



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain in front of BGMEA Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding relocation of the building from Hatirjheel to save the lake there.

Relocation of BGMEA Bhaban demanded

UNB, Dhaka
Environmentalists at a public rally yesterday demanded immediate relocation of the BGMEA Bhaban from Hatirjheel-Begunbari Lake area to ensure suitable atmosphere of the lake.
As the BGMEA Bhaban was built after filling up a portion of the lake, the water holding capacity of the lake has been reduced and its water flow hampered, they said.
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), an environmental organisation, organised the rally in front of the BGMEA Bhaban in the city's Karwan Bazar in the morning.

Environmentalists observed that if the government does not take step to relocate the BGMEA Bhaban, the poor nation will have to pay excess Tk 10 million (one crore) for the Hatirjheel project.
Chaired by BAPA general secretary Dr M Abdul Matin, the rally was addressed, among others, by architect Iqbal Habib, environmentalists Mahidul Haque Khan, Zakir Hossain and Dr M Nuruddin, and secretary general of the Citizen Right's Movement Tushar Rehman.
Representatives from several environmental organizations -- Nagorik Uddoyg, Green Peace, Nirapad Foundation and United People's Trust -- joined the rally.

India Maoists kill police hostage in Bihar

BBC Online
Maoist rebels in the Indian state of Bihar have killed one of four policemen they had been holding hostage.
The body of sub-inspector Lucas Tete has been recovered and identified. The fate of the other policemen is unknown.
The rebels had told the state authorities they would start killing the policemen from Thursday unless eight Maoist prisoners were released.
The rebels took the policemen hostage on Monday after a gunfight in which seven other policemen were killed.
Indian security forces have been battling Maoists in several states.
More than 200 security personnel have been killed in the first six months of this year.

Woman commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A woman killed herself by hanging with ceiling fan yesterday morning in Turag in the capital allegedly for repression by her husband.
Rumi Akter, 27, mother of two children, was wife of trader Mohammad Nasir at Kaliartek.
The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.
Officer-in-charge Abu Saleh Mohammad Ansaruddin of Turag Police Station told The Daily Star that police recovered the body from Nasir's residence at Kaliartek yesterday afternoon.
The OC quoted the deceased's in-laws as saying Rumi hanged herself with the ceiling fan in a room yesterday morning, and was found dead when they broke open the door remained close for hours.
The wall of the room was found written a number of notes addressed to Rum's husband.
According to neighbours as police quoted them, Nasir and Rumi were not happy with each other. Nasir beat up his wife even at the previous night, they added.
Rumi's family members claimed it was not a suicide but a murder.
They also filed an unnatural death case with the police station, as the autopsy report was yet to release.
In another incident, police yesterday recovered a corpse of a woman from her in-law's house at South Basabo in the capital, and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.
Rozina, 20, was wife of Ratan Mia who went missing after her death.

Three children drown

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
Three children drowned in two separate incidents in Shahjadpur upazila of the district yesterday.
The victims are Kader, 4, son of Mizanur Rahman, Fahim, 3, son of Mojnu Ali from Badalbari village and Kushi Khatun, 6, daughter of Iqbal Hossain of Jarmita village of the same upazila.
Kader and Fahim drowned while playing in the floodwater near their house in afternoon, said police quoting family sources.
In another incident, Kushi drowned in the Korotoa River near their home.

3 factories, one shop sealed

UNB, Narayanganj
A mobile court sealed off three vermicelli factories and a sweetmeat shop for producing and selling vermicelli and sweets in unhygienic environment in the district town on Thursday.
District administration sources said the mobile court led by executive magistrate Saraban Tahura conducted the drive at Rajanigandha Lchcha Semai and Al Makka Lata Semai factories of Babul Food Products and Banalata Semai and a sweet shop owned by Ohidul.
Haque Khan at Shahuja Paikpara road in the morning.
The team raided the factories one after another and found the workers were manufacturing vermicelli and sweets using animal fat, used oil and other harmful ingredients in most unhygienic atmosphere. The factories also were using fake BSTI seals on the packets of their products.
The court later sealed off the vermicelli factories and the shop.

VEGETABLE FARMING

Use of pesticides raises health risks: Study

UNB, Dhaka
An overwhelming 86.7 percent of the farmers use medium to high chemical fertilisers like urea, triple super phosphate (TSP), Muriate of Potash (MP), Zinc and Sulphur for cultivation of vegetables, according to a recent study.
The study revealed that farmers in the study areas mainly used urea, TSP, MP, Zinc and Sulphur for vegetable cultivation. All the vegetable farmers (100 percent) used urea while 98.7 percent and 96 percent used TSP and MP respectively.
It says that an overwhelming 89.3 percent of the farmers used medium to high chemical pesticides for vegetable cultivation.
The study mentioned that 71.3 percent of vegetable farmers perceived medium to high effect of chemical inputs in cultivation of human health. Majority of the consumers (71-76 percent) perceived that the effect of excess use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in vegetable cultivation increase human diseases.
About 22-31 percent of the consumers perceived that using PGR in vegetable increase human disease and food toxicity, degrade food taste and food value, and decrease crop shelf-life. About two-thirds of the consumers had no perception on this aspect.
National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) with the support of the European

