



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury speaks at a view exchange meeting at Shilpkala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is DIG Nazmul Huque and on his left is Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Ekram Ahmed.

Mainul asked to withdraw comment on CHT acc ord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens in a statement yesterday demanded withdrawal of the comment of Law Adviser Mainul Hosein, who on December 2 said Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord could be reviewed.

Expressing deep concern over the comment they said by attending the discussion which was organised by a controversial organisation, the adviser has lost his neutrality.

"Parbatya Chattagram Samo Odhikar Andolon is a platform founded by Wadud Bhuiyan, who is now behind the bars on charge of corruption," said the statement.

The followers of the organisation attacked Dr Kamal Hossain during the tenure of last government, it added.

Signatories to the statement included Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Selina Hossain, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haq Inu, Pankaj Bhattacharya, MM Akash, Prof Ajay Roy, Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, Rokeya Kabir, Prof HKS Arefin, Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, Mesbah Kamal and Mafizur Rahman.

Developer held on charge of cheating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The managing director of a real estate company was arrested in the city on Tuesday in connection with cheating buyers of flats.

Dhanmondi police arrested Kairul Hasan Khokan, MD of Al Hasan Developers Ltd, after Mohammad Wahidur Rahman, an expatriate in London, filed a case against him in this regard. Wahidur Rahman bought a flat of 'Holy Airab Palace' constructed by Al Hasan Developers Ltd.

Monwar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station, yesterday said two more victims also contacted him to file cases against Khokan in this regard.

Meanwhile, complainant Wahidur Rahman told The Daily Star that the hired goons of Khokan were threatening him for filing case against him. He also lodged a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection on Wednesday night.

Besides, Rizwana Biswas, also a buyer of flat, told The Daily Star through an email that the company was dillydallying in handing over her flat although she had paid the money.

Police said although the victim buyers paid the money for the flats according to the agreement, the developer company is yet to hand over the flats to them.

Moreover, the company is selling out the flats to others at a higher rate.

One shot dead by robbers in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CG

Robbers shot one person to death, injured another and looted valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh, including Tk 60,000 in cash, at Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Gafur, 40, while his wife Rowshan Ara is undergoing treatment at a local clinic.

Police arrested one Md Khalil, 28, in this connection.

Chehlu

Chehlu of Gazi Sadequl Islam Khorshid, former managing director of Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel and General Manager of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, will be held at his Shyamoli residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He was also a poet and an actor.

On the occasion, Qurankhawni and doa mahfil will also be held.

His relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

'Check govt officials' activities to end corruption'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption cannot be checked by bringing only the political leaders to justice unless the activities of government officials and employees are also looked into and checked, said the speakers at a view-exchange meeting yesterday.

The meeting on the ongoing anti-corruption drive was organised by Dhaka district administration at Shilpkala Academy auditorium in the city.

A large number of schoolteachers, NGO members and government officials including Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

MANIK SAHA MURDER

Supplementary charge sheet submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Inspector Chitta Ranjan Pal of Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) submitted a supplementary charge sheet in Journalist Manik Saha murder case to court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on Wednesday.

The number of chargesheeted accused now stands at 13, including armed cadre of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddho) Hye Islam alias Kachi.

Sub-Inspector Ranjit Kumar Das of Khulna Sadar Police Station lodged an FIR as complainant on the night of January 15 the same year accusing none.

Mosharef Hossain, the then OC of Khulna Sadar Police Station, submitted a charge sheet to court as an investigation officer against 12 extremists and 54 people as prosecution witnesses.

The judge of Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal passed an order on April 13 in 2005 for proper investigation of the case.

Accordingly, docket of the murder was sent back to Khulna Sadar Police Station from court on April 19 the same year.

Later, the case was transferred to DB by order of court for further investigation.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Jatiya Nari Sramik Trade Union Kendra will organise a discussion on 'Natural calamity: Human rights of women' to mark the World Human Rights Day. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers. Time: 3:00pm.

Graduation ceremony

Graduation ceremony of MBA 39th batch of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University will be held. Venue: TSC Auditorium. Time: 3:40pm.

