



Residents of Pearabagh at Maghbazar in the city risk their health every day hopping along a road that, like every year, has turned into a drain swamped with reeking virulent water overflowing from rundown sewers. The authorities so far have made no move to repair the system to ensure a hygienic environment.

JU appoints more teachers than advertised for

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities continue to appoint more teachers than the posts advertised for or without any advertisements in violation of university rules, giving rise to allegations of politicisation and nepotism and sparking protest by teachers and students.

The process of appointing 15 lecturers in four departments against 10 posts is now on. The syndicate at a meeting tomorrow will finalise their appointments, JU sources said.

The 15 include seven for botany department against five posts, two for English and four for Bangla department against three posts

advertised for and two for mathematics department without any advertisements.

Moreover, 31 lecturers were appointed till March 1 this year in 10 departments against 20 posts advertised for or not advertised at all. They were appointed since the incumbent vice chancellor (VC) took over on March 20 last year.

"Links with teachers who are close to the VC and political affiliation matter much in appointment of teachers. Besides, wives of teachers and their relatives are also getting priority over candidates with proper qualification, posing a threat to the standard of education at the

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Dr Kamal spells out steps for effective EC, caretaker govt

UNB, Dhaka

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday spelt out a set of urgent measures to ensure true independence of the Election Commission and nonpartisanship of caretaker government, as politicians from the two sides of the divide locked in quarrels over conduct of the next polls.

"People are seriously concerned that free and fair elections can't be ensured unless certain urgent measures are taken to make the Election Commission truly independent and effective and the nonpartisan caretaker government truly nonpartisan and impartial," he said while showing

the solutions without needing constitutional changes.

Talking to UNB at his law chamber, Dr Kamal, also leader of Gono Forum, said people expect a change through a democratic process of free and fair election.

Elaborating on his proposals, he said, "It is necessary that appointment of the chief election commissioner and other commissioners be made through a process of effective consultations of the government with opposition parties so that their impartiality and independence remains above controversy."

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Dishonest traders refill dumped bottles of mineral water with unhygienic water in Sadarghat launch terminal area to sell them as fresh products.

Brisk business of fake bottled water on

NAIMUL HAQ

Dishonest traders in Old Dhaka and Keraniganj continue to bottle ordinary tap water for commercial bulk sale throughout the city.

Thousands of such fake drinking water bottles are being traded in collaboration with decorators and brokers at social gatherings, public meetings, family festivities and retail shops.

Spot visits to the city's Chankherpool, Nawab Katra and Nazimuddin roads recently revealed many vendors do a brisk business selling empty plastic water bottles to the wholesalers.

Every day between three and five thousand empty bottles are purchased from garbage collectors,

who have found it a lucrative business.

"I make between Tk 200 and Tk 400 a day selling the unbroken and still fresh-looking bottles with the original labels on," said Kader Mia, who fetches garbage from opposite the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and other places in Bakhshibazar.

Nurul Islam, another garbage picker, said "I have fixed buyers in Chankherpool who often pay me in advance to fetch empty plastic bottles. On average I make Tk 200 to Tk 350 a day from this occupation, which I've been doing for the last two years."

When this correspondent approached a number of brokers to talk about their business, they all acknowledged selling the accumu-

lated bottles to other parties who claim to recycle the bottles. None of them, however, acknowledged having any link with refilling the bottles with tap water and putting counterfeit seals on them for retail sale.

"We don't know what happens to the bottles after the empty bottles are sold out to third party dealers. But presumably the bottles are reused to be sold as drinking water bottles," said Kalam, who owns three small warehouses in Nazimuddin Road where the bottles are preserved.

The Daily Star published a story titled, 'Bottled danger' on October 1, 2003, highlighting the illegal water business. The day after the publication, concerned officials from the

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ODHIKAR REPORT 115 killed by law enforcers, 92 in political violence in last 3 months DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 115 people were killed, of them 105 in 'crossfire' and 10 in custody, by law enforcers across the country during January-March, 2005, according to a report by Odhikar, a human rights organisation.

Of them, 90 people were killed by police, 19 by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), three by Cheeta-Cobra, two by coast guards and one by Detective Branch of police.

Besides, 92 people were killed, 2197 others injured, 580 arrested and three abducted in politics-related violence, said the report based on information published in newspapers.

Among them, thirteen people, including former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria and four others were killed in grenade attacks while 413 others were injured.

The report reveals that 168 women and children were raped during the period. Of them, 34 were killed after rape and one committed suicide for this reason. And 37 people including 18 women, 12 men and seven children received acid-burns.

In addition, 46 women were killed, 21 others tortured, seven received acid-burns over dowry and three committed suicide for this

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Benazir to go home soon after 'return of democracy'

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistan's self-exiled former prime minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday said she hoped to return to the country soon "after the return of democracy".

