

Bangladesh has to improve governance, check corruption: Patel

BSS, DHAKA

Vice-President of World Bank (WB) for South Asia Praful C Patel yesterday said Bangladesh's poverty alleviation programmes are generally very positive and satisfactory. "My assessment is that the poverty alleviation programmes are very satisfactory, but Bangladesh has to be much more committed towards improving its governance and checking corruption for a better socio-economic condition in future," he said.

Patel made the observation while visiting the 'Street Children Club', a centre for street children run by the 'Aparajeyo-Bangladesh' (AB)

at Arambagh in the city. The AB is working for the disadvantaged children with the financial assistance from the WB and other foreign donors.

The WB vice-president was highly impressed with the work being carried out by the centre for the helpless children.

Patel assured that the Bank would help this programme as he learnt that there were more than half a million street children in Bangladesh.

Describing these children as potential resources for the country, he said there should be more efforts with necessary education and training to turn them into productive

citizens.

"The AB has been working since 1996 with a vision to help these distressed children, protect the child rights and uphold the social justice," said AB Director (Programmes) Wahida Banu.

AB has so far provided various services to as many as 3,000 street, slum and other working children through its 22 open street schools, 16 learning centers, 22 early children centres, 6 shelter homes, 4 slum centers, 2 hostels, 10 Children Development Banks and a free clinic.

WB Country Director to Bangladesh Christine Wallick and local ward commissioner Magbool Ahmed Akhand were also present.

POLICE ATROCITIES ON DU FEMALE STUDENTS Action yet to be taken against culprits

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the third anniversary of the police atrocities on the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University, but no action has yet been taken against the persons responsible.

The government and the university authorities promised to take punitive action on the basis of the probe report, which still remains shelved.

Breaking open the hall gate in the early hours of July 23 in 2002, police stormed the hall, dragged about 100 female students from their beds, clubbed them and hurled abuse, leaving more than 50 students injured.

The one-member judicial commission headed by Justice M Tafazzul Islam submitted the 500-page report to the home ministry on September 3, 2002, indicating that some police officials were responsible for the raid on the hall.

The DU committee also placed nine suggestions, including action against the house tutors and Jannatul Kanon, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist, for filing false cases against the students. But no suggestions were implemented in the last three years.

To mark the day, different student organisations and female students will stage demonstrations on the campus today.

BSF returns body of Bangladeshi

BSS, Brahmanbaria

Border Security Force (BSF) of India yesterday handed over the body of Bangladeshi national Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan (Moti), 18, to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) here yesterday morning after a flag meeting.

The Bangladeshi national, rescued by the BSF from the Akhaura border in an unconscious state on July 18 last, died at an Agartala hospital on July 20.

The BSF rescued Moti from Lankamora area of the Akhaura-Hirapur border at 8:00 am on July 18. Later, being confirmed about his nationality, they informed the BDR of the matter.

Family sources said Moti was missing since the night of July 17 after going out of his house with one of his friends.

Clarification

Executive Director-1 and Joint Printer and Publisher of the Ittefaq Group of Publications Mainul Hossain yesterday said that it was premature and unfair for Anwar Hossain's lawyer to say that his client has been declared the editor of the daily Ittefaq.

Hossain sent a clarification to The Daily Star regarding a news item, which mentioned that the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court declared Anwar Hossain as the editor of the Ittefaq.

"In the first place Mr Anwar Hossain did not file any case over the last nine years claiming himself to be the editor. The writ petitions filed by me involved complicated interpretation of the Constitution and the law," clarified Mainul Hossain.

Hossain also attached a legal opinion made by Barrister Abdur Razzaq and Barrister Akhtar Imam with his clarification, which reads: "Nothing can be said about the findings of the Court on the various issues until the full judgement is available."

Navy qirat, azan competition ends

UNB, Dhaka

The annual Qirat and Azan Competition of Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Hazi Mohsin Mosque here yesterday, says an ISPR release.

A total of 70 Quaries belonging to eight teams of different ships and establishments of Bangladesh Navy took part in the four-day competition.

Sepoy MZ Abedin, MA Qashem (L/STd) and MS Islam (mus-1) clinched the top three prizes in qirat competition while in azan competition, sepoy MZ Abedin and MW Islam (Topass-1) jointly got the first prize, MS Islam (mus-1) and MA Rahman (L/REN) jointly got the 2nd prize and MH Rahman (ROG-1) and MS Uddin (REN-1) shared the third prize.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan was present on the occasion as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.



Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save Environment Movement) forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the corrupt officials in the power sector.

Conserve pond water to get rid of arsenic contamination

Bapa demands at city rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday demanded conservation of all ponds in the city and elsewhere in the country.

The call was made from a rally organised by Bapa on the bank of a pond at Osmani Udyan in the city.

Bapa President Dr Zaker Hossain said the arsenic problem has taken a serious turn almost all over the country.

"If we can conserve pond water

properly, we can get rid of arsenic contamination using surface water," he added.

Bapa General Secretary Mohidul Haq said due to filling up ponds, there is unusual waterlogging in the city even in little rain.

He attributed the filling up of city ponds to unplanned urbanisation posing serious threat to city dwellers.

Mohidul urged all to come forward to help conserve ponds in their respective areas.

Speakers at the rally said once there were innumerable ponds in the country that provided water for drinking and washing, and fresh fishes.

Bapa put forward a set of suggestions for the conservation of ponds.

These included survey on ponds across the country and formation of citizens' committee to supervise the maintenance of ponds.

Earlier, Bapa formed a human chain at the same place.

