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# SHITALAKHYA BANK SC clears way to demolish illegal jetties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for demolishing illegal structures including the jetties set up by City Group of Industries on the bank of river Shitalakhya, rejecting a petition filed by the company seeking a stay on a High Court order.

The HC on February 23 summarily rejected a writ petition filed by the company's Managing Director Fazlur Rahman challenging a government notice that asked the company to remove their structures, including three jetties from the river.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, however, permitted the company to file a regular appeal with this court against the HC order yesterday.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, a lawyer concerned of this case, told The Daily Star yesterday that there remains no bar to demolishing the illegal structures and jetties on Shitalakhya at Rupanjan following the SC order.

On January 24 this year, the HC directed the government to start within a month demolition of all illegal structures built within the boundaries of four rivers--Buriganga, Balu, Shitalakhya and Turag--around the capital.

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The rare Spoon-billed Sandpipers come to Bangladesh from Russia in winter. The photos were taken at Badar Mokam in Teknaf recently.

PHOTO: ENAM UL HAQUE



## Spoon-billed Sandpipers roam freely Find food, roost in Teknaf, Sonadia

ENAM UL HAQUE

Small groups of globally endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper arrived on the mudflats of Badar Mokam in Teknaf and Belekordia of Sonadia Island at least three years ago. Anyone with binoculars can sight these rare birds still feeding and roosting at the edge of water.

A team of observers has seen the birds recently during a survey in Cox's Bazar. The birds along with other migratory shorebirds, gulls and terns apparently have made these places their winter home.

Several species of rare sea turtles come to the very same places to lay eggs.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a sparrow-size bird with a strange spoon shaped bill. In summer it breeds at Chukotka

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## AUG 21 PROBE CID gets 3 months more

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department yesterday got three more months to submit the probe report in one of the two August 21 grenade attack cases.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court allocated the time after the investigation officer sought four more months to submit the report of the case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

Special Police Super of CID Abdul Kahar Akand, also the investigation officer of the case, pleaded for the time saying he could not complete the investigation in due time.

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# Government workers not given proper employment benefits

ERSHAD KAMOL and DAVID BERGMAN

Rani Das used to be able to hold her head up, high. Though by no means rich - her small monthly salary as a government cleaner did at least mean that she could survive and feed her family. Now, however, after 38 years of service she is a beggar - forced to stand out-side her old office pleading for paise from her former colleagues.

Rani is one of thousands of workers who, despite their long years of work for a government body, are deprived of a pension because they were treated as 'temporary' or 'casual' workers - even though their work was identical to those working on 'permanent' contracts.

Such workers which include both low-grade

workers on the 'muster roll' and higher-grade workers on 89-day rolling contracts - do not just lose their right to a pension. Whilst working, they are paid less than permanent workers, and, unlike them, usually have no right to paid leave, a festival bonus, entitlements to the provident fund and have no protection from arbitrary dismissal. If they die whilst at work, their dependents receive no death benefit.

The Daily Star has confirmed that the practice of denying permanent contracts to workers who are effectively working full-time is prevalent in many government agencies--including the Dhaka and Chittagong City Corporations, Dhaka Power Development Company, Biman Airlines, Janata Bank, and the Board of

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## ENGLAND SERIES Final ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on England in the third and final match of the Beximco ODI Series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong today. After running their opponents close in the second match, the Tigers will again be looking for their first win over the tourists in their eleventh attempt while England are determined to take the series 3-0 and extend their unbeaten run

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# 63 dead in Indian temple stampede

AFP, Lucknow

Sixty-three people, all of them women and children, were crushed to death in a stampede yesterday at a temple in northern India where a crowd had gathered for a religious festival.

The stampede was triggered when an under-construction gate collapsed on the crowd as people surged forward to collect free food and clothes from a local holy man in northern Uttar Pradesh state, police said.

"We have now counted all the bodies and they include 37 children and 26 women who had come to collect free gifts," assistant superintendent of police SP Pathak told AFP by phone from the disaster site.

The accident occurred at the Hindu Ram Janki temple in Pratappgarh, 650 kilometres (400 miles) southeast of New Delhi, where up to 10,000 devotees of holy man Swami Kripaluji

Maharaj had gathered, police said. According to his website, the Maharaj runs a charitable trust which sets up schools, temples and hospitals and operates five large ashrams (hermitages), including one in the United States.

