

MOBILE COURT CONTINUES DRIVES More illegal structures demolished in Dhaka, Ctg

STAR REPORT

Mobile courts in fresh drives demolished illegal truck terminal in Chittagong and roadside shops and structures in Dhaka.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: A mobile court in Chittagong yesterday demolished an illegal truck terminal and few other structures to recover 6.22 acre (around 376 katha) land of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) from the encroachers.

The court led by CPA Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury conducted the drive on the terminal located in between TSP Complex and Chittagong Cement Clinker Factory at Patenga.

Some influential people had

recently built the truck terminal, a garage, a workshop and some tin-shed houses on the land.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and CPA's Estate and Mechanical Departments assisted the court in the drive. A team of ansars were deployed there for the protection of the recovered land.

The same court in another drive later in the day recovered another 1,000-sq ft land at Saltgola, Patenga and EPZ from encroachers and realised Tk one lakh as fines from M/S WMS, a dredging firm.

Our staff correspondent in Dhaka adds: Meanwhile in the capital, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday demolished 12 shops at Nilkhet

while Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) evicted roadside illegal structures in Mirpur.

Dhaka Wasa yesterday conducted a drive in a Kushash Market in Nilkhet and demolished 12 semi-concrete shops. The shops were built some 12 years back surrounding a water pump owned by Wasa in Nilkhet area.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police led by Magistrate Akhlaqur Rahman in presence of high officials of Wasa demolished the illegal shops.

In another drive led by Zone Executive Officer Mosharraf Hossain at Kalshi Road (from the stretch of Mirpur 10 to Mirpur 12) demolished encroachment along the road.

CA's DIRECTIVE Golejan Bewa gets pension after 29 years

UNB, Dhaka

Golejan Bewa, widow of a government employee, finally received the pension benefits after long 29 years of the death of her husband following an order of Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed.

Golejan, 70, wife of late Mosharraf Hossain, a former assistant tahsildar of Kapasiapara Tahsil Office in Pabna thana of Rajshahi district, had applied for property for family pension fulfilling all terms and submitting necessary documents.

But she did not succeed in her long struggle to get the entitled government benefit as she failed to grease the palm of a greedy clerk of Deputy Commissioner's office.

As the matter came to the notice of the chief adviser through a report published in an English national daily on March 2, Dr Ahmed acted promptly to resolve the widow's problem, according to a source at the CA's office.

The chief adviser directed the concerned authority for taking immediate step to provide the pension money to the septuagenarian widow.

Finally, the widow received the pension fund on March 4 and won her battle of rights.

Golejan's husband Mosharraf died of heart attack on February 11 in 1977 after faithfully serving the government for 21 years.

Indo-Bangla dialogue on media & culture begins today

A three-day 'Indo-Bangladesh Dialogue on Media and Culture' begins at Brac Centre Inn Auditorium in the city today, says a press release.

A high-level Indian delegation comprising parliamentarians, academics, diplomats, editors, artists and media personalities will take part in the dialogue organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC).

Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosein will be present at the inaugural session today as the chief guest while Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury will attend the closing ceremony on March 8 as the chief guest.

CPB to hold meeting with ECs today

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a meeting with Election Commissioners today, says a press release.

The CPB delegation would place their 53-point reform proposal before the election commissioners and will urge them to make the upcoming elections free from any sort of manipulation and influence of black money.

China offers 25 fellowships to Bangladeshis

BSS, Dhaka

The government of China has offered 25 fellowships for graduate and postgraduate studies in China under the Unesco co-sponsored fellowships programme.

Interested candidates who have masters' or equivalent degrees and not over 45 years of age would be eligible for applying for the fellowships. The Chinese government would bear the expenses of the fellows, said a press release yesterday.

The guidelines and application forms would be available at the office of Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco at 1, Asian Highway, Banbeis Building (3rd Floor), Palassey-Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205.

The last date for submission of the application forms is March 25, the release added.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 13.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:03pm today and rises at 6:16am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Newly appointed Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

CJ calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin yesterday made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban and apprised him of different issues concerning the judiciary.

Wishing him all the best, President Iajuddin called on the chief justice to work for establishing the rule of law and upholding the dignity of the judiciary."

The chief justice apprised the president of different issues of the Supreme Court.

He also pledged that he would be resolutely working towards "establishing the rule of law and upholding the supreme image of the Supreme Court and the lower judiciary."

President's Military Secretary Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary M Sirajul Islam were present during the meeting.

