

DCC demolishes unauthorised structures

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and police in separate drives yesterday demolished some unauthorised roadside shops and evicted hawkers from some parts of the city.

DCC officials said that yesterday's drive was part of the eviction operation that started before the Ramadan. The drive was suspended for few weeks due to Ramadan and Eid, they said.

During its drive yesterday, the DCC squads evicted some unauthorised makeshift shops from the areas around Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and BUET.

Witnesses said police evicted hawkers from Nilkhet area yesterday morning. Besides, shops

Kashmiri separatists meet to mend rift over Pak visit

SRINAGAR, India, Jan 2: The main separatist alliance in Indian Kashmir began a crucial meeting today as a leadership split emerged over the composition of a delegation to talk to militant groups in Pakistan, reports AFP.

All seven members of the executive committee of the All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference attended the meeting which began at 11:30 am (1200 BST) in the Kashmiri summer capital, Srinagar.

The Hurriyat wants to send a delegation to Pakistan before January 15, but the planned mission has deepened a rift between the hardline, pro-Pakistan and pro-independence factions within the organisation, which groups around two dozen separatist parties.

Only a few members of the executive have passports, and the hardliners allege that the Indian government is only considering providing documents to moderate Hurriyat members.

The moderates want to tell Pakistan-based militant groups to cease insurgency operations in Indian Kashmir, while the hardliners insist that the jihad (holy war) against Indian rule must continue unabated.

"If New Delhi is sincere in taking forward the peace process it should issue travel documents to all the leaders," said former Hurriyat chairman and standing executive member Omer Farooq.

"The decision to choose the members for the visit lies with the Hurriyat executive, and no one else," Farooq said.

With India still refusing to engage in direct dialogue with Pakistan over Kashmir, the Hurriyat has emerged as a possible go-between.

India recently extended its month-long ceasefire in Kashmir until January 26, prompting Pakistan to order a partial troop withdrawal along the disputed Kashmir border.

The nascent peace moves have upped the pressure on the Hurriyat to achieve a consensus and speak with one voice if it wants to avoid being sidelined.

The executive council will discuss the developments that have taken place in Kashmir, New Delhi and Islamabad and devise its future strategy," Hurriyat chairman Abdul Gani Bhat said before Tuesday's meeting.

The divisions within the Hurriyat were put in stark relief when supporters of the pro-Pakistan and pro-independence factions clashed outside an executive committee meeting last month.

"That was a very small incident blown out of proportion by the media," executive member Abbas Ansari.

"We are one and no one can divide us," he said.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, where a Muslim insurgency has claimed more than 34,000 lives since 1989.

Khaleda dissatisfied

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The sources said the hardliners, who influenced the party chief to approve the JCD central committee led by Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Shahabuddin Laltu, are desperately trying to bring about some changes in key posts in BNP and its front organisations.

The hardliners are providing all sorts of assistance to the Pintu-Laltu faction of JCD and are also pursuing Khaleda Zia to expel some BNP and JCD leaders who are opposing the new JCD committee.

However, party insiders said, Khaleda Zia ruled any change in the leadership or expulsion because such acts would create further crisis. It has already become very difficult for her to contain the situation following announcement of the new JCD committee, they said.

Khaleda Zia told them that she came to know about the statement from newspapers. It was violation of party discipline she said and assured them that instruction would be given to all concerned against recurrence of such things.

Ershad's takeover

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Some senior army officers attending the meeting informed the committee that investigation was conducted on the coup attempt and that actions were also taken against several officers.

General Nasim was sacked by then President Abdur Rahman Biswas for his alleged involvement in the coup attempt. Biswas was President during the tenure of the 1996 caretaker government.

The 13 amendment to the Constitution in 1996 provided for formation of a caretaker government to hold general election and gave the President absolute authority over the armed forces.

Taking part on the discussion, expelled BNP lawmaker Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman termed the 13th Amendment 'defective' as it gave the President absolutely authority over the armed forces.

Because of such provision, similar incident may take place in future, the opposition lawmaker said. "We need neutral and impartial investigation into the incident so that none can repeat such things".

Presided over by K M Shafulah, the meeting was attended by, among others, Col. (Retd.) Shaukat Ali, Muhammad Faruk Khan, and Prof. Mohammad Rezaul Karim.

Defence Secretary Mohammad Idris Ali, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. M Harun-or-Rasid and high officials concerned were present.

At yesterday's meeting, the Defence Ministry and the Army Headquarters did not submit their reports on other issues as was asked for in the previous meeting, sources said.



Palestinian mourners carry the body of Fatah official Tabet Tabet during his funeral in the West Bank village of Ramin on January 1. Thabet, a doctor who represented Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement in the West Bank town of Tulkarem and was director general of the Palestinian health ministry, was shot dead with five bullets to the chest by Israeli soldiers.

