



Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury and Prof Anisuzzaman inaugurate the First International Children's Film Festival releasing balloons on the Public Library premises in the city yesterday.

Save rivers from pollution

Bapa urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded that the government makes setting up effluent treatment plant (ETP) in every factory mandatory and takes immediate steps to save rivers from pollution.

They also said that most of the rivers already lost its navigability due to pollution. In 1971 the country had 24140 kilometres of waterway, whereas it has only 3800 kilometres now, they added.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and National River Protection Movement jointly organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

General Secretary of Bapa Abdul Matin in his written statement said that it is high time a river-friendly policy is formulated to save environment and human civilisation.

He emphasised using organic fertiliser instead of chemical ones to save environment from pollution.

He also demanded banning some chemicals, including DDT, Heptachlor and Benzene terming those as harmful and adding that such chemicals will destroy human civilisation as well as the environment.

The demands also include introduction of a cleaner production system, stern actions against import of banned chemicals, use of CNG as fuel in vessels, fixing river boundary and saving them from encroachment.

He called on the media to highlight river pollution in order to create awareness among people.

He described the sources of pollution and effects on main rivers in the country.

About 441 industries pollute the river Karmaphuli, discharging 10-12 million liquids and 6000 gallons oil in the river, which increases toxic elements and decreases the variety and number of fishes.

North Bengal Paper Mills pollutes the Padma discharging chlorine, sodium hydroxide and mercury, decreasing fish production.

The Meghna is polluted by the

wastes discharged by Ashuganj Fertiliser Industry.

Discharges from commercial and passenger ships and household wastages pollute the river Brahmaputra.

The Jamuna is being polluted by Dewanganj Sugar Industry and Urea Fertiliser Industry, which use ammonia, calcium, chloride and lubricants.

Five big drains and 277 tanneries and commercial ships pollute the Buriganga.

The Turag is being polluted by the wastages discharged from commercial and industrial ships as well as industries.

The Shitalaksha is being polluting by Meghna Cement Factory and Ghorashal Fertiliser Industry.

The main source of the pollution

in the Sangu is poisonous fish and chemicals that result in fish diseases.

Khulna Newsprint Mills pollutes the river Bhairab using potassium, manganese and other perishable ingredients.

Mongla, Pashur and Rupsa are polluted by discharges from commercial ships and oil tankers.

The Rupsa is being polluted by the wastages discharged from Khulna City, causing a decline in fish production.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said although river communication is cost effective, the government is spending less in this sector compared to the highways.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of BAPA, and Sharif Jamil also spoke at the press conference.

AUG 22 CAMPUS VIOLENCE RU students to wear black badges from today

RU CORRESPONDENT

General students of Rajshahi University (RU) will attend the classes wearing black badges from today demanding the withdrawal of all cases filed by the government against some students for their alleged involvement in campus violence on August 22.

At a press conference in front of mass communication and journalism department yesterday, they urged the caretaker government to solve the issue by maintaining the dignity of the students.

"We have learnt from the media that the government is yet to withdraw cases against the students of different universities and colleges for their involvement in August 22 violence on their respective campus," they added.

"We will attend our classes and sit for examinations wearing black badges until all the cases are withdrawn," said Badhon Odikari, a student of mass communication, in a written statement at the press conference.

The students threatened to launch a tougher agitation including strike in all educational institutions of the country if their demands are not met.

They also demanded international investigation under the United Nations (UN) into the atrocities of the law enforcement agencies against the students on August 22 and 23.

"If the government fails to meet our demands, we will set up a mass investigation commission to investigate August 22 incident," they added.

Masud Rana, Fuad Adnan, Mamunur Rashid, Sarwar Hossain and Monira Sharmin were present at the press conference.

'Withdraw cases against teachers, students'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday reiterated their demand for the withdrawal of all cases and release of all teachers and students of different educational institutions across the country who were detained in connection with the August violence.

The demand was placed at a reception accorded to freed teachers and students on the campus by Nirjatonbiroddi Shikhharti (students against repression), a platform which was formed by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) during the movement to free the detained teachers and students.

They also urged the government to lift the state of emergency immediately and declare a definite schedule

for the 9th parliamentary election. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Anwar Hossain said a conspiracy is being hatched against the DU to make the campus unstable again.

The recent scuffle between the students of Fazlul Haq Hall and Shahidullah Hall is an example of the conspiracy, he added.

Prof Anwar said a section of the government did not take lessons from the recent non-violent but powerful movement of teachers and students of the university.

"So you should be careful against any conspiracy, and you will remain united so that none can use you in meeting their evil intention," he added.

Prof Anwar said the country is now suffering from a rule of fear and mistakes.

The state of emergency must be

withdrawn and the schedule for the election must be declared, he said.

Demanding the release of Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, he said the arrest of two former prime ministers is a hindrance to forward march of democracy.

Other freed teachers Prof Sadrul Amin, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik, senior journalist Nirmol Sen and the freed students also demanded withdrawal of army vehicle torching and other cases in connection with the August violence in other educational institutions.

Prof Muhammad Samad and some other teachers including leaders of Central and DU unit of JCD and Bangladesh Chhatra League's DU unit leaders were present on the occasion.

CA office advice to ministries, organisations

UNB, Dhaka

All ministries, divisions and organisations concerned have been requested to contact the Chief Adviser's office to be sure of any letter from the office regarding personal, financial or administrative benefit, in order to guard against any fraud.

"A vested quarter with dishonest motives, through fraudulent means, is writing forged letters related to personal or financial or administrative privileges using the name of the officials of the CA's office and sending those to various organisations," said a CA's office release yesterday.

Recently, such complaints have come to the notice of the Chief Adviser's Office, it said.

All concerned have been asked to directly contact CA's office at the following phone numbers --- 8142700, 8151285, 8151307 and 8151287 if they have any questions.

Condolence book to open for Soeharto

UNB, Dhaka

The Indonesian Embassy will open a condolence book at the embassy today for signing for former Indonesian President Haji Muhammad Soeharto, who passed away in Jakarta on Sunday.

His body was laid to rest with full military honours yesterday in Central Java.

The condolence book will remain open till tomorrow from 10:00am to 12:30pm and from 2:00pm to 4:30pm, a release of the embassy said.



Forests and Environment Adviser CS Karim, left, admires photographs after inaugurating the first solo photography exhibition of Khasru Chowdhury, on his left, at the gallery of Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Photography exhibition on Sundarbans begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first solo photography exhibition of Khasru Chowdhury began at the gallery of Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Forests and Environment Adviser CS Karim inaugurated the exhibition titled 'Invincible Sundarbans' jointly organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and the daily Prothom Alo.

Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Mattiur Rahman and Director General of BSA Kamrul Hasan ndc were also present on the occasion.

The exhibition, which features over hundred photographs all snapped between 1996 and 2007, will run till February 6.

CA's support for Rahman Bayati

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed donated Tk 80,000 as a lump-sum grant for the treatment of popular folksinger Abdur Rahman Bayati.

On behalf of Rahman, his son received a cheque for the money yesterday, said an official release.

The head of caretaker government gave the donation from his discretionary fund.

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বাংলাদেশ আন্দোলন (বাপা)

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On his left is Sharif Jamil and on his right is Bapa General Secretary Abdul Matin.

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