

Take action against those using toxic in foods

Environmental activists demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists yesterday called for an end to the practice of using toxic chemicals in various food items, which is posing a serious health hazard.

They also urged the government to take action against those carrying out such evil acts.

The Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save Environment Movement) formed a human chain and held a rally in front of the National Museum in the city to protest the harmful practice.

At the rally, the activists stressed the need for introducing a law to

protect the consumers' rights.

"We are deeply concerned over the unabated practice of mixing poisonous chemicals with vegetables, fruits and fish, which is posing a serious threat to public health," said Abu Naser Khan, convener of the organisation.

In the current fruit season, the unscrupulous traders have been very busy mixing toxic substances with all types of fruits, he said, adding that the government should take stern action against those responsible for the sake of the future generations.

He also called for introducing a watchdog to monitor the standard of

food items.

"Consumption of poison-laced foods is causing various diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart ailments and such cases have increased at an alarming rate recently," said ASM Shahjahan, former advisor to a caretaker government.

Golam Kibria, coordinator of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Syed Abul Maksud, convener of Poison-Free Food Movement, Tushar Rahman of Citizens' Rights Movement and Ikma Hossain of Peace also spoke at the rally.



Save Environment Movement forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding an end to practice of using toxic chemicals in various food items.

Journalist Quazi Maksud passes away

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Quazi Maksudul Hasan, News Editor of Bangladesh Sangsad Sangstha (BSS), died in the city on Thursday night at the age of 55.

The soft-spoken veteran journalist has been suffering from kidney problem for the last few years.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Pallabi, the second at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) at 11:30am, the third on the BSS premises and the fourth on the Baitul Mukarram national mosque premises after Juma prayers. He was buried at Banani graveyard.

Hasan, hailed from Barisal, is survived by his wife, a daughter, two brothers and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His quikhani will be held at his Mirpur residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina condoled the death of Maksudul Hasan and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. She expressed her deep sympathy to the members of bereaved family.

BFUJ, DUJ, Dhaka Reporters Unity and Jatiya Press Club condoled the death of journalist Maksudul Hasan.

Md Fayazuddin Ahmed

Md Fayazuddin Ahmed, a social worker of Narsingdi, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the city yesterday at the age of 56, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, four daughters and two sons. He was buried at his family graveyard in Hasnabad under Raipura thana of Narsingdi district after Juma Prayers yesterday.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

The second death anniversary of Delwar Hossain, a former News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), will be observed here today in a befitting manner.

To mark the anniversary, a milad mahfil will be held at the Mirpur Journalists' Housing Society after Asr prayers today.

Milad mahfil and Qurankhwan were held at his village home in Gazaria and also in Munshiganj town yesterday seeking blessings of the Almighty for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Freedom Fighter and senior journalist Delwar Hossain died of a massive heart attack on June 11 in 2003.

JSD anti-govt agitation begins June 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samantantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) yesterday announced a series of agitation programmes to accelerate the oust-govt movement.

General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad announced the programmes at a press conference in JSD office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Jafar Sazzad said alongside the united movement of the opposition 14-party alliance, JSD announced the programme from June 15 to July 21 to gear up its anti-government movement.

The agitation programmes include countrywide demonstration demanding resignation of the government for failing to control the price hike of essentials on June 15, demand day on June 22 demanding resignation of the chief election commissioner and reform of the caretaker government, election commission and election laws.

Other programmes are a national dialogue on united programme and framework of the future anti-government movement on July 1, 'save worker and factory day' on July 4 demanding reopening of the closed mills and factories, countrywide human chain and rallies on July 8 demanding ban on activities of fundamentalist groups, including Jamaat-Shibir and Colonel Taher Day on July 21.

The programmes were taken at the first central executive committee meeting of JSD with its President Hasanul Haq Inu in the chair.

Inu at the press conference said the opposition 14-party alliance is working to formulate a unified reform proposal on caretaker government and election commission and hopefully it will be presented before the nation by this month. "Then we will launch an out-govt movement from a single platform," Inu said.

Condemning harassment of Bidisha, he said "it is a part of the conspiracy by the government to suppress the opposition movement." "The torture on Bidisha proves that the government wants to establish a one-party rule," he added.

"As the position of Ershad is not clear, there is no scope for discussion in the 14-alliance about him," Inu said.

Central leaders Shirin Akhter and Nazmul Haq Prodhan were present at the press conference.

Jafar Sazzad said the elite force Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) is killing some criminals but protecting the identified godfathers at the instruction of the government. The extra-judicial killings of Rab have made Bangladesh a 'cruel country' before the world, he added.

JU student appeals to PM for safety

BDNEWS, Ju

Mohammad Selim, a second year English Department student of Jahangirnagar University (JU), has appealed to the prime minister and home minister of the country to safeguard his life and bring the killers of his brother to justice.

He made the appeal yesterday at a press conference at the office of JU Journalists' Association.

At the press conference, Selim said, "My brother Jamal Majhi was deliberately killed by his adulterous wife and her lover. They threatened to kill me and attack my family members after I lodged a case against them."

That is why I have appealed to the prime minister to protect me from the killers of my brother, he added.

Mongla Bandar Sramik Sangha election June 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The biennial election of Mongla Bandar Sramik Sangha, the most influential labour organisation in the southwestern region, will be held on June 13.

A total of 86 candidates nominated by the ruling four-party alliance, the Awami League and the Jatiya Party are contesting the election to 21 posts on the executive committee of the labour organisation.

