

BURIGANGA GRABBING Cleanup begins, resistance follows

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka district administration yesterday started an eight-month long demolition drive against illegal structures by the river Buriganga at Nawabchar in Kamrangirchar.

A total of 28 illegal structures have been knocked down on the first day of the drive.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) along with police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Fire Service and Power Distribution Company Ltd assisted the district administration to carry out the three-hour drive.

Over 70 labourers, BIWTA tugboat Agrani and a bulldozer were used in the drive to reclaim the river area as earmarked by the cadastral survey.

Hundreds of panic-stricken land-owners and local Awami League leaders of Nawabchar descended on

the streets clasp land documents to confront the district officials.

Magistrate Mohammad Al Amin told the crowd that his team was there to execute an order issued by the High Court (HC) on January 24 to reclaim the river.

"We shall not demolish an inch more than what our survey report points out," he assured the crowd.

While many broke into tears, an elderly woman burst into wailing on the road saying that she had only one katha of land and she would defend it with her life.

Last December, as per a directive by the HC, the deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Gazipur submitted survey reports on the rivers Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakshya.

The HC last June issued a set of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



The Dhaka District Administration launches a drive yesterday to evict illegal occupiers of the Buriganga amid resistance from encroachers who on many occasions produced documents of ownership of the land or court stay orders, inset, against their dislodgement. The photos were taken at Nawabchar in Kamrangirchar.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Schoolgirl burnt to death by stalker

Police strangely claim she committed suicide

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TAFSILUL AZIZ

A 16-year-old schoolgirl has been burnt to death by a youth who had been stalking her since she refused his marriage proposal two years ago.

The victim, Mariam Akhter Pinky of Tarail upazila in Kishoreganj, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital hours after she was set afire on Monday morning.

Initially, she was thought to have attempted suicide. But later on her deathbed, she



Mariam Akhter Pinky

described to her mother how Tobarak Hossain, 24, poured kerosene on her, lit fire and ran off.

"Ammu [mother], you've got to make sure he [Tobarak] is punished," Pinky's mother Latifa Begum quoted her daughter as pleading before succumbing to severe burns all over her body.

Syed Mannan Ali, officer-in-charge of Tarail Police Station, said the girl had killed herself.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Pakistan not interfering Envoy terms war trial Bangladesh's internal matter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Ashraf Qureshi yesterday said Pakistan will not interfere in Bangladesh government's move to hold trial of its alleged war criminals since it is an internal affair of this country.

That Pakistan is opposing the trial is a "guesswork of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

4 firms short-listed for expressway

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has short-listed four companies for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project at an estimated cost of Tk 8,617 crore.

The Bridge Division yesterday informed the cabinet committee on economic affairs about the matter at a meeting at the Cabinet Division with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair.

The Bridge Division asked the committee to give it Tk 2,500 crore allocated for public-private partnership (PPP) in the current budget to meet the primary expenses including con-

sultants' fees.

The meeting, however, did not take any final decision in this regard. If needed, the Bridge Division will be given more than Tk 2500 crore for the purpose, meeting sources said.

The four companies are Italian-Thai Development Public Company Ltd (Thailand), Sikder Real Estate KCC JV (Bangladesh-Korea), Gammon Infrastructure Projects Ltd. Bouygues Travaux Publics SA Consortium (India-France) and China Railway International Ltd (China).

A 7-member experts committee headed by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

1st credit rating for Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh received its first sovereign credit rating yesterday, with Standard & Poor's (S&P) saying the economic outlook was stable.

The rating is expected to help Bangladesh lower its import and export costs and raise foreign investment.

Bangladesh's position is below India but well over Pakistan and Sri Lanka in South Asian context.

(MORE IN STAR BUSINESS)



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Scorching Heat

A monkey takes a dip in the pool at Dhaka Zoo yesterday as the afternoon heat takes a toll on animals in cages.

Clashes lead to Khulna University closure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University was closed for an indefinite period yesterday after a group of students confined a photojournalist to a room that led to clashes between police and students.

In a meeting around 1:30am, the university syndicate made the decision with Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Saifuddin Shah in the chair. The syndicate asked residential students to vacate the dormitories by 6:30am yesterday.

Trouble began when 20-25 students of architecture department, mostly loyal of Islami Chhatra Shibir and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, picked up Shahnewaz, staff photographer of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, and confined

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Campaign to counter terror hibernating

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government's socio-political campaign to uproot extremism has apparently lost all enthusiasm thanks to leadership problem in the home ministry and reluctance of the ministries and agencies concerned in performing their duties.

The home ministry, after a five months' gap, is holding a fresh meeting to discuss progress of the campaign and assess the latest situation, said Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Shikder.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku heads the Jongi Protirodh and Protikar Committee [Committee for Resistance and Correction Militancy] that held its last meeting on October 28 last year. But the committee -- originally formed under the leadership of former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj -- was supposed to hold its meeting every month.

The committee comprising representatives from various ministries and agencies took various innovative initiatives to make people aware about extremism.

Members of the committee are secretaries of the ministries of home, education, law, religious affairs, social welfare, LGRD and cooperatives, and information, the inspector general of police, chiefs of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI),

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CONVICTED FOR GRAFT Mamun's wife surrenders, lands in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Shahina Yeasmin, wife of detained businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, to jail after she surrendered to it in a graft case in which she was earlier jailed for three years in absentia.

Judge (in-charge) Jesmin Anwar of the Special Judge's Court-7 passed the order after rejecting her bail petition in the case filed for acquiring wealth illegally and concealing wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Shahina along with her lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder appeared before the court to seek bail.

The court also directed the jail authorities to give her first class division if she is entitled to it as per the Jail Code.

As Shahina was tried in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Bringing Brokerage 3 Steps Closer

Gulshan

Hosna Center, 2nd Floor
106, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka - 1212
Tel: +88 02 8825301, 8825243
Fax: +88 02 8825236

Dhanmondi

Rd# 27 (Old), 32 (New), Hs# 312
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205
Tel: +88 02 8128267, 01714011077

Nikunja

Lotus Kamal Tower One
57, Zoar Shahara C/A, Nikunja-2
New Airport, Dhaka- 1229
Tel: +88 02 8964013-4, 01730031857

Corporate Member:

Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (145), SEC Reg. No.3.1/DSE/145/2009/334
Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (133), SEC Reg. No.3.2/CSE/133/2009/173

