



Shahrukh to promote Bangladesh

Says organiser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan will promote Bangladesh by calling on the world community to explore the beauty of the country, claimed one of the organisers of the concert King Khan Live in the city.

"We would like to tell the world through Shahrukh's utterance that Bangladesh is a country of immense natural beauty," said Shafique Alam Mehdi, chairman of Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB), official sponsor of the mega event.

At a press conference jointly organised by BTB and Antar Showbiz at a city hotel, he said the Bollywood actor would campaign for the Sundarbans and would tell the world people to visit Bangladesh and the world's longest sea beach Cox's Bazar during the concert.

"The programme will be one of the major events in the realm of culture and entertainment in Bangladesh and it will have a huge impact on our tourism if Shahrukh speaks about the country's beauty," Shafique, also the secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, observed.

Asked whether they got consent of Shahrukh about the campaigns, he did not clarify.

He said BTB has signed an agreement with the main organiser Antar Showbiz on Sunday to be the official sponsor of the mega event.

Popularly known as King Khan, Shahrukh and his co-performers are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on December 9 to perform at the live concert at Army Stadium on December 10.

The BTB chairman said the government would propose Shahrukh to make him the Goodwill Ambassador of Bangladesh.

"If he [Shahrukh] agrees, we would invite him and his team for a dinner. Besides, we will arrange a reception and farewell programmes for them," he added.

Swapan Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Antar Showbiz, said a huge number of people in and outside the country will watch the programme live. So Shahrukh's call would have a huge positive impact on the country's tourism.

He said the estimated cost of the programme is from 1 to 1.5 crore taka.

Badal Khandakar, member of BTB; Nasrin Chowdhury of Antar Showbiz; and Tanzina Mostafa, director of Meghna Group of Industries; title sponsor of event, also spoke.

Announce roadmap to implement CHT accord

PCJSS President Santu Larma urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding announcement of a roadmap to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord, Joytirindra Bodhipriya Larma known as Santu Larma said two years have passed since this government took the office but it is yet to take any fruitful actions to implement the accord.

Santu Larma, the president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), made the demand yesterday at a press conference at a hotel here yesterday on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the peace accord signing.

He said the accord was signed on December 2, 1997 but the situation remains the same like before.

"So far the government is only promising to implement the accord. But no effective steps have been taken to secure life and properties of the indige-

nous people living in CHT," he said. "Rather, many indigenous people have been evicted from their land and the conspiracy of making the Muslim a majority in the CHT region still goes on," he added.

Former guerilla leader Santu Larma inked the CHT peace accord with the government on December 2, 1997 that ended a two-decade long fight.

Mentioning that the peace accord is the only solution to make the CHT stable and peaceful, he said the prime minister received an international award by signing this accord so it is a moral duty of this government to implement the accord effectively.

"So, the government should have implementation of the CHT accord in its priority list," he said.

While evaluating the steps of the government, Santu Larma said the government has so far recast some committees and appointed indigenous people in some important posts

like state minister for CHT affairs, Taskforce on Rehabilitation of Repatriated indigenous refugee, chairman of CHT Development Board, CHT Land Commission and recasting of CHT accord implementation committee.

He also mentioned withdrawal of a brigade and 35 temporary camps from the CHT region as one of the tasks the government has done.

At the press conference, Santu Larma also said the present government has cancelled lease allocations of 593 plots, out of 2,000 on 50 thousand acres of land.

"But still the leaseholders are occupying the land. They are now trying to make a fresh lease contract of that land," he said.

He also said around 9,780 indigenous families, out of 12,222 who returned from Tripura of India are yet to get back their land.

The demands of PCJSS also include

making the three hill district councils active, amendment of the land commission law, withdrawal of permanent and temporary camps of law enforcers from the CHT and prohibiting the united people democratic front (UPDF).

Elderly politician Pankaj Bhattacharya of Gano Forum, Sanjeeb Drong of Bangladesh Adivasi Parishad, Mangol Kumar Chakma and Shaktipada Tripura of PCJSS, Prof Mesbah Kamal, secretary of Adivasi Adhikar Andolon, and Rabindra Nath Soren of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad were also present at the press conference.

Marking the day of CHT peace accord on December 2, the PCJSS will hold daylong seminar at the Institute of Diploma Engineers while local party units will stage processions and rallies in every upazila headquarters in hill districts, said the organisers.

Call to recognise contributions of the elderly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of all ages should look after the elderly and the latter's contribution to the development of the society should be recognised, said speakers at a consultation meeting on elderly people yesterday.

The government should take more steps to resolve the problems the elderly face in society and bring more of them under the social safety net programmes, they said.

The consultation meeting titled 'Older persons and the achievement of millennium development goals' was organised by Resource Integration Centre (RIC), an organisation working on the rights of the elderly, at Cirdap auditorium in the city to mark the international day for older persons.

Speakers at the meeting said the elderly across the country are increasing in numbers, to be more than two hundred crore by 2050, which would be 22 percent of the world's total population.

Presently the elderly are at 11 percent of the total population. The speakers said the elderly should be provided with special care as their numbers, under the poverty line, is increasing due to their lack of income.

The United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as a day for the elderly in 1990 to recognise their contributions and examine issues that affect their lives.

This year's theme of commemoration is "Older persons and achieving millennium development goals".

Awami League leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Women for Women President Salma Khan and Director of RIC Abul Haseen Khan among others spoke at the meeting.



Members of Rapid Action Battalion are on high alert in front of the High Court yesterday ahead of the hearing on the leave to appeal on the cantonment residence of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. (Story on Page 1)

EU to finance schooling of 400,000 children

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

European Union (EU) will finance schooling for 400,000 poor children, who are hardest to reach, with an indicative budget of • 48.5 million.

This was disclosed at a consultation workshop yesterday organised by the EU delegation at the Lakeshore Hotel in the city to publicise a call for proposals from non-government organisations (NGOs) in the area of non-formal primary education.

Head of Cooperation Milko Van Gool, during the event, said, "I am proud that we will be able to reach out to about 400,000 children in this country with this budget."

"These children would otherwise most probably never have had the chance to learn how to read and write."

"We highly value our constructive partnership with government and the NGO sector and hope that together we will achieve the best results."

According to a press release of EU here yesterday, the EU and the government of

Bangladesh have committed a package of • 48.5 million, under their Action Programme 2010, in support of non-formal primary education.

The objective of the call for proposals is to provide basic and quality education opportunities for the hardest to reach children, also involving their parents and guardians.

The regional outreach will cover up to all six divisions in Bangladesh. The programme will also provide a variety of approaches that yields lessons about what works best and why.

Bangladesh has often been praised for its achievement of gender parity in primary and secondary education and has achieved a dramatic increase in net enrolment in primary education from 74 percent in 1999 to 94 percent in 2009.

An estimated 1.5 to 2 million of these children are currently enrolled at non-formal primary schools run by NGOs.

However, despite all these efforts, another 1.37 million children (842,000 boys and 529,000 girls) at primary-school age are still reported to have never enrolled at any primary school in Bangladesh.

Ensure adequate health facilities to prevent HIV

Demand speakers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded the government to ensure adequate health facilities for workers of different sectors to prevent the spread of HIV.

They also demanded to ensure human rights for HIV positive people.

Bangladesh Labour-Welfare Foundation (BLF) and Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) jointly organised the press conference at National Press Club in the city.

China Rahman of OSHE, ZM Kamrul Islam and Roy Romesh Chandra of BLF were present at the programme.

Both the organisations would bring out a procession from city's Russel Square on December 1, in observance of 'International AIDS Day 2010', to create awareness on HIV.

Transport worker murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals yesterday killed a transport worker and dumped the body into the Turag River at Salehpur's Bashudha Housing area in the city outskirts Savar.

Police detained two alleged killers of the transport worker after a mob gave the two a good beating.

The deceased Mohammad Sujon, 19, of Aminbazar area was a driver's assistant of a Hanif Metro Paribahan bus of Motijheel-Savar route, police said.

The detainees Noor Mohammad and Badsha Miah worked as truck helpers.

Officer-in-Charge Mahubur Rahman of Savar Police Station said the detainees were roommates of the deceased.

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