

BSMMU staffs, drug store owners clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people sustained injuries and five vehicles were vandalised following a clash between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) staffs and drug store owners of Shahbagh Medicine Market in Shahbagh area in the city yesterday.

The clash erupted centering the eviction of around 52 drug stores in Shahbagh area followed by chase and counter chase between hundreds of BSMMU staffs and drug store owners.

The eviction team led by district magistrate, police and BSMMU staffs went to the Shahbagh Medicine Market at around 11:00am to evict the illegal occupiers. The BSMMU staffs in the presence of the magistrate put around 10 to 12 drug stores under lock and key terming them as illegal.

However, the magistrate left with his team ordering the BSMMU staffs to unlock the stores after the drug store owners showed the stay order documents of High Court.

As BSMMU staffs refused, the drug store owners locked horns with them.

Mahbubur Rahman Milon, president of Shahbagh Drug / Shop Owners' Association, told the Daily Star that they allocated the shops in 1970 from Nawab Family and later in 1973 got the stay order from High Court to use the stores in a case with the authorities of former PG hospital.

BSMMU sources however informed that they took legal actions to evict the shop owners as they had been illegally occupying the medicine stores for several years.



Owners of medicine shops go berserk and damage buses in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) at Shahbagh in the city yesterday when the university authorities along with a magistrate try to evict them from the campus.

President, CA greet Pak counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed greeted President and Prime Minister of Pakistan on the occasion of the national day of that country to be observed today.

In a message to President General Parvez Musharraf, Iajuddin said Bangladesh and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations that are characterised by the spirit of understanding and cooperation.

In a separate message to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Fakhruddin said, "Bangladesh deeply values her relations with Pakistan. It is my sincere belief that the brotherly relations that so happily exist between our two countries will be further strengthened in the days ahead. We remain committed to that end."

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is keen to provide financial and technical assistance in implementing big projects like setting up Patenga Container Terminal at Chittagong port.

A high-powered ADB delegation disclosed this while visiting Chittagong port to see the progress in the implementation of Chittagong Port Trade Facilitation Project here yesterday.

Installation of scanner machines and computerisation of operational system at Chittagong port and construction of a flyover to ease traffic congestion at the port area would be done under the project involving an

ADB loan amounting to US\$ 30.06 Million, sources said.

The delegation led by ADB South Asia Regional Deputy Director General Sultan Hafizur Rahman held a meeting with Chairman Mosleh Uddin and other high officials of the Chittagong Port Authority.

While talking to journalists after the meeting the ADB team leader said Chittagong port has an important role in economic advancement of the country.

Pointing to the capacity building of the Chittagong port, he also felt a deep sea-port here urgent.

ADB keen to help build Patenga container terminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Adopt modern management strategies to ensure safe water

Experts tell seminar

UNB, Dhaka

Water experts, development partners and other stakeholders yesterday underlined the need for evolving modern water management strategies and developing new techniques to ensure adequate supply of pure drinking water across the country.

Speaking at a seminar on 'Water Scarcity in Bangladesh: The Ways Out' here, they said Bangladesh is facing acute crisis of pure drinking water due to arsenic contamination in ground water coupled with unplanned urbanisation, use of toxic elements in arable lands, discharging industrial wastes in the rivers and population boom in the country.

They suggested taking concerted efforts involving all stakeholders in mitigating the water crisis through strengthening institutional capacity, promoting more technology transfer and mobilising financial resources to this end.

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, the World Bank, UNICEF and World Health Organisation (WHO) jointly organised the seminar at the DPHE auditorium in observance of World Water Day-2007.

The theme of this year's World Water Day is "Coping with Water Scarcity."

DPHE and Cooperatives Adviser Mohammed Anwarul Iqbal was the chief guest at the seminar while Local Government Division secretary Safar Raj Hossain, World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu, WHO Representative to Bangladesh Dr Duangvadee Sunkhobol

and Counselor of Royal Danish Embassy Martin Bo Brander were special guests.

NGO Forum Executive Director SMA Rashid gave the address of welcome at the seminar with DPHE chief engineer M Mustafizur Rahman in the chair.

Addressing the seminar, LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Anwarul Iqbal said water scarcity is getting acute in Bangladesh and arsenic contamination in ground water has hindered the supply of safe water throughout the country.

He said salinity intrusion on both ground and surface water in coastal belt, rocky soil texture and irregular terrain in hilly areas, trend of desertification, flood and water logging and increasing contamination of surface water in various ways have been posing serious threats to safe water supply in Bangladesh.

He underscored the need for ensuring efficiency in using surface water in daily lives of the people especially in agricultural and industrial purposes aiming to reduce pressure on ground water. World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu said density of population and growing demand for industry combined with environmental challenges have created the scarcity of safe water that Bangladesh is experiencing. He put emphasis on proper management of water resources to overcome the crisis.

In this context, he mentioned various programmes being implemented by the World Bank in ensuring safe water supply in Bangladesh.

WHO Representative Dr Duangvadee Sunkhobol predicted that

shortage of pure drinking water supply would increase further in future due to systematic changes of rainfall and increasing salinity in coastal belt.

Quoting statistics, DPHE chief engineer Mustafizur Rahman said the surface water resource particularly the river water started getting contaminated by pesticides and industrial wastes.

At present, he said, on an average 11,000 metric tons of pesticides and seven million tons of various industrial chemicals are used countrywide that contribute heavily to contaminate both surface and ground water.

Eminent water experts Dr Ainun Nishat of IUCN and Amanullah-Al-Mahmood of DPHE presented two technical papers at the working session of the seminar, chaired by Abdul Kader Chowdhury, former chief engineer of DPHE.