

Chhatra Union to submit memo to DU VC for shifting Metro Rail route from campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Expressing solidarity with Dhaka University (DU) students' movement, Bangladesh Chhatra Union's DU unit yesterday announced submission of a memorandum to the vice-chancellor and holding a demonstration on January 18 demanding that the proposed metro rail route not run through the campus.

The leftist student body also threatened tougher movements, urging to construct an alternative route through Ramna and Matsya Bhaban area. The unit's President Liton Nondi made the announcement at a press conference at Madhur Canteen. He said the metro rail would lessen the attraction of historic monuments, including the Raju sculpture, memorials and graves of three leaders, and the Dhaka Gate, and would create sound pollution. "...a part of the Raju sculpture will be permanently covered by the shade of the metro rail," he added saying, as per law, no structure like metro rail can be built within 200 square metres of any historical building.

The construction would begin towards the end of next month and there is no scope for the route to change, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said recently.

Non-party

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Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told the news agency, "No such provision is being incorporated in the election rules as the Union Parishad polls are not as big as municipal and city corporation elections." The EC has already started taking preparations to conduct election to 600 out of some 4,550 Union Parishads across the country in the first phase at the end of March.



Tree trunks submerged on a channel of the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong's Bahaddarhat by saw mill owners, obstructing the flow of water. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

2nd Nat'l English Carnival ends

Notre Dame College organised it, supported by The Daily Star with assistance from Bank Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Second National English Carnival 2016, a language competition, ended in the capital's Notre Dame College yesterday with a prize giving ceremony.

Seventy nine students were awarded at the event in the first, second, and third grades in eight categories, including spelling master, intensive reading, recitation, story writing, extempore speech, multimedia presentation, and wall magazine submission.

Supported by The Daily Star, the event, which started on Thursday, was organised by Notre Dame English Club with the assistance of Bank Asia.

As many as 1,300 students of primary, secondary, college and university levels from 120 institutions participated in the event titled "Whole Universe is One Soul, Learn English to Reach The Goal".

Prof Arifa Rahman of the Institute of Modern Languages of Dhaka University, who was present as the chief guest, highlighted the ever increasing demand for English competence and the need for treating English not as a mere subject but as a set of skills to be used in real life. She said the arrangement of the 3-day programme was a very positive step towards providing opportunities to young students and to involve them in a number of fun language activities.

Dr Hemanto Pius Rozario, principal, Notre Dame College; and Md Arfan Ali, additional managing director, Bank Asia, also spoke.

Ctg rivers to be demarcated

Nat'l taskforce meeting told; Kaptai Lake to undergo dredging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The national taskforce on rivers will demarcate the boundaries of the rivers in Chittagong to protect them against encroachment and maintain their navigability.

The decision was taken at the 30th meeting of the taskforce at Chittagong Circuit House yesterday. However, no specific timeline was given.

Presiding over the meeting, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said, "If we don't take steps to save the Karnaphuli River, it will turn into a Buriganga."

With support from Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), the taskforce will continue its activities to protect Karnaphuli from pollution and encroachment, he added.

The Kaptai Lake will also be dredged to keep alive the water route, he said.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain asked CCC to take

effective steps in this regard.

"There is no alternative to saving the Karnaphuli and Halda rivers if we are to save the port city," he said, adding that all factories must install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) to save the rivers from liquid pollutants.

Halda researcher Manzoorul Kibria, also associate professor of biology at Chittagong University, said the Halda River was in death throes because of dams and effluent flowing from dyeing and garment factories.

Among the 133 factories on the bank of Karnaphuli, 123 have ETPs but most of the time they are not used, said Director of Department of Environment (DoE) in Chittagong Mokbul Hossain.

CCC Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin and Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral Mohammad Nizamuddin Ahmed also spoke.



Prof Arifa Rahman of the Institute of Modern Languages (IML) at Dhaka University addresses the prize giving ceremony of the 2nd National English Carnival 2016 at Notre Dame College in the capital yesterday. Notre Dame English Club organised the language competition.

PHOTO: STAR

Eminent citizens seek tolerance

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only way to sustain it."

Professor Emeritus Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury of DU said maintaining peaceful politics in the country now mainly depends on the government's role and actions.

"The government, alongside protecting its power, must allow the opposition to carry out their political activities and exercise their democratic rights so that they can reach people to express their views and thoughts.

"But, the opposition will have to use this political space judiciously," he said.

Mentioning that the opposition is now in a weaker position as they are neither in power nor in parliament, he said if the government now does not allow the opposition to hold rallies and other programmes then democracy would not exist.

"Multiparty democracy is the best way, but we now need at least a two-party democracy," he said.

Former DU vice-chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said political stability in the country depends on the goodwill of the two parties.

"Both Awami League and BNP should play a positive and responsible role. Their leaders should shun provocative remarks against each other to maintain peace and a democratic atmosphere," he said.

Emajuddin also urged the intellectuals to play a positive role by giving political parties good suggestions through their columns and articles to encourage them to exercise democratic principles.

Former caretaker government adviser M Hafizuddin Khan said the peaceful programmes of the two major parties in the city indicated a positive change in politics.

"I hope this situation will prevail throughout the year. But, the government should allow the opponents to carry out their normal political

activities to maintain peace," he observed.