Stampedes at religious events in India are common as large numbers of excited worshippers pack into congested areas. Panic can spread quickly and, with few safety regulations in place, the result is often lethal.

The deadliest recent incident was in October 2008 when about 220 people died near a temple inside Jodhpur's famous Mehrangarh Fort.

More than 25,000 worshippers had rushed towards the hill-top shrine to join in an auspicious moment for offering prayers at the start of Navaratri, a nine-day Hindu festival.

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## HELLO MAYOR ... IS THIS OUR FOOTPATH

An office of the female councillor for Dhaka City Corporation Ward 32, 33 and 36 has been built on the entire width of the pavement and part of the street near Ideal School and College at Motijheel in the capital. Different stalls, inset, also surround the office.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## NOVO THEATRE GRAFT 3 cases against Hasina quashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday quashed all proceedings against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in three corruption cases concerning Bangabandhu Novo Theatre (planetarium) in the capital.

The court declared illegal both the filing and proceedings of the cases.

The now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) filed the cases during the rule of BNP-led four-party alliance.

The cases were later shifted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The HC in its judgement said the three cases were filed relating to the same project for setting up of the Novo Theatre with an ulterior motive of tarnishing her (Hasina's) image and status, and destroying her popularity.

The first information reports (FIRs) of the cases did not mention any offence against Sheikh Hasina under the penal code, and therefore she would not face conviction in any of the cases, said the HC verdict.

It further said the ACC chairman's approval for investigating

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## DU SYNDICATE POLLS White panel bags 4 posts, blue panel 2

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP and Jamaat teachers' white panel yesterday won four posts out of the six in the syndicate election of Dhaka University for the term 2010-12.

Pro-Awami League teachers' blue panel won two posts though left leaning teachers of the university took part in the election under their umbrella.

White panel convener Prof Sadrul Amin won in the dean category securing 562 votes

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## BNP protests power price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the government decision of increasing the price of electricity, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the decision.

He also asked the government to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity and to curb its systems loss.

"The price hike of electricity and its acute scarcity have made the public life miserable and hampered production in the sectors of agriculture and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## BCL men snatch bid documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists snatched tender documents from contractors yesterday at the city's Unani and Ayurvedic College and Hospital (UACH).

Sources said the UACH authorities floated the tender for a work order of Tk 28 lakh to purchase medicines and uniforms for employees. Yesterday was the last date for dropping the schedules at the principal's office of the college in Mirpur Section-13 under Kafur Police Station.

Sources said BCL cadres of the college in cooperation with some other cadres of the area snatched the documents when the contractors went to the office to drop those around 12:00noon.

Officer-in-Charge of Kafur Police Station Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star that they had requested the principal to inform the higher authorities of the health ministry of the incident.

No case was filed and none was arrested yet in this connection, the OC said.

## House body visits CHT from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A parliamentary body on CHT affairs ministry will go on a two-day visit to CHT this afternoon to get first hand information on the recent violence in Bagaihat and Khagrachhari that left three persons dead.

The parliamentary standing committee led by committee chief MP Mohammad Shah Alam will hold a meeting to exchange views with local civil society leaders at 9:00pm today at Khagrachhari circuit house.

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## PROSHIKA HQ Police again take control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police once again took control of Proshika head office early yesterday and barred hundreds of its staff from attending regular office on the plea of avoiding a possible "violent clash."

The police action came when an appeal petition, filed by Proshika's former chairman Qazi Faruque Ahmed, is pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for hearing. The court accepted Faruque's leave to appeal petition on Wednesday.

Pallabi police along with detective branch men took control of Proshika Bhaban, one of the largest NGOs, in the city's Mirpur area at dead of night after driving out about 60 staff who stayed in the office overnight to guard it following recent chaos in the organisation.

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## HBM Iqbal gets bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad interim bail for six months to former Awami League lawmaker HBM Iqbal in a corruption case.

In March 2008, Iqbal was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information in his wealth statement.

He was sent to jail on surrender before the court on February 28.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think there should be more forms of punishment other than death sentence for killing after rape?

Yes (15.6%)  
No (83.6%)  
No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 994

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think power tariff rise is justifiable considering the current global energy market & power board's financial condition?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

March 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation