

Vow to make edn institutions free from violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and different left-leaning student organisations observed 'Raju Day Against Violence' on the Dhaka University campus yesterday with a vow to make the campuses violence-free.

On this day in 1992, BCU central committee member Main Hossain Raju, a student of Soil, Water and Environment department, was shot dead by, what they said, "Chhatra League cadres". BCU along with other organisations began the day by placing wreaths at Raju's memorial at Teachers Students Centre where he was killed.

Raju Sangsad formed a human chain and brought out a procession on the campus at 12:00 noon.

A memorial lecture titled 'Raju Memorial Lecture' was delivered by Prof Rafiqullah Khan of Bangla department at the RC Majumder Auditorium with BCU DU unit President Abu Toab Apu in the chair.

Prof Rafiq said the anti-liberalisation forces came to power after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975 and polluted the student politics.

"The polluted politics, specially autocratic rule and Islamic militancy, has spread violence and dominance to the campuses."

The memorial lecture was also addressed by Prof MM Akash, BCU President Manabendra Dev and General Secretary Ferdous Ahmed Ujjal.

A cultural programme was organised at the Raju memorial at TSC road island in the afternoon.



Raju Sangsad forms a human chain in front of anti-terrorism sculpture 'Raju' at TSC road island on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to mark the Raju Day Against Violence. PHOTO: STAR

RCC moves to sell bottled water

Most residents out of water supply network

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has initiated a programme of selling bottled water by using all of its four idle water treatment plants even though the city's one-third population, mostly poor, is out of the corporation's water supply network.

The RCC circulated a notice on March 2 in this regard seeking proposals from interested persons and organisations for implementing the programme under a public-private partnership scheme.

Under the scheme, the water of the treatment plants will be purified through mod-

ern machines and taken to the market in bottles for sale, said RCC Chief Engineer Sirajum Munir.

He said the RCC has taken the plan, as the four water treatment plants have been lying idle since 2006 after failing to achieve goal.

The city now supplies water directly to its around two-third population through pipeline after extracting groundwater by using pumps.

Under a project of Public Health Engineering Department, these plants were constructed at a cost of Tk 22 crore during the period of previous BNP-led four-

party alliance government for supplying pure drinking water in the city through pipeline.

Official sources said operation of the water treatment plants remained suspended in 2006, as no alternative pipeline had been constructed to supply water after purification.

"Around Tk 12 lakh is needed per year for treating water at the plants. But pure water mixes with untreated water when it is supplied through the same pipeline of untreated water," said the RCC chief engineer.

According to RCC records, 5.77 lakh people out of 7.50 lakh in the city are provided

with water. Of the total population, 69 percent are provided water through pipelines while 20 percent get water from hand tube wells and the rest 11 percent from open water resources. But according to an unofficial count, around 10 lakh people are now living in the city.

The corporation can now supply 710 lakh litres of water daily against the city's daily water demand for 1,030 lakh litres.

The corporation has earned Tk 386.15 lakh from the water sector in 2007-08 fiscal against its annual expenditure of Tk 300.12 lakh during the same period.

"The corporation has plans for expanding its water supply network. The public-private partnership scheme has been undertaken for making good use of the water treatment plants," said an official of RCC.

Commenting on the RCC move, Jamat Khan, convener of Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad said bottled water would remain out of the poor people's reach, even if, it is sold out at low price.

"The corporation must emphasise supplying pure water to all without any discrimination," he said adding that the quality of water supplied by RCC is not also satisfactory.

Bhutan set for Saarc summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Daw Penjo announced that Bhutan has completed its preparations for hosting the 16th Saarc Summit scheduled for April 28-29.

The remarks were made during the annual consultation with the foreign secretary's Bangladesh counterpart Mijarul Quayes.

The meeting was held at the Burimari Land Port last Friday. The two foreign secretaries also reviewed the progress in implementing the decisions taken during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Bhutan.

The theme of this year's Saarc summit, which will be held in the Bhutanese capital Thimphu, is "conservation of environment and climate."

Daw Penjo sought Bangladesh's support for his country's proposals to take a coordinated regional stance on climate change.

Mijarul Quayes said that as per Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's announcement during her visit to Bhutan last November, 18 Bhutanese commodities will soon be given duty-free access to Bangladesh.

Prior to the meeting, the Bangladesh foreign secretary handed over the main consignment of relief materials to his Bhutanese counterpart, in accordance with Sheikh

Hasina's pledge during her visit to Bhutan.

The relief materials will be given to the Bhutanese people affected by earthquakes and other natural disasters.

The Bhutanese ambassador to Bangladesh, Desho Bapkesang, and the Bangladesh ambassador to Bhutan, Mujibur Rahman plus other high officials were present during the meeting.

Earlier, the Bangladesh foreign secretary visited Dahagram-Angorpota in Patgram upazila, Lalmonirhat, as well as the Teesta Barrage project areas.

He witnessed the progress of the projects, including the works to bring electricity to the Tin Bigha Corridor.

Sheikh Hasina agreed to an energy supply for the corridor during her visit to new Delhi in January.

The foreign secretary was informed that Bangladesh Power Development Board has completed the setting up of underground cable from the mainland to Tinbigha Corridor and will be able to complete other necessary infrastructure to supply electricity there.

He also talked with local people and listened to their problems during a meeting held at Dahagram High School premises.

He also walked through the corridor and mixed with BDR and BSF officials.

ROBBERY IN SITAKUNDA

3 stabbed, 3 others bullet-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A gang of armed robbers injured six people and looted valuables worth about Tk 15 lakh during a robbery at a house at Sitakunda in Chittagong early yesterday.

Among the injured, three were stabbed and three others received bullets.

The police arrested three people in this connection.

Sources said a gang of some 20 armed robbers swooped on the house of Fazlul Hoque Bhuyian at Uttar Mohadevpur by breaking open the door at around 2:30am.

They started looting valuables keeping the inmates hostage at gunpoint. Robbers looted around 25 tolas of gold ornaments, sources added.

As the family members

tried to resist, the robbers stabbed Fazlul, 60, his younger son Qaiyum, 30, and daughter-in-law Rokhsana, 25.

When the neighbours rushed in hearing screams of the victims, the robbers started firing, leaving three others injured.

The bullet-hit victims -- Jahirul Islam and Mainuddin, sons of Fazlul, and a villager Sohel -- were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The police arrested Ismail Hossain from the nearby village in this connection.

Acting on Ismail's information, the police raided different areas in the upazila and arrested two others -- Nurul Absar and Abul Bashar -- in the morning, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Police Station Monirul Islam.



A diarrhoea patient takes intravenous saline at International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh in the city as many such patients came to the hospital yesterday to receive treatment. PHOTO: STAR

More diarrhoea patients rush to city hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diarrhoea situation in the city remained unchanged as some 350 patients with diarrhoeal diseases rushed to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) at Mahakhali yesterday to seek treatment.

"The number of patients might cross 550 by midnight (Saturday)," said scientist Dr Shahadat Hossain, head of Longer Stay Unit of ICDDR,B, adding that a total of 511 patients sought treatment on Friday and the flow of patients is higher yesterday.

However, the situation is still better than the previous year when this time on an average 700 patients were getting admitted to this specialised centre.

If water and sanitation situation of the city cannot be improved immediately, the number would increase much, feared the experts.

On an average, 22 patients are getting admission every hour, they added.

People mostly from lower and lower middle-income group are coming with such diseases and most of the patients are below 5 years.

এ উপলক্ষে পারসোনার
সম্মানিত সদস্যদের জন্য
বিশেষ উপহার ৩০% ছাড়

এ সুযোগ মার্চের ১৫ থেকে ২১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত

পারসোনার
সাফল্যের এক যুগ

Personar's

Rab men destroy 96,217 Phensidyl bottles, 875kg cannabis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel destroyed 96,217 bottles and 58.5 litres of Phensidyl and burned 875 kilograms of cannabis at Rab-1 headquarters in the city's Uttara area yesterday.

Rab destroyed the narcotics in the presence of Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad and Rab Director General Hasan Mahmud Khandaker.

Sahara said mere arrest of drug peddlers and destroying the seized narcotics are not enough to remove the illegal drugs from the society, law enforcers have to arrest the kingpins of narcotic networks.

She also stressed the need for the major role of the parents in refrain their young children from getting involved in drugs with proper motivation.

Speakers at the Rab HQ said drug addictions among youths and college and university students cause 60 percent criminal activities.

Drugs being very expensive, the addicts cannot afford narcotics with their pocket money that they normally have, they added.

The youths have to get involved in criminal activities to buy drugs, they said adding that people should play their due role in making a narcotics-free society as only law enforcers cannot deal with this social curse.

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