

Ramchandrapur Canal 100 structures demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa knocked down around 100 structures, including 50 makeshift structures of freedom fighters, in its drive against illegal occupations on Ramchandrapur canal on the third day yesterday.

Kazi Wasi Uddin and Nasir Uddin, executive magistrates of Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), led a team of around 100 labourers and police.

Of the structures, a five-storey building and a two-storey building have been demolished partially while a two-storey building totally, said Ruhul Amin, executive engineer of Wasa drainage division.

The team also knocked down around 95 kancha structures, including 50 makeshift structures of freedom fighters, which were built illegally on the canal.

"We have knocked down 50 makeshift structures of freedom fighters, out of 100, today and rest of the structures will be demolished in the next three days," said Ruhul Amin.

In last October, Wasa had to abandon a scheduled eviction drive to free this canal, as the district administration called them off in the face of opposition by a group of freedom fighters.

Official sources said that this time the government high-ups gave go-ahead to remove the said occupancy to recover the canal.

The Wasa started the drive on September 24 to free a 1.5-km, stretching from Mohamodia Housing Ltd Road No-6 to Gabtoli, of illegal occupancy.

Ruhul Amin said they will continue the drive three more days to complete it.

He said after completion of the drive, they will soon start a construction work to build a walkway.



People watch on yesterday as a bulldozer tears down a residential building, which was illegally built occupying the land of Ramchandrapur Canal in the city's Mohammadpur, as a part of the eviction drive by Dhaka Wasa to save the canal.

PHOTO: STAR

Road crashes kill 2, injure 56

METRO DESK

Two people were killed and 56 others injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur, Satkhira and Thakurgaon on Sunday night and yesterday.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: 53 people were injured in separate road accidents at Birganj and Biral upazila in the district yesterday.

At least 50 passengers of a bus were injured when a driver of the Dinajpur-bound bus lost his control over the steering and turned upside down in front of Birganj Municipality Office in Birganj upazila.

The injured were rushed to Birganj Health Complex and critically injured people were shifted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

The passengers complained that the driver of the bus was talking over his cell phone amid heavy rainfall.

Three people, including a fourteen-year old girl, were injured when a bus hit a bicycle from behind while they were riding bicycle on Biral-Birganj road at Garungram of Biral upazila.

They were admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Our Satkhira correspondent says: A motorcycle rider was killed and three others were injured in separate road accidents in Assassuni upazila yesterday.

Motorcyclist Joyanta Sardar, 24, son of Gopal Sardar, of village Thakurabad, was killed and another injured when a bus hit their motorcycle on Assassuni-Sreula road at Kodonda intersection in the upazila.

In another accident, motorbike riders Monjurul Islam and Raju were injured when a nasimon, locally made three-wheeler, hit them at Assassuni madrasa intersection.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds: A motorcyclist was killed as his motorcycle collided head-on with a Dinajpur-bound stone-laden truck at Chhoto Khochabari village in Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

The deceased is Jartu Barman, 35, son of Fangu Barman, of Gouripur village of the same upazila.

Hasina greeted for peace model

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad has greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for presenting a peace model during the UNGA general debate at the United Nations headquarters Saturday.

In a statement, the parishad leaders said the six multipliers that she proposed in her model will be of help to eradicate poverty from the society.

They also praised Sheikh Hasina's proposal for giving Bangla the recognition as an official language of the UN.



Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Film Archive and Bangladesh Film Archive Alumni Association will jointly organise a memorial meeting. Venue: National museum auditorium, Time: 5:30pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies will hold a roundtable. Venue: Bliss auditorium, Time: 10:25am.

Seminar

Press Institute of Bangladesh will hold a seminar. Venue: PIB seminar room, Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Enterprise for Development and Security Studies will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Tourism Foundation will hold a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

Call to cancel deal with ConocoPhillips

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power, and Ports yesterday launched its Dhaka-Chittagong road march to press a seven-point demand including scrapping of the deal with ConocoPhillips for exploring gas and oil in the Bay of Bengal.

Convener of the national committee, Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, inaugurated the three-day road march in front of the city's Jatiya Press Club in a brief rally. During the march, the committee will hold street rallies and grand rallies in Comilla and Chittagong.

