



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, president of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, speaks at the seventh expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 7: To be environmentally sustainable' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is former advisor of the caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan and CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan and on his right is CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya.

14-party road march begins in port city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The five-day-long divisional road march of Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine began in the port city yesterday demanding immediate reforms in caretaker government and Election Commission (EC).

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated the march by cutting ribbons at Jamiatul Falah Jam-e-Mosque at around 7:00am.

AL city unit General Secretary Kazi Enamul Hoque Danu, central JSD President Mainuddin Khan Badal, CPB Chittagong unit Secretary Shah Alam and ATM Nizam Uddin of Workers' Party were present on the occasion.

Around eight hundred activists of the combine in some 11 buses and 15 microbuses reached Daudkandi of Comilla at around 11:30am.

On the way rallies were held at different places including Daudkandi, Army Camp, Comilla Town Hall and Lalmai.

Speakers at the rallies said people would not accept any election without proposed reforms in caretaker government and the EC.

Local leaders and activists including former whip Ali Ashraf and Major General (Retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, member of AL advisory committee, joined the march at different places.

The march, which left for Chandpur at around 5:00pm, will pass through different districts including Laxmipur, Noakhali, Feni, Khagrachari, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar and end in Chittagong on August 25.

Proper management of water bodies stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper management and implementation of wetland policies is needed to protect water bodies from environmental pollution and the grip of encroachers, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

"What the country needs is a clear strategy, which will benefit the poor by limiting adverse trends and restoring productivity in fisheries through community participation and decentralised governance," Darrel Depper and Paul Thomson said in their presentation entitled 'Lessons and successes from inland fisheries projects'.

Department of Fisheries, Management of Aquatic Ecosystem through Community Husbandry (MACH) and Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBMF) jointly organised the roundtable entitled 'Future plans for inland capture fisheries' in association with

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The speakers said the present system of leasing out jalmohal (water body), in fact, encourages maximisation of short-term profit by leaseholders, leading to poor fisheries management and posing threat to biodiversity.

Leasing of Jalmohal should be used as a means of ensuring long-term access for local fishing communities on condition that they conserve and sustain the fisheries and that the benefits go to those who fish for a livelihood, they said.

According to a survey, 82 percent of the fishing households are poor, said Rafiqul Islam, director of the department of fisheries. Local community-based management can address the dimension of poverty, he added.

After the completion of any fisheries projects, a committee should remain in place to oversee, review and coordinate local community management of fisheries, the speakers observed.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed, director general of the fisheries department, stressed the need for making an up-to-date inventory of water bodies incor-

porating administrative, physical and biological information.

The speakers urged the government to identify sources of pollution affecting fisheries and impose a ban on those factors.

They also called on the Department of Environment to enforce national water standards so that the industries comply with the rules and operate effluent treatment plants.

Stringent action should be taken against the encroachers and steps should be taken to prevent siltation, they said.

They also called for better coordination among the ministries, directorates, experts' committees, non-government organisations and local agents to implement sustainable fisheries projects.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman was present as the chief guest at the roundtable moderated by Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of BCAS. Experts from home and abroad took part in the discussion.

Submission of applications by students going to UK

As of August 28, the British High Commission has instructed VFS Bangladesh Pvt Ltd to only accept student applications at their Dhaka office (Saimon Centre, 1st floor, Road # 22, Plot # 4/A, Gulshan # 1) between 8:00am and 9:30am, says a press release.

No student applications will be accepted outside of these hours.

This change does not affect the submission time of all other types of applications, or student applications submitted in either Sylhet or Chittagong VFS offices.



Bangladesh Shikkhak Karmachari Samanoy Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting declaration of conditional salary rise.

Develop technology to ensure safe water

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for initiating friendly technology to ensure sanitation and safe drinking water.

They said women who play managerial role in domestic life and are major users of water, need to be trained to utilise the technology.

The workshop titled 'Gender and technology in drinking water, sanitation and hygiene' was organised jointly by Global Applied Research Network, South Asia (GARNET-SA), Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC) and World Bank (WB) Dhaka office at the LGED conference room in the city.

HS Mozaddad Faruq, director general of Water Resources Planning Organisation, said access to safe

water and sanitation is a basic human right.

He called for need-based training for women both at urban slums and rural areas to use technology for getting hygienic water.

Abdul Bari, chief engineer of public health engineering department, called for raising awareness to ensure maximum use of technology for safe drinking water.

He said the present coverage of sanitation in the country is 50 percent and by the end of the year the coverage will be increased to 80 percent.

Hedayetullah Al-Mamoon, managing director of Dhaka Wasa, called for raising tariff in selling water to help provide technology.

The speakers emphasised the utilisation of country's own resources for technology, rather than waiting for

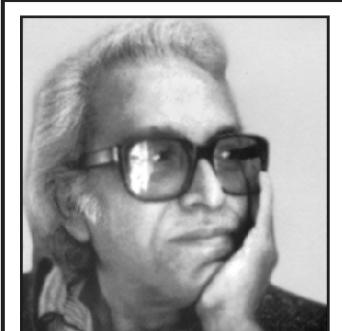
donors' assistance.

They also called for raising awareness among people for harvesting rainwater as source of hygienic water.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Bilquis Amin Hoque, coordinator of GARNET-SA and chairperson of EPRC, said, "National policy relating to water, sanitation and arsenic should be formulated in such a way as to empower women at all levels in using technology."

SM Zahirul Islam, secretary to Local Government Division, addressed the function as chief guest.

Experts from home and abroad also spoke on the occasion.



Condolence meet today

A citizens' condolence meeting in memory of eminent poet Shamsur Rahman will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar at 4:00pm today.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury will preside over the meeting organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, says a press release.

All well-wishers and admirers have been requested to attend the meeting.

In case of unfavourable weather condition, the meeting will take place at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium.



PHOTO: STAR
Two female students of Dhaka University (DU) were expelled from their dormitory yesterday for breaking discipline.

Two DU female students expelled from dorm

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two female students of Dhaka University (DU) were expelled from their dormitory yesterday for breaking discipline.

Authorities of Fazilatunnisa Mujib Hall asked Nusrat Akter and Farhana Afsana Chowdhury, both students of English department, to leave the dormitory by 12:00noon yesterday.

Sources in the hall said Nusrat and Farhana were engaged in scuffle in the room following a dispute over a 'trifle' matter in the early hours of yesterday.

Provost of the hall Prof Dil Rowshan Zinnat Ara Nazrin said hall authorities took the decision to maintain discipline in the dormitory.

One of the house tutors said authorities tried to reach a peaceful solution at a meeting in the early hours of yesterday but they were 'rough' even with the teachers.

Protest against outage in Khulna Aug 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bidyut Adhikar Sangram Parishad (BASP) will hold a rally at Shaheed Hadith Park at 4:00pm on August 24 to protest against severe power crisis in the southwestern region.

The rally will be followed by a procession.

Co-convenors of the Parishad Principal Zafar Imam, Kazi Wahiduzzaman and Alhaj Liaquat Ali in a statement said they will also burn electricity bills protesting the outage.

Member secretary Sheikh Abdul Quayum at a press conference at the Khulna Press Club yesterday said a tough movement will be launched shortly if prevailing severe power crisis is not resolved.

The Parishad will lay siege to the Khulna Bidyut Bhaban and residences of lawmakers as part of its agitation from next month if the situation does not improve by August 31, warns Greater Khulna Development Coordination Action Committee (GKDCA) Secretary General Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman.

PHOTO: STAR
Cheerful children shake hands with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman at the Shishu Academy Literary Award giving ceremony on Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday.