

PSC member's 'illegal' building being demolished in Nilphamari



PHOTO: STAR

The building owned by PSC member Mahfuzur Rahman, allegedly built on encroached land at Kishoreganj town, is being demolished.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two cell phone companies were removing yesterday their two towers set up on the rooftop of the illegally constructed 4-stored building owned by Public Service Commission (PSC) member Mahfuzur Rahman at Kishoreganj town.

Joint forces on Wednesday started demolishing the building, allegedly constructed on encroached land.

PSC member Mahfuzur Rahman is on the second list of 50 people wanted by the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), as per newspaper reports. His number is 49 on the list.

Kishoreganj Upazila Parishad sources claimed said that Mahfuzur constructed the multi-stored building by occupying the land of local Upazila Parishad through a fake document. The building was constructed in 2005 on seven decimal land near Kishoreganj Upazila Parishad complex beside the Nilphamari-Rangpur highway.

Earlier Kishoreganj upazila administration issued a letter to the owner of the building, giving him seven days' time to demolish it. But it was ignored, the sources said.

Later, the joint forces took the initiative to demolish the building.

Major portions on different floors were demolished till yesterday. Kishoreganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO Mostafa Zaman and First Class Magistrate Enamul Hage were overseeing the demolition.

When contacted, the family of Mahfuz in Kishoreganj claimed that the building was not illegal and that they have valid papers. They said Mahfuzur Rahman is in Dhaka.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Participants with certificates in hand in the Regional Language Contest-2007, held at Patuakhali Government Jubilee School yesterday. It was sponsored by daily Prothom Alo and HSBC bank.

Grand Santal festival begins in Tanore tomorrow

RU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of indigenous communities in Rajshahi yesterday urged the government to take steps to protect their traditional culture.

The call was made at a press conference ahead of the five-day grand 'Karam and Baha Festival', largest religious festivals of Santal community beginning from March 11 at Vimpur in Tanore and from March 13 at Sundarpur in Godagari upazilas of Rajshahi district.

The festivals are being organized by the Adivasi Unnayan Sangstha (AUS).

Eminent writer and Rajshahi University teacher Prof Hasan Azizul Haque will inaugurate festival, the organisers told the press conference at the city's Sadharan Granthagar.

AUS director Bhagabat Tudu read out a written statement and announced the festival schedules while Santal community leaders Bishownath Tudu, Gaanan Hemrom were present.

The programmes will include traditional Karam dance, placing of floral wreath on the Santal graveyard and discussion on Santal 'heroes'.

Vow to resist violence against women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique event for the people of Satkhira town as men came up to campaign against violence against women and to protect their rights.

Over 500 men including youths attended a rally at Satkhira Poursava auditorium in the town on Thursday. They vowed, raising fists, to say 'no' to violence against women and social discrimination.

The participants included teachers, journalists, lawyers, government and non-government officials and farmers.

The programme was organised by a local NGO—Aragati Sangstha—with assistance from USC Canada and Acid Survivors Foundation. The programme marked observance of the International Women's Day.

Aragati Sangstha director Abdus Sabur presided over the rally while Satkhira Poursava chairman Sheikh Ashrafur Haque was the chief guest.

It was addressed by among others Monzur Hossain, Rifat Amin, Hedayetul Islam, Abu Zafar, Golam Moktadir, Shahidur Rahman, Dipankar Mallik.

Violence against women occur at every stage of life and that has to be addressed at every level, they said.

It is shame for the society that women are still being oppressed and neglected even after 35 years of independence, they said.

More budgetary allocation sought for S-W region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna district unit of 'Shushashaner Jannyo Pracharavijan (Shupro—publicity for good governance), has demanded allocation of necessary funds in next national budget for implementation of different development projects in south-western districts of the country.

"Otherwise, we have no alternative to launching tough agitation for funds for development", said its Khulna district unit president Shaikh Abdul Kayyum in a press conference held at Khulna Press Club.

The Shupro leader said people in south-western region will no more tolerate any 'step motherly attitude' of the government, being shown for 25 years so far as development programmes and budgetary allocation are in concerned.

