

More students pledge to change themselves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students and teachers of two more educational institutions in the capital made pledges to change themselves as well as society.

They wrote their pledges on banners yesterday amid much enthusiasm as part of the 'Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao' (Change yourself, change others) campaign of the daily Prothom Alo.

Students and teachers of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University pledged that they will put in their best efforts to bring back the smile on the faces of farmers.

They wrote that they would work hard and conduct more agricultural researches for the benefit of farmers.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Sha-E-Alam pledged that he would work sincerely for the development of education on agriculture.

Students and teachers of Siddeshwari Girls' College also wrote their pledges to change themselves on the college campus.

"I will uphold truth and justice and resist lies and injustice," wrote Principal Kaniz Mahmuda Akhtar.

Mridula, a student, pledged she would try to promote and preserve the culture of the country.

Another student Saiba Akter pledged that she would help the street children at least once in a month.

SCC BUDGET

'Allocate funds to address waterlogging issue'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a pre-budget meeting in Sylhet yesterday stressed the need for allocating funds to address waterlogging, recover canals, demolish illegal structures and ensure pure drinking water in the upcoming budget of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC).

They also demanded allocation for saving the river Surma and controlling traffic in the city.

They added that the issue of setting up a museum and planned beautification of the city should get priority.

Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran chaired the meeting at the SCC building while educationist Prof Abdul Aziz, former lawmaker Muhammad Ashraf Ali, Regional Organiser of Bela Ayesha Chowdhury, and former district bar president Azizul Malik Chowdhury spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Siddeshwari Girls' College write their pledges yesterday on a banner to change themselves to bring about a positive change in society as part of the 'Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao' (Change yourself, change others) campaign of the daily Prothom Alo.

WORLD CONFCE ON UNTOUCHABILITY

Call to end discrimination against Dalits

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from London

The first world conference on 'Untouchability' began in London yesterday, aiming to draw together the experiences of people from as far afield as Nigeria, Britain and Japan.

The inaugural session of the two-day conference was addressed by Lord Desai and Lord Avebury, vice-chair of the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group and Chairman of the International Bangladesh Foundation.

Such 'untouchability' or social exclusion, based on membership of certain groups, is a continuing problem for sections of the population worldwide, say the conference organisers.

Untouchability persists in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Japan and Nigeria. Nearly 250

million people are directly affected by this disease. It is time for the world to take note and to eradicate this heinous practice.

Jamil Iqbal who presented a paper titled 'The Untouchables of Bangladesh' said that caste system and prejudice against so-called 'untouchables' are traditionally regarded as part of Hindu culture and certainly originate in Hindu scriptures.

Although it originated in the Hindu scriptural and socio-religious tradition, work-based discrimination and relevant social exclusion has been indeed a reality in societal scenario in both Hindu minority and Muslim majority communities in Bangladesh, he added.

He urged the Bangladesh government to recognise the existence of minority groups and address the issue of wide-

spread practice of discrimination, segregation and untouchability practices that continue to impair fundamental human rights of Dalit community.

In India, Dalits are often forced to take the worst kinds of jobs, and can live their lives in poverty because of a system that gives religious sanction to discrimination.

Babu Gogineni, director of the International Humanist and Ethical Association, believes that political reform in India will not solve caste prejudice.

"There are Dalit politicians in India, but nothing has changed. The answer is to educate Dalits and empower them."

Gogineni said Dalits also discriminate amongst themselves; that there is in effect, a hierarchy even amongst the untouchables.

District hospitals to have physiotherapists

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to appoint physiotherapists at every district hospitals to ensure health rights for all, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque after laying the foundation stone of Bangladesh College of

Physiotherapy at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

The minister said the establishment of a physiotherapy college was a public demand, and he advised the students to give attention to their study instead of wasting time in the name of various demands.

He said the government

will start a two-year Bachelor of Science courses for health technologists closing down the existing diploma courses to promote their career.

"It will take one to two years to start the BSc courses in health technology," he added.

Director General of health services Prof Shah Monir Hossain presided over the function while Prof Syed Modasser Ali, health adviser to prime minister, spoke as special guest.

Leaders of Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students Union, Bangladesh Physiotherapy Society and Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association in separate statements thanked the health minister and other health officials to take immediate steps for establishing the college.

The college will be established on a 5.28 acre of land after an eight month-long movement of physiotherapy students, says a press release of the union.

Health ministry officials, physiotherapy students and health technologists were present at the foundation stone laying ceremony.

15 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

A total of 15 people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our staff correspondent adds: Three people were killed in road accidents at Rampura and Bailey Road in Dhaka yesterday.

The victims were identified as jackfruit traders Nasiruddin, 25, and Abul Kashem, 35, and Khorshed Alam, 40, driver of a CNG-run autorickshaw.

Witnesses said Nasiruddin and Kashem died on the spot when a jackfruit-laden pickup van turned turtle near Rampura Bridge at around 4:00am.

Another jackfruit trader Akter Hossain was also injured in the accident.

Another trader Kawsar said they were going to Jatrabari from Bhaluka in Mymensingh.

