

SLUM DEMOLITION Health secy, IGP face contempt rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against health secretary, inspector general of police and two other government officials for knocking down the Sat Tala slum in the capital's Mohakhali area ignoring its earlier order.

The two other contemnor officials are senior assistant secretary of health ministry and additional chief engineer of Public Works Department.

The court in the rule directed them to explain within two weeks why action would not be taken against them for contempt of court as they demolished the Sat Tala slum.

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Power projects must not delay

PM directs officials to relax rules for faster bidding and implementation; ensure uninterrupted supply during iftar, sehri time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As different government agencies are failing to complete the tender process to set up new power plants on time, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday instructed the power ministry to amend the procurement rules for faster bidding.

"She has asked officials to amend the tender rules concerned so that a tender cannot be delayed due to procedural reasons," Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told journalists.

He said this following a meeting between the prime minister and high officials of the energy and power ministry yesterday.

Hasina asked officials to make sure that procedures are not bars to generating power, and that the government does not lag behind its target.

She also instructed officials to take whatever measures possible to ensure smooth supply of power during Ramadan. She particularly asked the authorities to ensure power supplies during iftar and sehri hours and urged people to be more frugal in using electricity.

Power Secretary Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad, however, told reporters after the meeting that it would not be possible to meet the power demand during Ramadan because of the gas crisis. He said 920 million cubic feet of gas a day

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'Shootouts' occur due to self-defence

Claims Rab; denies
extra-judicial killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief of Rapid Action Battalion has denied all allegations of extra-judicial killings by Rab members saying the law enforcers often have to indulge in "shootout" for self-defence.

Rab members are often get involved in gunfights with criminals for either self-defence or resisting attackers, Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandker said at a view-exchange meeting with journalists at the Rab headquarters in the capital's Uttara yesterday.

More than 800 people were killed in shootouts involving Rab and police. Of them, 500

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Transit to benefit four countries

Dipu Moni explains: India to get access to its north-east thru' Bangladesh territory, Bangladesh to get transit thru' India to reach Nepal, Bhutan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India will be allowed to use Bangladeshi territory to reach seven landlocked north-eastern Indian states through establishment of road and railway connectivity, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni disclosed yesterday.

Bangladesh will also be allowed to use Indian territory to reach Nepal and Bhutan, and will have direct access to the north-eastern Indian states, she said.

She also revealed that India will allow passage to Nepal and Bhutan as well, for their access to Mongla and Chittagong ports in Bangladesh.

"They [India] will allow Nepal and Bhutan to do third country trade," she said.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit

to India in January, it was already agreed upon that Bangladesh will allow India to use the sea ports too.

"We are thinking about transforming Bangladesh into a regional hub, and when the entire region will be brought under connectivity, India will have access to its north-eastern states," Dipu Moni said while addressing a media briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday on the occasion of Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's visit to the country which led to the signing of a loan agreement between Bangladesh and India.

According to the agreement, India will loan Bangladesh US\$1 billion for infrastructure development.

Dipu Moni said people and goods will move

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Hasina invites Khaleda to iftar party

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent an invitation letter to Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia to attend PM's iftar party for politicians on the fifth of Ramadan at the Gono Bhaban.

Protocol Officer to the PM Pralay Kumar Joarder delivered the invitation letter at the leader of opposition's Sangsad Bhaban office at about 11:30 am.

The invitation letter was received by Khaleda Zia's Private Secretary Saleh Ahmed, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Mahbubul Hoque Shakil.

The premier will hold iftar party for orphans, physically

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3-lane system re-launched, jam worsens

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Traffic movement on major city roads virtually came to a halt at different points for hours yesterday greatly disrupting life.

And downpours in the morning and afternoon added to commuters' sufferings due to gridlocks.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday started re-launching the three-lane system on major roads in a bid to ease traffic jam. But instead of improving the situation, it might have created the unusual tailbacks.

Traffic congestion persisted from around 9:00am to about 5:00pm at different busy intersections including those in Mohakhali, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Shahbagh, Malibagh, Gulistan, Moghbazar, Bijoy Sarani, Mirpur, Khilkhet, Uttara and Airport to Abdullhapor areas.

A commuter from Uttara, Md Habib, said, "It took me over two hours yesterday to reach Karwan Bazar in a city service bus from Staff Road level crossing at Banani. Usually I need at best 40

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30TH BCS EXAMS HC asks PSC not to publish results until further order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Public Service Commission not to publish the results of the preliminary test of 30th Bangladesh Civil Service examinations until further order.

The court directive came after 19 candidates of 30th BCS examinations filed a writ petition yesterday.

The HC bench of justices A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Sheikh Mohammad Zakir Hossain will hold a hearing on the petition today.

The petitioners said nearly

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An unending tailback on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue last night. The city life was messed up for the entire day due to severe traffic jam yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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বাংলাদেশের সকল শ্রেণীর ভোক্তা ও ব্যবসায়ীদের গর্বিত প্রতিষ্ঠান "সিটি গ্রুপ" এবার বিনিয়োগকারীদের জন্য নিরিবিলি ও মনোরম পরিবেশে পুরাতন ঢাকায় নিজস্ব ভবনে আধুনিক সুবিধা সম্বলিত ব্রোকার হাউজের আজ শুভ উদ্বোধন করতে যাচ্ছে।

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