

Khoka's activities 'contradictory' Says Nanak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday said the outgoing Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka's activities on the DCC split issue are "contradictory".

Though the mayor bid farewell to his post, he filed a writ petition challenging the split's legality. Moreover, Khoka's party, BNP, called a dawn-to-dusk hartal over the issue on Sunday, he added.

Nanak was talking to reporters after launching the "Sector Development Plan fiscal year 2011-2025" organised by Local Government Department (LGD) in the city's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Over the hartal, he opined that BNP should have waited for the court's decision on the split "instead of making the general people suffer unnecessarily".

Two administrators would be appointed as soon as the gazette notification on the split is released, he added.

Butterfly fair begins at JU today

JU CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to promote the importance of butterflies in maintaining ecological balance, a butterfly fair begins at Jahangirnagar University today.

Live butterfly display, photography competition, drawing competition for children, kite flying, and film screening, among others, will mark the fair to be open for visitors from 9:30am to 4:30pm in front of Zahir Raihan auditorium.

DCC split to destroy heritage Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The heritage and traditions of Dhaka will be destroyed if the city corporation is split into Dhaka South and Dhaka North, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said at a discussion yesterday.

He said an attempt is underway to destroy Dhaka city's heritage through the split. The city dwellers have started a movement protesting the government's decision and, if necessary, the 16 crore people of Bangladesh will join the movement, he added.

Praktan Chhatra League Foundation, a platform of former leaders and activists of a student organisation, organised the discussion titled "Ways forward to recover from constitutional crisis" at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city.

Addressing the programme, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, ex-leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), a pro-Awami League student body, said that although involved with the politics of the ruling party, he does not accept the party's wrong decision. He said he did not accept scrapping of the caretaker government system and now also does not support the split of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Veteran journalist ABM Musa criticised some recent activities of BCL saying that this organisation has contributed a lot in the golden history of this country but is now busy in extortion and other illegal activities.

Praktan Chhatra League Foundation convener Nur-e-Alam Siddiqi presided over the discussion while former Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen (ret'd) Harunur Rashid and former BCL leaders Khaled Mohammad Ali, MA Rashid, Matiur Rahman, and Abul Kashem spoke among others.

Tk 5,409cr fertiliser factory gets Ecnec nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved the project of setting up Shahjalal Fertiliser Factory in Fenchuganj, Sylhet, at Tk 5,409 crore, of which 73 percent will be provided by China.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair approved the project.

The planning ministry in a statement said the Chinese government and China Exim Bank would provide Tk 3,986 crore for the project as a concession loan with an interest rate of 2 percent and the amount has to be repaid in 20 years.

A Chinese contractor will begin working on the project in January 2012 and finish it by June 2015, the statement added. On completion of the project the factory would produce 1,760 tonnes of urea every day.

Ecnec also approved seven other projects requiring an expenditure of Tk 1,583 crore. It also gave the nod to Sylhet gas transmis-

sion network upgradation project at a cost of Tk 91 crore, aiming to bring new areas of Sylhet and Moulvibazar under gas connection network.

The committee also okayed the revision of another project to enhance technical capacity of the state-owned oil and gas exploration and production company, BAPEX. The project cost is Tk 323 crore.

The other projects approved in the meeting are: Further development of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University at Tk 69 crore; promotion of services and opportunities to the disabled persons in Bangladesh (Revised) at Tk 155 crore; modernisation and expansion of the Chittagong centre of Bangladesh Television at Tk 38 crore; construction of 448 flats for govt employees of Bangladesh National Parliament Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka project at Tk 164 crore and gas transmission capacity expansion-Ashuganj to Bakhraabad at Tk 743 crore.



Eminence, an NGO, forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday marking the World AIDS Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt to pull out army from CHT

Says CHT affairs secretary

UNB, Dhaka

The government will take steps to gradually pull out army camps from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to fully implement the CHT peace accord signed in 1997.

"Some 235 army camps have been pulled out from the CHT so far and the remaining ones will be withdrawn gradually," said CHT Affairs acting secretary Nabobikram Kishor Tripura at a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday.

He said the government has already implemented most sections of the CHT peace accord.

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Bangladesh Labour Party forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the attack by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) chief Oli Ahmed at the Chittagong court premises on November 24.

PHOTO: STAR

SC order on 807 NU staff jobs Dec 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed December 4 for passing an order on the petitions filed against a High Court verdict that declared illegal the appointment of the national university's (NU) 807 officials and employees.

A six-member bench of the appellate division bench of SC yesterday held hearing on the petitions and fixed the date.

The HC on August 23 this year ruled that appointment of the 807 staff recruited between November 17, 2003 and August 31, 2004 was illegal.

Acting upon the HC verdict, the NU syndicate on September 10 called an emergency meeting and decided to sack 821 staff who were recruited through a fake advertisement during the tenure of the BNP-led government.

Tech-based class stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the extensive use of computer-based information and communication technology (ICT) in classrooms to change the conventional nature of learning and equip the new generation for global competition.

They voiced for applying innovative teaching approaches as the role of teachers, as shaped by the digital era, must be more of a guide.

The seminar, "Future classrooms: increasing learning achievements", was held on the sidelines of the first day of a three-day "eASIA 2011 Conference and Exhibition" in the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Bangladesh Computer Council, ICT Division of Ministry of Science and ICT and India's Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies jointly organised the conference.

Presenting her paper, Felicia Brown, APAC Education Programmes manager, Microsoft, Singapore, said teachers are taking the aid of technologies in classrooms globally and they must be provided with more innovative teaching approaches.

Soonwon Jung of Korea Education and Research Information Service, South Korea, suggested developing and utilising digital textbooks, introducing online classes and assessment systems and creating an environment conducive to learning.

Brac Education Centre Director Dr Shafiqul Islam chaired the session, where Ashutosh Chanda, director, Corporate Affairs, South Asia Intel, India; Prof Dr Mansor Fadzil, senior vice president, Open University of Malaysia; and Dr Deborah Wyburn, consultant, Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project, Sri Lanka also spoke.

State minister hurt in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Shahjahan Miah was injured slightly as his jeep hit a roadside under-construction culvert in Trishal upazila yesterday.

He was given first aid at Mymensingh Circuit House.

Zakir Hossain, chauffeur of the jeep, said he lost control and hit the culvert to avoid a crash with an oncoming motorbike on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Chelerghat area.

The minister was bound for Mymensingh town to inaugurate the Islamic Foundation office and attend a meeting of Alem and Ulema.

He joined both of the programmes.

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