

250 hoardings pulled down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday pulled down around 250 hoardings and signboards of seven illegal housing projects in Dumni, Isapura, and Patira and in a part of the river Balu under Khilkhet Police Station.

Rajuk Executive Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula led the team which also demolished 40 feet of a 150-feet long wall of Baridhara River View project of Bhuluwa Royal City.

"...The remaining portion of the wall will be demolished today (Tuesday)", said Rokon.

He said Rajuk also knocked down 102 hoardings and signboards of Bhuluwa Royal City.

The demolished structures include 32 hoardings of Ashalay Housing and Development Ltd, one of Reliance Group, 78 of Four Season Holdings Ltd, six of Lotus Design and Development Ltd, and six of Park City.

Rajuk has launched action against unauthorised housing projects since June 22 following directives of the High Court.

An HC bench on June 8 directed the government to stop the development of 77 unauthorised housing projects in and around Dhaka within 30 days.

"We have torn down the hoardings as the realtors had been implementing projects violating the Wetland Protection Act, 2000 and the rules for land development," said an official of Rajuk.

The Rajuk during its drive, which entered eighth day yesterday, has so far knocked down over 550 hoardings and signboards of more than 100 illegal housing projects.

Railway demolishes 300 illegal structures



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway in a drive demolished around 300 tin-shed and semi-concrete structures in the capital's Gopibagh yesterday.

The authorities conducted the drive to reclaim 10 acres of land of the railway, said Ahmadul Haque, executive magistrate and also divisional estate officer of the railway, who led the drive.

He said the land was occupied with garages, motor shops and houses. After the removal of the structures, the railway will use the land for its own purpose.

Of the people evicted, Tonu had three garages and three shops on a 2.5-katha plot. He claimed he inherited the property.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) in 1993 acquired his land in exchange for Tk 10 lakh which, according to Tonu, is a very small amount.

Tonu with two other owners of three adjacent plots measuring 9 katha filed an arbitration case against Rajuk in 2008. The case trial is going on. Moreover, the court issued a stay order on any demolition, said Tonu.

Magistrate Ahmadul, however, said the railway acquired their land in 1959-1960. And the stay order that the owners showed to them expired on June 27.

"We did not demolish only one house in the area since the owner showed a stay order still in effect," he said.

Bangladesh Railway demolishes illegal structures constructed on its land at Kamalapur in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



President Zillur Rahman gives away a gold medal to a graduate during the second convocation of Uttara University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

Shun negative attitude

President asks university students

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called upon the country's university students to shun any attitude devoid of humanity and negative mentality in order to build a beautiful and civilised society.

"Attitudes devoid of humanity and negative mentality are the roots of many evil practices in society," he said while presiding over the second convocation of Uttara University in the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Adviser to the prime minister Prof Dr Alauddin Ahmed was the special guest at the function while University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury was the convocation speaker.

The university Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M

Azizur Rahman and trustee board Chairman Prof Dr Yasmin Ara Lekha also spoke on the occasion.

The president said people are now in a race for money and consumption being influenced by globalisation where mundane gains are prioritised over serving humanity.

"People have become artificial and humanity is trampled by self-centredness and greed... we must come out of such mentality to build a beautiful and civilised society," he said.

He said private universities should have their own permanent campus, better infrastructures and facilities to offer a congenial atmosphere.

"We want international standard quality education in every university of the country, be it public or private," he said.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Dr AKM Shamsul Huda, a language movement veteran and former VP of Sir Salimullah Medical College.

On the occasion, a quankhwani, a milad mahfil, and a special feast for orphans will be arranged at Mirpur Buddhijibi Kaborstan Masjid, says a press release.



Presentation

BROTEE will organise a presentation programme; Venue: LGED Conference Hall; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Center for National Studies will organise a seminar; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

America-Bangladesh Friendship Forum will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity; Time: 5:00pm.

Inaugural screening

Kewkradond Bangladesh will organise a film screening; Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh; Time: 6:00pm.

Human chain

Charukala Shikkhak Parishad Bangladesh will hold a human chain; Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

HC asks govt to protect hills in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon seven government officials to show cause within three weeks as to why their inaction to protect the hills of Chittagong would not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

It directed the superintendent of police of Chittagong and officer-in-charge of Banskhali Police Station to file cases against the people involved in cutting hills in Banskhali and other upazilas. They were also asked to submit a compliance report to the court through the registrar within 10 days.

The respondents of the rule are secretary of Prime Minister's Secretariat, environment and forest secretary, director general of Department of Environment, deputy commissioner and SP of Chittagong, Upazila Nirbahi Officer and OC of Banskhali PS.

The HC bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui and Justice M Moazzam Husain came

up with the directions following a writ petition filed by the Secretary of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) Asaduzzaman Siddique.

The bench also directed the DC of Chittagong and UNO of Banskhali and the police officials to take steps to fill up the pits of Gunagari hill in Banskhali within six months with money collected from the people liable for the damage.

It also directed them to arrange continuous monitoring in the area to ensure none can destroy the hill.

The rights organisation filed the petition in public interest upon receiving an application from a resident of Banskhali area for legal assistance to stop cutting of hills.

HRPB President Manzill Murshid moved the case.

"One of the reasons behind landslides is hill-cutting, which poses a serious threat to the environment. This is why we sought directives to save the hills," Manzill told The Daily Star.

Faruque, Kanak Smriti Ekattor president, secy

BSS, Dhaka

The executive committee of Smriti Ekattor, a pro-liberation social organisation, has been reformed through a meeting held at the public library auditorium in the city recently.

Journalist Omar Faruque, former general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), and Tawhidul Islam Kanak, a young writer and publisher, have been made its president and general secretary.

Other office-bearers are journalist Mofida Akbor and Dr Jesmin Ara Sultana Sathi senior vice-presidents; Habibullah Ripon, vice-president; Rabiul Hasan, joint secretary; and Abu Zaher Tutul, organising secretary.



Guests hold copies of DVD of a film "Aparajeeta", based on poet Sufia Kamal, after unveiling of the DVD at a ceremony organised by Steps Towards Development at Chhayanaut Sangskritik Bhaban in the city yesterday. Second from right are Sultana Kamal, Dr Sanjida Khatun, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

PHOTO: STAR

Schoolboy shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy was wounded as a stray bullet hit him while crossing two feuding youths on his way home in the city's Demra yesterday.

Mehdi Hasan, 12, a class six student of Dogair Darussalam Dakhil Madrassa was admitted to a local hospital with wounds in left leg.

Sub-Inspector Motlubol Alam of Demra Police Station said a bullet hit Mehdi's left leg while he was passing the youths who were quarreling on the road near PR Model High School of the area around 5:30pm.

Death Anniversary



Today, 5th July, is the 10th Death Anniversary of Al-Haj M Masihur Rahman, C A, the Principal of the M.M. Rahman & Co. He was a great philanthropist connected with many organizations. He was the Founder President of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industries, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Past Dist. Governor of Rotary International Dist 329. He was the President of Gulshan Central Masjid and connected with many other organizations. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to offer prayers for his departed soul.

Prof. Roushanara Rahman
Dr. Niaz A Rahman
Fawzia Ahmed

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