozaffer Ahmed and Dr Mahmudur Rahman, says a press release.

Ration for 28,000 more Bengali speaking families in CHT on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to provide rations to 28,000 more Bengali-speaking families in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) as their number continues to rise, sources said.

At present the government has been providing rations to 27,000 Bengali-speaking families who live in cluster villages since 1978 when they were taken in the hills as transmigrants.

Besides Bengali-speaking people, the government is also providing ration to 12,200 indigenous families who came back from Tripura after the CHT peace accord in 1997 that ended two-decade-long bush war in the hills.

"It has not been decided yet whether to provide ration to new settlers, but a proposal to this effect is under consideration," said Moni Swapan Dewan, deputy minister of CHT Affairs.

"We are reviewing whether the number of Bengali-speaking families has increased to that level or whether the government is going to

feed them," he added.

Wadud Bhuiyan, lawmaker from Khagrachhari and chairman of CHT Development Board, said the numbers of Bengali-speaking people living in cluster villages has increased many folds over the years.

"They are really in bad situation. But so far I know the government has not taken such decision yet. Some quarters of the government are thinking that to

avoid any untoward situation in the hills," he added. It is alleged that following the peace accord, Bengali-speaking people have been moving into highlands and taking shelter in the government-supported cluster villages.

Sources said the government has a plan to settle several thousand Bengali-speaking people at Kassarlong reserve forest and by the side of the newly-built Baghahat-Sajek road that leads to the border of Mizoram State of India.

When asked, Wadud Bhuiyan admitted that some Bengali-

speaking families started making houses beside the Sajek road, but the army did not allow them on safety ground.

Baghahat-Sajek road has been built through dense Kassarlong reserve forest violating the Forest Act of 1927 and Bangladesh Forest (Amendment) Act 2000.

According to the laws, construction of any structures and human intervention creating threats to the natural forest is totally prohibited.

An indigenous leader said if the settlement at Kassarlong reserve forest is build up, the oldest virgin natural forest in CHT might be destroyed completely.

The government should implement the peace accord in stead of doing that," said Rupayan Dewan, vice-president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and member of CHT regional council.

He also protested the government move for providing rations to more Bengali-speaking people.

Criminal wounded in 'encounter' with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One criminal charge-sheeted in the assistant commissioner of police Bashir Ali murder case was wounded during an "encounter" between the police and his accomplices at Bayezid Bostami upazila here early hours yesterday.

Criminal SM Alam alias Alamgir Talukder alias Alamyia, also an armed cadre of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and a suspect in the recent mugging incident of Tk 24 lakh at Kadamtali, received bullets in both the legs, police sources said.

The Double Mooring police arrested Alam and his associate Zia Uddin alias Kochi from Pahartali area when the latter was reportedly trying to flee to India through the Benapole border by a bus on Wednesday night and brought them under their custody as suspects in the Kadamtali mugging incident.

The police along with the two went to Bayezid upazila area on a search for their accomplices and illegal firearms in the early hours yesterday. The accomplices of Alam and Kochi opened fire on the police

while the law enforcers were recovering one LG gun with three rounds of cartridges from the slope of a hill situated between the Muktiujuddho Colony and Arefin Nagar.

The police also returned fire resulting in a gunfight in which Alam received bullets, reportedly shot by his accomplices, according to police claim.

Ziauddin Kochi was, however, unhurt while their accomplices managed to flee, said the police.

Alam was undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital under police custody.



The Christian Association of Bangladesh takes out a procession in the city yesterday demanding arrest and trial of those involved in the bomb blast that took place at Baniarchar church at Gopalganj four years ago.

Advertisement for DHAKA TODAY and DHAKA TOMORROW. Includes sections for WVA Lunch, Reunion, UPR roundtable, Reception, Birth anniversary, Film show, Roundtable, ADAB meeting, Rotary meeting, Seminar, and Krzysztof Kieslowski retrospective.

UGC to consider 'logical' demands of university teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) assured the teachers of the public universities of taking necessary steps regarding their eight-point demands, including merit based recruitment and construction of a teachers' guest-house in the capital.

The assurance came from a meeting between a delegation of The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association and the UGC Chairman Professor Dr M Asaduzzaman on Thursday.

Terminating the demands logical, the UGC chairman, along with other members present during the meeting, agreed on various issues, including an increase in the sixth national pay scale for the associate professors and introduction of a uniform grading system as well as a benefits policy for all public university teachers.

The delegation was led by the federation President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Secretary General Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin.

UGC members Prof Monirul Huq, Prof KM Mohsin, Prof Mahfujul Huq, Prof Mahbubullah and Prof Mahfujul Huq and federation members Prof Khalekujaman of Rajshahi University, Prof AZM Nowsher Ali Khan of Dhaka University and Prof Susanta Das and Prof Yasmin Huq of Shahjalal University were also present during the meeting, said a press release.