The candidates for the post of president are Shajahan Shikari of Mongla Pura Awami League and Khalilur Rahman of Sramik Dal while Sirajul Haq of BNP, Mohammad Hossain of Jamaat-Islami, Shahabuddin of JSD and independent candidates Kamruzzaman and Titumir are vying for the post of general secretary.

The momentum for the election has geared up with the candidates of Awami League and four-party alliance are busy campaigning to woo the voters.

Top leaders of Awami League, including Khulna city unit President Talukder Abdul Khaleque and Bagerhat district unit President Dr Mozammel Hossain, have joined the election campaign in favour of their party candidates.



Local people in cooperation with The Hunger Project begin a cleanliness drive as part of city beautification programmes at Bailey Road and Shantinagar areas in the city yesterday.

8 killed, 30 injured in road accidents

AGENCIES, Dhaka

At least eight people, including a child, were killed and 30 injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Magura, Noakhali and Sylhet yesterday.

BDNEWS from Sirajganj adds, three people were killed and at least 25 others injured early hours of yesterday as a passenger bus turned turtle on Sirajganj-Bogra highway near Bhuiyangati Bazar in the district.

Of the deceased, two were identified as Abdul Mannan, 32, supervisor of the bus, and Shahin Alam, 30.

Police sources said the casualties took place after a Naogaon bound passenger bus coming from Dhaka skidded off the road.

The injured were admitted into different hospitals.

Police recovered the bodies and

sent them to morgue for autopsy.

Another report from Noakhali says, an eight-year-old child was killed yesterday after a microbus carrying dead body rammed a roadside restaurant on Chowmohani-Feni road under the district.

The deceased was identified as Humayun, 8, son of Nurul Islam of Purba Hazipur village of Chowmohani.

Witnesses said Humayun was straining flour when the driver of the microbus lost control and rammed Alamin hotel at the east side of Chowmohani Bazar.

Locals seized the microbus but no case has been filed till filing of this report.

UNB, from Magura adds, two people were killed in a road accident on Magura-Jhenidah road in Sadar Upazila early yesterday.

Police said a Benapole bound

truck hit the two pedestrians killing them on the spot at about 3:00am.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately.

Meanwhile, two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Sylhet-Tamabil road on Thursday midnight.

Police said a truck dashed a Sylhet-bound microbus at Darbast area at 12:00 midnight, killing two microbus passengers on the spot.

The victims were identified as Tajul Islam, son of Hasan Ali of Noyakhel in Goainghat upazila, and Zabeuddin, son of Nazimuddin of Nizpat village in Jaintapur.

Identities of the injured could not be known immediately. They were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Prisoner dies in Madaripur jail

BDNEWS, Madaripur

A prisoner died of high blood pressure in Madaripur District Jail yesterday morning.

Sources said Pannu Sheikh alias Selim (40), son of Sekander Sheikh of Katrakandi village under Mukshudpur upazila of Gopalganj district, was sent to the jail on April 8 after his wife had filed a case against him under the Woman and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Selim fell critically sick in the morning. As his condition deteriorated, doctors of the jail sent him to Madaripur hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Toitomboor Poribesh Mela today

Toitomboor, a children and juvenile monthly, will arrange a daylong fair titled "Toitomboor Poribesh Mela 2005" on the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises on the occasion of the World Environment Day today, says a press release.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendro and environmental activist, will inaugurate the fair at 10:30 am.

Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, leader of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, will launch the book titled "Amader Ei Boshundhara (This Earth of Ours), at a publication ceremony. The book is a compilation of articles on environment published in the Toitomboor from 1992-2000.

A Toitomboor stall will be set up at the fair venue. Other programmes include discussion on environment, art competition, general knowledge competition, handwriting competition, video show, raffle draw and cultural show. The fair is open to all.

BSF bid to push in over 100 in Kurigram

BDNEWS, Kurigram

Tension has mounted in Kurigram as BSF had continued its bids to push in over 100 Bangla-speaking Indian nationals at different points of the border of the district.

Two days ago Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) thwarted Border Security Force (BSF) bids to push in three Indians through Bhurungamari

border.

Meanwhile, BSF captured one Bangladeshi from Nageswari border allegedly for illegal entry into India.

BDR wrote to BSF several times to hand back the Bangladeshi citizen but BSF did not respond. In stead BSF reinforced its patrols. BDR has declared a red alert in the border.

JRC agrees to construct dams in 3 rivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A meeting of the standing committee of Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission (JRC) ended at Banshanthipur border in India, yesterday.

The meeting was fruitful and there in a cordial atmosphere, the authorities told reporters after the meeting.

Lightning kills farmer

BDNEWS, Gaibandha

A farmer was killed by lightning early yesterday at Dhaperhat union of Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha district.

Shah Alam, 35, of Mayagari village of Dhaperhat union was struck dead by lightning when he was working in the field.

4 shops gutted in Kurigram

BDNEWS, Kurigram

Four shops were gutted on Friday in a fire that originated from an explosion of a kerosene woven at Khaliganj bazar of the district.

Three people received injuries in the fire.

Witnesses said soon after the explosion the fire broke out and damaged properties worth of Tk over three lakh.

Later, fire fighters in cooperation with the local people brought the situation under control.

WEATHER TODAY. No change in day temperature likely. UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave prevailing over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Faridpur, Madaripur and Tangail may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 40.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

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)



Bangladesh Non-govt Primary Teachers' Association stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

DHAKA TODAY. Mime Magic. Kachi-Kanchar Mela. IUB convocation. Post-budget discussion. BDB meeting. Gonorantri Party.