In another accident, Khorshed was killed when a private car rammed his CNG-run autorickshaw at Bailey Road in the city at around 3:00pm.

Our staff correspondent in Bogra reports: Four people, including a minor boy, were killed in separate road accidents in Bogra.

Two of the victims were identified as Biplob, 8, and Ziarul Islam, 27, a truck driver, while identities of the remaining two could not be known immediately.

Ziarul Islam and the two unidentified persons were killed when two trucks

collided head-on on Bogra-Rangpur highway at Gokul in Bogra Sadar early yesterday.

Sources said Biplob was killed when a truck ran him over at Naruli at 8:30am.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj adds: Three labourers were killed and two others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Bogra highway at Mulbari in the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Bablu, 35, Lablu, 18, and Shamsul, 24.

The accident occurred at around 4:30am when the driver of a cement-laden Thakurgaon-bound truck from Dhaka lost control and turned turtle.

Our correspondent in Pabna adds: A passerby was killed and 10 others were injured when a Bogra-bound BRTC bus skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch at Rajapur on Pabna-Bogra highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Liakat Hossain, 65.

Police said the driver of the bus was trying to save the passerby, but lost control.

Our correspondent in Tangail adds: A patient was killed when the ambulance carrying him collided head-on with a passenger bus on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail Sadar yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Ruhul Amin, 35.

The accident occurred at around 4:30pm when the Dhaka-bound am-

ulance from Rangpur collided head-on with a passenger bus at Khudirampur.

Our RU correspondent adds: A youth was killed in a road accident on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway at Mango Crossing at Nawdapara in Rajshahi yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sohag, 25. The accident took place when a speeding bus coming from Tanor hit him while he was crossing the road.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: An NGO official was killed in a road accident on Jhenidah-Jessore highway at Barobazar at Kaliganj in Jhenidah yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mabiur Rahman, 35.

The accident took place when a speeding passenger bus knocked the motorbike he was riding on.

Mabiur used to work for an NGO named 'Niloy'.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna adds: An unidentified person was killed in a road accident at Mirerdanga in Khulna city yesterday.

The accident took place at about 12:15pm when a Jessore-bound passenger bus from Khulna knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

Following the accident, transport services between Khulna and Jessore remained suspended for half an hour as angry mob put up barricades on the highway.

Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Sufficient computers for Bangla Academy soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cultural affairs ministry will provide sufficient computers for the Bangla Academy officials to accustom them to the computerised working environment as part of implementing the concept of digital Bangladesh, one of the key election pledges of the ruling party.

Speaking as the chief guest, Secretary of the ministry Sharful Alam said this at the award giving ceremony of the successors of 55th batch of computer training course run by Bangla Academy at its conference room yesterday.

"Information technology is a superhighway. We will have to take on the highway to survive. Besides this, computer literacy is a must to create skilled human resource as it is the essential prerequisite for the development of a country," he said.

He also mentioned that the ministry would provide all kinds of assistance to the Bangla Academy, the largest research centre for Bangla language and literature in the country, to continue the training course.

Current nets, jatka seized

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Coast Guard seized over 6549 kilometres of banned 'current nets' and over one lakh kilogram 'jatka' (Hilsa fry) in the rivers Padma, Meghna, Pashur, Shiba, Baleshwar and Kirtankhola from February 1 to May 31, says a press release.

The price of the seized current nets and 'jatka' is estimated at over Tk35 crore.

The recovered nets were later burnt in presence of local fisheries officials and the 'jatka' were also handed over to them.



PHOTO: ISPR

Quarter Master General Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury inaugurates the Tree Plantation Campaign-2009 of Bangladesh Army by planting a 'Amropali sapling' on the northwest side of Sena Shahayok School at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Army launches tree plantation drive

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army has launched a massive programme to make the National Tree Plantation Campaign-2009 a success.

Quarter Master General of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen M Jahangir Alam Choudhury formally inaugurated the tree plantation campaign, organised by Bangladesh Army, by planting an Amropali sapling on the northwest side of the Sena Shahayok School at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Later, Lt Gen M Jahangir Alam Choudhury offered munajat along with other officers seeking success of the campaign.

Senior army officers were present on the occasion, said an ISPR press release.

This year, the Bangladesh Army has chalked out a massive programme of planting saplings in army establishments throughout the country.

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Renowned Medicine Specialist Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun now at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

Eminent Medicine Specialist Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun has joined in the Internal Medicine Department of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka as Consultant. Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka he served in different Govt. Medical Colleges, lastly as Associate Professor of Medicine in Khulna Medical College. He received training in globally acclaimed centres abroad, mainly in India, Korea and Japan. He also specializes in Rheumatic Disorder Management and obtained post graduate training in Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India.

Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun

MBBS, FCPS (Medicine), MACP (USA), Consultant - Internal Medicine Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

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(1931-1999)

10TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

of

SHAMSUL ANWAR

On this day he left the world and returned to Almighty Allah. May the Almighty grant him peace and a place for him in the Heavens for eternity. We seek prayers from all for his eternal peace & salvation.

Daughter: Shaheda Yesmin (Ratna)

Son: Shamsul Arefeen