

10,000 BLACKLISTED BUILDINGS IN CAPITAL HC directs Rajuk, ACC to submit report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirpakkha (Rajuk) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit a report to it by July 8 on 10,000 blacklisted buildings in the capital compiled by the ACC.

On May 19, Bangla daily the Jugantor published a report titled "Kalo talikar 10,000 building rokkhay karsaji (Tactic to save 10,000 blacklisted buildings)".

The ACC's special investigation team has prepared the list of 10,000 buildings on the basis of information of Rajuk. But the investigation team is facing obstructions to take legal action and run drives against those buildings due to non-cooperation and tactics of Rajuk officials, the report said.

Following the news report, one Mahbuba Khuda has recently filed a writ petition with the HC seeking necessary orders on the authorities concerned to take action against the people responsible for constructing the buildings.

Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda said he was not aware of any blacklist of buildings.

"We provided ACC with whatever information they asked on anomalies in building construction and ongoing cases in this regard," he said.

"We will respond accordingly after we receive the court order," he added.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain fixed July 8 for passing a further order on this issue.



Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sohrab Khan passed away from a sudden cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 38.

He was a lecturer at the economics department at American International University, Bangladesh. He left behind his wife Farzana Ali, son Ishaq and daughter Isra.

Sohrab Khan was the son of Shahana and Obaidur Rahman Khan and grandson of former prime minister of Bangladesh Ataur Rahman Khan. His qulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at house 21A, Road 121, Gulshan, Dhaka.

KALIGANJ POURASABHA MAYORAL POLLS BNP-backed Lutfor Rahman elected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The opposition BNP-backed mayoral candidate Lutfor Rahman was declared the winner in the first-ever Kaliganj Pourasabha election in Gazipur yesterday after he secured 16,244 votes.

His only rival candidate Amzad Hossen Swapon, who is also his cousin and backed by the Awami League, bagged 8,406 votes.

Votes in all 15 polling centres of the pourasabha's nine wards were cast on ballots although earlier it was decided that electronic voting machines would be used in all the centres.

The election's Returning Officer Md Qamrul Ahsan Talukder said 85 percent of the 30,496 votes were cast during the voting period, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Officer-in-Charge Nazmul Hasan Bhuyan of Kaliganj Police Station informed that despite extra security measures, a small clash took place between supporters of the two mayor candidates at the polling center in Baligaon High School over the ripping of posters.

However, adequate security measures were taken and no other untoward incident took place, he said.

Voters The Daily Star talked to said they were enthusiastic on casting their votes for the newly formed Kaliganj Pourasabha.

Most of the voters also hoped that the new mayor would ensure an environment free from drug abuse and corruption.

CURBING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Digital database sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a policy dialogue yesterday suggested a national digital database on violence against women to reduce the social crime in the country.

They said aside from providing necessary information to bring justice for the victims, the database will be useful to the policymakers and academic institutions for research.

The dialogue titled "National Digital Database on Violence against Women: An Essential Tool for Effective Services" was arranged by United Nations Development Programme Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Majeda Haq, programme analyst, Poverty Reduction Cluster, UNDP, during the keynote presentation said several steps would be followed to collect data. The primary data would be collected from violence against women awareness groups working at grassroots level and the credibility of the data would be checked by NGOs in consultations with the groups.

Designated government and non-government officials would input the data, which would eventually be uploaded in the website of the Ministry of Women and

Children Affairs," she said.

Representatives from government, non-government and development organisations and research institutions participated at the dialogue.

Bangladesh ranks 111 out of 186 countries as per UNDP's Gender Inequality Index of 2012, said Majeda.

Addressing as chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afrozeh Chumki said Bangladeshi women have become more empowered now than before and for this to continue the government needs to work with private and other organisations.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Tariq-ul-Islam said at present the government collects data regarding violence against women through its Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Cell.

Newspaper cuttings and phone calls on the hotline (10921) are other primary sources, but the national digital database would be more helpful for taking rapid action," he added.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor of The Daily Star, moderated the policy dialogue and Pauline Tamesis, UNDP country director, among others, spoke.

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