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbul Hanif said, as a democratic political party, their party wants all parties to carry out their programmes peacefully in a democratic manner.

"We will cooperate if the opposition parties carry out positive and constructive politics. But we will not allow any anarchy, violence and killing of people in the name of politics," he said.

He said their party never obstructed any party's peaceful programmes.

BNP Vice Chairman Abdullah Al Noman said their party always wants to practice positive politics in a peaceful and democratic way but the government obstructs their democratic programmes and resorts to repressive acts.

"A political negotiation is crucial for stability in the country. We have repeatedly

called upon the government to engage in talks for a political understanding so that we all can work for the country together, but it goes unheeded," Noman said.

3 hurt in RU

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followers swooped on those of the VP with sticks and iron rods, said sources.

The VP's followers barricaded the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for half-an-hour till 5:30pm after police barred their procession from entering the campus through the main gate, said the sources, adding that police gave chase after they tried to gather on the Madar Bux Hall premises.

Mizanur termed it an unwanted incident between two activists following a "misunderstanding". "It is not an internal feud of the party. We are trying to hold negotiations," he told The Daily Star.

Country experiencing warmer

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higher than other parts of the country. According to official data, December was in fact warm with an average temperature of 20 degrees Celsius. In January, Dhaka is experiencing an average temperature of 22 degree Celsius till date.

Meteorologist Rasheduzzaman said the country is experiencing relatively less cold this winter because sub-continental ridge high, which contributes to cold waves, was not formed properly this year. There is not enough fog in the country during the winter, which helps to get adequate sunlight, contributing high temperature in this winter, he added.

Bangladesh has already experienced two moderate cold waves in December last, the meteorologist said, adding that another mild cold wave may sweep the country at the end of January.

Met officials say the ridge of sub-continental high may extend up to Bihar of India and adjoining area. Seasonal low lies over the South Bay within a couple of days.

Eminent climate expert Dr Atiq Rahman said 2015 was the warmest year in the history of earth while a huge number of people were killed in heat waves in Pakistan and India.

"There's no doubt that temperature has increased in Bangladesh. We don't find equilibrium in temperature, humidity and rainfall. We call it erratic behaviour of climate," he said.

Erratic temperature will cast adverse impacts on agriculture, ecosystem and biodiversity, Dr Atiq said, farmers will be adversely affected due to the temperature rise as they do not know when climatic extreme events will happen.

NEWS IN brief

Two held with 2,100 bottles of Phensedyl in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers detained two youths with 2,100 bottles of Phensedyl from Madambibir Hat on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Khokon, 28, son of Abdul Jabbar, hailing from Gazipur and Md Mustafiz, 21, son of Abul Bashar, hailing from Comilla.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 raided a Chittagong-bound truck and recovered the bottles from the vehicle, said Amir Ullah, assistant superintendent of police of Rab-7. Rab seized the truck but its driver managed to flee. A case was lodged in this regard.

2 held with counterfeit notes in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

Police arrested two people with 27 counterfeit notes worth Tk 14,000 in Barisal city's Launch Ghat area on Friday.

The arrestees are Sarwar Hossain, 20, and Arif Hawlader, 19.

Nani Buri Police Camp Assistant Sub-inspector Nayeem said Sarwar and Arif gave some of the notes to the manager of a restaurant in the area after having some food items.

On suspicion, the restaurant owner informed police of the matter.

INSPIRED to launch training in data management tool today

CITY DESK

A 5-day training programme on "Statistical/Data Management Tool: SPSS" will start at National Academy for Planning and Development in the capital today, says a press release.

The European Union-funded Bangladesh INSPIRED has organised the programme in partnership with the SME Foundation.

Around 30 people from the Ministry of Industries, and SME Foundation are participating in the programme, conducted by Prof Amir Hossain of Dhaka University.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Mowdudur Rob Chowdhury, a long-serving British Airways official in Bangladesh, died of old age complications on Friday, aged 70.

Mowdudur hailed from Phulbari in Sylhet, says a press release. A doa mahfil will be held at his Uttara residence in the capital after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

His friends and relatives are requested to participate in the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ayub Hossain, an agriculture researcher and former leader of Bangladesh Communist Party, died of heart disease at Jessore Medical College Hospital early yesterday. He was 74.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. He was buried at his family graveyard at Kuturakandi village in Jessore's Bagharpara upazila following a namaz-e-janaja there.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Alhaj AKM Golam Quader, a businessman, a social worker, a freedom fighter and a former officer of Bangladesh Biman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and a doa mahfil were held on Friday after Zohr prayers at his Noorpur village home at GM Hat of Fulgazi in Feni.

Dhaka reaffirms zero

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Earlier on the day, Khan inaugurated the services of Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and Machine Readable Visa (MRV) at Consulate General offices of Bangladesh in Mexico and New York, said a press release from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN.



Botanist Dwijen Sharma puts a nameplate on a cannonball tree, known as Naglingam in Bangla, at the National Botanical Garden yesterday. It was a part of Tarupallab, and Prokriti O Jibon Foundation's joint initiative to put nameplates on 600 trees, drawn from all 200 species that exist in the garden. The organisations are removing the existing nameplates nailed to the trees and using rubber bands that expand with the growth of trees.

PHOTO: COLLECTED