



Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission Md Delwar Hossain shows the list of 50 people facing allegations of corruption at the commission office in the city yesterday.

Govt urged not to demolish houses of stranded Pakistanis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defying the High Court directives, the law enforcers have demolished the houses of the stranded Pakistanis under Pallabi Police Station in their ongoing eviction drive, said the stranded Pakistanis at a press conference yesterday urging the authorities not to demolish their houses, camps and business places without providing rehabilitation.

A total of 30 families have been suffering for the last couple of days as their shelters in Wapda building 2 and 3 at Mirpur Section 11 were bulldozed on Thursday during the eviction drive. Although the High Court in 2003 directed not to harass, evict or dispossess the shops and land used by the camp dwellers without providing alternative accommodation in three sections (10, 11, 12) under Pallabi Police Station in Mirpur.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) also warned the stranded Pakistanis through loudspeakers that their establishments might be demolished any time, the speakers said.

Stranded Pakistanis Youth Rehabilitation Movement (SPYRM) and Welfare Mission of Biharis organised the press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

Even the past governments also in different times ordered not to evict them and if necessary, development activities would be suspended in those areas, said the speakers.

"But floating all these directives and decisions of the governments some corrupt officials in league with a section of the dishonest traders allotted plots in the camp areas showing camps as vacant land," said Mushtaq Ahmed, chairman of SPYRM.

"We will voluntarily vacate the camps if land is allotted for our habitation. Till then camps, shops and other structures adjacent to the camps should be kept out of the jurisdiction of the ongoing drive," he added.

Among others President of SPYRM Sadaqat Khan, General Secretary Shahid Ali, Adviser Syed Iqbal Zahur and Secretary of Welfare Mission of Biharis Billal Hossain were also present.



PHOTO: STAR
Visitors thumb through books at a stall at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday. The month-long book fair commemorating the Language Movement began on February 1.

'6000 child cancer patients detected a year in country'

BSS, Dhaka

Adviser for Health and Family Welfare Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin yesterday said paediatric hematology and oncology department would be introduced in all medical colleges to provide specialised services to children suffering from cancer.

He said such facilities should be introduced even at the upazila health complexes for ensuring easily available treatment to childhood cancer at the grassroots level.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on 'Child Cancer' at BIAM auditorium in the city, he said 70 percent of childhood cancer is curable.

Prof MA Mannan, a noted paediatrician and oncologist, said up to 6,000 child cancer patients are being detected every year in the country.

"But it is surprising that there is only Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) has the Paediatric Hematology and Oncology Department with a 22-bed facility.

So it has become very difficult to cope with such huge number of

childhood cancer patients, he added.

Prof Mannan urged the government to introduce such units in all medical colleges in the country.

BSMMU Vice-chancellor Md Tahir, Prof Purna Kurkure of TATA Memorial Hospital of India, Prof Md Saiful Islam, head of oncology of Sanofi Aventis, Coordinator of My Child Matters Dr Davir Uddin Ahmed and Md Iftekharul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

'Ensure equal rights for students with disability'

BSS, Rajshahi

Discussions at an installation ceremony here yesterday emphasised the need for ensuring equal rights to students with disability for the development of their talents.

In this context, they observed that establishment of equity-based society and creation of educational and employment opportunities for the disadvantaged group are the constitutional obligation.

The Action on Disability and Development (ADD), working with disabled people to promote human rights, arranged the installation ceremony of the newly elected one-member executive body of 'Disabled

Students Rights Council (DSRC)' at the ADD training centre.

The speakers said importance should be given to making the disabled students more interested and encouraged to have institutional education both general and technical so that they can build themselves as worthy citizens.

Regional Deputy Director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Department Begum Sirajun Munira, Dr Sadhan Kumar Biswas, Habibur Rahman, Joychand Karmaker and Abdul Latif Badar took part in the discussion. Masud Rana presided.

2 RU JCD men held by Rab

RU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader at Binodpur near Rajshahi University (RU) campus.

Asif Iqbal Romel is a JCD joint-convenor of Nabab Abdul Latif Hall unit and a final year honours student of law and justice department.

Campus sources said at around 12:00 noon, a Rab team picked up Romel when he was gossiping with his party men at Binodpur.

Romel was a wanted criminal and involved in crimes like terrorism, snatching and assaulting journalist and teacher.

