Kurigram DC, three others apologise over tree felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kurigram Deputy Commissioner (DC) and three others unconditionally apologised to the High Court yesterday for not taking action against those responsible for cutting trees on Char Bhurungamari High School premises.

The four are DC Habibur Rahman, Bhurungamari Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Hamidul Huq, Bhurungamari Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kafil Uddin and the school Headmaster Sadrul Alam.

After the apology, during the hearing of a writ petition, the HC bench asked the DC, TNO and OC to submit a report to it within a month on what steps they took to stop the cutting of

The four were also exempted by the bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim from personal appearance before it in connection with the petition, said Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain.

The petition was filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh saying that a vested quarter had cut the trees and damaged the environment on August

The court issued a rule upon the four on December 11 last year to explain why their failure to take action against the people responsible for cutting the trees should not be declared illegal.

On January 5, the court fixed January 8 (yesterday) for them to appear and explain.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid said one, Enamul Islam Khokon, submitted an application on behalf of the locals to the DC, TNO and OC to take action against the vested quarters. But instead, the TNO harassed Khokon in different ways.

Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan appeared for the four.



A bereaved wife tugs her daughter into her arms, trying to lessen the pain in her heart at the unbearable loss of her husband Dinesh Das; inset, journalists take to the streets in front of Jatiya Press Club protesting the journalist's death in a fatal road accident in the city's Kakrail area yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

'It's murder, not accident'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different professional, social and cultural organisations took to the city streets yesterday protesting the death of Dinesh Das, a senior reporter of the Bangla daily Amader Shomoy, in a road accident. Expressing deep shock over the death, they demanded

punishment of the driver of the bus that rammed Dinesh's motorcycle in the city's Kakrail area in the morning leading to his death. They expressed sympathy with Dinesh's family members

and urged the government to pay compensation to the bereaved family.

They also demanded road safety for journalists.

"Death in road accident should not be called accident any more: rather it is a kind of killing. To resist the killing resulted from unbridled corruption and irregularities, people should get united without any delay," said Gano Sanghati Andolon in a press release.

Also, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Dhaka Reporters Unity, Bangladesh Bank, Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh, Gano Forum, Ganotantrik Bam Morcha, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Progressive Art and Mass Media Workers' Forum, Court Reporters Association and Kendriyo Progotishil Chhatra Jote conveyed sympathy over the death in separate press releases.

Bus crash kills 3 TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

UNB, Gazipur

Local people set a bus ablaze in Borobari area of Sadar upazila after it killed three garment workers yesterday on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

The deceased were Ataur, 35, son of Abbas Ali and worker of Unique Designer Fashion Garments, Ismail, 23, son of Abdul Qadir and worker of MI Design Garments, and Jahangir, 30, son of Hafiz Uddin and worker of Botom Garments.

Quoting witnesses, police said a Dhaka-bound bus of Balaka Paribahan hit the garment workers when they were crossing the road around 8:00am, leaving Ataur spot dead and 17 others injured. Later, Ismail and Jahangir succumbed to their injuries at Tongi hospital.

Outranged by the accident, fellow workers set fire to the bus while its bus driver and helper fled the scene. Later, firefighter units and police bought the situation under control.

'Flaws in law obstacle to enforcement'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of the tobacco control act could not be ensured effectively due to some loopholes in the law, observes a panel study of a committee of the Bangladesh Bar Council.

Pointing out that The Smoking and Using of Tobacco Products (Control) Act, 2005 does not comply with the international obligations imposed by World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

(WHO FCTC), says the study suggesting amendment to the act.

Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of the council conducted the face-to-face cohort study tilled International Tobacco Control (ITC) Bangladesh Survey on 2,510 adult smokers and 2,116 adult non-smokers selected from 80 villages and wards of the country.

The committee organised a press conference to disclose the preliminary findings of the study at Bar Council Building in the city yesterday.

adcommad.com/kkb

Dr Shahdeen Malik, advocate of the Supreme Court, supervised the observational study. In absence of provisions to protect

passive smokers in the act and failing to put effective restrictions on commercial sponsorships and advertisements, the act could not be implemented effectively, observes the Vice chairman of the council A Baset

Majumdar said the law should be amended as it bars people from filing cases in the court directly.

Upholding of 1971 history stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some cultural and media personalities stressed the need for dissemination of real history of the War of Liberation among the younger generation to encourage them to work for a prosperous Bangladesh.

They also demanded completion of war crimes trial immediately to redeem the sacrifice of the martyrs.

They were speaking at the launching ceremony of activities of preparing a publication and a documentary titled 'Unfading Memories of Liberation War' organised by Bangladesh Sangbad'71 (BDS'71), a news agency, at the Jatiya Press Club on Saturday.

BDS'71 Chairman Shoyeb Md Tarique Ullah

presided over the function. Noted journalist Abed Khan, eminent cultural activist Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee Vice President Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Bangladesh Television Director General Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a discussion with leaders of Awami League at Gono Bhaban yesterday to decide on the subject of the president's dialogue. РНОТО: РМО

TALKS WITH PRESIDENT

AL won't place concrete proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) high command last night decided that it would place no concrete proposal to President Zillur Rahman on the formation of the Election Commission (EC) at the party's scheduled dialogue with him on January 12.

The emergency meeting of the AL with party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair took the decision to welcome the president's move and opted for recommending the formation of the EC based on consensus amongst the major political parties, said meeting sources.

The three-hour meeting starting at 6:30pm at the prime minister's official residence Gono Bhaban, however, finalised a 14-member delegation for the dialogue to be headed by AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

M. Aminul Huque 1948-2011 On this day he left us all. May ALLAH grant him peace and place him in the heavens for eternity. We seek blessings from all. ~Family

19 docs punished for skipping duty

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Capt (retd) Mujibur Rahman Fakir asked the authorities concerned to take punitive steps against 19 doctors on charges of being absent in unauthorised manner at different rural hospitals in Mymensingh.

The order came after the state minister made a surprise visit to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex and Gouripur Upazila Health Complex yesterday morning.

During the visit to the health complexes, the state minister came to know that 19 physicians had not joined their duties at the hospitals and at the same time did not inform the hospital authorities.

Besides, Mujibur also ordered the authorities concerned to take immediate action against community healthcare provider Fatema Akhter on the charge that she had skipped duty for 30 days at Bhoradoba Community Clinic last year.

we will miss you 1946-2012 His QULKHANI will be held on 10 January, 2012 after Maghrib at his own residence ADCOMM





We were blessed to have a visionary with us. He left behind a legend,

A wonderful combination of the spirit of entrepreneurship, with the spirit of benevolence and honesty.



Fill quota of DU admission within Jan 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The candidates who failed to fill up the quota option for the first year honours and BBA courses admission at the Dhaka University have been requested to apply to the vice-chancellor for filling up their quota option through online within January 14, says a press release.

The admission seekers who are under freedom fighter's offspring, indigenous and physically challenged quotas for academic year 2011-12 under Kha and Ga unit will get the opportunity.



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