



'Jamboree on the Train' inaugurated

Bss, Dhaka

Law Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday hoped that the members of Bangladesh Scouts would play a vital role in establishing peace and friendship in the South Asian region through the Scout movement.

He said this while inaugurating the 'Jamboree on the Train 2007' of the Bangladesh Scouts at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city. President of Bangladesh Scouts Dr Shah Mohammad Farid chaired the function.

"The members of the Scouts in the future would reach Afghanistan, the new member state of Saarc by the friendship train," the adviser said, welcoming the scouts of Saarc

states who are participating in the jamboree.

He added that the 'Jamboree on the Train' programme would inspire passengers to travel by train and that the social welfare activities and principles of Scouts would influence the people.

Communications Secretary Dr Md Mahbubur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Railway Belayet Hossain and Adviser to the Bangladesh Scouts Md Mahbub-uz-Zaman also spoke while Chief National Commissioner of the Bangladesh Scouts Md Fazlur Rahman delivered welcome address.

The five-day-long 'Jamboree on the Train' started from Chittagong

on Thursday.

A total of 3000 scouts and officials under 11 zones of the Bangladesh Scouts are taking part in the jamboree on the train, first of its kind in Bangladesh, to mark 100 years of Scouting movement across the globe. Scouts from India and Nepal are also taking part in the jamboree.

As part of the programme, the Bangladesh Scouts jamboree will travel 800 kilometres from Chittagong to Dinajpur. The programme also includes various educative and recreation activities so that the Scouts can acquire practical knowledge on different issues.

Security guard shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot a security guard of an under-construction building in Kafrul area in the city yesterday as he obstructed them of entering the building.

The victim, identified as Golam Kibria, 35, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he was shot on his right thigh while carrying out his duties at around 9:00am.

The gang, comprising 6-7 extortionists, also gave him a phone number and told him to give it to the owner of the building, said the injured security guard.

'Recovery of natural canals a must to solve city waterlogging'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday underscored the need for immediate recovery of natural canals which have been grabbed by unscrupulous people and organisations over the years to help solve the persistent waterlogging problem in the city.

Warning that a devastating flood like 1998 may hit the country this year, they advocated for keeping the canals and culverts clean from their starting point to destination for smooth flow of rainwater.

The press conference titled 'Waterlogging problem in Dhaka city and its solution' was organised by the national committee of Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save the Environment Movement) to eliminate waterlogging from the city at the National Press Club in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper, Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port, said waterlogging is the outcome of unbridled corruption, land grabbing and lack of good governance by the past governments.

The cleaners of DCC as well as the city dwellers dump the waste in the manholes and catch pits damaging the drainage system, he said, adding that a clean drainage system is a must to solve the crisis.

Shahidullah said the authorities concerned including people's representatives, environmentalists and media have to play a watchdog role in keeping the roads, drains and catch pits clean.

He also called for forming a permanent storm fighting team comprising Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh Water Development Board and Bangladesh Army.

Shahidullah said a storm drainage system with sluice gates and water pumps must be kept operational as part of the flood preparation.

Praising the government's initiative to recover the canals, he

said demarcation of canals' boundary and demolition of structures on the bank of the canals is imperative to ensure smooth flow of rainwater.

Safiuddin Sarker, former president of the Institute of

Diploma Engineers, said the discharging points of the city canals should be kept clean round the year to solve the waterlogging problem.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani,

Engineer Mohammad Abdus Sobhan and Paribesh Bachao Andolan Convenor Abu Naser Khan were also present at the conference.



Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, third from right, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Justice Ghulam Rabbani and Safiuddin Sarker and on his left are Engineer Mohammad Abdus Sobhan and Abu Naser Khan.