

Act strong to save Buriganga

Activists urges DSCC Unb, Dhaka

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) should play a stronger role in saving the Buriganga and keeping its surroundings clean, urged rights group at a programme yesterday.

They also called upon all to be aware and not to dump waste in the open as it is harmful to the environment. The speakers came up with the call from a human chain, organised by Nagorik Odhikar Sangrakkhan Forum, a citizens' platform, in association with Resource Integration Centre (RIC) and Solidarities International in Company Ghat area of Hazaribagh.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

AMRAN HOSSAIN



Popular film actor Ferdous takes a close look at an antique record-player, at an exhibit of radio and audio collectibles at InterContinental Dhaka. The exhibition was part of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Radio Asia Conference, that ended yesterday.

Release children under 12 convicted by mobile courts

High Court orders government

Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday observed that mobile courts have no jurisdiction to convict or sentence any child for an offence. Only, the Shishu Adalat (children's court) can deal with cases filed against children as per the Children Act-2013, it said while issuing a suo moto (voluntary) rule.

Making the observation, the HC ordered the government to immediately release children -- aged under 12 years who were convicted by mobile courts at various times and kept in juvenile correction centres across the country.

The court said children [under 12 years] have no understanding of the consequence of offences, and therefore they cannot be convicted by mobile courts and kept in correction centres.

It also granted six months' bail to children -- aged between 12 and 18 -- who were convicted by mobile courts and kept in the correction centres.

They will be released subject to the satisfaction of the children's court concerned, after furnishing bail bond, the HC said.

At the same time, the court asked authorities concerned of the government to make separate files on the cases against children convicted by mobile courts and sent to correction centres, and to send them to the HC in seven working days.

It issued the suo moto rule asking authorities to explain why the conviction of children by mobile courts

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Bangladesh to host D-8 Summit in April

Unb, Dhaka

Bangladesh will host the 10th summit of the Developing-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation (D-8 Summit) in the third week of April next year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave the hint while visiting D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Jaafar Ku Shaari met her at her office.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting. Launched in 1997, the D-8 is an organisation for economic development and cooperation among its member countries -- Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

Bangladesh will take over the charge of the next D-8 chairmanship at the Dhaka Summit.

Economic cooperation among the D-8 member countries will be strengthened further, said Ambassador Jaafar, hoping that the Dhaka Declaration will come up with new ideas and innovations.

He said the Dhaka Declaration will be a decennial one to be aligned with the 2030 agenda.

Replying to Ambassador Jaafar's proposal to Bangladesh for allocating a special economic zone for D-8 countries, the prime minister said Bangladesh is already setting up 100 economic zones across the country and land in the economic zones can be dedicated to investors of the D-8 countries.

Freeing up Footpaths, roads City corporations dismantle 550 structures

Staff Correspondent

The two Dhaka city corporations yesterday knocked down over 550 illegal structures in Mohakhali, Amtali, Gushan-2 and Jhigatala areas to keep footpaths free for pedestrians and ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Executive magistrates of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) dismantled around 450 such structures constructed on footpaths and roads while Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) evicted over 100.

DNCC mobile courts also fined shop owners Tk 3 lakh for the illegal encroachment.

A mobile court led by Executive Magistrate (zone-3) Meer Nahid Ahsan conducted a drive in Mohakhali and Amtali areas and took down around 250 structures.

Another mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Sajed Anwar

evicted over 200 illegal structures from Gulshan-2 DNCC market and markets on road 118 and 113.

The team recovered around 30,000 square feet area during the drive, said an official of DNCC.

The mobile court also fined South Bridge Developers and Amn Jewellers of Gulshan-2 DCC market Tk 1 lakh each and two departmental stores Tk 50,000 each.

Meanwhile in DSCC, two mobile courts led by executive magistrates Md Moniruzzaman and Irfan Uddin Ahmed dismantled over 100 illegal structures at Jhigatala.

The teams evicted makeshift shops, restaurants and small structures from the road stretching from Dhanmondi to Tannery Mor via Jhigatala bus stop and adjoining Saat Masjid Road, said an official of DSCC.

Both the city corporations will continue their drives, according to

officials. They started the drives after DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon and DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam took the initiative to free roads and footpaths from illegal encroachment.

DNCC has identified over hundred footpaths that are illegally occupied.

Monitoring cells -- consisting of six members including councillors and officers-in-charge of the respective police stations -- have been formed at different wards to carry out drives to reclaim those.

Though multiple drives had been carried out to reclaim footpaths from illegal occupation, those initiatives lost momentum after a few days and occupants returned to streets and footpaths again. With that in mind, a special committee led by Sayeed Khokon has also been formed recently to remove illegal vehicles from streets and free footpaths from grabbers, to ease traffic congestion in the capital.

DHAKA TODAY

WANGALA FESTIVAL
Organiser: Dhaka Wangala Celebrating Committee
Venue: Dhaka North City Corporation field
Banani
Time: 9am

Female Migrant Workers
Organiser: Bangladesh Er Sacheton
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Time: 3pm

TALK
A Conversation on Happiness with Ejaj Ahmad
Organiser: Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center
Venue: BYLC, Baridhara
Time: 5:30pm

CULTURAL PROGRAMME
Celebrating the life of Bangabandhu
Organiser: Dhaka University Abritti Sangsad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Time: 4pm

DEBATE
On student politics
Organiser: Debate for Democracy
Venue: BFDC, Tejgaon
Time: 10:30am

CONVENTION
State of the Map Asia
Venue: Krishibid Institution
Time: 9am

DEMONSTRATION
Protesting Sexual Violence against



Acting VC of Ahsanullah university resigns

Staff Correspondent

Kazi Shariful Alam, acting vice-chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, has resigned from the post, said a press release from the university's public relation department yesterday.

Dr Md Amanullah, acting treasurer of the non-government university, will discharge his duty as an acting VC until a new vice chancellor is appointed.

The university students started demonstrating to press home a nine-point demand on Monday.

They also sought resignation of acting VC Shariful Alam.

The university authorities urged all agitating students to extend their cooperation for smooth academic and administrative activities, the release added.

Murder of Youth Father files case against 19 people

Staff Correspondent

The father of a youth, who was killed in Hazaribagh on Tuesday night, filed a case yesterday accusing 19 named and two to three unnamed others.

Complainant Shahidul Islam, father of Ariful Islam Sajal, also urged police to investigate the matter with sincerity, to ensure punishment for all the killers.

He also appealed for the prime minister's intervention to get justice. "We had a dream centring Sajal, but all is finished now," Shahidul told The Daily Star.

Police and family sources said law enforcers have already detained eight suspects. Police, however, did not disclose the arrests.

Contacted, Hazaribagh Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ikram Ali Miah said several teams are working to arrest the killers.

Sajal, a bright student, was supposed to sit for HSC examinations next year. Police said Sajal and a female friend of his were in Rayerbazar Dhal area around 8:45pm when some youths started sexually harassing her. As Sajal protested, three of the four harassers left the area.

Sajal slapped the other harasser, who later called his friends over phone. Some Eight to 10 youths reached the spot right away and beat Sajal with bamboo and sharp weapons, police added.

A critically injured Sajal was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died.



Traffic police personnel and officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) yesterday distributed leaflets among drivers and commuters, and held up banners raising awareness about the new Road Transport Act that comes into effect today. The photos were taken from Manik Mia Avenue. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Jahangirnagar University students carry a 30-yard long hand-painted banner condemning the university's VC Prof Farzana Islam, as they rally for her removal from the post. A section of students have been on strike for six days on campus with their demand, halting most academic and administrative activities at the university. They have been making the demand for over a month, since the VC was embroiled in controversy over irregularities in development projects. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Nooruzzaman Lecture Unites to realise martyrs' dream: Dr Kamal Baaquie tomorrow

Staff Correspondent

A memorial lecture in honour of Quazi Nooruzzaman Bir Uttam, Commander of Sector 7 during the 1971 Liberation War, will be held at Social Science Building of Dhaka University tomorrow (November 2).

Quazi Nooruzzaman Trust will organise the lecture, which is scheduled to begin at 4pm at Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium at the building, said a press release.

Belal Ehsan Baaquie, a professor at International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will deliver the lecture titled "Modern China and Chinese Dynasties: Unification and Fragmentation".

The event will be presided over by noted social scientist and researcher Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the press release said.



Staff Correspondent

Eminent jurist and Jatiya Oikyafront convener Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged people from all the quarters to launch a united and positive movement, to materialise the dream of martyrs who sacrificed their lives to establish democracy and rule of law and make people the owners of the country.

"Our country was liberated at the cost of blood of lakhs of people. The martyrs sacrificed their lives with the dream of making people owners of the country, establishing the rule of law and democracy. The dreams of the martyrs are written in our constitution," he said.

Dr Kamal, also president of Gonoforum, came up with the call while addressing a discussion at the Supreme Court Bar Auditorium to mark the 47th founding anniversary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

(JSD-Rob).

"We established an independent sovereign Bangladesh through an outstanding unity in 1971... we must do more to make the independence meaningful. Before completion of 50 years of the independence, let's get organised to gain strength through a movement. Our movement will be a positive one with the objective to materialise the dreams of martyrs."

The eminent jurist also said once people wage a united movement, no one can stop or foil it by force.

Taking part in the discussion, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the country is passing through a critical time, and it is not the crisis of BNP, rather of the whole country.

He alleged that the dream of a democratic country is yet to be fulfilled

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