

## Allowing India to use Ctg port to pose security threat

Says SQ Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday said that allowing India to use the Chittagong port would pose a security threat to Chittagong as well as to the country.

It is also a conspiracy to alienate the port city from the rest of the country, he alleged.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in the port city, SQ Chowdhury urged the prime minister to give attention to the interests of Chittagong and thus to the country.

Because of centralised administration system, Chittagong remains neglected and could not witness desired industrialisation amid manifold problems, he said.

Raw materials are imported through Chittagong port for industrial units in different parts of the country while the industrial units here cannot operate due to gas and electricity crises, he regretted.

Moreover, opening Chittagong port for India without requisite infrastructure and roads would hamper trade and commerce in Chittagong as well as in the country, he added.

The message of Chittagong people regarding this issue would reach the prime minister soon, SQ Chowdhury said, giving a hint at possible movement by the opposition party here against the move to open Chittagong port for India.

## Cirdap ministerial meet begins in city on Jan 24

UNB, Dhaka

The second ministerial meeting on Rural Development in Asia and Pacific will be held in the city on January 24-28 to discuss emerging issues relating to rural development and poverty alleviation.

The theme of the meeting is 'Working together for sustainable rural livelihoods'. Rural development ministers or their representatives from 14 Cirdap member countries and from Asia-Pacific countries like Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, China, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Bhutan are expected to attend the meeting.

Representatives from major UN and other donor organisations will also participate in the event.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the ministerial meeting on January 27. The meeting will be preceded by the Cirdap executive committee and governing council meetings and a regional policy dialogue on sustainable rural livelihoods on January 24-26.

The ministerial meeting is expected to adopt a Dhaka declaration on rural development.

In 1987, the first Bangladesh-Cirdap ministers' meeting on rural development in Asia-Pacific was held here with participation of several ministers from the Asia-Pacific countries and representatives from donor countries.



Dhaka International Trade Fair witnesses an overwhelming crowd on its premises on the weekend yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'PM's Delhi visit to ensure regional security'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called on the main opposition BNP to accept the 'fact' that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to India was successful and she signed the treaties considering the greater interests of the nation.

They said PM's visit has ushered in a new era of mutual cooperation between the two countries and the treaties signed during the visit will not only benefit the people of both the countries, but will also ensure the regional

security.

Marking the one-year of Awami League-led grand alliance government, Bangabandhu Nagorik Sanghati Parishad organised the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The speakers also congratulated Hasina on her receiving the Indira Gandhi Peace Award and her successful visit to the neighbouring country.

They claimed that BNP always opposes the present government's initiative due to political rivalry. But as an active opposition party, it should oppose bad

deeds of the government and hail the good ones.

They called on the BNP leaders to work alongside the government to achieve the expected socio-economic development.

Mozibur Rahman Mollah, president of Bangladesh Awami Muktiyoddha League, said Hasina has signed the treaties considering welfare of 15 crore people who will not accept any propaganda about the visit and the treaties signed there.

General Secretary of Kendriyo Khelaghar Asar Abdul Motin Bhuiyan called on all pro-

liberation forces to be united to foil conspiracies against the prime minister's India visit and treaties.

Humayan Kabir, president of Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan demanded that anti-liberation forces in the administration be removed to implement the government's Vision 2021 and digital Bangladesh.

Nagorik Sanghati Parishad President Talukder Mohammad Jahangir and General Secretary Abdur Rahman Hawlader also spoke.

## Priority given to agriculture for strong economy

Says food minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday said the present government is giving highest importance to the rural economy, especially agriculture, for a solid economic footing.

He said the contribution of agriculture to the national economy is 22 percent, which is ultimately 40 percent to 50 percent, including other related components linked with agriculture.

The minister said this as the chief guest at the handover ceremony of Sangbadik Bazur Rahman Memorial Gold Award 2010 organised by The Bangladesh Arthanity at the National Press Club in the city.

He said Bazur Rahman was involved in the progressive student politics since his student life. He wrote against repression and unequal social system.

Criticising the negative attitude of opposition parties towards the prime minister's visit to India, Razzaque said: "While the whole world is telling about the global village

and a win-win situation is the slogan of the world, our opposition parties are criticising the India visit of the PM and trying to misguide the countrymen."

"Bangladesh has to create such an atmosphere with neighbour so that we can help each other safeguarding our sovereignty."

He handed over the award to 15 persons for their contribution to different sectors.

