

Rajuk peon held on graft charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces arrested a Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha (Rajuk) peon on graft charges from his office in the City's Motijheel area yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Abdul Mannan Patwari, 40.

Police sources said Patwari took Tk 15000 from one Nurul Haq in 2003, a resident of Banasree Project at Rampura, saying he would get Haq's housing plan approved in a short span of time.

But Haq alleged that Patwari had been dilly-dallying since then and till now his plans are yet to be approved.

When Haq informed the matter a team of joint forces, they arrested Patwari after an interrogation.



PHOTO: STAR

Justice Md Golam Rabbani speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof Mesbah Kamal.

152nd anniversary of Santal Hul June 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 152nd anniversary of Santal Hul, the Santal rebellion against the British rulers, will be observed in the country on June 30 demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous people and establishment of their rights to land.

Bangaldesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolon will hold a daylong programme to mark the day. A convening committee was also formed with Prof Mesbah Kamal as its convener to organise the event.

The anniversary programme will begin with traditional drum beating by Santals, the organisers said at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Sudhir Majhi, a Santal freedom fighter, will inaugurate the programme, with Justice Md Golam Rabbani in the chair. Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government, will be present at the chief guest.

A seminar on the liberation struggle will be held after the inaugural session. Prof Ganesh Soren will present the keynote paper.

Later, 10 indigenous freedom fighters will be awarded 'Sidhu-Kanu' Award. The award was established in the names of two brothers Sidhu and Kanu who spearheaded the Santal Hul.

The speakers at the press conference said over 30 lakh Santal people have been living in the northern region of the country and that they are still deprived of their rights.

They demanded a separate land commission for the indigenous people living on the plains, an end to persecution of ethnic minorities and steps to ensure their rights to religion, culture, language and traditional knowledge.

CPA land worth Tk 100 crore recovered in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in a drive in the port city yesterday recovered 11 acres of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) land worth about Tk 100 crore at Halishahar.

Some unscrupulous people, mostly a section of dishonest officials and staffs of Bangladesh Railway (BR), encroached the land adjoining to Port Stadium in Madhyam (middle)

Halishahar area.

The land was handed over to the then Port Trust, which is now Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), back in 1960.

The CPA land was occupied by different structures like houses, shops, club houses, furniture factories, garages and poultry farms for this long period, sources said.

Despite repeated requests by CPA,

the railway authorities kept mum in evacuating the land while railway men established illegal structures there, they added.

During the three-hour drive that started at 9:30am, around 50 illegal structures were demolished.

Of the recovered land, five acres would be handed over to Chittagong customs authority for setting up a customs auction shed, sources said.

A platoon of police and officials and staffs of CPA mechanical, estate, engineering and electricity departments participated in the drive.

When contacted, Magistrate Munir Chowdhury said that the same court also conducted such a drive back in 2004 when it recovered 22 acres of land worth over Tk 100 crore at Halishahar Barapool area.