

## 'Stop dumping waste into rivers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a citizens' rally yesterday called for a halt to dumping waste and grabbing of rivers around the capital.

The rally was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) in front of the National Museum in the city, says a press release.

The speakers said the rivers are being encroached day-by-day due to indifferent attitude of the authorities concerned.

Houses, factories and brickfields are being established on the bank of the rivers violating the

water body preservation act, they said.

As a result, pollution is increasing and people are being deprived of pure air and water, they added.

The speakers said different drives were launched in the past but could not yield positive results.

Quoting a recent government report they said only half of 4000 illegal establishments along the river Buriganga were demolished while almost 7000 factories are dumping waste in Buriganga, Shitalakha, Balu and Turag rivers.

The speakers said once the city was very beautiful but it has now become a polluted city.

As these rivers are the symbol of life and beauty of the city, necessary initiatives must be taken to preserve them, they added.

Bapa Vice-president and former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan chaired the programme which was addressed by its General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin, Joint Secretary JK Boral, Joint Secretary of Mukti Juddha Sangsad Shahjahan Mridha Benu, Member-Secretary of Save the Buriganga Movement Mihir Biswas, architect Iqbal Habib, Zakir Hossain, Sharif Jameel and Dr Nuruddin.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding steps to save all rivers, including Buriganga, the lifeline of Dhaka.

## Take vow to bring war criminals to book

SCF Urges youths

UNB, Dhaka

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) yesterday organised a two-day poster and cartoon exhibition at Rabindra Sarobar in the city demanding trial of the war criminals.

Forum Chairman Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker Bir Uttam inaugurated the exhibition.

He said the present interim government had all opportunities to successfully bring the war criminals to book, but they have failed.

He urged the new generation to take a vow to try the betrayers.

The Forum also announced the results of the poster-cartoon competition.

Forum sources said they selected 40 cartoons and posters from more than 200 entries for the exhibition. Of the 40 artworks, a high-profile committee of the forum selected three bests.

Shibananda Adhikary Biplob won the first prize that carries Tk 15,000 while Rajib Dutta bagged the second prize of Tk 10,000 and Syed M Sohrab Jahan the third prize carrying Tk 5,000.

Later, a group of prominent artists of the country jointly drew a painting expressing their hatred against the war criminals.

Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta Bir Uttam, Maj Gen Shafiqullah, Prof Rafiqun Nabi of Dhaka University, Lt Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury and Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun ur Rashid Bir Uttam were present on the occasion.

## Concern over attack on RU female student by Shibir cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Karmojibi Nari (KN) in a statement yesterday expressed grave concern over the attack on a female student by Shibir cadres inside the classroom at Rajshahi University (RU) and the threat to burn RU theatre activists alive, says a press release.

They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

When the whole country is thinking of the national polls, the Shibir cadres are trying to divert their attention, alleged the statement signed by KN President Shirin Akhtar and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir.

## Physiotherapy students threaten tough movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students Union formed a human chain in front of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in the city on Thursday to press for their demands, including immediate resumption of physiotherapy classes at the institute.

The other demands are speedy establishment of Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy and withdrawal of cases against the students, says a press release.

At the demonstration, the students threatened that they would launch tougher movement if the demands are not met within the next seven days.

Around 300 physiotherapy students, teachers and guardians took part in the human chain programme from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.

## Ensure security during polls

Minority groups urge govt

UNB, Chittagong

Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad has urged the government, the Election Commission and the political parties to ensure security of lives and property of the minority communities during the upcoming elections.

Parishad leaders made the call at a conference held at JM Sen Hall in the port city yesterday, with its south district president Ranjit Chowdhury in the chair.

The speakers also demanded

steps to earmark 20 percent of seats in parliament and other democratic institutions for the candidates from minority communities.

They urged the political parties, including Awami League and BNP, to nominate candidates from the minority groups for No. 8 constituency in Chittagong in the upcoming polls as 40 percent of people in this constituency belong to minority communities.

Some 52 representatives of the Parishad took part in the discussion.

## UP member killed in clash in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A union parishad (UP) member was killed and six others were injured in a fierce clash over a land dispute yesterday at Fultala village under Batiaghata upazila in the district.

Identified as Manoj Mandal, 50, the victim was also the president of Batiaghata Sadar union unit of BNP.

The four injured -- Shib Mandal, 52, Sumon Mandal, 29, Chitrali Mandal, 22, Chaitali, 20, -- were

undergoing treatment at Batiaghata Upazila Hospital, while two others were released after first aid.

Officer-in-Charge of local police station Kazi Abdus Salek said the rival group attacked the Manoj at one stage of the quarrel during a conciliation meeting at Batiaghata union parishad office.

The BNP leader was beaten to death there, he added.

Police arrested four people -- Naren Sarder, his wife Rani Sarder, Mihir Sarder and Samir Sarder.



