

VICTORY DAY VISIT TO NAT'L MEMORIAL AL's illegal welcome arches hamper traffic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

In an apparent bid to woo party high-ups rather than commemorating Victory Day, local leaders of the ruling Awami League and its associated bodies have erected over 100 illegal arches and are constructing many more, some by digging holes on the asphalt, on the around 21km Dhaka-Aricha highway from Aminbazar to National Memorial in Nabinagar.

Bearing glaring pictures of the top leaders and names of the local ones welcoming the top brass marking the latter's visit to the memorial on December 16, the around 30-foot structures, each costing around Tk 30,000 as per businesses being paid to construct them, are partially blocking the roads, hampering both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Meanwhile, the local BNP leaders accuse police of removing only their arches and banners.

Refuting this, Additional Superintendent of Police, Dhaka (North) Kazi Ashraf Azim said they had removed some and would continue to do so over security concerns centring the arrival of the VIPs.

The local lawmaker, Enamur Rahman, said the Prime Minister's Office and local administration had asked people to refrain from constructing the arches. Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Kamrul Hasan Mollah stated of hearing no such instruction.

The damage to the asphalt has been confirmed by Roads and Highways Sub-assistant Engineer, Kalyanpur Sub-division, Md Shakhawat Hossain.

"I am sure the reason is not Victory Day. They are simply using the occasion to win the hearts of the leaders and also publicise names of the local activists," commented a pedestrian, Poly Akter, making her way across traffic held

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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a rally organised by the BNP-led 20-party alliance at Kanchpur Balur Math in Narayanganj yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

RU TEACHER KILLING

Colleagues cut class for 2hrs demanding charge-sheet

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University teachers yesterday observed a two-hour work abstention demanding immediate submission of the charge-sheet in sociology teacher AKM Shafiu Islam murder case.

Teachers of all departments and institutes under Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta) observed the abstention. Once before on November 18, the teachers gave an ultimatum of 15 days for submitting the charge sheet. Prof Pradip Kumar Pandey, Ruta's general secretary, yesterday threatened to launch a tougher agitation if the charge sheet is not submitted immediately. The teachers also expressed their dissatisfaction with slow investigation.

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Sylhet tea

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Tea workers, however, alleged that the garden was gradually shrinking for illegal occupation, and someday there would be no garden at all if this continued.

"We protest the illegal handover of the garden's land to anybody," said Ripon Modi, a worker. The garden authority cannot fell tea plants for any purpose, he added.

Tea gardens are government land leased out to individuals or organisations for a certain period.

Ataur told The Daily Star, "When the garden owner gives a plot to someone, we the staff have nothing to do." However, due to the protest, "we took the land back", he said. Sylhet city's Ward 8 Councillor Iliasur Rahman said the garden authorities had decided to give the plot for building a dump station.

Police brought the situation under control, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Md Rahmatul Ullah.

Don't use excessive

FROM PAGE 3

in the fields reducing the dependence on urea fertiliser.

Among the awardees, five individuals and organisations received gold medals, Tk 25,000 and a certificate each, while eight individuals and organisations received silver medals, Tk 15,000 and a certificate each and 17 individuals and organisations bronze medals along with Tk 7,500 and a certificate each.

The gold medal recipients are Maching Nu Marma of Bandarban, the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Shamsuddin Kalu of Langolkot, Saidunnesa of Kishoreganj, and the Germplasm Centre of Bangladesh Agricultural University.

The silver medal recipients are Maj Gen Salauddin Miazeem (GOC of Rangpur), Marjina Begum of Jhenidah, Dr M Anwar Hossain of Dinajpur, Abu Hanif Moral of Khulna, Chittagong Meridian Agro Limited of Chittagong, Selim Reza of Natore, Mozammel Huq of Chittagong, and Abdul Gafur of Gaibandha.

