

Physically challenged voice demand for rehabilitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique event for the dwellers of Kaliganj, a small upazila town.

Hundreds of people watched with great surprise and hopes when about 200 physically challenged men, women and teenagers with artificial limbs took to the streets yesterday to raise voices for rehabili-

tation in the society.

They also vowed to remove social prejudices and obstacles to their rehabilitation.

At a seminar preceding the procession, speakers called for promoting the rights and dignity of physically disabled people in society.

They urged the government to provide administrative, financial and

technical support for development of the disabled, with a special attention to the physically challenged women.

The programmes were organised by Naita Hospital Prosthetic and Orthotic (artificial limb) center set up by Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, a renowned orthopedic doctor. The seminar was held on the premises

of the centre. Samsul Arefin was the chief guest at the function chaired by Kaliganj upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO) Abul Fazal Bappi. All the physically challenged people were provided with artificial limbs by the center.

Lauding the role of the centre, the speakers urged all to take similar initiatives to pull the disabled into the mainstream of the society and to rehabilitate them.

They said the center is doing a praiseworthy job by creating confidence in the disabled, who can be turned into assets if trained and rehabilitated.

But it is not enough as hundreds of people are becoming physically disabled in road accidents every year in the country, they said.

They called upon the government and NGOs to work in a coordinated way with the same vision to ensure rights of disabled.

Shaidul Islam, co-ordinator of the center said, at least 320 physically challenged people including women were provided with artificial limbs in the country by the center in last four years.

Purabi Mallik, Ashraful Islam and Muniya Iqbal who lost their legs in road accidents now fitted with artificial limbs thanked the authorities of the center for their humanitarian project.

The programmes were organised on the occasion of providing artificial limbs to the physically challenged people.



PHOTO: STAR

Physically challenged people brought out a procession at Kaliganj upazila town yesterday to voice demand for training and rehabilitation.

Drive soon against illegal clinics in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces will soon launch operation against illegal clinics and diagnostic centres in Khulna.

A list of illegal clinics and diagnostic centres has been sent to joint forces from the office of the Director of Health, Khulna division, for taking action.

According to Health Development sources, 35 out of 78 clinics and diagnostic centres in Khulna city and district are operating without licence.

Khulna Civil Surgeon Dr Abdus Samad Mian, when asked, said he is not opposed to checking illegal clinics and diagnostic centres.

Meanwhile, 16 illegal clinics and eight diagnostic centres in city have been closed by their owners fearing action by joint forces.

Fate of students at two new JU departments uncertain

UGC won't give funds as both were opened without approval

JU CORRESPONDENT

Academic life of students of 2006-2007 session in newly opened Public Administration and Microbiology departments at Jahangirnagar University (JU) has become uncertain due to lack adequate teachers and facilities.

Crisis deepens further as the University Grants Commission (UGC) at a recent meeting decided not to allocate any fund for the two departments.

The UGC took the decision as the department was opened allegedly without its permission.

Classes are scheduled to begin on March 29 but facilities like classroom, departmental office, library and laboratory have not yet been

created in the two department, campus sources said.

Only two lecturers and two assistant professors have been appointed in Microbiology (MB) department while three lecturers are awaiting approval of JU Syndicate for appointment in Public Administration department.

The 30 students of MB do not even know where the department exists on campus or where to turn up for classes.

Following a unilateral decision of the university authorities, students were enrolled at PA and MB departments with a plan to use rooms of Government and Politics department and of Life Science faculty, the sources said.

The UGC will not be responsible

for the possible debacle as regards the academic life of the students, said a member of UGC on condition of anonymity.

Opening of MB department without laboratory facilities is irrational, he said.

According to S21 of Bangladesh Gazette, 1983, approval of UGC is required for opening of any faculty or department and recruitment of teachers or officials. The two departments were opened last year.

"Opening of the departments and recruitments are illegal. A department can not be opened without UGC permission and the UGC will not make any allocation for the departments in future," said UGC chairman Prof Asaduzzaman.