Khaleda exchanges greetings on Int'l Women's Day

UNB, Dhaka

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will exchange greetings on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 8 at 4:00pm at the Lakeshore Hotel in the city.

The immediate-past ruling party has already invited leading women professionals to join the programme, according to BNP sources.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A father has appealed for financial assistance for the treatment of his eight-month-old daughter Mosheda Khanam who was diagnosed as having two holes in her heart.

Mosheda hails from village West Kaludanga in Ulipur, Kurigram.

According to doctors, the girl needs to undergo open heart surgery immediately, which involves Tk 4.5 lakh.

But her father Md Rabiu Amin, a low-paid employee at a private company in the city, cannot afford such an expensive treatment.

He has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his daughter's life.

Contributions can be sent to Md Rabiu Amin, Savings Account No: 02134001031, Bank Asia, Dharmodi Branch, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact him at Cynthia Packaging Ltd, 267 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka. (Phone: 01911345746)

ROTTEN WHEAT SEIZURE 3 Fatulla police officers on 3-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday granted three-day remand for three police officers of Fatulla Police Station arrested on charges of taking Tk 15 lakh in bribes on January 30.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ashraful Islam and Sub-Inspectors Enamul Haq and Miraj Al Mahmud were arrested along with Mostafizur Rahman and Zahir Hossain, two officials of Abul Khair Group, who offered the bribe.

Benizir Ahmed, deputy director of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Narayanganj, sought seven-day remand for the police officers for interrogation, but First Class Magistrate Hasna Jahan Khanam granted the three-day remand.

The three police officers will be in the custody of a police station close to Narayanganj ACC office, as it has no jail custody or necessary security arrangements. However, the three will be quizzed in the ACC office, sources said.

The accused policemen were produced in the court without any handcuffs. During the court proceedings, lawyers for the accused and the complainant exchanged heated words.

On January 30, the joint forces arrested five people, including three police officers, for exchanging Tk 15 lakh in bribes inside Fatulla Police Station in Narayanganj to get released a huge amount of rotten wheat seized the previous day.

The district administration seized the sacks full of low quality wheat

worth around Tk 19 crore from five cargo vessels and from a warehouse at Aliganj on the night of January 29. Abul Khair Group imported the wheat.

Later while filing case, the accused police officers demanded Tk 30 lakh from Abul Khair Group to drop the name of its managing director, the joint forces sources said.

The two officials of the Abul Khair Group were held by the joint forces when they came out of the police station after handing over the bribe.

President, CA greet Ghana's president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed have greeted the President of Ghana on the occasion of the Independence Day of that country.

In separate messages to the President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana, they expressed their confidence that the excellent relations that so happily exist between the two countries would be further expanded and consolidated in the days ahead.

They also wished him good health and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Ghana.

