



PHOTO: STAR
Jatiya Oikya Mancha stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding steps to control the price hike of essentials and remove waterlogging problem in the city.

Ensure HR protection for HIV positives

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the government and non-government organisations (NGOs) to ensure human rights protection for the people living with HIV/Aids. Apart from care and medical support, the HIV-positive people need protection from social isolation, extreme harassment and exploitation, they said. The HIV/Aids and STD Alliance Bangladesh (Hasab), supported by Manusher Jonno, organised the seminar on 'Human Rights and HIV' in the city, with Prof Dr Nazrul Islam, chairman of virology department, BSMMU, in the chair. Dr Nazneen Akhter, executive director of Hasab, presented a keynote paper on 'Rights and realities of marginal people'.

"There is a Universal Declaration on Human Rights that 'All human being are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood', but the HIV/Aids-affected people, often known as marginalised, socially excluded and vulnerable, face serious discrimination and can not enjoy their rights in society," she said. She also said that injecting drug users, sex workers, eunuchs (locally known as hijra) and HIV-positive people are isolated from society as people consider them as criminals. But they should enjoy equal rights as the common people, she added. Shaheen Anam, team leader of Manusher Jonno, called for imple-

mentation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights to bring about a change in society. Dr MA Sabur, sector manager of Health, Nutrition and Population, DFID, called on the social workers to raise awareness about HIV/Aids and the rights of people living with the deadly disease. According to a health and demographic survey, 60 percent of the people in the country know how HIV/Aids infections spread, but most of them do not know how to prevent the deadly disease, he said. Advocate Elina Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayan Sangstha, and Dr Selina Ferdous of Hasab also spoke at the seminar held at the BETS Centre.

CCC evicts illegal land grabbers

Lands worth about Tk 4.6 crore recovered, 250 thatched houses demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) recovered lands worth about Tk 4.6 crore from illegal occupants in the city yesterday. During an eviction drive that lasted for four and a half hours, the CCC demolished about 250 thatched houses from two places -- one in front of the BSTI office near Agrabad Jamburi Field and the other in front of the Pashchim Madarbari Girls' School. The illegal occupants erected the houses and rented them. They have been using the lands for about seven years. The CCC also demolished boundary walls and guardroom of an under-construction CNG station on its land adjacent to the DT Lane at Pashchim Madaribari.

Forces from Chittagong Metropolitan Police and Double Mooring police station assisted the CCC officials in conducting the eviction drive.

10 shops gutted at Siddhirganj

Bss, Narayanganj

Goods and property worth about Tk 8 lakh were gutted when a fire broke out in 10 shops built on the canal near Siddhirganj Haq Supermarket here yesterday. Firemen from Demra and Hajiganj extinguished the blaze after one and a half hours at 3:00 pm, fire service sources said.



PHOTO: STAR
The Chittagong City Corporation bulldozes thatched houses on its land near Agrabad Jamburi Field in the port city yesterday.

Mijarul Quayes new envoy to Maldives

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Director General of Foreign Ministry Mohamed Mijarul Quayes as the High Commissioner to the Maldives, said an official announcement today. It said Mijarul Quayes headed several wings of the ministry, including Saarc, External Publicity, South East Asia, Multilateral Economic Affairs and UNCLOS and Research, since 2001. He also served in Bangladesh missions in Tokyo, Geneva and Singapore, and represented Bangladesh in regional and international conferences.