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Eviction drive hamstrung

Constraints, poor coordination need to be solved for effectiveness

TAWFIQUE ALI

The ongoing eviction drive against encroachment on the rivers slows down due to manifold constraints and lack of proper coordination among the agencies concerned.

Though Gazipur district administration asked for 200 labourers every day, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) provides only 50 to 100.

The drive suffered on the very first day due to slack coordination and directions, said Assistant Commissioner (land) in Gazipur Atul Sarkar.

Experts call upon the agencies involved to sit together before embarking on further drives and seriously determine how to carry out the demolition, restoration and demarcation.

Abul Bashar Md Ameer Uddin, senior assistant commissioner, Gazipur, said, "The drive faltered as BIWTA could not mobilise its stronger tugboats to knock down illegal heavy structures."

Heavy pieces of equipment are required to remove structures built with RCC construction, said Ameer, adding they now depend mainly on labourers.

Md Abul Bashar, BIWTA joint director, said as the drive slows down, it is costing additional resources and work hours.

Besides lack of resources, stay orders from the High Court also put a bar on the authorities concerned from demolishing a number of illegal structures.

Prof Mujibur Rahman of civil engineer department, BUET, said mere removal of superstructures would not help achieve the goal if the government works in an uncoordinated way and without a long-term vision.

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Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) tears down illegal structures on the Shitalakha at Narayanganj yesterday as part of its continuing eviction drive. Inset, residents of an illegal building near PM Roy Road being asked over a loudhailer to vacate the building constructed on the river. PHOTO: SHAFIQUE ALAM

Part of two RMG units knocked down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Narayanganj district administration yesterday demolished portions of two multi-storied garments factories built illegally on the river Shitalakha in Narayanganj.

As part of the ongoing drive against river grabbers, the eviction team knocked down parts of a five-storey building owned by Khandker Sharif Uddin.

The team also completed dismantling a section of a seven-storey garments factory owned by Shanewaz at Tanbazar.

The drive resumed in the morning for the fourth day under the supervision of Executive Magistrate Abul Kashem and BIWTA Deputy Director Alamgir Kabir.

A BIWTA Employees Union leader was out to save the building from demolition, as the owner of the building is his relative, said our Narayanganj correspondent.

Alamgir said that around
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Grenade found abandoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a grenade, eight bullets and a clip charger from Day Tannery Lane in city's Hazaribagh area yesterday.

Hazaribagh Police said they recovered the materials at the mouth of a sewerage drain in the area.

Sub-inspector (SI) Mohammad Mahmudul Haque said "An expatriate Bangladeshi KM Aminul Islam, visiting one of his relatives' living in the area, made the discovery and immediately
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UN slaps tough new sanctions on N Korea

Pyongyang responds with plutonium threat

AP, United Nations

The UN Security Council has imposed tough new sanctions on North Korea, punishing the country for its second nuclear test.

Pyongyang responded to the resolution yesterday by vowing to "weaponise" all its plutonium and will consider any blockade "an act of war."

The Security Council agreed Friday to expand an arms embargo and authorise ship searches on the high seas, with the goal of derailing the isolated nation's nuclear and missile programmes.

North Korea responded with a defiant statement and its Foreign Ministry also acknowledged for the first time that the country has a uranium enrichment programme, and insisted it will never abandon its nuclear ambitions. Uranium and plutonium can be used to make atomic bombs.

The statement said "the whole amount of the newly extracted plutonium (in the country) will be weaponised."

In a sign of growing global anger at North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons in defiance of the council, the North's closest allies Russia
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Baby born at cyclone shelter, sold for Tk 2,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

What's the price of a child's life?

What price would a mother pay to keep her child alive?

In Khulna's Koira upazila Taslima Begum, a destitute mother, allegedly sold her newborn son for Tk 2,000 yesterday to
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

56 indigenous families evicted

Goons pounce on them since Friday; police silent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hired goons of a BNP adherent evicted at least 74 families, including 56 Indigenous families, from their land in a series of attacks at Khatirpur in Porsha upazila of Naogaon to grab their land.

Allegedly backed by local police, they made the series of attacks between Friday evening and yesterday morning to evict the families.

They beat up members of indigenous families, ransacked and torched their houses Friday evening and finally looted their household items, bullock carts and human hauliers yesterday morning.

According to the victims, around 200 armed goons of Nur
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Ahmadinejad reelected

AFP, Tehran

Hardline incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won a crushing victory in Iran's hotly-disputed presidential vote, according to official results yesterday that triggered mass opposition protests.
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Prof Shaheen Kabir speaks to teachers from across the country in Mymensingh yesterday at an orientation programme for the "English in Schools" initiative jointly launched by AKTEL and The Daily Star.
PHOTO: STAR

BNP asks govt to act quick on Tipai dam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday urged the international community to take effective steps to prevent India from building the Tipaimukh dam and asked the government to adopt prompt measures to stop India
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Mymensingh opens arms for English Star-AKTEL initiative for school-goers hailed

PORIMOL PALMA and AMINUL ISLAM

The English in Schools (EIS) initiative by The Daily Star and AKTEL has given new hopes to educationists and local authorities of Mymensingh who believe the effort will have long-lasting impacts on young minds and help them prosper in both personal and national lives.

Through the EIS activities, students can now come out of the cocoon of shyness about English language, which is the main barrier to learning it, and become better citizens, they observed yesterday.

"It is a very positive and timely initiative, which will have far-reaching impacts on our national life if it is practised for five to ten years," said Dr MA Sattar Mondal, vice-chancellor of
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OnlinePoll

Do you support the provision of legalising undisclosed money as proposed in the budget for 2009-10?

Yes (34.8%)
No (62.3%)
No Comments (3.0%)

Total votes: 705

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the significant rise in car prices in the proposed budget?

Please cast your vote at
www.thedailystar.net

Killing spate scales up sense of insecurity

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Alarming number of murder incidents in last few days attests to the deterioration of law and order in the city triggering a sense of insecurity among the citizens.

Despite special anti-crime drives from May 13 at least 15 people were killed in the first nine days of June while the number was 20 last month.

Apparently Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is unable to cope with the ever-

increasing crime incidents due to inadequate number of patrol teams and negligence in duty of some officers at check-posts and during patrol.

DMP sources said there are around 435 snatching-prone areas in the city while DMP has arranged about 275 police patrol teams--an average of five teams for each police station.

Moreover about 40 gangs of car lifters and around 300 members of dope gangs are active in the capital.

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One gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot dead a youth in broad daylight after chasing him around 200 yards in the city's West Rampura yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Biplob, 22, son of Mona Kashai of West Rampura.

Police said they rescued Biplob with bullet wound from a house on Olan Road in the area around 1:30pm and took him to Dhaka Medical
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