Preparatory meet on NAM confce held in city

The first meeting of the Finance Sub-committee on the preparation of NAM conference was held in the city yesterday with Finance Minister Shah AM S Kibria in the chair, reports UNB.

The 13th NAM Conference will be held in Dhaka in January 2002.

A three-day discussion on preparatory activities of the conference and budgetary allocation to various projects undertaken for smooth holding of the conference was held in the meeting.

The meeting directed all concerned sub-committees to prepare full-fledged budgets for construction of the NAM secretariat and housing accommodation, and arranging transport and security measures.

Due to financial constraint, the meeting considered various alternative proposals for financing the transport, housing accommodation and other facilities.

The meeting held detailed discussion on taking necessary measures to convert the newly constructed apartments to residential buildings, said a handout.

Finance Secretary Akbar Ali Khan, Housing and Public Works Secretary Kamrul Islam Siddiqui and high officials of Foreign, Establishment, Home and Information Ministries were present in the meeting.

Stranded deportees

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By Thai Airways flights on November 25 and December 7. Then they flew to Calcutta, again in batches of seven, on board Biman flights on November 27 and December 4. They went to Delhi over land and flew to Vienna by Austrian Airlines after some days.

However, the Austrian immigration authorities sent them back by Austrian Airlines to New Delhi. The Indian authorities decided to put them on board a Dhaka-bound Biman flight from New York on December 16. Biman initially refused to take them on board but gave in later after the Indian authorities threatened that the aircraft wouldn't be allowed to take off until the 14 were put on board, sources said.

"If they didn't have valid papers, then how could the Indian authorities allow them entry and then let them board a Vienna-bound aircraft?" questioned one Biman official.

Biman brought them back to Dhaka on humanitarian consideration, he said, adding that it landed the national carrier in trouble as Thai Airways refused to take them back to Bangkok without valid travel documents.

On December 25 officials from the Chinese embassy in Dhaka visited the 14 at the transit lounge of ZIA.

Implement ADP speedily

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The finance minister said that economic activities had been expanded in various sides and rate of economic recession came down to 1.13 per cent while the export index shot up to 27 per cent.

He said foreign exchange reserve now stands at a satisfactory 1,536 billion US dollars and would hopefully increase further.

Kibria said revenue income increased 20 per cent and industrial production 14.11 per cent.

The meeting, held at the NEC Bhaban, was told that in the current fiscal a total of 1299 projects were included in the Annual Development Programme, of which 1,159 were carried over from previous year and 190 are new.

Of the projects of the current year, 1097 are included in the mainstream programme while 46 for reforms with finance from domestic resources, six under food aid and 150 under technical assistance.

Moreover, 72 projects have been taken without allocations for the convenience of getting annual aid.

The prime minister suggested that the officials take immediate plans for reviewing the implementation of projects in next three months and take necessary steps in this regard.

In this perspective, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir expressed hopes that the ADP performance report of next three months would be ready by next February.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria informed the meeting that the economy of the country is very robust now which was possible for the able leadership of the prime minister.

"Economic condition of the country is good," he told the meeting, adding that the growth rate has been over 5 per cent all along and all indicators of the economy are also showing an upward trend.

Admission test

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January 10. The test for class I will carry 100 marks (50 in Bengali and 50 in English).

Those seeking admission in class II to class IX will have to sit for a test with 100 marks (30 in Bengali, 30 in English and 40 in Mathematics.)

Schools in 'Ka' group are Government Laboratory High School, Mirpur Government High School, Motijheel Government Girls High School, Nawabpur Government High School, New Model Government Girls High School, Islamia High School and Mohammadpur Government High School.

Schools belonging to 'Kha' group are Motijheel Government Boys High School, Narinda Gov-

Polls to power New Year politics

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ment and inauguration of a new government, women's reserved seat in the House, execution of Bangabandhu's killers, planned electoral alliance of the opposition parties, fresh polarisation and newcomers in politics, changing of allegiance by the politicians and probable crises in major parties over nomination for the polls are poised to hog headlines throughout the year.

Additional significance is likely to be attached to Ekushey February, Independence Day, Victory Day and the National Mourning Day in the election year.

Furthermore, jailed former president H M Ershad, who has changed political camps twice since the last general elections, is also predicted to influence the election politics.

The opposition plan to force the government to resign may still lead to a serious political turbulence, provided it gathers momentum. A political crisis over formation of the next government is also anticipated, but it depends on the outcome of the polls.

Performance of the present government until the election will also dictate the political course to a large extent. It is only natural that the ruling party will do its best to gain maximum political dividends out of its performance during its last days in power. And, similar would be the role of opposition parties, which would try their best to discredit the party in power if so happens, the country's politics is bound to turn bitter, with or without major incidents of violence.

