



Members of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Buriganga Bachao Andolon and Pura Dhaka Paribesh Uন্নয়ন Forum form a human chain on the Buriganga Bridge at Babubazar in the city yesterday demanding steps to protect the Buriganga from contamination and land grabbers.

# Demolish illegal structures along city rivers

## Speakers demand at human chain programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain programme yesterday demanded immediate demolition of all illegal structures and brick kilns along the Buriganga and other rivers around the capital.

The human chain was formed jointly by Save the Buriganga Movement of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Old Dhaka Environment Development Forum

over the Buriganga-2 Bridge at Babubazar.

The speakers called for protecting the Buriganga and other surrounding rivers from pollution and encroachment.

They also demanded proper river management by demarcating the river borders as per relevant laws.

Presiding over the programme, Bapa Joint Secretary Zakir Hossain called for immediate implementation of the recommendations

made by the taskforce for the development of rivers and environment.

He said the authorities concerned are yet to take stern actions although all the rivers including Buriganga and Shitalakha are being encroached illegally and polluted dangerously.

Prof Mahbuba Nasrin, joint secretary of Bapa, said the economy of the country would be at stake if measures are not taken to

save the rivers and wetlands.

She called for reinforcement of the law regarding industrial waste management.

Sharif Jamil of Bapa, Prof Khandaker Mokaddem Hossain of Dhaka University, Humayun Kabir, ward commissioner of Ward No 59, Dr Mahbub Hossain of Asia Pacific University, and Ashraf Amir Ullah, general secretary of Old Dhaka Environment Development Forum, also spoke on the occasion.

## CG has no right to amend constitution

### Says Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

President of Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) Rashed Khan Menon has said the caretaker government (CG) has no right to bring any amendment to constitution or to form any committee or commission to review it.

He said this while addressing a party rally at the auditorium of Khulna District Bar Association last evening.

The rally was presided over by Comrade Hafizur Rahman, president of Khulna district unit of Workers' Party, and a member of its politbureau.

Menon said late Ershad Ziaur Rahman and General Ershad had distorted the constitution.

BNP made the country a hub of Islamist militants, he added.

WPB chief said people will not allow holding of local govt elections before national election.

He said any election under the state of emergency would not be accepted by the people.

He also criticised the government decision to ask politicians to resign from party post after winning the local body elections.

Menon said a severe food crisis is prevailing in the country.

Introduction of rationing system for mill workers and farmers is now an urgent need, otherwise they will die from starvation as they cannot afford to buy rice at Tk 50 per kg in next winter, he added.

The rally was also addressed by Comrades Azizur Rahman, Sheikh Saidur Rahman, Mina Mizanur Rahman, Jahangir Alam Sabuj and Ujjal Kundu.

## Dialogue with political parties progressing satisfactorily

### Says foreign adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury has said the current dialogue with the political parties is progressing satisfactorily, expressing his hope that the process would be successful with the participation of all concerned.

He also hoped that the reforms undertaken by the present government would help create social

stability.

The adviser said this while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 21st Annual Multiple District Convention-2008 of Lions Clubs International as the chief guest at a city hotel yesterday.

Mentioning the current bumper boro harvest as a gift of the toiling peasants to the nation, Iftekhar Chowdhury said it is a matter of great satisfaction that "we have

been able to harvest 17.6 million tons of boro paddy this season."

The toiling masses of Bangladesh, including the poor peasants, had a tremendous contribution to this process, for which this nation remains 'ever grateful' to them, he said.

He also praised various programmes of the Lions International and urged all to come forward to assist in rendering social service.



Lions Club members present a crest to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury at the inaugural ceremony of the 21st Annual Multiple District Convention-2008 of Lions Clubs International at a city hotel yesterday.

## 26 shops burn down in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

At least 26 shops and establishments burned down in a devastating fire at Kauria Bandar in Hizla upazila yesterday afternoon.

An electrical short-circuit sparked off the fire at a bedding shop at about 1:00pm, which soon engulfed the adjacent shops of stationery products, medicine, cloth and readymade garments and a restaurant.

In absence of fire service in the region, local people using power pumps of a road repairing and irrigation scheme extinguished the blaze at about 3:00pm.

Eight people received minor injuries while trying to extinguish the fire.

The shop owners estimated the loss at Tk 1 crore.

## DEATH OF BMC STUDENT DU to seek clarification of some points in probe report

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities seek clarification of some recommendations in the probe report submitted by the committee formed to investigate the attack on a Bangladesh Medical College (BMC) student at SM Hall.

The authorities will return the probe report to the committee today, two days after its submission, asking the committee to clarify few recommendations on the incident.

A 10-member probe committee, led by Dr Mahbubul Alam Zoarder and Mohammad Sohrab Hossain as conveners, submitted its report to SM Hall Provost Prof Golam Mohammad Chowdhury on Thursday night after conducting four official meetings within six working days.

The committee was formed on May 30 to investigate the incident of beating Ehtesham-al-Ziad Mrinal, a first-year student of BMC, who was beaten to death in the morning on the day on the hall premises by a group of students who suspected that he stole a mobile phone.