WEATHER TODAY Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

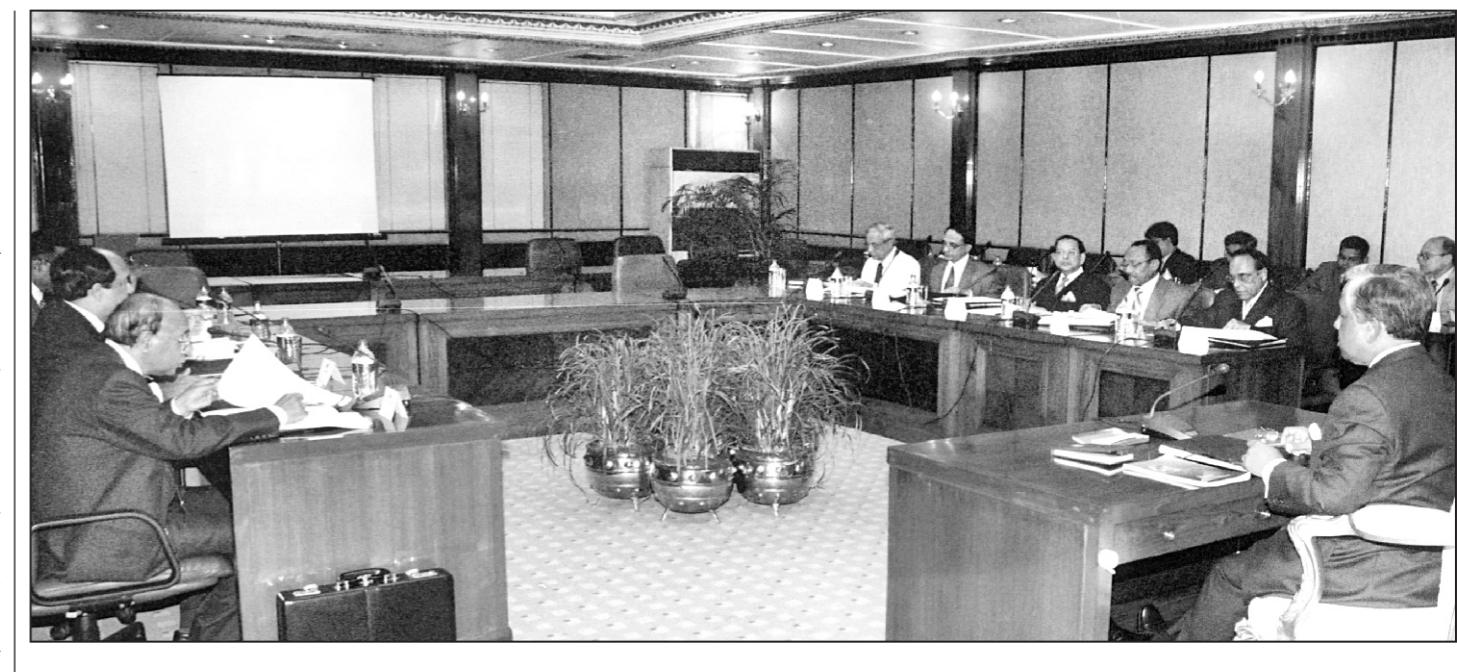
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City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.3	16.0	48	43
Chittagong	31.0	18.0	54	38
Rajshahi	28.5	14.2	71	61
Khulna	28.5	15.5	80	51
Barisal	29.5	14.0	63	51
Sylhet	29.7	15.7	71	43
Cox's Bazar	30.8	19.1	57	56



Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhrudin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the council of advisers at his office in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PID

WATER PILFERAGE

Ctg Wasa realises Tk 1cr, cuts 1,000 connections

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong Wasa has realised over Tk one crore as fine and disconnected about 1,000 illegal connections during the last two and half months from December 22.

LG recovered, 8 arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested eight suspected criminals with an LG from a business establishment of a Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ward commissioner.

Sources said a team of Chittagong Police Station raided Diamond Decorators, owned by Chittagong Ward Commissioner Mahbubul Alam in Faridpur Para area, yesterday morning and arrested the miscreants.

Police were interrogating the arrestees till filing of this report.

KCC project to improve living conditions of slum dwellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) has undertaken a project with the financial assistance from the government and Unicef to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers through providing better healthcare and sanitation facilities and drinking water supply.

Some 9,404 families living in slums in 20 wards, out of 31, will benefit from the project, Mayor Shaikh Tayebul Rahman said at a rally of teenage girls from the slums at Zia Hall auditorium in the city yesterday.

He said ideal mothers can build an ideal nation. Today's teenage girls would be ideal mothers in future. So, they must be aware of issues concerning health, education and culture.

Chairman of KCC Slum Development Standing Committee Moniruzzaman presided over the rally.

Later, a cultural function was also held.

President goes to Hiron Point today

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed, on a daylong official tour, goes to Hiron Point today to visit naval installations in the vicinities of the maritime mangrove-forest Sundarbans.

He is expected to return to the capital in the afternoon, said a Bangabhaban release.

able to bring down the amount of outstanding bills to Tk 20 crore from about Tk 46 crore in a year due to drastic measures.

"We are also trying to reduce the existing system loss from 26-28 percent taking various steps internally," he said adding that the Wasa issued bills against 818 million gallons of water out of 1,109 million gallons produced in January last.

Wasa sources said a large amount of water was being pilfered by unscrupulous consumers in connivance with a section of corrupt Wasa employees.

The mobile court unearthed the incidents of over five crore liters of water pilferage during its raids at the establishments of suspected illegal consumers.

It also sealed off 56 illegally set up deep tube-wells and a large number of water-lifting machines during the period, the source added.

"Even owners of some industries and commercial buildings were compelled to pay all the outstanding bills, which remained unpaid for many years, instantly and also forced to take legal connections to escape the legal punishment," the magistrate said.

He said their organisation was

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Dhaka Language Club and Education Excellence jointly organise a seminar on 'Language in global