

Concern over demolition of city slums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights organisation Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed deep concern over the demolition of slums in the city and hoped that the caretaker government would stop such demolition without arranging alternative housing for the slum dwellers.

A press release signed by ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal said the law enforcement agencies demolished Kalyanpur slum in the name of campaign against criminals yesterday within the 24 hours of the chief adviser's (CA) address to the nation.

Though the CA made a strong

plea to uphold the basic human rights of people, demolition of slums without arranging alternative housing is a violation of the government's constitutional responsibility, she said.

"There is also a High Court injunction on the demolition of Kalyanpur slum, so its demolition also means violation of the court as well," she noted.

Referring to CA's strong determination to resist black money holders and corrupt people, the ASK said curbing crimes and turning landless slum dwellers into shelterless people is not the same.

The CA pledged to follow the UN Conventions ensuring the citizens'

rights to politics and life, which in no circumstances can be violated, she said.

Bangladesh is a party to international conventions on civil and political rights and therefore, the government should strictly follow those, the press release added.

2,166 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Law enforcing agencies, in separate drives, arrested some 2,166 people on various charges across the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League General Secretary and 14-party Co-ordinator Abdul Jalil speaks at a press conference at AL Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

Land grabbing by city club alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A real estate company yesterday demanded return of their plot allegedly grabbed by a club.

The Olive Crown Resources Limited, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, said they got a contract for constructing a building on the plot located at Section 6 of Mirpur in the city from four retired government officials.

But a club named Mukul Fouz has grabbed the plot saying that the land is a playground and they have been arranging many cultural programmes there for long, alleged Nazrul Islam, director of Olive Crown.

In a written statement, he said some 'terrorists' of the club led by Ashiqur Rahman Bhulu, who identified himself as president of

the club, demanded toll from him as they started construction of the building on January 15.

"On that night some 200 people led by Bhulu attacked the workers and looted their construction materials worth around Tk 7.5 lakh", he said, adding that when he went to the spot they manhandled him and tried to abduct him.

"Finally, I was released with the help of police and journalists," he added.

Claiming that there is no playground in that section, he said the club authorities could not show any document in favour of their demand.

Moreover, there is no club on that plot, he added.

Bhulu could not be contacted after repeated attempts over telephone.