



Manzur Hossain, father of Rumana Manzur who lost sights in a gruesome attack by her husband on June 5, bursts into tears while speaking to journalists at a news conference at LabAid Hospital in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Students vow to save Dhaka rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of students from schools and madrasas of old Dhaka in a street rally yesterday vowed to save the rivers surrounding the capital.

Earlier, the students formed a human chain with placards with different slogans like "Save River, Don't Throw Wastages in River" in front of Dhaka deputy commissioner's office.

Initiative for Peace along with Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) organised the events.

Habibur Rahman, student of class six of K.L. Jubilee School & College participated in the human chain under scorching heat with a placard inscribing: "Nodi Bachao Bachbe Desh, Ferey Asbe Sonar Desh" (Save river, save the country to bring back its golden era).

Talking to this correspondent, Habibur said, "River is like our mother. We should respect our mother."

The street in front of the DC office to Victoria Park turned into a festive mood yesterday morning. Along with the students, teachers and workers of Sadarghat Launch Terminal also took part in the programme.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan along with lawmaker Sanjida Khanam, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Mohibul Haque, Chairman of BIWTA Abdul Malek Mia and green activists led the rally.

Addressing the rally, the shipping minister said that the persons who are engaged in polluting rivers are enemy of people.

"Through mass-revolution we will make our rivers free from pollution," he said adding that such mass awareness programme will be continued.

Retd HC judges can practise at apex court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed the retired and removed High Court judges to practice law in the Appellate Division and to hold any judicial or semi-judicial post in a major step in line with a previous constitutional provision.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice SK Sinha came up with the order after granting a petition filed by the government on Tuesday.

The apex court order, however, said the retired or removed HC judges will be able to practice in the Appellate Division and hold offices till December 31, 2012 so that the parliament takes a decision in this regard within this period.

Article 99 (2) of the constitution that permits the former HC judges to practice law at the Appellate Division and to hold any judicial or semi-judicial post was inserted in the constitution with the Fifth Amendment.

But, the Supreme Court has upheld a HC verdict declaring the Fifth Amendment illegal and made some observations.

The Appellate Division in the judgment on the constitution's fifth-amendment case, however, did not specifically say anything about article 99 (2), and the government has reprinted the constitution excluding article 99 (2), which meant that the former HC judges could not practice at the Appellate Division or hold the said posts.

The government on June 20 filed a petition seeking restoration of the constitutional article 99 (2).

The petition prayed to the SC to modify its observations in the judgment on the fifth-amendment to the constitution so that this article can be restored and remains in effect until the parliament amends the charter.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the retired or removed HC judges can now practice law at the Appellate Division and can hold the judicial and semi-judicial posts until parliament takes any decision or till December 31, 2012 following the apex court order.

Article 99 (2) of the constitution has now come into force, he said, adding that the SC order, however, will remain valid until the parliament amends the constitution restoring this article or till December 31, 2012.

Tk 276cr project to protect wildlife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council yesterday approved a project involving Tk 276.19 crore for better management of wildlife in the region.

The Ecnc also okayed a project for supplying safe water in Khulna city and adjacent areas along with production of packaged biogas in a bid to reduce poverty.

Seven projects, including the three, involving Tk 5,124 crore were approved at the Ecnc meeting presided over by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The project "Strengthening regional cooperation for wildlife protection" aims to boost regional wildlife protection efforts, enhance wildlife preservation activities, and develop eco-tourism among the regional countries.

According to sources at the Department of Forest, the South East Asian region is home to 13-15 percent of the world's biodiversity.

India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan give shelter to 65 percent of the world's population of tigers, among some of the most exotic and rare species in the globe, they said.

The project seeks to promote regional cooperation and joint efforts required to preserve and stop illegal trading of wild animals in the region, they added.

Under the project, 23 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries will be developed across the country along with deployment of special units to stop trafficking of wild animals.

Several bird observation towers, wildlife centres, jetties, and tourism spots will also be developed and four specialised veterinary clinics will be opened across the country.

WASTE DISPOSAL Ward-level committees demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two development organisations at a joint news conference yesterday demanded Dhaka City Corporation form waste management committees in all wards of the city.

Nagorik Adhikar Shonrakkhon Forum (NASF) and Resource Integration Centre (RIC) also demanded DCC standing committee be reformed and it hold meetings regularly.

Hafizur Rahman Moyna, president of NASF, placed a 10-point demand at the conference organised at Jatiya Press Club in the city with assistance of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Their other demands include arranging public awareness programme, bringing all clinics and hospitals under waste management, increasing number of staffers and providing modern equipments for waste management, and setting up at least one waste transfer station in every ward.

Humayun Kabir, councillor of ward no. 59, RIC director Abul Hasib Khan, NASF general secretary Israt Jahan, and RIC project coordinator SMA Muid also addressed the conference.



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