

Cycle journey to save nature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cyclist in his odyssey on pedal from Teknaf to Tetulia in 65 days is now in the city with a message to "save the nature."
Sulal Barua Chunni, 30, from Chittagong has pedalled over 530 kilometres (329 miles) in 20 days to the city.
"I plan to cycle around the country and spread my message," said the cyclist sporting a white T-shirt with the mes-

sage "Please, save the nature" written in bold green letters.
"This is not about material gain or fame. It is simply about propagating the message that we need to plant more trees and conserve the environment to save the nature," said Chunni on Thursday while on a brief break from his travels in Dhaka.
The stock investor started cycling from Tetulia on November 11, pedalling



Sulal Barua Chunni

through Panchagarh, Nilphamary, Rangpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Tangail, and Gazipur to Dhaka.

He hopes that by the time he returns to his village in Fatikchhari in Chittagong, he would have met "many people from different professions and ethnicities and observed the reasons that are destroying the environment."

"I have watched many forests and trees disappearing from my village in Chittagong, and how these things are affecting the environment," he said.

"Nature is the mother to everything from humans, cows, goats, rivers or tigers. Therefore, this is a duty by

birth to ensure that our mother nature is protected and conserved."

Chunni believes the natural balance of the ecosystem should not be hampered. Everything needs to be left alone and left like they were during their creation.

"This is the message I want to convey to the masses through this tour."

He rides some five hours a day on average, drinks two to three litres of water, and covers about 20km (13 miles).

Chunni began his journey with Tk 40,000, an amount that came from his personal savings.

"This has always been a dream for me and my twin brother," said the brother of three other siblings including a little sister.

Staying in Thailand for higher education, his brother could not join him. "So I started the journey myself."

He has been through some testing times in the journey. But the ever-optimistic cyclist says that the bad times are offset by the people who offer kindness and hospitality.

He plans to prepare for a world tour after he reaches his destination in Teknaf.

'Clear toxic drinks, juices off market'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded strengthening the monitoring system to check adulterated soft drinks and juices in the market for the safety of public health.

Some dishonest businessmen are

mixing poisonous colour and chemicals with different soft drinks, which the speakers say is a clear violation of human rights.

So they demanded effective measures to clear those toxic beverages off the market, also stressing the need for creating mass awareness so consumers refrain from taking those harmful drinks.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa)

organised the discussion on "how safe are the drinking water and soft drinks in Bangladesh" at its office yesterday, said a press release.

Bapa Vice President ASM Shahjahan presided over the function moderated by its General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin. The Bapa member secretary presented the keynote paper.

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Hazi Mamotaj Uddin
Daudkandi, Comilla