Political focus would also be on the BNP-led mainstream opposition's demand for resignation of Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed and re-const of the four-member commission would be the central topic of fresh political debate, once the caretaker government takes over.

PSA fails

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under the PSA during the period ended in final report by police as charges could not be proved.

The PSA also provides for punishment of the complainant for filing false case. The tribunal sentenced one person to one-year rigorous imprisonment for filing a false case against two policemen, the sources said.

When contacted, Special PP Abdullah Al Mamun said quick disposal of cases under the PSA is not possible because there is only one tribunal. So, there has been a backlog of cases.

He suggested setting up of more such tribunals in the city for quick disposal of cases under PSA.

Fake credit cards

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fake credit cards for different purposes in both the hotels, DB sources said.

"One of my friends gave me those cards," Razzak told this correspondent.

Razzak is wanted by London police for his alleged involvement in credit cards forgery, DB police said.

Suhel told the correspondent that Razzak called him over telephone to help him purchase some local goods. He was not aware of Razzak's involvement in credit cards forgery, Suhel added.

Pappu said he came to the hotel with Suhel but he was not aware of the incident what he came to know later.

Suhel and Pappu said they are

Devotees arriving for Ijtema

From Page 1

tubewells have been installed around the huge field and several makeshift ghats have been set up along the river to provide ablution facilities for the devotees. Besides, four big pump machines will supply water through pipes.

Several hundred loud speakers have been fixed on the canopy. Hundreds of makeshift latrines have been set up on the western and eastern side of the field.

The engineering core of Bangladesh Army is building two floating bridges on Turag.

Although the government allotted 160 acres land for the Ijtema, a big chunk of the land is still occupied by three slums on the eastern side.

Haji Mozammel, Ameer of Ijtema Filed Management Committee, told The Daily Star yesterday that the slum dwellers promised to leave the area after this year's Ijtema.

He said the Ijtema field has been expanded on the eastern side this year to accommodate increasing number of devotees. At least more one lakh people will be accommodated under the canopy this year, he said.

A separate pandal has been erected on the northern side of the field for several thousand devotees who will come from abroad. The organisers said a large number of foreign devotees have already arrived.

Many of them are at Kakrail

Textbooks

From Page 1

try even wrote to the Prime Minister to draw her attention to this but no action has been taken as yet, he said. The three concerns Suktara, Free Press and Pustaka allegedly had no trade licence when those participated in the tender procedure. Pustaka was awarded the job in violation of the rules and regulations of NCTE; only on the ground that it had quoted the lowest price, the Samity leader said.

Kalaroa BNP men

From Page 1

The absconding accused today surrendered before the judge and prayed for the bail.

The judge, Mahbubul Islam, rejected their bail petitions and sent them to jail habitat. The hearing of the case will be held on Thursday.

Megawati

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million. Dhaka may offer more export of tobacco, marine products, cosmetics, porcelain, cement, ceramic, silk, medicinal drugs etc.

There won't be any agreement during the visit, but officials said the two countries were working for signing an accord on avoiding double taxation to boost two-way trade.

Megawati's itineraries include visit to Savar memorial, Bangabandhu museum and Asrayan project at Gazipur.

MANARAT DHAKA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
Plot, CEN-16, Road No- 104, Gulshan,
Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh.

Tender for Identity Card

Manarat Dhaka International College has decided to introduce digital Identity Card for the students. Total requirement will be approximately 1700 Cards. Interested Suppliers are requested to see the specimen Sample at the address given below. The sample can be seen everyday between 9 to 12 hours.

The tenders are requested to Submit their sealed quotation on 8th January "2001" at 11 hours and they have to submit 5% of the quoted amount in the form of pay order in favour of Manarat Dhaka along with two samples.

The Supply has to be completed by 30th of January "2001".

Superintendent
Manarat Dhaka
Plot, CEN-16, Road No- 104, Gulshan,
Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh. Ph. # 9881422

Hamoodur report

There is no alternative to democracy," he said, adding: "We hope the process of return to democracy in that country will be accelerated."

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary C M Shaif Sami described as unfortunate the sudden death of a Bangladeshi citizen in the consular section of US embassy while seeking American visa recently.

The Foreign Ministry got an explanation from the US embassy about the death of businessman A M Laik alias Sagar on December 19 reportedly caused by misbehavior of a visa official.

"We are scrutinising the US explanation, we don't want to make any comment at this moment," he said.

Ship packed with migrants sinks off Turkey

ANKARA, Jan 2: At least six people were killed and several dozen others were missing Monday after a Georgian cargo ship packed with illegal immigrants sank off Turkey's southern coast in stormy weather, officials said, reports AFP.

Ertugrul Dokuzoglu, governor of the coastal region of Antalya, told NTV television that 32 people had been saved, but that between 40 and 50 others were still missing.

