

# Slum dwellers protest eviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bastibasi Union, an organisation of the slum dwellers, yesterday formed a human chain at Muktagong in the city protesting the eviction of slum dwellers from Kalyanpur area.

Speaking at a rally after the human chain, the union leaders said the government is violating the High Court (HC) verdict through the eviction of slum dwellers without proper rehabilitation.

"The HC verdict clearly states that slum dwellers should not be evicted without proper rehabilitation as housing is one of the basic rights of human being," said union President Mohiuddin Ahmed.

"While facilities for ministers and parliament members are

increasing, the poor people are being denied of their basic needs by the government," he added.

"During the tenure of the present government, 28 slums have been evicted making more than 2.50 lakh people shelterless," said union General Secretary Abdur Rashid.

He said around 20,000 people are passing their nights under the open sky in cold wave after their eviction from Kalyanpur.

Slum dwellers should be rehabilitated properly as they have been contributing to the development of urban sector, said union Vice President Abdul Mannan.

He also urged the government to rehabilitate the evicted slum dwellers.



Shawkat Osman Parishad placed a wreath at the graveyard of eminent litterateur Shawkat Osman in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 87th birth anniversary.

PHOTO: STAR

## 18 houses gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Eighteen houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Agrabad in the port city yesterday.

The blaze started from an electrical short circuit at around 4.40am at Juger Chand Masjid Lane, causing an estimated loss of

Tknine lakh, sources said.

Six tin-roofed houses and 12 thatched quarters were reduced to ashes, rendering 119 families homeless.

The firefighters brought the blaze under control after nearly two-hour struggle.

## Body of maid recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of a domestic help was recovered at Lalkhan Bazar Magistrate Colony in the city yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Asma, 14, who worked at the residence of Fakhruddin, a joint district judge of Joypurhat.

Her body was found in a drain beside the three-story building where she worked. A bag containing her clothes was lying near the body.

The maid might have slipped off the roof, said Farzana Menjabin, wife of Fakhruddin.

Asma, who came from Barisal, had been working in the house since December 7, 2003.

A general diary was filed with Khulshi Police Station.