

SADARGHAT LIGHTERAGE JETTY Offloading of clinkers causes environmental hazards in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Open air offloading of imported clinkers at Sadarghat lighterage jetty is causing environmental hazards for business installations and residential areas in and around Chittagong port.

The fall of huge clinker dusts is also polluting the water of the Karnaphuli river threatening fish folks and aquatic plants, said the witnesses.

Local residents and owners of business installations have lodged complaints with the Chittagong Port Authority to stop unloading of clinkers at Sadarghat jetty.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chittagong port Magistrate Munir Chowdhury acknowledged the receipt of such complaints and said

"I have already told the parties concerned to take proper steps to protect the environment in line with the rules and regulations of

the port. But they did not follow my instruction and as such I have decided to launch raids there with mobile court."

"We cannot allow any body in port area to create environmental hazards," he added.

Director of local environment department Mosharraf Hossain said he has started an enquiry in this connection for taking necessary action.

Sources said necessary equipment and modern facilities are not available at the lighterage jetties to handle the clinker cargoes.

But despite that the importers bring the open clinker cargoes to Sadarghat after unloading them from the mother vessel to offload there for mysterious reason, they added.

Port sources said Chittagong port has a particular jetty equipped with modern facilities near Patenga for offloading the clinker cargoes.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) held a rally in front of its office in the city yesterday demanding resignation of the government and formation of a national government.

Evicted slum dwellers demand rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Evicted slum dwellers, at a press conference in the city yesterday, demanded their immediate rehabilitation.

"After the eviction, we are now living under the open sky with a miserable condition," they said.

The slum dwellers also demanded punishment of the local ward commissioner who allegedly evicted them after demolishing their makeshift houses by force on March 3.

They said the ward commissioner wanted to grab the slum land at Johuri Moholla in Moham-madpur.

As part of the programme, a group of miscreants set fire to the slum leaving two minor girls burnt alive in 1995. The criminals again looted the slum last year.

A case was filed with Moham-madpur police but no action was taken against the criminals, they alleged.

Organised by Basti Oikya Forum, the press conference was attended by the members of about 40 to 50 evicted families.

New minister press in Washington

BSS, Dhaka

Journalist Golam Arshad has been appointed Minister Press at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

Prior to his appointment Golam Arshad was the bureau chief of the Dainik Inqilab in Washington.

The appointment was given for two years, to be effective from the date of his joining.

Promote use of seeds of 'Hybrid Bhutta-3'

Speakers tell Bari training

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against a projected domestic demand of 10 lakh tonnes, Bangladesh grows only 2.6 lakh tonnes of maize a year but the yields could be raised by ensuring local production of quality seeds.

Speakers said this at a two-day training on hybrid maize seed production, organised by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (Bari) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre recently.

The country has become so much dependent on imported seeds, they said and called on the seed companies to promote the use of the seeds of

'Hybrid Bhutta-3', a new breed developed by the Bari, for higher yields.

Thirty-one representatives from seven seed companies -- East-West, Siddique Seeds, AR Mallik and Co., Classic Agro Resource, Setu Marketing, South Paul Seed and Deepita -- attended the programme held at the seminar room of The Bari.

Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) Md Ismail, and Affiliate Liaison Scientist of the international centre Dr MA Razzaque spoke at the inaugural session. Bari Director General Dr Md Shahidul Islam presided.

HC fines RU authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court has fined Rajshahi University authorities Tk 5000 as it has delayed in responding to an application of a student complaining of giving less number in one of the papers of LLB honours final examination in 1999.

The division bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Miftah Uddin said ignoring of an application by RU is illegal and condemnable.

The court directed the university authorities to reexamine the answer paper within one month after it

receives the copy of the hearing.

The verdict came following the filing of a writ petition with the High Court in 2002.

The complainant Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan got second class first position in the examination with only 32 marks in Administrative Law.

So, he applied to the vice-chancellor on October 24, 2000 to have his answer paper reexamined.

But having no response from the university authorities, he filed the writ petition.

Abdul Mannan has already passed LLM examination securing first class first position.