On June 16, Bangladesh made its first ever step into exploring gas and oil in the Bay by signing a production-sharing contract (PSC) with US oil company, ConocoPhillips. The company won two deep-sea blocks at an offshore block bidding floated by Petrobangla in 2008. The PSC allows exploration of the undisputed part of the blocks that cover an area of 5,158 square kilometres.

Engineer Shahidullah said people took to streets for keeping hold of their ownership over the national resources protesting 'deals of slavery' the government signed with foreign companies.

Prof Anu Mohammad, member secretary of the committee, said the deal is going to be a threat not only to the energy security but also to the national security of the country.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said they

were mounting the movement for the historical necessity and to serve the national interest.

The committee's other demands include cancellation of the production-sharing contract (PSC)-2008, enactment of laws banning export of minerals resources, and delegating the national authorities to explore oil and gas.

Communist of Bangladesh Party President

Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, President of Workers Party of Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mollick, and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Khalequzzaman, among others, were present at the rally.

CU Supports Road March

The Chittagong University (CU) unit of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power, and Ports brought out a procession from the university railway station yesterday in support of making the three-day road march successful,

reports our CU correspondent.

Speakers at a rally that followed the procession said the deal with ConocoPhillips is against national interests, and the government should immediately cancel it.

CU unit Samajtantrik Chhatra Front president Probal Majumder, Chhatra Federation president Shahrin Ferdousi, and Chhatra Union president Taslim Uddin addressed the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power, and Ports stages a demonstration to press their seven-point demand in the city yesterday.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks at the party standing committee meeting at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Syed Golam Mawla, a leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), passed away at his residence at Golab Singh Lane of Nandan Kanon in the port city yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 58.

He was an organiser of mass upsurge of 1969 and the War of Liberation.

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters and host of relatives to mourn his death.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qul Khwani of AKM Mahatab Uddin, a former chairman of horticulture department of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, will be held at the Azampur Chhapra Mosque after Asr prayers today.

AKM Mahatab Uddin passed away at Birdem Hospital in the city on Friday.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme for salvation of the departed soul.

Bangabandhu dreamt of secular Bangladesh Speakers tell discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a meeting yesterday recalled Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with deep gratitude for his relentless efforts to turn South Asian region into a model of secularism.

"Bangabandhu wanted to establish peace across the world using humanity, tolerance, and beauty of Islam," said Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Addressing the discussion as the chief guest, he said establishment of Islamic Foundation in the war-ravaged Bangladesh amply proved love and passion of Bangabandhu, the architect of modern Bangladesh, for Islam, a religion of peace and harmony.

Islamic Foundation organised the view-exchange meeting on "Contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for Spreading Islam" at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Chaired by Director General of Islamic Foundation Shamim Mohammad Afzal, the meeting was addressed, among others, by eminent journalist ABM Musa, Advisory Editor of the Daily Ittefaq and Chairman of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Habibur Rahman Milon, and President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan also took part in the discussion.

Joint Secretary General of BFUJ and special correspondent of the Daily Amader Samoy Saiful Islam Talukder presented the keynote paper in the function.

Recalling his personal relation with Bangabandhu, journalist ABM Musa said it was Bangabandhu who bought a ship "Hizbul Bahar" to carry the hajj pilgrims soon after the country's independence. But, he regretted that the ship was later used for smuggling, taking liquors and pleasure trips.

Journalist Habibur Rahman Milon, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan also spoke.

Moyez Uddin's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 27th death anniversary of Shaheed Moyez Uddin, a former Awami League leader and lawmaker, says a press release.

On the occasion, AL and his family members chalked out elaborate programmes, including placing wreaths, offerings special prayers, milad mahfil and distributing foods.

Acting president of Awami League Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and other leaders of the party will place wreaths at his grave at the Banani graveyard in the city.

Besides, a reminiscence meeting will be held in the memory of Shaheed Moyez Uddin at R M School field in Kaliganj on September 29.

Another reminiscence meeting organised by Gazipur Sadar Upazila Awami League will be held at Gazipur Baria Kumun School field on October 1.

Moyez Uddin was killed by a criminal gang of Azam Khan in 1984 while he was leading a protest procession at an anti-autocratic movement against the then government at Kaliganj.

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