

DU community protests felling of century old trees to build police quarters

Also doesn't want the structures on university property

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Dhaka University yesterday protested the government's plan to build a 22 storey residential building for the police force in the university's property.

They demanded immediate action to save the area, from a human chain near Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall of DU.

Later, the protesters submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique at his office.

Aashfaque Ahmad, a professor of botany, said, "The police force was allowed to build a temporary camp in Babupara residential area of DU but they have planned a 22 storey building here and cut some trees that were bearing history of the university for many years.

"We will not allow any building in the area that spoils the sound environment of DU."

He said such a move would destroy the natural beauty of the university, eliminate the living space of birds, and affect the local wildlife.

Dr Fahmidul Hoque, a teacher of mass communication and journalism, and Ahmed Bashir, a teacher of English, among others, took part in the protest. Around 10-12 trees have been chopped off since Tuesday night, of which at least three were hundred years old.

Students feared that any permanent establishment of any other organisation in the university area would be a threat to them.

Prof Noorunnahar Fyzennessa remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorial programme marking the 12th death anniversary of Dhaka University Professor Noorunnahar Fyzennessa, an educationist and women's rights activist, was held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct yesterday.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, actor Syed Hasan Imam, writer-publisher Mafidul Haque, cultural personality Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury; Brac University Vice Chancellor Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Rakhi Das Purkayastha of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Prof Sharifa Khatun and Prof Salma Akhter of DU, Haqqani Mission Bangladesh member Khaleda Khanam Runu, and Central Women's University Registrar Ferdous Ali, among others, spoke on the occasion.

"My first and important proposal to the state is for awarding Dr Nurunnahar Fyzennessa with 'Begum Rokeya Padak' for her role in upholding, establishing and disseminating the philosophy and

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Leaders of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad place a bouquet at the portrait of Prof Noorunnahar Fyzennessa at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday, marking her 12th death anniversary. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Bangladesh Ambassador to Denmark Muhammad A Muhith, centre, Head of Asia Department at the Danish Foreign Ministry Ambassador Erik Laursen, right, and Ruby Muhith, left, cut a cake, celebrating Bangladesh's Independence and National Day in Copenhagen on Friday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Independence Day celebrated in Copenhagen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly opened Bangladesh embassy in Copenhagen hosted a gala reception at the prestigious historic hall Bygningsskulturens Hus in Denmark on Friday, celebrating the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh for the first time ever amid great enthusiasm and fanfare, says a press release received from Copenhagen yesterday.

Over 200 dignitaries including 40 ambassadors and chargé d'affaires, academics, media personalities and cross-section of expatriate Bangladeshis were present at the programme.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Denmark Muhammad A Muhith recalled with deep respect 3 million martyrs and 200,000 women who sacrificed their honour that resulted in a secular, progressive and independent Bangladesh.

He highlighted the objectives of opening a new mission in Copenhagen and urged the Danish business houses to increase the market

share of Bangladeshi RMCs, ocean going ships, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, IT products and services in Denmark.

He called upon the Danish entrepreneurs to invest more in the renewable energy sector and green growth in Bangladesh, and invited them to take advantage of regional connectivity that Bangladesh has become a hub for.

During the programme, the chief executive officer of New Asian Nordic Group presented a "made in Bangladesh b'fair bicycle" to the ambassador, which has already hit the bike stores in Denmark.

The programme also included a cultural soiree presented by the artistes from Bangladeshi diaspora.

The embassy presented each of the guests with Bangladeshi green tea packed in jute sacks which generated immense interest among them.

Bangladeshi handicrafts, muslin and jamdani items, ceramic products and apparels were displayed in the programme.

An official programme was also held at the chancery on March 26, marking the day.

DU student's death in poll violence sparks protest

DU CORRESPONDENT

Around three hundred students of Dhaka University yesterday blocked the capital's Shahbagh intersection for around half an hour and rallied in front of Shahbagh Police Station, demanding trial for the death of marketing student Sujan Mridha.

Sujan, a third year student of marketing at DU, was shot dead during a clash between the supporters of two union member candidates at Dakkhin Birongol Nurani Madrasa Centre under Dhurail union in Madaripur on March 31, according to Sarwar Hossain, superintendent of police in the district.

Witnesses and family said Sujan was killed in police shooting, but the SP said neither police nor Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) opened fire there. He claimed that the youth was killed during a clash between two groups.

Quoting media reports, Aminul Islam, a classmate of the deceased, said, "The police's allegation that Sujan went to the centre for snatching ballot boxes was not true. He was there just to watch voting."