It was not immediately known if the six dead were members of the crew or illegal immigrants, thought to be mainly from India and Pakistan.

But Captain Can Karaca, commander of the Turkish coast guard in the southern port of Antalya, said there was "little chance of finding survivors" as poor weather conditions prevented rescue teams from continuing the search.

"For the time being, there is nothing to be done. And the weather will be the same until at least tomorrow," Karaca told AFP.

One Pakistani national told authorities there were some 50 bodies in the wreck, Karaca added.

Bamnr Beel reels under pressure of landless

From Page 12

cause damage to the nature."

Meanwhile, the landless peasants, who are in possession of the Bamnr Beel, said that they had applied to the government to hand them over the public property.

They want the authorities to officially change the character of the wetland into an agricultural land. They also said that they had submitted a prayer to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development for cancellation of the Bamnr Beel Drainage Project, taken up by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). The LGED sources in Dhaka, however, said that as the TK 17 lakh project was opposed by more than 55 per cent of the local people, they had already put it on hold.

Ashraf Ali, one of the landless peasants of Bamnr Beel said, that the land retrieved from the wetland was extremely fertile and needed little ploughing. But he said that the government should not entirely convert the wetland into agricultural land.

"There are a number of fishermen amongst us who could benefit from the wetland which is home to innumerable varieties of local fishes," he said.

But conversion of the wetland into agricultural land still remains a far cry although half of it has already been used up. While the Deputy Commissioner's office stays oblivious about the social and environmental consequences, they have nonetheless leased out 36 wetlands in the district for agricultural purpose.

The DC of Rangpur, Mozammel Haque said they were only leasing out wetlands to trained people in fisheries, but his office sources said all the wetlands in the district were being converted into agricultural lands.

Saidur Rahman, AC Land of Pirganj Thana, said that as far as his documents were concerned Bamnr Beel remained a protected wetland. He said he could not find any authenticity of the claim of the landless farmers that they had obtained a lease.

"In the cadastral survey between 1928 and 1942 these wetlands were designated as 'protected' areas. To convert them into agricultural land is going to be a long procedure," Rahman said.

"Land management is in a shambles because lower-level officials in the tahshildar offices keep defying normal procedures and allocating khas lands to whomsoever they wished," revealed Rahman.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Press Information Department
Corrigendum to Appointment Notice

In the APPOINTMENT NOTICE published on 31-12-2000, the name of the Department at the beginning was inadvertently printed as Directorate of Information in place of Press Information Department and, at the end, the designation of the issuing officer as Chief Information Officer in place of Principal Information Officer. The errors, and the inconvenience caused thus, are regretted.

DFP-30066-11/12
G-2201

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা-২০০১ সচিবালয়
রত্নানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো
১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বা/এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

পূণঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি-১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে আন্তর্জাতিক মাইকিং ইজারা। ইজারার সর্বনিম্ন মূল্য ১৬,৯৯,৯৯৯/- (ষোল লক্ষ নিরানব্বই হাজার নয়শত নিরানব্বই টাকা) (উক্ত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ব্যতীত)। উপরে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও নির্ভরযোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে আগামী ০৮-১-২০০১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রসমূহ অতিরিক্তি বিভাগীয় কমিশনার (সার্বিক)-এর অফিস কক্ষে (১ম ১২ তলা সরকারী অফিস ভবন, ৩য় তলা, কক্ষ নং-৩০৩, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা) বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের মেলা সেল (ভবন নং-৩, কক্ষ নং- ১৩২, দ্বিতীয় তলা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা) এবং রত্নানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর মেলা সচিবালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবে ০৮-০১-২০০১ইং তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) হইতে ০৯-০১-২০০১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

- ২। দরপত্রের সহিত উক্ত মূল্যের ৫ ভাগ জামানত হিসাবে "ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা তহবিল" শিরোনামে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাত ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- ৩। ইজারাপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উক্ত মূল্যের উপর সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে "ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা তহবিল" শিরোনামে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাত ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট জমা করিতে হইবে।
- ৪। দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রসমূহ ০৯-০১-২০০১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ মিনিটে উল্লেখিত স্থানের প্রতিটি দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) খোলা হইবে।
- ৫। আগামী ০৮-০১-২০০১ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উল্লিখিত তিনটি অফিসের যে কোন একটি অফিস হইতে ন্যূন টা ৫৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) হারে (অফিসেরতযোগ্য) সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
- ৬। প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য নির্ধারিত মূল্যের নিচে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
- ৭। মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার সকল ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

পরিশালক
ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা-২০০১ সচিবালয়
রত্নানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো, ঢাকা।
জিডি-৩৩
ফোন ৯৫৩০৩৮৭, ৯৫২২২৪৫-৯/১১৪