

Free Lalbagh Kella from encroachers

Demand environmental activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists yesterday demanded immediate steps to free Lalbagh Kella, a historic fort in Old Dhaka, from the grips of encroachers.

They also urged the authorities concerned to take stern action against the encroachers. The demands came from a human chain organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA) in front of the main gate of the fort.

The fort represents Dhaka and hence is a pride for the city dwellers, speakers told the programme.

Once the fort had 18 acres of land, but now it is 17.35 acres, cited the speakers adding that houses, built in the western part of the fort, are illegal as per the main design of the fort.

They mentioned that about 30 houses around the fort were built without permission from authorities concerned.

They urged the government to take steps to remove all illegal structures surrounding the fort to save the precious historic site of Bangladesh.

The environmental activists also demanded that an expert team should be formed for the renovation of the fort and moving of vehicles around the fort should be banned.

Prof Shamsul Wares of POBA presided over the programme that was attended among others by CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, POBA Chairman Abu Naser Khan, Prof Nisar Begum and artiste Golam Mohammad Idu.



President Zillur Rahman receives the recently prepared "Constituency maps of Bangladesh" from Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda and Election Commissioners Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain at Bangabhaban yesterday.

President asks EC to maintain neutrality

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called upon the Election Commission (EC) to maintain utmost transparency and neutrality in holding national and other local body elections in the country.

The president made the call when Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda with the two other Election Commissioners called on him at Bangabhaban and handed over the Bangladesh map showing the newly delimited constituencies.

Election Commissioners Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain accompanied the CEC.

During the meeting, the president said that an independent Election Commission (EC) could play a significant role in developing and institutionalising democracy in the country.

He expressed the hope that the EC would discharge its duties reflecting the people's welfare and expectation.

The EC has currently delimited the constituencies to remove the anomalies in the number of voters.

According to the Constitution, the whole country was earlier divided into 300 constituencies but there was huge difference in number of voters in many parliamentary constituencies.

The EC has now demarcated the constituencies keeping the number of voters at rational levels.

The president lauded the EC for completing the delimitation task with a sense of responsibility.

Int'l Mother Language Day Monument built in Italy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A permanent International Mother Language Day monument has been built in Bari city of Italy.

Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shawkat Ali and the city mayor of Bari jointly inaugurated the monument on October 2. This is the second such permanent monument in Europe after the United Kingdom.

Italian government representatives, expatriates of different nationals including hundreds of Bangladeshis from different regions of Italy attended the inauguration. Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy Masud Bin Momen and embassy officials were also present.

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Reshuffle in judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday brought changes to the judiciary as per advice of the Supreme Court, said a press release.

Md Zahurul Huq, district and sessions judge of Narayanganj, has been made metropolitan sessions judge of Dhaka while Md Jahangir Hossain, director general of Anti Corruption Commission (Legal and Prosecution), Dhaka, appointed district and sessions judge of Dhaka.

Md Helal Chowdhury, chief metropolitan magistrate of Chittagong, has been made deputy secretary (law) of Election Commission secretariat.

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