

# Sikkatuli pond in sorry state

HELEMUL ALAM

Sikkatuli pond, century-old water reservoir of the old part of the city and one of the few remaining ponds here, is in a poor state due to lack of its renovation work for decades.

The pond, which was used by the local people to take their baths even some 15 years ago, is out of use since 1990s due to pollution of the pond in various ways.

Local people said they demand excavation of the pond as early as possible and keeping it open for public while Ataul Haque Alimullah's family is claiming the ownership of the pond which is creating an obstacle to renovation work.

Mohammad Aslam, a resident of 71 Sikkatuli, said they have been living here for generations and also using the pond for long.

"I used to take baths in the pond in my childhood in 1990s, but now the pond gets polluted as the residents of nearby houses drop their garbage into its water," he said.

The dustbin just in front of the pond is also the reason for pollution as waste of the bin go into the pond during rainy season when the road gets waterlogged and the sewer pipe also goes into the pond due to lack of sewerage system, said Abdullah, a resident of 59 Sikkatuli.

Ali Mohammad, another resident of the area, said the pond was excavated in 1969-70 by Majed Sardar, but no initiative was taken by anybody or the government to renovate the pond till then.

Aslam Adam, son of Alimullah, said his father purchased the land from Sara Khatun, including the pond, in 1958. The land records of SA 4819 and RS 1053 included the name of Alimullah.

The names of Alimullah's



Sikkatuli pond in the old part of the city.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

three sons, six daughters and his wife were included in the record of Dhaka city survey as his successors, he added.

Adam said they have no plan to fill up the pond and even they will renovate it for

using its water, but they will have the ownership of the pond, adding that they have also got a decree from the court in this connection last year.

A section of people are tarnishing their image socially

by using banners against them, he alleged.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Paba) President Abu Naser Khan said family members of Alimullah are claiming the ownership, but as the pond is

being used by the locals for years, they cannot fill it up.

Mostak Ahmed Masum, general secretary of Muslim Jubo Sangha, said the then chairman of Mohanagar Unnayan Committee

Sirajuddoula, ADC of DC office, allocated Tk 95,000 to renovate the pond.

But Alimuddin did not make any problem rather he had helped doing the work, he said, adding that the boundary

wall was constructed with the allocated money. No obstacle was placed at that time.

The land documents, which they are claiming, are not correct totally, Masum mentioned.

## EXECUTION OF KILLERS Silence is BNP's reaction

Says Dr Mosharraf  
UNB, Dhaka

BNP through silence expressed its reaction to the execution of the killers of Bangabandhu, BNP Standing Committee Member Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

"Our reaction has been reflected through silence," he told reporters on the late President Ziaur Rahman's mazar premises when they asked him why BNP did not give reaction to the hanging of Bangabandhu's killers.

On January 28, five convicted killers of Bangabandhu and his family members were executed in Dhaka central jail. But the BNP leaders refrained from making any comment after the hanging of the killers.

Dr Mosharraf, who went to Zia's mazar to offer fateha along with the leaders of newly formed committees of Jatiyatabadi Swechhasebak Dal of Dhaka city south and north units.

When asked about Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam's remark against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, he strongly condemned and protested Ashraf's comment saying it was in "bad taste and beyond political nicety."

On Thursday, the AL general secretary at a discussion on the central Shaheed Minar premises reportedly termed Khaleda Zia "communal and inhuman" saying there can be no unity between the two top leaders (Hasina and Khaleda).

Khandaker Mosharraf said the present government is making "indecorous" statements against Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia to divert public attention from "its various misdeeds", including the agreements signed with India against the "country's interests."

He, however, hoped that the government would understand the public sentiment and refrain from doing such misdeeds. Otherwise, he cautioned, BNP will give befitting reply to such indecorous statements on the street.

# Serve humanity in remote areas

President urges Rotarians

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the Rotarians to expand the areas of their welfare programmes to serve the humanity in remote areas of the country.

"I hope, such welfare programmes will be further expanded and spread across the remote areas," he said.