The award recipients include language movement veteran Abdul Matin, Nurul Haque Sharif, Md Lutfor Rahman, Abdul Baki Chowdhury, Dewan Nazrul Islam, MA Kawsar Milan, Dr Manoz Kumar Roy, Ferdous Sultana, Md Abul Hashem, Samsuddoha Manzu, Shamsunnahar, Dr Md Abul Kashem, Akhtaruzzaman Chiru, Abdur Rab and Shamim Ahmed.

Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Dr Mashiur Rahman Mridha and Editor of The Bangladesh Arthanity Khandokar Maniruzzaman also spoke.

## 3 of a family die in Ctg road crash

UNB, Chittagong

Three people of a family were killed and two others injured in a road accident at Dhorertek in Raozan upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Parvin Akhter, 40, her three-year old daughter and elder sister Nurunnahar Begum, 45.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred on Chittagong-Kaptai road when a speeding truck hit a CNG-

run autorickshaw coming from opposite direction, killing its passengers Parvin and Nurunnahar on the spot and injuring three others.

Of the injured, the minor girl succumbed to her injuries on the way to a local hospital while

Parvin's husband Ruhul Amin and the autorickshaw driver were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested truck driver Hamid and seized the truck.

## Ban polybag units Demand environmentalists

DU CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a human chain yesterday demanded proper implementation of the act that imposed ban on the use of polythene bags.

They also demanded immediate ban on the factories that produce polythene bags.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) formed the human chain in front of the National Museum in the city.

The speakers at the human chain demanded a strong monitoring system and punitive action against people engaged in producing polythene bags.

Underscoring the need for creating mass awareness, they also demanded making environment-friendly bags available in the market.

The speakers claimed that due to lack of proper implementation of the law, the trend of using polythene bags is increasing among people and the water flow in rivers, canals, water bodies and sewerage lines surrounding the capital are being largely affected.

They also said that polythene ruin the fertility of land and cause various diseases to human bodies.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Khondoker Bazul Hoque, Bapa General Secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, Dr Nuruddin and Mahbulul Haque spoke at the programme.

The government imposed a ban on the production and use of polythene bags in March, 2002 in a bid to save the environment from pollution.



Journalists and well-wishers of Manik Saha form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding reinvestigation into his killing. Manik Saha Suhrid Brinda (well-wishers of Manik Saha) organised the programme on the occasion of his 6th death anniversary.

PHOTO: STAR

## 6TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MANIK SAHA Reinvestigation into killing of journo demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded reinvestigation into the killing and immediate start of the trial of the killers of Manik Saha, a noted journalist of the country's south-western region, for the sake of ensuring security of journalists and freedom of the press.

They said the trial could not be held and even the people involved in the killing could not be identified due to reluctance of the government and administration.

They placed the demand at the rally organised by Manik Saha Suhrid Brinda (well-wishers of Manik Saha) in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city marking his sixth death anniversary. It also formed a human chain.

On this day in 2004, Manik Chandra Saha, Khulna correspondent of the New Age and a stringer of BBC Bangla Service, was bombed to death in front of Khulna Press Club.

At the rally, the speakers declared to wage a tougher movement until their demand is met.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said Manik was killed two times -- one by hurling bombs at him and another by submitting a confusing charge sheet.

Demanding immediate steps, he said it would not be proper that the trial of Manik would not be held this time when the present government announced crusade against injustice, repression and corruption.

Nijera Kari Coordinator Khushi Kabir alleged that many people from the administration were involved in the killing.

She demanded forming a citizens' enquiry committee to unearth the motive of the killing and identify the real culprits.

They said the trial of Manik must be held to stop bombing, militancy and communalism.

Moderated by journalist Nikhil Bhadra, the rally was addressed by Paribesh Bachao Andolon Chairman Abu Naser Khan, CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, Dhaka Reporters' Unity General Secretary Pathik Saha and journalists Rahul Raha and Ashish Kumar Dey.

Meanwhile, CPB organised a brief discussion at its office and placed wreaths at Manik's portrait.

The CPB leaders urged the government to take a special initiative for trial of all such killings within the next six months.

Our Khulna correspondent adds: Different organisations, including Khulna Press Club and Khulna Union of Journalists, Udichi Shilpigosthi and Trade Union Centre observed the sixth death anniversary of Manik Saha amid a number of programmes.

The programmes include holding discussion and placing wreaths at his memorial.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain at Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday demanding steps to implement anti-polybag law.

PHOTO: STAR

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