BNP leader among 4 held in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four persons including BNP, Jubo Dal leaders and UP chairman from a hotel in Dhaka Friday night, police said here yesterday.

The arrested are Patuakhali district BNP vice-president Shahdat Hossain Mridha, Chiknikiandi Union Parishad chairman Shiplu Khan, Jubo Dal leader Al-Amin and Mahtab Hossain, an former engineer of Water Development Board (WDB).

They were sent to a police station in Dhaka police said but could not give any reason for their arrest.

81 MT govt rice seized in Galachipa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Joint forces in a raid at Ulania market in Galachipa upazila Friday night seized 81 tonnes of rice worth about Tk 14 lakh allotted for development projects but allegedly sold in the black market.

The rice, contained in 954 sacks, was seized from two shops at the market, sources in Rapid Action battalion (Rab) said.

The rice was allotted for different development projects including food for work.

The project implementation committee received the rice from local government godown at different times in last two weeks. But those were sold it in the black market, the sources said.

Outlaw killed in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An outlaw belonging to Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was killed allegedly by rivals at Goal village in Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj district Friday night.

The victim was identified as Fazlur Rahman, 48. Police said he was wanted in several cases for murder and robbery.

Police and victim's family sources said that 15 to 20 people stormed in to the house of Fazlur at about 9 pm and picked him up. They took him on a road nearby and hacked him to death.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim's wife Mazedra Begum lodged a case with Raiganj police station in this connection accusing 65 unidentified people.

Quoting the victim's wife, police said Fazlur might have been killed by his rivals in a sequel to internal feud in the party.



PHOTO: STAR

Traffic jam on the main road at Benapole is a usual scene as trucks are loaded and unloaded there due to absence of a truck terminal at the important land port.

APPREHENSION OF SABOTAGE BY ISLAMIST MILITANTS

Key installations under security cover in Khulna, Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Surveillance on important installations in Khulna and Bagerhat districts has been increased in apprehension of sabotage by Islamist militants and extremists.

The important installations now under surveillance by men of intelligence agencies and plainclothed policemen and Rapid Action battalion (Rab) include police stations, jails, courts, press clubs and Khulna stations of Bangladesh Betar and TV.

The Khanjahan Ali Bridge (Rupsha Bridge) has also been brought under the surveillance by law enforcing agencies.

KMP Commissioner Nazmul Huq told this correspondent that hospitals and railway stations are also being watched by security forces.

A high official at Khulna Range DIG office said messages were sent to all 63 police stations, 154 police camps, eight highway police outposts and 50 temporary camps asking them to remain on 'high alert' against any possible attacks by Islamist extremists.

Meanwhile, Janajuddho faction of PBCP circulated leaflets Friday midnight in city threatening journalists of severe consequence for giving support to what it termed

'army backed caretaker government'.

On Khulna city, security measures have been further stepped up following circulation of leaflets of Janajuddha faction of PBCP.

In the leaflets, PBCP has threatened to 'physically liquidate class enemies who are serving interest of US imperialism'.

It has been mentioned in the leaflets that ultimate goal of stooges of US imperialism is to capture oil and gas resources.

The underground party has

threatened the media men for giving coverage to killings in crossfire and encounters.

"Armed cadres of Janajuddha are readying themselves to carry out their missions at any opportune moment", the leaflets said.

It is learnt from a survey report of the 'committee on rights of the child' that underground parties are recruiting under privileged children and teenagers as cadres and they are being trained on bomb attacks.

Clarification

The Apollo Hospitals, Dhaka has referred to a news item published in The Daily Star and other newspapers on March 21 about closing down of some hospitals and diagnostic centers in Sylhet.

One of the diagnostic centers named in the news item was "Apollo Diagnostic Center".

The center has nothing to do with Apollo Hospitals, Dhaka and the name "Apollo" of the said diagnostic center is purely coincidental, said a clarification issued by the hospital.