The president was addressing the Rotary International District Conference 2009-2010 of Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Rotary International President's Personal Representative Orselcik Balkan also spoke at the function, chaired by District Governor of Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh AKM Shamsul Huda. Representatives from USA, Turkey,

Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Nepal attended the function.

Zillur appreciated the Rotarians who continue their services remaining beside the helpless people during the natural calamities.

He mentioned that through the Rotary Clubs, the Rotarians have been providing various services that include charity eye camps, lips and mouth operations, removing illiteracy and distributing warm clothes among the distressed people.

The president also mentioned that Rotary International has achieved appreciation from the global community by eradicating polio from the world through working with World Health Organisation (WHO). "It's a matter of great pleasure today that the polio is going to be rooted out from the world except in some countries," he said.

He hoped that through this conference

mutual relations among the Rotarians would be closer and they would be inspired by themselves to do more nation-building works. "I congratulate the Rotarians engaged in ensuring the welfare of the country and hope their success," he said.

Zillur also recalled Pahl Herrick, father of the Rotarian movement, who started the movement in Chicago in the USA in 1905 and now the Rotarians already expanded their activities across the world.

"Some 12 lakh members of 33,000 Rotary Clubs, imbued with the motto 'service to humanity', have been working across the country to build mutual unity, fraternity and sense of cooperation," he said.

Welcoming the Rotarians in the country, he noted that more than 4,000 Rotarians through some 160 clubs have been working in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Rastra Bhasha Andolon O Dhaka Medical College' at its publication ceremony on a Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Prof Abdul Mannan, Prof Mustafa Nur-ul-Islam, MR Mahub, Dr Dipu Moni, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam and Mojibur Rahman Fakir.

# Int'l Mother Language Institute to open soon

Says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will open the International Mother Language Institute soon to facilitate research on Bangla language and literature as well as to preserve the history of the language movement, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

"The previous Awami League government took the initiative to set up the institute, but the BNP-Jamaat government halted the construction work. The present government has again taken steps to open the institute and it will start functioning soon," she said.

The minister said this at the publication ceremony of a book

entitled 'Rastra Bhasha Andolon O Dhaka Medical College' (State Language Movement and Dhaka Medical College) by MR Mahub at the National Press Club in the city.

She said the institute would preserve the history of the language movement and cultural heritage, which will encourage us to move forward towards a bright future.

"It is our duty to preserve the history of not only the language movement but also the liberation war and other democratic movements to build a non-communal democratic and prosperous Bangladesh," she added.

The minister also said the evil

force who opposed the liberation war is now trying to create obstacles to building a secular and democratic Bangladesh, which the freedom fighters and Bangabandhu dreamed of.

"This evil force is still active and trying to destroy the history and heritage of the nation. We will have to continue our fight against this force," she said.

She also called on all to take a vow to work together to promote the Bangla language.

State Minister for Health Mojibur Rahman Fakir, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mahiuddin MP and Prof Mustafa Nur-ul-Islam also spoke at the ceremony presided over by Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam.

# Nusrat wins best chef award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nusrat Khan won the Best Chef Award for 2009 in the 'Monitor-Malaysian Palm Oil Chef of the Year' competition.

The Bangladesh Monitor organised the competition for the fifth time.

The gala award ceremony was held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Thursday. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader, who was present as the chief guest, gave away prizes among the winners. Malaysian High Commissioner Jamaluddin bin Sabeh was present as the special guest.

Nusrat Khan, the first prize winner, received two Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka air tickets, Tk 25,000 and many other gifts.

Zohra Akbar Ruby and Farida Parvin Maya became the first and second runners-up.

A ten-member jury committee led by nutritionist Siddique Kabir selected the 10 finalists from over 3,000 recipes from across the country.

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, AKM Fakhru Alam, regional manager of Malaysian Palm Oil Council, and Husain Al Safi, acting area manager of Emirates Airlines, were present at the award ceremony.

Channel i and Telepress Ltd. were the media partners of the event.

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