The bronze medal recipients are Bagher Bazar Livelihood Field School, Farida Parveen of Sathkhira, Dr Manabendra Nath Sarker of Comilla, Manjur Hossain of Comilla, Anki Moni Krishi Khamar of Pabna, Salahuddin Ujjal of Naogaon, Arpana Rani Mistri of Sathkhira, Anju Sarker or Jessore, Ahid Sheikh of Rangpur, Humayun Kabir of Moulvibazar, Rajendra Nath Roy of Nilphamari, Azizul Huq of Feni, Intekhabul Hamid of Mymensingh, Jahedul Huq of Comilla, Jatiswar Mohastabir of Rangamati, Belal Hossain Sarder of Bogra, and Hafizur Rahman of Pabna.

Resistance must for ending HR violation

BHRMC discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all strata must put up strong resistance to the violation of human rights in Bangladesh, said discussants yesterday.

Besides, the government should strictly take action against human rights violators, especially the law enforcers and the ruling party men, for upholding the rule of law and justice, they viewed.

Bangladesh Human Rights Monitoring Council (BHRMC), a non-government rights body, organised the discussion titled "International Human Rights: Bangladesh Perspective" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

BHRMC Adviser and columnist Kazi Siraj said power, money and political vindictiveness are the major reasons behind human rights violation.

The government itself in many cases violates human rights by using state machineries, he alleged.

Former ambassador Mofazzal Karim said corruption is a major form of violation of human rights and massive awareness can fight against such violation.

Former UN official Mainuddin Ahmed Jahangir, also BHRMC director, put emphasis on expansion of moral education for the youth.

BHRMC Chairman Nurul Huda chaired the function, while its Vice President Sarmin Sultana also spoke.

MJF honours 10 grassroots human rights defenders

Two social workers, a young female footballer also receive the honorary awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten human rights defenders from the grassroots level, two eminent social workers with international recognition, and a female football player were given honorary awards by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday.

The works of the activists focused on land rights, prevention of violence against women, child rights, and the rights of the indigenous people.

The award ceremony, followed by a discussion on "future Bangladesh in the hands of the youth" was held at the capital's Bangla Academy, marking Human Rights Day.

The 10 grassroots activists were Jharna Ray, Madhobilata Chakma, and Nomita Chakma of Khagrachhari, Birendra Sangma of Mymensingh, Shafique Ullah of Noakhali, Kachhim Uddin of Tangail, Kananbala Gupta of Narail, Umme Kulsum Ranjana of Bogra, Kalpana Tirki of Rajshahi, and Rahela of Dinajpur.

Two social workers Jharna Dhara

Chowdhury, chief of Noakhali's Gandhi Ashram, and Angela Gomes, executive director of Bachte Shekha, were also honoured along with Bipasha Mali, a young footballer who was recently called to play on the national women's football team.

Praising MJF's initiative and referring to the activists, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, "They don't work for recognition. Yet when we value their contributions, it makes us proud and we get inspiration to work."

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, spoke about MJF's initiative to recognise the works of field-level activists for the last four years.

This time, the awardees were selected from 111 activists from all over the country.

Supported by UKaid and Australian Aid, the programme was presided over by Manzoor Hasan, member of MJF's governing board.

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40pc schoolgirls cut classes for menstruation

Due to lack of proper restrooms; Prothom Alo roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 40 percent of the girls are compelled to miss schools for about three days during their menstruation as most institutions do not have facilities where they can change and dispose of sanitary products, said speakers citing a survey at a roundtable yesterday.

About one third of the girls think that their school performances are affected due to such menstrual issues, they added.

The survey, "Bangladesh National Hygiene Baseline Survey 2014", conducted by the Ministry of Local Government, ICDDR,B and WaterAid was launched this June.

Sampling 700 rural and urban schools across the country, the study found only three percent of the institutions had toilets where sanitary products can be disposed of.

The roundtable on school sanitation with support from WaterAid Bangladesh, Share Research Consortium, and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) was organised by the daily Prothom Alo at its office in the capital yesterday.

Saying that school teachers do not teach students about menarche, Hasin Jahan, director (programmes and policy advocacy) of WaterAid, pointed out that many girls suffer trauma and embarrassment during the time.