Union and USAID conducted the study titled 'Effects of Using Chemicals and Hormones for Cultivation and Marketing of Vegetables and Banana.'
The study was conducted to find out the effects of using chemicals and hormones in cultivation and marketing of vegetables and banana based on the perception of farmers, wholesalers and consumers, and chemical analysis at the BARI laboratories.
Data were collected from 150 purposively selected vegetable farmers of Narsingdi, Gazipur and Tangail districts. Data were also collected from the vegetable wholesalers nearer to the selected farmers' villages and purposively selected 100 consumers of Dhaka city during the period from January to June 2008.
The study reveals that only 16 percent and 26.7 percent of the farmers used Zinc and Sulphur respectively for vegetable cultivation. Most (80 percent) of them were high users of urea compared to 3.3 percent and 16.7 percent low and medium users respectively.
About two-thirds (64.7 percent) of the farmers were high users of TSP compared to 5.3 percent and 28.7 percent being low and medium users.
Only 1.3 percent of the farmers used no TSP. Majority (56.7 percent) of the farmers were high users of MP while 12.7 percent and 26.7 percent were low and medium users.

The study showed that only 4.0 percent of the farmers used no MP. In case of Zinc, an overwhelming 84 percent of the farmers were non-users compared to 9.3 percent, 5.3 percent and 1.3 percent low, medium and high users.
About three-fourths (73.3 percent) of the farmers did not use any Sulphur while 14.7 percent, 9.3 percent and 2.7 percent were low, medium and high users.
The study observed that for insect control in the vegetable fields, 72 percent farmers used Carbofuran insecticide, 67 percent used Cypermethrin, 52 percent used Dimethoate, 36 percent used Fenitrothion, and 26 percent used Lambda Cyhalothrin insecticide.
Nearly half (47.3 percent) of the vegetable farmers were medium users (used at times of normal attack) of insecticides for insect control in vegetable fields and 39.3 percent used over doses.
For disease control in vegetable fields, farmers mainly used fungicides. Most (62 percent) of the farmers used Dimathomorph with Mancozeb fungicides, 54 percent used Metalaxyl M with Mancozeb, 47 percent used Mancozeb and 31 percent used Carbendazim.
Majority (38 percent) of the vegetable farmers were medium users of fungicides for diseases control while 19.4 percent, 6.6 percent and 36 percent being no, low and high users respectively.



PHOTO: STAR
Buses stop and take passengers ignoring traffic rules on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, opposite Sonargaon hotel, in the city yesterday.

Navy also invests in loss incurring state shipyard

Says BBC radio documentary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Navy, following the steps of the army, took over the loss-incurring Khulna Shipyard from the government for their own interest to enter into the business, said a BBC radio documentary 'Probaho' yesterday.
Retired army and civil officers, bureaucrats, businessmen and civil society members came up with a consensus that direct hand-

over of a state property to armed forces goes against the privatisation policy.
The eighth episode of the nine-part documentary titled 'Fouji Banijo' (Military in business) said the government not only handed over the shipyard to navy but also invested Tk 100 crore to help restore it.
Navy from its own budget also invested Tk 61.5 crore in Khulna Shipyard, which was established in 1954.

The shipyard had been profitable till 1976 under the industry ministry. It began to incur losses in the 90's. Though the navy claims the industry has become profitable once again, the rate of profit couldn't be known, as the navy headquarters did not give any statement in this regard, said the documentary.
The other industry run by the navy is Dockyard and Engineering Works Ltd in Narayanganj.

Though the navy for their own interest requested the government to hand over the industry to them, a publication of the dockyard claims that the government itself decided to hand over the loss-incurring industry to the navy.
"The authority of Khulna shipyard has been given over to the navy as it became a losing concern," Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan said adding, "To some extent they the navy are doing good."
"I believe army should not get involved in businesses. It is risky. It is not possible for army to continue with trading and business as this involves lack of transparency and accountability," said former adviser to the caretaker government Syed Manjur Elahi.
"These type of organisations can be given under the authority of armed forces only when the armed forces are using the products of these organisations for military affairs," said former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan.
If the purpose of production is other than military use, then the first thing what should be ensured is the best use of the government property, he said.
Dr Ayesha Siddika, former director of the Naval Research with Pakistan Navy, said, "I can tell you from my experiences as I had been the director of Pakistan Naval Research that armed forces think they are good at business. But it is their wrong idea."
She referred to the experience of Pakistan navy in Karachi Shipyard, which became unsuccessful after the navy took it over, the BBC documentary said.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) and Dhakabasi jointly organise a Mehedi Utsav at BPJA Auditorium in the city yesterday.

Hosne Ara Ghani passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT
Begum Hosne Ara Ghani, wife of BNP Standing Committee member RA Ghani, died from a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on Thursday, says a press release.
Hosne Ara, 72, is survived by her husband, three daughters, and a son.
She was buried at Banani Graveyard after namaj-e-janaza at Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque followed by Jumma prayers yesterday.
BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and BNP leader Sadek Hossain Khoka, BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan, Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, and Khairul Kabir Khokan among the party leaders attended the namaj-e-janaza.

WEATHER

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet, Dhaka and Rangpur divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.
Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.
Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees at Syedpur.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.2	28.3	83	72
Chittagong	33.8	27.0	89	83
Rajshahi	35.6	27.6	79	70
Khulna	35.0	27.4	80	74
Barisal	33.5	27.2	84	70
Sylhet	33.4	26.7	85	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.5	83	--