



Overflowing sewage water remains stagnant on Tejgaon-Gulshan link road for about 20 days, posing health hazards, but the authorities concerned have turned a blind eye to it.

PHOTO: STAR

Young man slaughtered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a slaughtered body of an unidentified youth from an abandoned plot at Ranavola under Turag Police Station in the city yesterday.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy. Police said the youth aged about 30, wearing lungi and a shirt, might have been killed early hours of Monday.

A murder case has been lodged with the Turag Police Station in this connection.

DIALOGUE ON CHILD RIGHTS WEEK

Rajshahi teens vow to resist eve teasing

RU CORRESPONDENT

The teenage boys and girls of Rajshahi in a dialogue vowed to resist the eve teasing and initiate social movement against the menace in the society.

They also urged guardians, teachers, journalists, civil society members and Imams to come forward against the eve teasing.

The demand came at a daylong dialogue on 'Face to face dialogue between elder and younger members of the society' organised by National Shishu Taskforce Rajshahi at Shishu Academy auditorium in Rajshahi city yesterday to mark the Child Rights Week.

Dilara Zaman, an underprivileged child of ACD, presented a

keynote paper titled 'social movement against eve teasing' in the meeting.

Abinash, an under-privileged child of sweeper community, presented a survey report that found that at least seven adolescent girls committed suicide after they had become serious victims of eve teasing in the recent times across the country.

The culprits were not punished or even arrested, the report added.

Later, an open dialogue was held between the elders and the children with Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Aftab Uddin Sheikh in the chair.

The female teens said, when a girl becomes a victim of eve teasing, her guardians stopped her education and

keynote paper titled 'social movement against eve teasing' in the meeting.

In many cases, the humiliated girls commit suicide, they said.

The adolescents urged the government to enact new laws and ensure punishment of the culprits, who tease children and female adolescents.

Only social awareness could resist eve teasing in the society, the speakers said.

In the dialogue, the adolescents vowed to join hands to resist eve teasing from the society.

Rajshahi Union of Journalists President Hassan Millat, Rajshahi Protection Movement Council Convener Jamal Khan, NGO representative Fayzullah Chowdhury, guardians and mosque Imams also attended the dialogue.



PHOTO: STAR

Women line up to buy essential commodities from an outlet set up by BDR at Dhanmondi ground in the city yesterday. The government has taken the initiative to sell essentials at fair prices in different parts of the city to check the price hike during Ramadan.

President, PM greet German counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have greeted German President Horst Kohler and Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel on the occasion of the National Day of that country.

Iajuddin, in a message to his German counterpart, expressed his firm belief that the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years ahead.

He wished him good health, happiness and long life and continued peace and progress of the friendly people of Germany.

In a similar message to the German Chancellor, Khaleda expressed her confidence that the bonds of friendship between Bangladesh and Germany would be further strengthened and consolidated in the days to come.

ENERGY MINISTRY

PM urged to relinquish charge to solve power crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the prime minister (PM) to give up the responsibility of energy ministry to help solve existing power crisis in the country.

They said there are still enough resources and eligible persons to deal with present power outages.

The discussion titled 'Measures to solve water and electricity crisis' was organised jointly by Nagorik Sanghati, Sammilita Samajik Andolon and Samaj Anushilon Kendra in the city.

In a written statement, journalist Golam Kibria said

the government laid more emphasis on power supply and transmission than power generation.

He said the establishment of Dhaka Electric Supply Authorities (Desa), Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) and Rural Electrification Board (Reb) in addition to Power Development Board (PDB) led to financial and infrastructural losses in the sector.

On the other hand donor agencies and private companies grabbed thousands of crores of taka as consultancy and logistics support fees, he added.

Prof Shamsul Alam of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology attributed the electricity crisis to mismanagement and corruption.

"The PM should resign from the power ministry to help solve the current electricity crisis as the country possesses enough resources and efficient persons to meet power demand," he said.

He also called for forming public court to punish corrupt officials for leading the country to utter crisis of electricity.

The discussants laid emphasis on transparency and accountability of the authorities concerned for overall production, transmission and supply of electricity.

They also called tougher agitation like at Kansat, Fulbari and Shanir Akhra to resist mismanagement and corruption in the power sector.

Kazi Mohammad Shish, former chief engineer of Dhaka Wasa, said there is no alternative to water treatment plant for treating river water in order to meet the present demand of water.

He said Wasa has so far established only one plant at Sayedabad, but it could establish more water treatment plant to solve water crisis.

The expenditure for setting up of water treatment plant could be met from the revenue earned by the sector each year, he added.

Presided over by Dr Hayat Mamud, vice-president of Sammilita Samajik Andolon the discussion was also addressed by Ruhin Hossain Prince, member of the central committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Mosleh Uddin Masud, convener of Shanir Akhra water, electricity movement committee, Mohidul Haque Khan, general secretary of Bapa and Prof Atiqur Rahman, president of Nagorik Sanghati.

Face natural disaster with courage

Shamsul urges people

Bss, Munshiganj

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said the present government has provided all-out support for those affected by natural disasters including river erosion.

He said this while distributing relief materials among the victims of river erosion at Tongibari upazila here yesterday.

Urging the people to face the natural disasters with courage the minister said the present government and BNP leaders and workers will always remain beside the affected people.

"Don't lose your courage in danger," he said adding the government is making its efforts to check the erosion. BNP will take effective measures to check the erosion by the Padma if the party comes to power again, he assured.

Shamsul Islam said the government has made law to provide land from newly developed 'char' for those who had lost their paternal land in the river erosion. In this regard, he urged the people to preserve the records of their paternal lands.

The minister said the present government has developed the education, health and communications sectors remarkably over the last five years.

Chairman of Meerkadam Poursabha Mohammad Hossain Renu, local UP chairmen Kamruzzaman Bachchu and Sheikh Selim, also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the minister visited some puja mandaps at Abdullahpur, Jelepura, Abdullahpur Akhra, Nagarkasra, Mirapara and Ghop Para.

Talks on electoral reforms a 'very good' initiative

Says UK minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Chief Secretary to the Treasury of the UK Stephen Timms yesterday welcomed the initiative for holding a dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition, which is aimed at breaking the political impasse.

Terming the dialogue on electoral reforms a 'very good' initiative, he emphasised the need for a free and fair election. He also said that his government would provide all kinds of assistance for the continuation of democratic process in the country.

The British minister was talking to reporters after a symposium held at Bangladesh-China Conference Centre in the city on the occasion of 15th anniversary of the Muslim Aid in Bangladesh.

Wishing success to the proposed secretaries-level dialogue, British High Commissioner Anwar

Choudhury said, "Democracy in Bangladesh is now under threat. So, both the parties should have the will to make it a success."

The entire nation is looking forward to the outcome of the talks, he said, adding that reaching a consensus before the election is necessary as the polls results have to be accepted by all parties.

He also said both the parties made all-out efforts to find out a solution to the present crisis.

He hoped that the secretaries-level dialogue would continue if they fail to reach a consensus this time.

"The British High Commission stands there to assist Bangladesh at all levels of election," he added.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, however, declined to comment on the dialogue.

Replying to a query, Stephen Timms said the Muslim Aid is absolutely a philanthropic organisation serving humanity irrespective of

caste and creed.

Terming 'militancy' a threat to the development of Bangladesh, he said that although the country has achieved remarkable progress in curbing terrorism, much remains to be done in this connection.

At the symposium, Muslim Aid country directors from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Indonesia exchanged views on how the organisation can help the vulnerable people in the wake of natural disasters such as cyclone, tsunami and earthquake and wars and conflicts across the world through providing medical care, education and microcredit.

SM Rasheduzzaman, country director in Bangladesh, Brian McAndrew, organisational development adviser, UK headquarters, Barrister Hamid Azad, head of overseas programmes of the organisation, and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Coalition for the Urban Poor forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday on the occasion of the World Habitat Day, demanding steps to resolve the housing problem.