Visitors look at the posters and cartoons put on display at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. Sector Commanders' Forum organised the exhibition demanding trial of war criminals.

## Call to approve nat'l child labour policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference have urged the government to approve and implement the draft national child labour policy immediately to eliminate child labour.

The press conference was organised by Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP), a non-government organisation, at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city on Thursday.

Tahmina Jasmin, project organiser of SEEP, presented a keynote paper at the conference underscoring the need for imple-

menting the policy for the welfare of the children, specially for those coming from the underprivileged section of the society.

She said 94 percent of formal and informal sectors including agriculture are using child labour.

The children mainly go for work for financial support of their family and being engaged in work they become detached from their families and get involved in different crimes, she added.

Besides, Tahmina said, working inhumanly for a long time, these children are also facing many health hazards.

She said the proposed policy

drafted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment deserves appreciation.

The policy includes both non-formal and formal sectors and plans to reduce awful type of child labour coupling with special employment plan for underprivileged, ethnic and handicapped children, she added.

Tahmina said the policy is still waiting for the approval of the government.

She hoped with the approval and implementation of the policy the existing child labour law could be amended to curb the child labour in a proper manner.

She said children are working in so many risky jobs at an age when they should go to school and play.

SEEP is working with the children who are working at Benarosi Palli in Mirpur and the children of Bihari community in that area to bring them to the mainstream and give them a normal life.

It has also been working to raise consciousness among the people, guardians and children to eradicate child labour since 1994.

Tarikul Kabir, training and campaign manager of SEEP, and working children were present at the programme.



Artistes perform dance at a function marking the first anniversary of Soroj Sangskriti Britto, a cultural organisation, on the Ati Bhawal High School premises in Keraniganj yesterday.

## 7 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 16 others injured in separate road accidents in the last two days.

Of them, two were killed in Pabna, two in Manikganj and one each in Narsingdi, Hatia and Bogra.

Our correspondent in Pabna adds: Two van pullers were killed in a road accident at Jalalpur in Pabna yesterday.

The accident occurred at about 10:00am when a Siraiganj-bound passenger bus hit them.

After hitting them, the driver of the bus lost control and fell into a roadside ditch.

The dead were identified as Md Nasiruddin, 16, and Kudrat Ali, 18.

Nasir was killed on the spot while Kudrat succumbed to his injuries in Pabna General Hospital.

UNB adds: A police constable was killed and three other policemen were injured as a goods-laden truck hit a pick-up van on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Mahmudabad at Raipura in Narsingdi early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Constable Fouzdar, 34.

Among the injured, Sub Inspector Sakawat and Constable Abu Taher were admitted to the

upazila health complex while Constable Hannan was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Another UNB report from Noakhali adds: An ex-army personnel was killed in a road accident on Jahajmora-Ostakhali in Adarshapara area at Hatia yesterday.

Police said Shahjahan, 55, died on the spot when a passenger jeep hit him from behind while he was crossing the road at about 9:30am.

Police seized the vehicle but its driver managed to flee.

Our staff correspondent in Bogra adds: A Brac official was crashed under the wheel of a bus in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abdur Razzak, 35.

Witnesses said the accident took place at about 9:30am when a Sherpur-bound bus knocked the motorcyclist Abdur Razzak down, killing him on the spot.

Later local people caught the bus and set it on fire.

Our correspondent in Manikganj adds: Two people were killed and thirteen others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Paturia highway near Paturia ferry terminal in the district on Thursday night.

The dead were identified as Rafik, 28, an Ansar member in Shivalaya and Rassel, 22, a bus helper.

The accident occurred at around 9:15pm when a Paturia-bound minibus from Dhaka hit a standing truck from behind, injuring 13.

## Fake doctor held, hospital fined in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and health directorate arrested a fake doctor and also fined the authority of a hospital on charges of running it by unskilled technicians on Thursday.

The team led by Magistrate Anwar Pasha fined Rafat General Hospital at Chankharpur in the city Tk 70,000 as it was run by unskilled lab technicians and without proper documents.

## One arrested on charge of nat'l ID card forgery

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Police arrested a man on charge of forging a national identity card at Mithamoin upazila in the district yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Jahangir Alam, a computer operator of SR Digital Studio in the upazila.

They also seized a computer, a scanner and a printer from his possession, which were being used for making the fake card.

Quoting Md Kazi Mia, a 4th class employee of the local Election Commission office, police said he went to the studio in the morning and noticed that Jahangir was printing a copy of the fake card.

The commission office staff then informed local police and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of the matter.

On information, the law enforcers rushed to the spot, arrested the computer operator and seized the equipment from his possession.

A case was lodged with the local police in this connection.



Udichi Shilpi Gosthi takes out a colourful procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday on the occasion of its 16th national conference.

PHOTO: STAR