Benazir, who is living in Dubai to avoid graft charges in her home country, said she recently held talks in Saudi Arabia with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who took power in a 1999 bloodless coup.

"We had a fruitful meeting with President Pervez Musharraf in Jeddah recently over the issue of restoration of democracy in Pakistan and we hope that process would be speeded up," Benazir told reporters on her arrival in Jaipur, capital of India's western desert state of Rajasthan, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

"I hope that I shall be able to return to my country soon after the return of democracy," said Benazir, who heads the Pakistan People's Party.

"On our part we are trying our



best to find ways as to how to speed up the process of return of democracy in Pakistan," she said.

However Benazir, who was on her way to offer prayers at shrine of a revered Indian Sufi saint, ruled out any agitation against Musharraf's rule.

"In the present international

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Zahiruddin Khan laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former minister for industry and planning AM Zahiruddin Khan was laid to eternal rest at Batali Hill family graveyard after his second namaz-e-janaza following Juma prayers here yesterday.

Zahiruddin Khan, also a renowned industrialist, died of cardiac arrest at Bamrungrad hospital in Bangkok at 9am BD time on Tuesday. He was 69. The deceased left behind wife, two sons, two daughters, four brothers, four sisters and a host of relatives and admirers.

The body of Zahiruddin Khan was flown to Dhaka on Wednesday where his first namaz-e-janaza was held. The body was brought to Chittagong on Thursday evening.

Ministers, lawmakers, political and business leaders irrespective of party affiliation as well as people from all strata of life attended the namaz-e-janaza conducted by Jamiyatul Falah Mosque Khatib Principal Moulana Jalaluddin Al Quaderi on the mosque premises.

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Civil

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Khulna 'criminal' captures jetty a week into joining ruling BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A notorious criminal on Wednesday captured Khulna Roosevelt Jetty only a week into his joining the ruling BNP along with 10 associates.

Harun Howlader alias Khoka has also set a signboard of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal after capturing the jetty's handling workers' union office with the help of police.

The union office had long been under the control of Awami League (AL) leader and Khulna City Corporation Ward Commissioner Marufa Begum, wife of slain AL leader Moslemuddin Khan.

Khoka and his men ousted Marufa and other leaders from the union office in presence of several Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and police.

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Schiavo dies but battle over her fate still rages

AFP, Pinellas Park

The life of brain-damaged woman Terri Schiavo has ended but the battle over her fate is still raging in the United States, with a leading lawmaker vowing to take action against an "arrogant, out-of-control" judiciary.

The remains of Schiavo were taken under police guard to forensic experts in Pinellas County to determine the cause of death and examine the extent of the brain injury that left her severely handicapped.

Schiavo's death was announced 13 days after her feeding tube was disconnected, at around 9:45 am (1345 GMT) Thursday by a spokesman for her



parents, in a case that has provoked huge emotion in the United States, even drawing in US President George W. Bush.

Michael Schiavo, her husband cradled his wife as she succumbed to "a calm, peaceful and

gentle death," his attorney, George Felos, said.

Pro-life activists gathered outside the hospice where Schiavo has been cared for more than five years wept and embraced after the news was announced.

Her husband and her parents Bob and Mary Schindler and siblings, who wrangled over whether she should die right to the end, kept up their hostility.

Conservative US leaders maintained their support for the parents' fight.

"We promised the Schindler family that we will not let Terri die in vain," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. "There's a bill

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Nepal sets free Koirala, 200 other detainees

AFP, Kathmandu

Former Nepali prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala and around 200 other activists detained since King Gyanendra seized power two months ago have been released, police said yesterday.

Koirala, leader of the Nepali Congress (NC) party, was among 83 people freed Friday in Kathmandu, said a senior police official, who asked not to be named.

"All over Nepal, a little more than 200 people have been released," he said.

NC party spokesman Shovar Parajuli said Koirala, Nepal's first elected premier, was released from house arrest at 6:00 pm (1215 GMT)

Friday. Parajuli had earlier said a total of 285 activists had been freed.

The 82-year-old Koirala had been held since February 1 when King Gyanendra sacked the government and declared emergency rule in the Himalayan outpost.

Among those rounded up during the emergency have been political and human rights activists, student leaders and journalists, many of whom were taken in when they staged anti-monarchy protests in defiance of a ban on rallies.

Nepal has come under increasing pressure from the world community, including international donors, to free the detainees and restore fundamental rights.

The Hindu kingdom relies on

international donor aid and loans for more than half its development budget to prop up an economy devastated by a Maoist insurgency.

India has joined Britain in cutting off military aid to the country. Nepal's ill-equipped army depends heavily on foreign help to fight the rebels, who are battling to install a communist republic.

The United States has said it is mulling similar action.

Meanwhile, India, which suspended arms sales to Nepal after King Gyanendra seized power two months ago, welcomed the release Friday from house arrest of former Nepal prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

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Prayer Timing		
April 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