Besides, 55 percent of the school toilets remain locked throughout the day, she added citing the survey.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of CAMPE, said although there is a chapter on reproductive health in school books, teachers did not include them in the curriculum as they still feel embarrassed about sharing the topic. Nazrul Islam Khan, secretary to the education ministry, said teachers' training institutes should include the topic in their training courses. The speakers also said the problem can be dealt with by engaging local government representatives, students and teachers in maintaining toilets in schools.

NEWSIN brief

Blood donation programme held at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating the sacrifice of Bangladeshis and Indian soldiers in the 1971 Liberation War, a daylong blood donation organised by Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity was held at Dhaka University yesterday.

More than 100 volunteers donated their blood, which will be given to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, columnist Sayed Abul Maksud, and First Secretary (Political) in Indian embassy in Dhaka Ninad S Deshpande, among others, attended the event.

Man arrested with gold worth Tk 2.3 crore at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials arrested a passenger with 38 gold bars and ornaments, worth Tk 2.3 crore and weighing 4.46kg, in the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

On information, a customs team searched Reazul Hassan, 41, passenger of a Saudi Airlines' flight, while he was crossing the green channel and found the gold in his handbag and pockets, said the officials.

Sherpur Govt College golden jubilee in January

CITY DESK

Sherpur Govt College will celebrate its 50th anniversary in January next year, said a press release yesterday.

Former students are requested to get registered to join the programme. The last date of registration is December 31.

For details, please contact Convener Md Atiur Rahman Atiq MP (Sherpur-01938477289, Dhaka-01711316900)

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Recipients of the honorary awards given by Manusher Jonno Foundation, standing behind, with the guests sitting in front, in the capital's Bangla Academy yesterday, at the award giving ceremony marking Human Rights Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka, Cern

FROM PAGE 4

Cern operates the world's largest research laboratory to probe the fundamental structure of the universe, and it has a long tradition of cooperation in research, and training and promoting contacts among scientists and professionals and interchange with other laboratories and institutes around the globe.

The release said M Shameem Ahsan, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh in Geneva, Switzerland, and Dr Rolf Heuer, director general of Cern, signed the instrument of cooperation.

Cern will conduct a high-level workshop on advanced particle and quantum physics at Dhaka University on December 15-18. Eminent professors from Cern, Belgium and India will deliver the lessons.

Three-day programmes

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exterminating the brightest luminaries of the emerging country's intellectual firmament.

The perpetrators picked up the top Bangalee intellectuals including university teachers, litterateurs, doctors, engineers and journalists one by one from their houses, blindfolded and killed them before dumping the bodies at the Rayerbazar killing ground in Dhaka.

The heinous killing was carried out as part of a well-planned strategy to bankrupt the newborn nation of its brain and souls and foil its progress just on the eve of freedom.

Various organisations and institutions including Dhaka University (DU), Sector Commanders Forum and Sammilito Sangskrtik Jote have chalked out programmes like placing wreaths in Rayerbazar's Martyred Intellectuals Memorial, hoisting black flags and holding discussions to commemorate the day.

Twelve DU-based cultural, professional and social organisations begins a three-day programme on the campus today in obser-

vance of Martyred Intellectuals Day and the December 16 Victory Day.

The series of programmes will commence through forming a human chain at the base of Aparajeya Bangla at 4:00pm, demanding trial of the perpetrators who ruthlessly executed the brightest sons of the country, including teachers, students and staff of DU.

Simultaneously Bangla Academy will organise a discussion at its premises.

It will be followed by a two-day photo exhibition, campaign to clean litter, roadside shows and lighting of candles.

Tomorrow, a wartime photo exhibition, tree plantation, debate session and cultural programmes are scheduled to take place. The Victory Day celebrations include a bicycle rally, film exhibition and procession.

Slogan 71, Dhaka University Photographic Society, Dhaka University Journalists Association, Dhaka University Debating Society and Dhaka University Tourist Society are among the organisers.