



Citizens Rights Movement, Initiative for Peace, Sangkhudha Nagorik Samaj, Combined Movement for Wetland Protection and some civic groups stage a demonstration before the BGMEA building in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday. They were demanding that the government immediately demolish the illegally-built 15-storey building as per a High Court order.

PHOTO: STAR

# Demolition of illegally-built BGMEA building demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must immediately demolish the illegally-built 15-storey BGMEA building to free the capital's Begunbari canal, said environmental and civic activists at a demonstration yesterday.

Citizens Rights Movement, Initiative for Peace, Sangkhudha Nagorik Samaj, Combined Movement for Wetland Protection and some civic groups organised the demonstration before the building in Karwan Bazar.

The prime minister should expedite the process to demolish the building,

in the middle of the canal and declared illegal by the High Court, before she opens the Hatirjheel civic amenities, said columnist Syed Abul Muksud.

The PM is expected to open the Hatirjheel-Begunbari road to public on January 2.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin said the issue was now pending with the Supreme Court's appellate division.

Apart from the HC order for the building's removal, the government is also obliged by the wetland conserva-

tion law to remove the building, said Movement for Wetland Protection Convener Iqbal Syed Rana.

The government was proactive in evicting the opposition leader from her cantonment house and splitting Dhaka city corporation defying public opinion but is silent on the building's removal, said Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon member Hasibur Rahman Moyna. Renowned sculptor Bhashkar Rasha, television anchor Muhammad Jahangir, Dhaka University journalism teacher Rubaet Ferdous, Sharif Jamil and Ruhin Hossain Prince of Bapa expressed solidarity with the demand.

# Effectively implement house rent laws

National Citizen Society urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must ensure effective implementation of the existing house rent laws in the country to ease the sufferings of tenants, demanded speakers at a human chain yesterday.

They said these laws lack proper implementation with the authorities concerned not monitoring the issue properly.

National Citizen Society organised the human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital, said an official press release.

Its President Mohammad Nasir Uddin Munshi said house rents across the country have increased by 350 percent in the last 22 years.

According to the House Rent Control Act 1991, if the rent of any house is increased exceeding the "standard rent",

the excess amount is not realisable from the tenant, said journalist Shahid Shiraji.

Munshi alleged that most landlords in the capital charge five to six times the standard rent set by Dhaka city corporation and also do not pay taxes in proportion to the rent hike.

This situation could be controlled if the government could build houses to be leased out at lower rents over long periods, he suggested.

Shiraji said the house rent act directs landlords to provide receipts to tenants upon receiving rent from them, yet very few landlords follow this rule.

At the programme, National Citizen Society placed 14-point demand, including proper implementation of house rent laws and a mobile court to settle disputes between house owners and tenants.

# Construction worker falls to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker died after falling from an under-construction building in the capital yesterday.

The victim was Mohammad Selim, 18. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Selim's colleague Sukkur Miah said Selim fell down from the 6th floor of LGED Bhaban in Agargaon area when he was working standing on tin scaffolding around 2:30pm.

He suddenly slipped off, while two others managed to cling to the scaffolding, he said.

Police said Selim first fell on a tin protection at the height of fifth floor. But it collapsed and fell on the ground.

# Obituary

METRO DESK

Abdul Motaleb Chowdhury passed away yesterday from a cardiac arrest at a hospital in Chittagong city. He was 72.

He left behind his wife, three daughters, a son, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Chandanaish upazila of Chittagong.

He was a service holder and the writer of the book "Shomikashu."

## 2nd Death Anniversary



Today, as we reminisce and try to imagine what you would say if your voice could reach us from Heaven...an old song comes to mind:

"I'm already there, take a look around  
I'm the sunshine in your hair, I'm the shadow on the ground  
I'm the whisper in the wind, I'm your imaginary friend  
And I know I'm in your prayers"

In Fond Remembrance of Dr. Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, former Vice Chancellor of IUB who passed away on 30 December 2010

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