Mrinal's father on May 31 filed a murder case against five students of the hall, two security guards and around 15 more students of the University with Shahbagh Police Station.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sohrab Hossain, also a house tutor of the hall, said, "We have taken interviews of nine students and six employees of the hall and tried to bring out details of the incident from the very beginning to the handover of Mrinal to the police."

He said they have been able to identify few students' involvement in the incident based on the information from the primary sources.

Prof Golam Mohammad Chowdhury said the committee has submitted its report to him and he has discussed with Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz on the report.

## EFFORTS TO CURB CRIME Bangladeshis in Manama to set up watchdog

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladeshi community in collaboration with the Bangladesh embassy in Manama have taken an initiative to set up a crime watchdog to cut crime among compatriots living in Bahrain, according to a report published in a Bahraini newspaper, Gulf Daily News, yesterday.

The Bahrain Bangladesh 'Samar' (BBS) is spearheading the move to ensure that workers stay under the law of the country.

The move follows a visa clamp and some Bahraini lawmakers' call to expel all Bangladeshis from the country after the death of a Bahraini national allegedly by a Bangladeshi last month.

The seven-member bloc of the lawmakers plans to submit a proposal to the parliament when it reopens in October after the summer break.

The bloc wants a timeframe to expel all Bangladeshi workers, currently said to be around 1 lakh, from Bahrain and to stop the recruitment

of new ones.

Following such demands, Bahrain stopped issuing work visas to Bangladeshis, excepting the professionals, who applied for it after May 27.

Recently, an urgent meeting of the anti-crime committee was held in Manama in this connection, which was led by BBS President Mohammed Fazlul Karim and Secretary General Mohammed Imam Hussain.

"We want moral support from our community to spread this (anti-crime) message especially to the low-paid workers who are unable to read and write," said Hussain.

"We request them to calm down and share their problems with the community leaders who will help them in solving the issues."

"We feel sorry for the incident in which a Bahraini man was killed. Our community always cooperates with the government, interior ministry and labour and social development ministry and will always do so," Hussain told the newspaper.

## Six Bangladeshis trafficked to India return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six Bangladeshis, trafficked to India three years ago, were handed over to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and immigration police by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Benapole checkpoint on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Jasimuddin Sheikh of Bohilapota village under Sharsa upazila of Jessore, Fakir Babu and Sumon of Bishrosha village under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, Ibrahim Khan of Rajoir upazila of Madaripur, Sohel Rumi of Dhaka city and Osman Gani of Monoharganj under Comilla sadar upazila.

According to Advocate Sadeka Khatoun of Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity's Jessore unit, the six Bangladeshis were picked up by Kolkata police and later detained in Baharampur Central Jail for one year.

Then they were shifted to a shelter home through a court order which was issued following an initiative of a Human Rights Organisation.

They stayed there for two years.

## Call to conserve wildlife, biodiversity

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a programme yesterday stressed the need for conserving the country's wildlife and biodiversity to ensure a worthy living environment for the people.

They also urged the people to come forward to plant more saplings in their houses and open places for protecting the natural balance.

"Everybody with responsibility should work together to protect the environment," Chairman of Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) Enayetullah Khan said while inaugurating the programme as the chief guest at the Dhaka Zoo auditorium yesterday.

The WTB in collaboration with the Dhaka Zoo organised the daylong programme to create awareness about conservation of wildlife and biodiversity.

WTB member and former director general of Livestock Department Dr Abdur Razzaque was special guest at the function chaired by Dhaka Zoo Curator Aminur Rahman.

During the programme, about 100 participants raised their voice in favor of biodiversity conservation through various activities like animal song and other behavior, lectures and games on values of biodiversity, trash clean-up and rally inside the zoo.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and at many places over Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Southwest monsoon has swept over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and likely to sweep over rest of the country during the next 12 hours, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 22.8 degrees at Mymensingh and Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	26.0	75	85
Chittagong	30.6	24.6	76	83
Rajshahi	33.7	25.4	79	70
33.8	25.0	80	77	
Barisal	32.4	25.0	76	85
Sylhet	28.1	23.5	78	90
Cox's Bazar	32.2	24.7	98	81

## Dhaka elected to governing body of ILO

PTI, New Delhi

Two Asian countries and a top Indian executive have been elected as new members to the governing body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Bangladesh, Singapore and the Chairman and CEO of Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited Yogendra Modi have been elected as deputy members of the ILO's Employers group.

Elections to the governing body are held every three years.

The chairperson of the governing body will be elected at its next session on June 13.

The vote took place during the annual International Labour Conference of the ILO in Geneva.

The governing body has 56 regular members and 66 deputy members. Ten of the regular government seats are permanently held by the states of chief industrial importance.

The governing body which is the executive body of the ILO, meets in March, June and November every year and takes decisions on ILO Policy, the agenda of the international labour conference and the draft programme of the organisation for submission to the conference.



Cars have been parked on a footpath at Road No. 4 at Dhanmondi in the city, causing suffering to the pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.