Auto-rickshaw drivers, owners threaten strike on Aug 1 in Ctg

Place 8-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Owners and drivers of three-wheelers in the port city yesterday put up an eight-point demand including extension of time for meter fixing and reduction of prices.

They warned enforcement of a 24-hour strike on August 1 if the demands are not met by July 27.

Chittagong Auto-rickshaw, Tempo and CNG-run Three-wheeler Owners Samity announced the programme at a press conference at the local press club in the afternoon.

The samity leaders alleged that the meters, provided by the government authorised five companies, were of poor standard and cost Tk 7500 each.

They said they did not see any newspaper advertisement regarding the appointment of the meter-suppliers that deprived the samity of participating in the bid.

If appointed, the samity could have provided the same meter for at best Tk 4000 each, they claimed.

The samity leaders demanded cancellation of the previous order for fixing meter by July 31 and urged for a re-tender call.

Considering the hilly topography of Chittagong the rate of fare of three-wheelers, particularly the CNG-run one, should not be the same as in Dhaka, they said and demanded the fixation of rate at Tk 15 for first two-kilometre and Tk 6 for each additional km.

Samity President Abul Kashem Sarker read out a written statement at the press conference where General Secretary HM Delwar Hossain, Md Rafiq, Md Iqbal, Md Mohsin and Haji Syed Hossain replied different queries.



Garments Sramik Trade Union forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding measures to check price hike of essentials and weekly holiday for the garments workers.

Six killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi, Sylhet and Faridpur yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent from Rajshahi reports, three mango traders were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Gaopara village in Puthia upazila early yesterday.

The accident occurred when a truck overloaded with mango and the traders turned down on the road as the driver lost control over the steering.

Among the victims, Fazal, 30, died on the spot while Neel Komol, 35 and Sanu, 40, succumbed to their injuries at Puthia Hospital.

Samad, Pashan, Korban and Ahmed were admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

The businessmen from Enayetpur in Sirajganj were taking the mangoes to Dhaka from Chapainawabganj.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds, agitated pedestrians put up barricade on the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway after a speeding truck killed two people near Shahporan gate on the road at about 5:30pm yesterday.

Over 100 vehicles, including truck, bus and minibus, remained stranded on both the ends of the road till 6:30pm. The people withdrew the barricade after police intervention.

Manik Miah, 22, a small trader of nearby Doloipara area, was killed when a truck hit his bicycle.

One Abdur Rahman, 30, died as the truck hit a rickshaw. Rahman jumped on the road and fell under the vehicle as the speeding truck hit the rickshaw. He also died on the spot. Rahman hailed from Kotalipara of Gopalganj district. He was also a small trader in Sylhet for long.

The truck loaded with stones was going to Sylhet city from Tamabil.

Police sent the bodies to the Osmani Medical College morgue for post-mortem.

The driver managed to escape. BDNEWS from Faridpur reports, one person was killed and five others were injured in a road accident at Bahirdia on Faridpur-Dhaka highway yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Hafiz, 30. The injured were admitted to the Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Police sources said a Dhaka bound passenger bus collided with a Faridpur bound tempo at Bahirdia

leaving six people, including the tempo driver seriously injured.

The injured were rushed to the Faridpur Hospital where Hafiz succumbed to his injuries.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, who was on his way to Faridpur from Dhaka, visited the injured at the hospital.

He expressed resentment when he could not find any doctor or official there. He also directed the concerned people to ensure proper treatment of the injured.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:24am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	24.8	92	76
Chittagong	32.0	26.5	86	77
Rajshahi	32.5	26.3	83	82
Khulna	32.6	27.5	89	82
Barisal	32.0	27.4	86	92
Sylhet	33.7	25.1	89	77
Cox's Bazar	--	28.8	78	--



Awami League presidium member Jilur Rahman speaks at a discussion marking the 80th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad, the country's first prime minister, at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organised the event.

RAISING DENTAL AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS

Denti-bus provides free check-up

MAHBUB-E-WADUZZAMAN, back from Gazipur

A question for the students: What are the three rules for strong, healthy and germ-free teeth?

The answer comes promptly: brushing the teeth with a toothpaste, brushing after breakfast and dinner everyday and proper brushing.

"Great! You have correctly answered the questions. Now you are eligible for free dental check-up by the professionals."

This was a sample of a quiz that took place at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institution (BARI) High School last Sunday. About 120 students, out of 1200 successful participants, received free treatment during this dental awareness campaign.

A group of dentists is now on this off-beat mission trip in a bus called 'Denti-bus'-- an initiative of Pepsodent, a toothpaste brand of Unilever Bangladesh. Equipped with all kinds of modern dental check-up facilities, the bus provides dental care service to schoolchildren and community people.

"Through this unique initiative, we want to raise awareness among people of all strata of society, especially among the children and the rural poor," said Dr Shahnewaz, a member of the Denti-bus.

Most of the people in the country are unaware of their dental hygiene and suffer from various types of dental diseases. Even, sometimes

they have no choice other than pulling out teeth at an early age, he said, adding that "A little awareness about dental hygiene could ensure healthy teeth."

Many students who could not answer the quiz question are now aware of the three most important rules for dental care.

Pepsodent, which launched its

Denti-bus programme last year, has already provided dental check-up and raised awareness among over 3,00,000 students and community people.

Dr Shahnewaz said the Denti-bus has been working in different areas where people have no access to dental check-up facilities. It has already travelled to

Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Tangail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Comilla, Feni and Noakhali districts. The next destination of the Denti-bus is Chittagong.

Officials of the Unilever Bangladesh, Adcomm and Asiatic were present at the programme at Bari High School.



Dental awareness campaign at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institution (BARI) High School.