

Call to enforce ban on polybags

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain programme yesterday demanded strict enforcement of the law banning the use of polythene bags, and urged the government to take steps to make alternative bags available for consumers.

Though the use of polythene bags has been banned, the businessmen and customers are using them without any fear as there has been no application of the law, they added.

The programme was organised by the committee to resist polythene and plastic bags of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at Shahbagh intersection in the city in the morning.

The speakers said due to indiscriminate use

of polythene, the rivers surrounding Dhaka city are losing their navigability and the city dwellers are facing waterlogging problem during the rainy season.

Terming polythene bags a threat to environment they urged the government to apply relevant law strictly to stop their use.

They also demanded raids in factories where polythene bags are made illegally.

The speakers said alternative bags should be made available to consumers and steps should be taken to raise awareness about bad effects of the use of polythene bags.

Bapa leader Mahidul Haq Khan presided over the programme addressed by Alamgir Kabir, Taksim M Khan, Jakir Hossain and Dr Shahidul Islam.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday demanding enforcement of the law banning polythene bags.

PRIVATE SECTOR POWER PROJECTS No significant progress in implementation

UNB, Dhaka

No significant progress was made in the last three months of the Awami League-led government on implementation of the three large power projects, earlier planned to be implemented as independent power producers (IPPs). The projects are 450 MW Bibiyana combined cycle (CC) plant, 450 MW Sirajganj CC plant and 450 MW Meghnaghat power plant phase-II.

All the projects were undertaken for implementation in the private sector on build-own-operate (BOO) basis because of public fund constraints.

Of the projects, the move for implementing the Meghnaghat project was first initiated by the last AL government. But the project still remains uncompleted because of repeated cancellation of the bidding process.

On the other hand, the move for Sirajganj and the Bibiyana project was initiated by the immediate-past BNP government, but the

move also faced similar problem of repeated tender cancellation.

Among the projects, tender was called twice for Meghnaghat phase-II project, thrice for Sirajganj project and once for Bibiyana project.

But every time, the tenders were cancelled at the final stage of approval process. And each time, a tender -- from invitation to final decision stage -- took at least two years' time.

In its election manifesto, Awami League had promised to increase power generation by 3,500 MW within five years.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is also in-charge of the power and energy ministry, sat twice with the officials of her ministry during the three months' time of the government.

At both meetings, she directed the officials to expedite the pace of their work and discharge their responsibilities without any fear.

But despite such a clear directive from the PM, things remain as before with no move in sight to expedite the implementation of the projects.

Meril-Prothom Alo Award ceremony held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meril-Prothom Alo Awards-2008 were distributed among TV and film stars and singers yesterday to honour and inspire the young talents for playing their role in the fields of music, film-making and TV production.

The Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre turned into a union of cultural personalities yesterday evening as the Prothom Alo and Square Toiletries staged the programme to honour the stars.

The nominations for the popular awards were open to public voting.

Noted cameraman and film director Baby Islam received the lifetime achievement award for his outstanding contribution to the film production.

Renowned folk singer Mostafa Zaman Abbasi handed a cheque for Tk one lakh over to the veteran cameraman.

Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, handed a crest over to Baby, while Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Toiletries, adorned him with a shawl.

Almost dramatically, award-winning comedian Naveed came up on the dais to present his stand-up comedy to the fun-loving audience who gave him a big round of applause.

Noted silver screen artiste Ferdous and TV actress Aupy Karim conducted the colourful programme with their lively and witty anchoring.

Sharmila Bando padhaya got the award as best dancer and Raisul Islam Asad won the best actor (film) award. Best actress award went to Bidya Sinha Saha Meem, Murad Parvez bagged the best film director award, while film 'Aakash Chhoa Bhalobasa' won in the best movie award that was produced by SA Haq Alik. He also got another special award.

Deepa got the best singer award, while Mosharrar Karim won the best actor (TV) award and Munira Mithu bagged the best actress award. Nurul Alam Atiq and Rajan Rabbani bagged the awards for best playwrights, while Amitav Reza won as best director award.

Best actor award went to popular young actor Sakib Khan, while another popular actress Shabnoor bagged the best actress award.

Mahfuz Ahmed won the best small screen actor award. Popular singer Habib Wahid and Krishnakoti got the best singer award, while rock band Aurthoin was awarded in best band category.



Cultural personality Mostafa Zaman Abbasi gives away the lifetime achievement award to renowned cameraman and film-maker Baby Islam at the Meril-Prothom Alo Award giving ceremony at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CMP launches automated criminal database

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) here yesterday launched the country's first automated criminal database system (CDS) with fingerprint identification to easily find out information about the criminals stored in different police stations.

Shipping Minister Afsarul Amin as the chief guest inaugurated the system at a function at a city hotel with CMP Commissioner Md Moniruzzaman in the chair.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman Commodore RU Ahmed, DIG of Police (Chittagong Range) Md Asaduzzaman Mia and Chairman of Corporate IT Ltd Sajjadul Hasan were present as the special guests.

The minister in his speech underscored the need for development of information technology (IT) in every sector to deal with modern digital world and facilitate the service level up to the mark.

Terming the launching of CDS 'timely step', the minister hoped that the system would help CMP in combating criminals in order to free the society of crime.

Such initiatives would immensely help the government materialise the vision of transforming the country into a digital Bangladesh by 2021 when the golden jubilee of the hard-earned independence, he added.

Speakers said police have to face enormous problems in collecting, analysing and retrieving required information about any arrested criminals as the traditional criminal record keeping system is cumbersome and time-consuming.

They hoped that the newly introduced automation system would allow police to access the essential information in short time.

The CMP commissioner told The Daily Star that primarily the system would be introduced in three out of 12 police stations in the city, including Double Mooring, Pahartali and Halishahar, while the rest of the police stations would be brought under the system gradually.

Former assistant commissioner of Double Mooring zone Md Ilut Mish, recently posted to Rab, initiated the programme last year.

Deputy Commissioner (Port) Mohammad Sakawat Hossain also spoke.

Woman killed in roof collapse

UNB, Narayanganj

A woman was killed when a portion of the roof of a dilapidated building housing a coaching centre at Allama Iqbal road in Narayanganj collapsed on her yesterday morning.

The victim, Rahela Begum, 40, was an employee of the coaching centre 'Samrat Education'.

The police said the roof of the building collapsed on Rahela in the morning, leaving her dead.

However, no students of the coaching centre were injured. The police sent the body to General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Reception to Dr MR Khan

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Central Hospital authorities yesterday accorded a reception to veteran physician Dr Muhammad Rafi Khan (MR Khan) for winning the Ekushey Padak.

Dr Khan won the award for his outstanding contribution to social service.

Speaking at the reception at the hospital conference room, Dr Khan said the main responsibility of a doctor is to treat his patients.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said Dr Khan won the award as he (Dr Khan) was able to come closer to the people.

Lawmaker Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Central Hospital Director Badiur Rahman and National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Mohammad Abdul Majid also spoke.

PHOTO: STAR

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