"We fervently appeal to the

caretaker government to address our problems as south-western region of the country has been contributing largely to revenue collection of the government", he said.

The Shupro reiterated its demand for implementation of some development projects including pipeline gas supply, setting up of WASA in Khulna, modernisation of Mongla port and export processing zone, installation of a new power plant at Goalpara in Khulna, reopening of all close jute mills and construction of the proposed deep sea port at Akram Point. These need financial allocations, its leaders said.

The said Khulna region accounts for the major portion of export earning from frozen food but no government in the took any step to develop the sector.

Case for closure of Barisal trade fair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A case has been lodged for immediate closure of Barisal International Trade Fair, saying it is affecting SSC examinees. The examination is going on.

Jubo League leader Arun lodged the case with the court of First Joint District Judge on Thursday.

He alleged that the amusement and entertainment programs at the trade fair is affecting preparations of SSC examinees and so it should be stopped immediately.

Responding to the complaint, Judge Aminul Islam Zoardar, served show cause notices on Barisal Divisional Commissioner Bijon Kanti Sarkar, Deputy Commissioner Manjur-e-Elahi, Barisal Municipal Commissioner Khan Syed Hassan, Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Ebaidul Huq Chan, its vice-president and convener of the fair committee Abdur Razzak. The showcase notice asked them to reply within three days why the fair would not be closed.

Two farmers share a bag of urea in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Fertiliser crisis during the peak season of Irri-Boro cultivation is affecting crops in Nilphamari.

In the district town, after a day's wait in a long queue, two farmers were given one bag of urea, to be shared equally, reports our correspondent.

Dealers told farmers that the arrangement was made as per a

decision of the district fertiliser monitoring committee due to short supply of urea. This angered farmers in long queues, who said the supply is scanty to their requirement.

Fertilizer dealer Pijush Sarkar in Kalibari area in Nilphamari municipality said every day several thousand farmers stand in a long queue in front of his shop from dawn to dusk. But only 400 to 500 of them get urea and the rest go home disappointed.

To face the situation, the district fertiliser monitoring committee asked dealers to give one bag (50 kg) to two farmers.

Standing in the queue on Thursday, farmer Shafiqueur Rahman from Tupamari village in Sadar upazila lamented, saying he cultivated Irri-Boro on 20 bighas of land and needs eight bags of urea now.

District Agriculture Extension (DAE) office sources said that

demand of urea for March, the peak season of Irri-Boro, is 8,300 tonnes but the authorities allocated only 6,882 tonnes.

Out of the allotment, only 3,225 tonnes were supplied by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) till Thursday, said Abdul Wahed president of Nilphamari unit of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA).

He also alleged that supply of urea was less than requirement in two previous months. The supply was 5,994 tonnes against a demand for 72,00 tonnes in January and 7,844 tonnes against 9,600 tonnes in February, they said.

In Khagrachhari, rationing of urea made no impact in making the fertiliser available to farmers.

Standing in a long queue in front of a dealer's shop a Khagrachhari town, farmer Mohammad Suruj Ali said yesterday he came from Rashiknagar village in Dighinala upazila, some 45 kilometers from the district headquarter. But dealer Siful Islam offered him only 10 kilograms of urea.

According to AED, at least 12,000 hectares are under under Irri-Boro cultivation.

According to a decision of Khagrachhari district fertiliser monitoring cell, each of the 10 dealers would get 10.3 tonnes of urea for March. Though meager to face the demand, most of the dealers are yet to get the allocated quota till yesterday, some dealers told this correspondent.

Rationing was introduced to stop black marketing and illegal dispatch of fertiliser from one district to another and to boarder areas, sources in the monitoring cell said.

Standing in a long queue in front of Yunus's shop, farmer Mongshiprue Marma from Golabari village in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila said, "I need six bags of urea. I am to spend six days as the dealer gives only one bag per head each time".

8x3

9x3



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers in a long queue in front a fertiliser dealer's shop in Nilphamari town yesterday morning.