Earlier on Saturday, Rab also arrested JCD Joint Convenor Al Mamun of Ziaur Rahman Hall and a close associate of Romel on similar allegations, sources said.

The JCD leaders were handed over to Mather Police Station.

Meanwhile, many mid-level JCD cadres have left the campus after being informed of the arrest of their front ranking leaders.

RU Proctor Enamul Haque told newsmen that he had heard about the arrest of JCD men Romel and Mamun.

Ctg-Karachi direct shipping service stressed

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Alamgir Babar yesterday stressed the need for direct shipping service between the Chittagong and Karachi seaports to reduce transport cost.

The envoy laid the emphasis at a meeting with Communication Adviser Major General (retd) MA Matin at his office in the city yesterday.

Babar said Pakistan imports the lion's portion of Bangladeshi jute, saying, "Transport costs will reduce and both the jute growers and buyers gain more profit if Bangladesh transports jute to Pakistan through its own ships".

As per the rule, Bangladeshi flag-carrier ships can carry 50 percent of exported jute, he added.

The Adviser assured him of considering the matter and taking necessary measures in this regard, said an official release.



PHOTO: STAR
Poet Syed Shamsul Haque inaugurates the National Poetry Festival 2007 by hoisting the national flag on the Public Library premises in the city yesterday.

Fire breaks out at city shoe factory: 3 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out in a shoe factory at Hazaribagh area in the city yesterday, injuring three workers.

The fire originated from chemicals in the factory.

Billal Hossain, 20, Mohammad

Golandaz laid to rest

UNB, Mymensingh

Former Awami League lawmaker M Altaf Hossain Golandaz was laid to rest at his family graveyard at Bagua village in Gafargaon upazila yesterday.

The body of Golandaz was brought to his village home at about 3:00pm yesterday. He was buried after his namaz-e-janaza at Goruhata field in Gafargaon after Asr prayers.

Golandaz, elected Member of Parliament thrice on Awami League ticket from Mymensingh-10 (Gafargaon), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the MP Hostel in Dhaka on Saturday night.

Jubo League urges CG not to harass its leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League yesterday said there is no specific corruption charge against its president and general secretary.

At a press conference in the city, Jubo League Presidium Member Dr Mizanur Rahman urged the caretaker government (CG) not to harass them.

The Anti-Corruption Commission in its first list of 50 corrupt people has included the names of Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam.

The youth front of Awami League, however, urged the CG to strengthen its ongoing drive against the corrupt people, black money holders and criminals to hold a free, fair and credible election.

Central leaders of the Jubo League were present at the press conference held at the central office of the party.

Advanced course on administration begins at BPATC

The 56th Advanced Course on Administration and Development (ACAD) began at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) in Savar yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 25 deputy secretaries to the government are taking part in this two and a half month training course.

Rector-in-charge Syed Mahboob Hasan inaugurated the course.

Pranab Mukherjee

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at Bangabhaban.

He will also call on Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed, who is expected to lead the Bangladesh delegation to the Saarc summit.

"Let me say unequivocally that this caretaker government wishes to place Bangladesh's relations with India on a firm footing so that future governments of both countries can build on the progress we make," Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury told the media on the eve of Mukherjee's daylong visit to Dhaka.

He said: "We are looking forward to our meeting and talks with Pranab Mukherjee... We sincerely believe, this can only be to our mutual benefit."

During his stay in Dhaka, the Indian minister will also meet BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Ornaments, cash worth Tk 6 lakh looted from city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers looted gold ornaments, cash and valuables worth Tk 6 lakh from a house at Badda in the city yesterday.

Meanwhile, locals caught a robber when the robbers were locked into quarrels some time after the robbery was committed and one person was injured at that time.

Police and family sources said a gang of seven to eight robbers entered the house of one Delwar Hossain, 30, a Saudi expatriate at Barait area in Badda at 2:30am and took away gold ornaments worth around 30 tola, cash Tk 60 thousand and valuables at gun point.

Afterwards, the gang members were locked into quarrel centring distribution of the looted valuables at Uttar Badda, one kilometre off Barait.

When the locals sensed it, they chased the robbers and caught one robber. They beat him and handed him over to the local police. However, during chasing of the robbers, house owner Delwar was stabbed by fleeing robbers.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital soon after the incident.