SEE PHOTO ONLINE

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14 ministries addressing neuro-dev disorders

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Presenting the keynote of a seminar, "Facing Autism: Strategies of World Community in the Light of SDGs", there in the afternoon, Saima said Sheikh Hasina, the Bangladesh government and Awami League were very much sincere in fulfilling commitments to ensure the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities.

Saima was also a moderator of an event, "Elimination of Disparity" organised by Bangladesh, India, Qatar, South Korea and "Autism Speaks", a US-based autism advocacy organisation, BSS quotes a press release as saying.

She said Bangladesh ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol. The government took the initiative to form South Asian Autism Network (SAAN) and the lead in adopting the first UN General Assembly Resolution on Addressing the Socioeconomic Needs of Individuals, Families and Societies Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities on December 12, 2012, said Saima. The constitution recognises rights of the population's vulnerable segments and a national policy on disability was first adopted in the mid-90s, she said.

In 1999, a semi autonomous body called the National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons, or Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation, was established, she added.

In 2001, Bangladesh enacted the first law concerning persons with disabilities and set up an inter-ministerial taskforce on disability, slowly meeting the standards and objectives of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), she said.

In 2013, the Disability Welfare Act was made compatible to CRPD and the National Neurodevelopment Disorder Protection Trust Act enacted, ensuring legal protection and institutional care, she added.

All early childhood centres are bound to include at least two children with disabilities, the education ministry has set up a National Autism and NDD Academy while National Theatre has begun encouraging participation in regular productions, she said.

NDDs have been given one-page coverage in the five year plan, 2016-2021, while, with limited resources, inclusion in national development efforts has been planned, she said.

"The PM is leading these efforts from the front. As a symbolic gesture, she uses the artwork done by children with autism for her official greeting cards," she said.

Many autistic people truly cherish their unique traits and capabilities and all stand to benefit, she said.

It is important to acknowledge that it can be an ordeal emotionally, socially and financially for family members and it is rare to hear that a family remains unmoved, she said.

It is, therefore, crucial to comprehensively provide support and help develop understanding and acceptance, said Saima. The policies and programmes developed to support them should also take this approach as its main point of departure, she said.

Addressing the needs is not so much about increasing funds and infrastructure as much as it is about removing barriers and making inclusive policies, she said. It has become evident that mass awareness, backed by strong political will, can make a difference and making it sustainable requires supportive legislation, institutional framework and adequate service systems, she said. Challenges must be dealt with effectively with innovative, cost effective and sustainable planning, Saima suggested. "This, we believe, will be the key to realising the overarching objective of leaving 'no one behind' as envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," she added. "What we are trying to implement in Bangladesh, could provide a template for a global strategy for addressing autism in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG6)," she said.

ATM বুথ ভাড়া
 এটিএম বুথের জন্যে ভাড়া দেওয়া হবে। বর্তমানে Dutch Bangla Both চালু আছে। অশি স্কারফিট। ৮৩, নাজিম উদ্দিন রোড। যোগাযোগঃ ০১৭১১৫২৫৭৬৯

OBITUARY

Manir U. Zaman passed on at his residence in Houston, Texas, at 10:27 pm, on March 31, 2016. He was the son of late M. S. Zaman and Begum Luftenessa.

Mr. Zaman was a graduate of BUET and did his masters from University of North Dakota. He was a loving family man and an endearing friend. He will be always remembered for his ever helping hand and kind words. Mr. Zaman left behind his wife, two sons, two grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends to lovingly remember him.

ফ্লোর ভাড়া হবে

আঞ্জুমান-এ-রহমানিয়া আহমদিয়া সুন্নিয়া, ট্রাস্ট, ঢাকার মালিকানাধীন কাদেরিয়া তৈয়েবিয়া মাদরাসা, মোঃপুর, ঢাকা, প্রধান সড়ক সংলগ্ন অবস্থিত বহুতলা ভবনের দ্বিতীয় তলা (বর্তমান সোস্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক, মোঃপুর শাখা) ৪১০০ বর্গফুট ফ্লোর ব্যাংক, বীমা, ক্লিনিক, অফিসের জন্য ভাড়া দেয়া হবে। আর্থীদেরকে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হল।

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(সকাল ৯.৩০টা থেকে বিকাল ৫.৩০টা পর্যন্ত)।

০১৭৫৫-৬২১৩৯৩, ০১৭৫৫-৬২১৩৯৫