



Narayanjanj Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Dikrir Char yesterday protesting encroachment on the river Buriganga. PHOTO: STAR

'Save Buriganga, bring land grabbers to book'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Environmentalists staged demonstrations in the city and Narayanjanj yesterday protesting encroachment of the river Buriganga, says a press release.
Narayanjanj Paribesh Andolon formed a human chain at Dikrir Char in the district.
The speakers at the demonstration urged the government to save the rivers and demanded the land grabbers be brought to book.
They said the encroachers and brickfield owners have grabbed almost 300-400 feet area of the river.
The banks were also about to be encroached, but the move ended amid public protests, they added.
Salam Zubaer, chief reporter of the Daily Sangbad, BKMEA Vice

Govt to set up English Edn Academy

UNB, Dhaka
The government has decided to establish a permanent 'English Education Academy' to make teachers more efficient in English to help enhance the skills of the secondary-level students in this language.
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said this during a meeting with the high officials of the ministry at the secretariat on Thursday in the wake of reports that many students performed poorly in English in the SSC exams.
It was revealed in the meeting that one of the main reasons for students failing to pass the SSC examinations is their poor performance in English and mathematics.
The meeting also asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to form two committees on the two subjects.
"One committee will give their recommendations for enhancing the skills of the students and another will evaluate different projects already undertaken where teachers of secondary level received training to enhance their skill in English and Mathematics.
Besides, another committee, headed by an Additional Secretary (Development), was also formed to monitor the effectiveness and implementation of School-Based Assessment (SBA).
Apart from fairly implementing the financial allotments in different development projects, the minister also called for preventing 'misuse of funds and curbing corruption'.

Call to improve quality of higher education

BSS, Dhaka
Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry Rashed Khan Menon underscored the need for improving the standard of education in the private universities in order to ensure quality of education at higher levels.
He said the higher education of the country should be improved for creating a generation of skill and competent manpower and for this purpose a law on private universities would be enacted soon.
Menon was addressing as the chief guest a national conference and seminar of Bangladesh Economics Teachers' Association at the conference room of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) here yesterday.
President of the Bangladesh Economics Teachers' Association Prof Dr Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury chaired the function.
Chairman of Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Nazrul Islam, former UGC chairman Prof Dr ATM Jahurul Huq, Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, among others, spoke.
General Secretary of Bangladesh Economics Teachers' Association Sarder Syed Ahmed delivered welcome address at the seminar.
Menon said the country's academic system has been split up into many tracks, which are creating disparity and thus depriving a group of people from higher education and jobs.
"The country's education system needed to be brought under one-way system in order to establish a balanced workforce by ensuring quality education at all levels, which ultimately contribute to the national development, he added.
"Commercialisation of private schools and universities should be stopped for improving quality of education, he said adding quality education can ensure jobs at home and abroad.
UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam laid emphasis on resolving the problems in the national university at an urgent basis.
Mentioning that the lives of ten lakh students in 1,760 colleges under the national university are at crises, he said academic activities in these institutions should not be hampered.
Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman suggested the educationists to submit the recommendations on how to improve quality of education at private universities.

Fix priority in implementing pledges

Govt urged
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government must fix the priority in implementing its pledges made in its election manifesto, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.
The discussion titled 'Vision 2021: Thinking of new generation in alleviating hunger-free Bangladesh' was organised by Youth Against Hunger at the National Press Club in the city.
"The main task of the government is to determine which pledges should be implemented on priority basis," said Awami League (AL) lawmaker Asaduzzaman Nur.
"I hope people will understand the sincerity of the government in implementing its pledges. So it is the duty of the government to determine which pledges should be implemented when," he added.
Turning to the students Nur said their main task is to study.
"The light you will enkindle will lead our way through the darkness," he added.
Nur said politics means welfare, politics means freedom of the people.
"How many people in the country can bear the cost of education with severe hunger in their belly. How long how many people can bear the sufferings for education," he wandered.
"Digital Bangladesh is not only making the country digitalised but also making its people digitalised. People must be modern in their mind," said Shamokul Deputy Editor Mozammel Hossain Manju.

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Members of Bratachari Samity perform a folk dance at mall square on the Dhaka University campus yesterday marking the 127th birth anniversary of Gurusadayya Dutta. (Story on Page 2)

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