



Pedestrians can use neither a footpath nor a road in the capital's Malibagh area. The earth dug up for drainage works has been left on the footpath, which made the road muddy, multiplying public sufferings during the monsoon. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

NEWSIN brief

Journos' wage board rally today

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday called upon journalists to join a rally in the capital today, demanding announcement of 9th wage board for them.

The BFUJ and DUJ will stage the rally at 11:00am in front of the secretariat, said a DUJ press release yesterday.

BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Secretary General Omar Faruque, DUJ President Shaban Mahmud and General Secretary Sohel Haider Chowdhury made the call to join the rally. Such rallies will also be held in front of the offices of divisional and deputy commissioners across the country.

Ctg Samiti-Dhaka to give stipends to meritorious students today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Samiti-Dhaka will distribute stipends to meritorious and financially insolvent students from Chittagong at Samiti Bhaban at 32 Topkhana Road today.

The samiti will also accord a reception to the children of its life members who achieved GPA-5 in SSC examinations this year at the function to be held at 4:00pm.

Three JMB 'militants' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have detained three suspected members of JMB, belonging to "Sarwar-Tamim group" in Narayanganj's Fatullah on Friday.

They are Waliullah Chishti alias Abu Omar and Kamrul Hasan Hridoy of Comilla, and Al Amin Sheikh Rajib of Bagerhat.

BNP out to foil next nat'l

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through election....," he added.

The minister urged the countrymen to spin their reliance on Awami League and partner the party to transform Bangladesh into a developed country.

"Whenever Awami League stays in power, the country witnesses unprecedented development. On the other hand, BNP had embezzled money and properties when they were in power," he added.

At a separate programme in the capital yesterday, Bangladesh Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said BNP is out to make the next general election and the Election Commission controversial sensing its consequences in the upcoming polls.

"BNP's aim is to thwart the constitution and the constitutional process...And it is now clear that they (BNP) are hatching conspiracies," he said, speaking at a meeting of the party's Dhaka city unit at its central office on Topkhana road.

Menon, also the civil aviation and tourism minister, said there is no provision of supportive government in the constitution. "We have no scope to violate the constitution and all will happen as per the constitution," he added.

City unit President Abul Hossain chaired the meeting while its General Secretary Kishore Roy presented a political report.

The party leaders Md Towhid, Ali Shikdar, Shahana Ferdowsi Lucky, Benzir Ahmed, Abul Kalam Azad, Murshida Akthar Nahar, Kazi Anowarul Islam Tipu and

Mutasim Billha Sunny, among others, were present.

In another programme in Rajshahi the same day, Bangladesh Awami League Joint Secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP, said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has now been hatching conspiracy to foil next general election staying in London.

But, he said, the people will obviously resist the conspiracy. He further said Tarique Rahman has no right to do politics in the country.

He came up with the observations while addressing a public meeting at Bhabaniganj under Bagmara upazila in the district as the chief guest.

With upazila Awami League President Enamul Haque, MP, in the chair, Mozammel Haque, MP; Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, MP; Omor Faruque Chowdhury, MP; Begum Akhter Jahan, MP; former mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, and Bagmara Upazila Parishad Chairman Zakirul Islam Shantu also spoke.

Nanak said the Awami League government would once again come to power as the people would re-elect the party for continuing the ongoing development spree and improving their living standard.

He urged the party leaders and workers to win the hearts of the people for making the Awami League victorious in the next election.

He said Bangladesh is moving ahead in all fronts and the government is determined to turn the country into a peaceful one.

Play your part

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of storm drainage facility.

Roads, factories and tall buildings have been built in place of canals, ponds, ditches and wetlands, said the Poba chairman. As a result, the city and its dwellers suffer the consequences.

With the natural drainage system destroyed, the existing artificial storm drainage system of pipelines is not only scanty but also unplanned, he said.

He said the capital generates over 6,000 tonnes of solid waste every day of which the city corporations can collect 4,500 tonnes.

The uncollected solid waste including thousands of discarded polythene bags and a massive volume of construction debris released every day into the surface drains clog whatever drainage facility is in place, said Abu Naser. The city corporations have to make sure they collect all the solid waste.

He also stressed the need for increased tree coverage and green spaces in the city that slows down rain water runoff, instead of random concrete coverage, so that rainwater seeps into the ground.

Abdus Sobhan, general secretary of Poba, said Wasa was entrusted with developing the city's storm drainage facility in 1989. "What have they done in this regard in so many years? Why are all of its pump machines for draining out rainwater not functional?"

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), supposed to ensure planned development of the capital city, has destroyed wetlands and flood flow zones time and again for developing housing schemes, said Sobhan, former additional director general of the environment department.

Tofail Ahmad, executive member of Poba, said the pattern and volume of rainfall in Bangladesh has never been considered in developing a modern storm drainage system.

Related laws have not been followed and hydrological issues have been managed poorly over the years, he said.

"The consequence is," he said, "water has grabbed our spaces, as we have grabbed its space."

Razia Samad, executive member of Poba, also spoke.

Make technical edn

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management level also need to have education on TVET system for better implementation of relevant programmes, he added.

Prof Dr G Kulanthaivel, faculty consultant and chairman of ICT division of CPSC, said the quality of teachers in the technical institutes must be enhanced as there is a lot of technological advancement taking place.

"We've to train our teachers... The teachers have to be updated in their area and new branches like mechatronics or robotics," he said. He suggested integrating ICT in teaching-learning process.

Mario Ronconi, head of cooperation, EU Delegation, said the overall system development for the sustainability of TVET is missing in Bangladesh. He recommended adopting a comprehensive implementation strategy.

Dr Omar Jah, vice chancellor of Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur, said there is a social stigma attached to the TVET that only the poor go to technical schools.

The mindset of considering students of technical schools inferior to the students pursuing bachelor degree should be eliminated from the society.

For eliminating the stigma, Robert Wood, chief executive officer of Melbourne Polytechnic, Australia, suggested

rebranding TVET.

The TVET should be presented in such a way that students feel encouraged to take admission, he said and emphasised designing curriculum, content and pedagogical development.

Malcolm Abbott, associate professor of Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, said it will be useful if TVET could be made compulsory in higher school system.

Khorshed Alam, chief executive officer of National Skills Development Council, suggested formulating a uniform curriculum so that the standard of education is recognised globally.

Dr Helen Teh, principal lecturer, department of polytechnic education in Malaysia, called upon the government to increase TVET's budgetary allocation.

Dr Sudhindranath Panda, director of National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, India, suggested striving towards quality than quantity of technical institutions and teachers.

Omar Farque, deputy secretary of the education ministry, said TVET should be integrated with madrasas as huge number of students study there.

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