Scholarship distribution

Chittagong Association-Dhaka will distribute scholarships among meritorious students of grater Chittagong studying in different institutions. Venue: Chittagong Bhaban, 32 Topkhana Road. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Hindu Christian Oikya Parishad will organise a discussion on 'Equal rights of religious minority: Human Rights' to mark the World Human Rights Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

View exchange meeting

Nagrik Sanghati organises a view

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.2 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi and Jessor.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:29am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in celsius	Humidity in percentage		
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	28.2	15.8	76	69
Chittagong	27.2	18.0	78	64
Rajshahi	27.6	14.5	92	78
Khulna	27.4	15.7	88	73
Barisal	28.6	15.5	90	77
Sylhet	27.0	15.7	59	68
Cox's Bazar	30.5	18.2	60	--

ACC targets grafts

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"I think the activities of the commission will assume a new dimension as we are informed of allegations against different service oriented organisations."

"Investigations against such organisations will begin by the end of December," he said without elaborating.

The ACC sources say it is a much-talked issue for decades that people don't get proper services and are rather harassed due to corruption and irregularities in the government's utility service sector.

On the other hand, many officials and employees from top tier to bottom level of those institutions embraced corruption and became rich. But hardly anyone was ever called to account to ensure proper service to the public.

The sources say power, water, gas supply offices and telephone departments of the government are known as the save havens of corruption, which is a common perception of the people.

At the beginning of its drive against institutional graft, the ACC would focus on probe into corruption in Power Development Board (PDB), Dhaka Power Supply Authority (Desa), Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Telegraph & Telephone Board, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Ltd, a source says.

An ACC official says they have identified a meter reader in power sector possessing huge amount of movable and immovable property, which does not match with his 'known' source of income.

"This meter reader has made his property through a nexus with the power subscribers year after year and it's an open secret."

"But the higher authorities don't do anything against him as there is a chain in between the meter readers and other employees and officials who also take a share of the ill-gotten money."

ACC sources say they would conduct their investigation in accordance with the work pattern of an organisation.

For instance, if an organisation's task is related to procurement, the commission will check transparency in its procurement process.

The commission will also examine the entire work process of an organisation and loopholes, if any, in its system. Considering the pattern the ACC will watch the function of the organisation.

"We will check whether the organisation has its in-built anti-corruption methods and whether it checks its staffs' assets or not," says an ACC official.

He says the commission will not only go for legal actions if it finds corruption but also recommend that the government take necessary steps to reduce institutional graft.

After the military-backed caretaker government assumed power, task forces of the National Coordination Committee to combat crime and corruption kicked off the first ever crackdown on institutionalised corruption in government agencies.

"There are many organisations where graft at individual level has turned gradually into institutional corruption," he observes.

"Many other organisations in the

public sector and private sector as well are known as corrupt organisations. We know that in comparison some organisations are less corrupt than the others," says a high official asking not to be named.

"Considering this, we will set our priority as to which organisations should be targeted first," the official adds.

Another ACC official says they have identified a meter reader in power sector possessing huge amount of movable and immovable property, which does not match with his 'known' source of income.

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public sector and private sector as well are known as corrupt organisations. We know that in comparison some organisations are less corrupt than the others," says a high official asking not to be named.

The move came as part of the government's ongoing massive anti-corruption drive being carried out countrywide since February against high-profile graft suspects.

Two decade-old Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirikapakha (Rajuk) is the first target of the drive against institutionalised corruption introduced as the second phase of the ongoing anti-graft campaign in an effort to bring necessary reforms to the government agency for making it a service oriented vibrant organisation.

Later the task forces started work in Dhaka City Corporation, Public Works Department and Titan Gas Transmission and Distribution Department.

They are also working at the Chittagong Port and Zia International Airport.

French Chargé d' Affaires Jean Romniciani announced it at a press conference at Hotel LaVinci yesterday.

The grant will be channelled through 'Friendship', a non-governmental organization to help the affected people. Friendship has been on site since November 16 and has been working on health, sanitation, relief and rehabilitation.

Runa Khan, Executive Director of Friendship and Dr Régis Garrigue of Help Doctors were present at the conference.

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