



Sports out, fair in

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DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, however, said he was not aware of illegal structures being built on the playground whereas DCC is the custodian of it.

Asadur Rahman Rana, a member of Event Management Committee of the club, said they informed the DCC chief executive officer about holding the fair.

The club built some 40 stalls and a stage along the boundary walls inside the playground.

Rana said sacrifices have to be made for a celebration like this.

On violation of the HC order, he said the club's top officials can answer regarding that.

Despite repeated attempts, club's president Manzur Kader could not be reached over the phone for his comment.

Robi mobile telephone company sponsored the event and the club did not take any money for the stalls, said Rana adding that the wives of club members and various boutique shops took the stalls.

"We got permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, and the local officer-in-charge (OC) assured us of all possible support for the event," said Rana.

Upon enquiry, Moniruzzaman, OC of

Dhanmondi Police Station, said he was not aware of the HC order.

The HC in another order in December 2009 restrained any organisation-- public or private-- from altering the character of Dhanmondi playground.

Following a writ petition filed jointly by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolok (Bapa) and IAB, an HC bench in 2004 issued a rule upon the then DCC mayor asking him to file a report on the measures taken to preserve the playground. The court also ordered to remove all unauthorised semi-concrete structures there.

But DCC has not yet removed the structures.

Another HC bench in May 2003, in response to a writ petition filed by Bapa, asked the government to ensure proper maintenance and protection of the playgrounds and open spaces in the capital.

Public Works Department (PWD), owner of the 13.5-bigha Dhanmondi playground, handed it over to DCC in January 1984 for its maintenance and conservation.

The public works ministry in July 2008 decided to free the playground from any illegal occupancy and maintain it as a public open space.

However, the decision has yet to be implemented.

Equal transit fees

FROM PAGE 1

As the fuel surcharge will be paid by only those foreign vehicles that will refuel in Bangladesh petrol stations, it will have to remain outside the purview of transit charge. This surcharge will have to be collected separately at the sales points and it will go to the collection head of VAT wing of NBR, it said.

The Customs Management of Transit and Transhipment Goods Rules, 2010 may be amended so that the "transit/transhipment fee" mentioned in the rules reflect all types of fees and charges that were combined together, it read.

The report said, for ease of collection of fees and reducing hassle of transit traffic, the combined "transit charge" can be collected at a single point, for example, at the time of entry of the transit vehicles at the bordering customs stations.

According to General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and Customs Act, 1969 of Bangladesh, it cannot impose customs duties or tax on transit traffic, it said.

But there are no restrictions on imposing transit charge on the movement of transit traffic in order to recover various types of costs related to administrative expenses such as costs of customs formalities, customs inspection and charge for use of services.

This user charge will also cover various types of external costs associated with transit traffic, such as cost due to congestion, environmental pollution, accidents

from the extra traffic, use of fuel, and financial costs of network provision and maintenance.

The report said such fees or charges may also incorporate certain portion of the benefits enjoyed by the countries that are provided with transit facilities.

It cited different studies and said Bangladesh may charge a transit fee for each tonne of Indian, Nepalese, Bhutanese cargo that will travel through the country based on a certain percentage of the savings made by the respective beneficiary country.

Mentioning different transit routes, the report said the savings by India, Nepal or Bhutan could be around 12 to 80 percent depending on the routes they will use through Bangladesh.

The apportionment of the percentage of such savings between the countries involved may be settled through negotiation, the report said.

The government assigned the committee on transit to conduct an extensive study to fix routes and fees, economic analysis of the transit, and assess the volume of traffic before allowing transit to India, Nepal and Bhutan.

The sub-committees included former UN ESCAP director M Rahmatullah, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chairman of Policy Research Institution and former World Bank official Sadik Ahmed, BIDS Senior Research Fellow Dr Mohammad Yunus.

Grabbers

FROM PAGE 1

The HC in 2009 asked the deputy commissioners (DC) of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj to survey and demarcate the rivers Buriganga, Turag, Balu, Shitalakkhya and Daleshwari.

On April 12 this year, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan formally launched the demarcation process on the Turag in Gazipur. The administration of the district has so far put up several hundred pillars demarcating the river minus its foreshore.

The DCs have adopted this measure to save the powerful river grabbers. Besides, their list of illegal structures is also inaccurate," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

He also observed that every medical college should provide a short training on drug stores, said Zafrullah Chowdhury, coordinator of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

The government must strengthen the monitoring of drug stores, said Zafrullah Chowdhury, coordinator of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

Director General of DGDA Abul Kalam Azad said his office can fine a pharmacy or close it, if there is no registered pharmacist.

He, however, admitted there is a shortage of officials to monitor the drug stores.

trative officials of a riverine country are unaware of the very definition of a river, she added.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, president of Bapa, expressed shock over what the Gazipur administration has done.

In a written statement, Bapa General Secretary Md Abdul Matin demanded that the authorities must remove the pillars immediately and recover the rivers in compliance with the HC orders.

Mubashar Hussein, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh, said the prime minister is being misled regarding river conservation as it had happened while laying foundation to the illegal BGMEA building.

Bapa Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib demanded that the rivers be saved in the light of wetland protection act, port act, port rules and the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for Dhaka.

They were taken to the Keranihat Al-Arsafa Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

Tourist resort staff abducted in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

An employee of Sakura Village, a private tourist resort, situated on the outskirts of the district town was abducted by a gang of armed miscreants for ransom on Friday night.

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BURKINA FASO MUTINY President dissolves government to quell revolt

AFP, Ouagadougou

Mutinous soldiers took to the streets of the Burkina Faso capital in a second night of protests yesterday even as President Blaise Compaore dissolved his government and named a new army chief.

Seeking to reassert his authority after a mutiny by his personal guard and mass street protests Thursday and Friday, Compaore announced that "the secretaries-general of the ministries will be in charge of current affairs" until a new cabinet of ministers is appointed on a date he did not specify.

Experts say the biggest mammals on ground are already critically endangered in Bangladesh and would not survive for long if the government does not secure safe corridors and plant fodders in the forest immediately.

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