

Recover Hatirjheel lake from land grabbers

500 NGOs urge CG

BSS, Dhaka

Coalition of Local Non-government Organisations (CLNB) yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) to recover the ancient 'Hatirjheel' lake in the capital from the land grabbers.

The CLNB placed a six-point proposal for freeing the jheel from the land grabbers by removing their structures.

"The Hatirjheel, which once ran from the backside of the present Sonargaon Hotel to Gulshan-1, is now being illegally occupied by Brac, Capital Housing, Nirman

International and other local land grabbers," said CLNB Chairman Haroonur Rashid while addressing a press conference here.

Showing many documents, he said at least 84.09 acres of the Hatirjheel belonged to 'Bhawal Raja'.

The government owned the land when it became khas, he added.

Haroonur Rashid said the Brac initiated the grabbing of the Hatirjheel by building its multi-storyed head office.

To preserve the biodiversity as well as safeguarding the city from any future natural disaster, the

process of reshaping the original lake should start immediately, he demanded.

Relying to a question, Haroonur Rashid said the CLNB is an organisation of over 500 local NGOs and its members do not take funds from foreign donors.

"The government is our great donor and it is also the largest donor for most local and foreign NGOs in Bangladesh," he added.

Local community leaders Mohsinul Kabir and Ibrahim Hossain attended the press conference.

The science club warned those who are interested to observe the eclipse on their own should use welding glass or the dark portion of the used X-ray plates because watching the solar eclipse with bare eyes would be dangerous to eyes, it added.

Partial solar eclipse today

BSS, Dhaka

Partial solar eclipse from 6:43am to 8:24am is going to be visible over Bangladesh today.

The astrological section of the science club Anusandhi Chakra have arranged an astrophotography camp to observe the eclipse with the help of modern telescopes from the roof of a 17-storyed apartment building at 12/A, Eskaton Garden Road in the city.

A press release of the organisation yesterday said the high eclipse will be visible at 7:36am.

Those who are interested in the information and pictures collected at the camp should contact the astronomy section of the club, the release added. Astrologer Dr Khan and Astrophysicist Dr Dibyan Bhattacharya will attend the camp among others.

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Jamil made MD of Shipping Corporation

UNB, Dhaka

Jamil Osman, additional secretary of Establishment Ministry, has been appointed Managing Director of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation on deputation, said a handout.

It said Osman was an officer on special duty (OSD) under the Establishment Ministry.

Rejoinder

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in a rejoinder to the report "10 TV Channels: Licences Available at Lightning Speed", published in The Daily Star on March 16, 2007, denied any involvement with Bangla Vision, a private satellite television channel.

"I solemnly say that the information presented in the report mentioning my relation with Bangla Vision is not true. In fact, I am not involved with the channel as an owner or in any other capacity," he said in the rejoinder.

"The report also said that I have an office at the Bangla Vision at Noor Tower which is absolutely untrue," he added.

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