### Sweeper colony residents demand return of land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven Dalit families yesterday demanded return of their land and punishment to those who evicted them from the sweeper colony at Sutrapur in the city.

The land grabbers made attacks on the colony on March 30 and April 28, forcing 11 families out of their homes.

"Now I have to search for a shelter every day as the land grabbers vandalised my house and erected a wall around my home," said Rani Mandal, a widow who has four young daughters, at a press confer-

Bangladesh Dalit Human Rights in association with Nagorik Uddyog organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium to place the demands of the minority group.

Dalits, who are deprived of basic rights and continues to face oppression, have now become the target of land grabbers, said Dalia Islam, a member of the community, while reading out a written speech.

The minority group, working as sweepers, has been evicted from their colony in Sutrapur by local influential people, she said, adding that they also vandalised a temple of the community on March 30.

The community has been living here for 150 years and 61 families are now living in this colony amid fear of eviction, she said.

The land grabbers are also conspiring to evict all the Dalit families from the colony, she added.

The Dalit families also demanded their security, compensation for the loss and an investigation into the attacks.

remain in our hearts for ever.



Participants at a civic condolence meeting in memory of Dr Wazed Miah, an internationally renowned nuclear scientist and the husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Awami League organised the event at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

## 'Feeling embarrassed' one kind of right of judges

Say two legal experts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Division and the High Court Division of the Supreme Court can feel embarrassed to hear or entertain any case for its fair and impartial dispensation of justice, but there should be some legal and logical reasons behind their feeling so for the interest of the transparency.

While talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday, two legal experts said feeling embarrassed is one kind of legal rights of the judges.

the case, or if the judges have their feeling embarrassed.

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MAHMUDA AND ANSAR RAHMAN

wishers are requested to pray for the eternal peace of her departed soul.

dealt with the matter directly or indirectly prior to the hear-The judges of the Appellate ingofthe case.

General (AAG) M Enayetur Rahim said judges can feel embarrassed to hear the cases if those are filed by the relatives or the clients of the judges when they (judges) were lawyers before becoming judges.

He said judges can also feel embarrassed if they are threatened openly or by telephone

Citing example, the AAG They said judges can feel said two judges of the High embarrassed if any party of a Court, who recently felt case is personally known to embarrassed to hear a writ them directly or indirectly, or petition filed by BNP the judges are related to the Chairperson Khaleda Zia, subject in question regarding have disclosed the reasons for

"Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui have Additional Attorney told the open court that they should not hear the writ petition since they, while they were government officials, had handled the files regarding the allotment of the cantonment house to Khaleda. The reasons of feeling so are very logical," he added.

Enayetur said two other judges have not disclosed the reasons regarding their feeling embarrassed and refusing to hear the same matter.

The two judges Justice M Azizul Haque and AKM Abdul Hakim who felt embarrassed can inform the reasons of their feelings to the chief justice, he said, adding that feeling embarrassment by the judges in the cases of Khaleda and the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are not the same.

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Secretary SM Rezaul Karim said some years ago the then chief justice. had asked the judges of the Appellate Division and the High Court Division to assign the reasons of their feeling embarrassed, if they do so.

"I think judges feeling embarrassed personally or secretly should inform the chief justice of the reasons of their embarrassment," he

The lawyers said judges in many other countries like Bangladesh can feel embarrassed to hear cases and it is also nothing new in the country.

Earlier Barrister Moudud Ahmed, a counsel for Khaleda, had said the image of the Supreme Court has been seriously tarnished due to feeling embarrassment by some High Court judges one after another.

### 10 arrested with fake passports at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration officers arrested ten people at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city yesterday for trying to travel with fake passports.

The arrestees -- Aakil tion, the police said the Ahmed, Saidur Rahman, Jamil Ahmed, Bipul, Hamid, Siddique, Akhtar, Mamun,

Saiful and Azhar -- were clearance certificates from trying to fly to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Dubai for jobs. They were handed over to the Airport Police Station.

After primary investiga-

and 35, collected passports,

some recruiting agencies who took Tk 2 lakh to 2.7 lakh from each person. The detainees claimed

that they did not know whether the passports were original or fake, the police detainees, aged between 22

Aakil, Saidur and Jamil necessary papers and other were held in the early hours

of yesterday while the others in the morning.

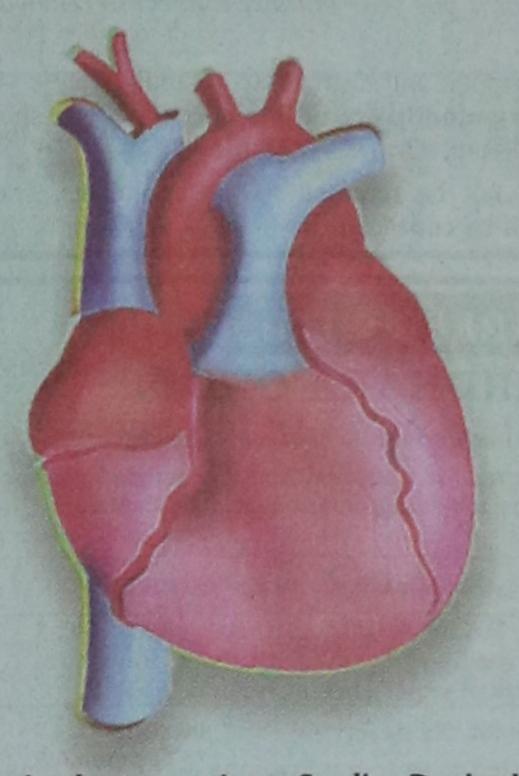
Sub-inspector Bazlar Rahman of Airport police said they were scheduled to fly by the flights of Emirates Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airlines.

Police said they launched an investigation into the activities of the recruiting agencies concerned.

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