

Eviction of kitchen markets on footpaths in capital sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Mohanagar Machh o Kanchabazar Khudro Byabsaye Samity yesterday submitted a memorandum to Dhaka North City Corporation administrator to place its five-point demand, including eviction of all the illegal kitchen markets on the capital's footpaths.

The samity's President Anowar Hossain Sikdar handed in it on behalf of the association.

Its other demands include functioning of market management committee formed during the undivided Dhaka City Corporation, a decrease in rent of market shops, a stop to extortion in transport for carrying essential commodities and an end to harassment of small traders in the name of drive against formalin.

Earlier, on March 31, the samity submitted another memorandum to the Dhaka South City Corporation administrator to press the same demands.



Encroachers and traders have created a strip of land in the Turag river by dumping earth so that they can extract and transport away sand easily. Though Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) conducted a drive there less than a year ago to ensure smooth flow of water, it did not remove all the earth, rendering the effort fruitless. Similar incomplete drives are seen elsewhere too. The photo was taken at Sinnirtek near the capital's Mirpur beribadh yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TORTURE AT TONGI JUVENILE CENTRE HC terms govt probe report contradictory Fixes April 9 for passing order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday termed a government probe report about the allegation of torture on the children at Tongi Juvenile Development Centre "contradictory", and fixed April 9 for passing an order on the issue.

The court made the observation as it found the probe committee had concluded that the management of the centre was not guilty, although the victims' statements recorded in the report said the then superintendent of the centre SM Anwarul Karim had been abusing them physically, Deputy Attorney General Biswojit Roy told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain also said the investigation into the allegation of torture against the inmates of the centre was not done properly.

It said the probe committee members themselves did not talk to the victims, but recorded victims' statements by

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BIOMETRIC DATABASE MANAGEMENT Three ECs to visit five countries for insight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three election commissioners are scheduled to visit five countries this month and the next to learn about biometric database management system.

They will leave the country immediately after the chief election commissioner (CEC), who is in the US now, returns home after his a month and a half long foreign tour that sparked huge criticism from different quarters.

CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad has set an unprecedented example of leaving the EC leaderless during the recently held upazila elections.

A three-member delegation led by Election Commissioner Zabeed Ali will visit Australia and Singapore from April 18 to April 27.

A four-member delegation led by Election Commissioner Abu Hafiz will visit the UK and Switzerland from May 2 to May 11, while another four-member delegation led by Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz will visit the UK and France from May 16 to May 25.

During their visit, the election commissioners will

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HSC EXAMS

10,324 candidates absent, 45 expelled on first day

Education minister denies allegations of question paper leak in some districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 10,324 candidates were absent on the first day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations yesterday while 45 students were expelled for resorting to unfair means.

This year's figure on the first day is higher than the last year's with 9,297 absent and 33 expelled.

More than 11.41 lakh students of 8,104 educational institutions

More than **11.41** lakh registered from **8,104** institutions
Numbers of absentees, expulsions higher than last year's

across the country had registered for the examinations this year.

Ten education boards, including a madrasa and a technical education boards, are conducting the two-month examinations for 2014.

The HSC examinees sat for the Bangla (compulsory) first paper at 10:00am while the examinees under Madrasa Education Board took Quran Mazid.

The candidates in the capital faced difficulties to reach the exam centres due to severe traffic jam yesterday.

The highest number of absentees yesterday was from the Dhaka Board with 2,002 while Barisal Board had the lowest figure with 440, according to the

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Education needs shift from rote learning

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country needs a complete shift from a memory-based education system to the one that enhances students' creative and rational thinking for the elevation of the overall education quality, which remains a major concern, educationists told a roundtable yesterday.

They recommended focusing on elementary education by boosting the quality of teachers, engaging children more in classroom activities, and increasing learning hours

TO-DOS

- Focus on primary education
- Train teachers
- Increase classroom learning
- Invest more

in schools.

Over the years, Bangladesh has developed a good education infrastructure and increased primary school enrolment to nearly 100 percent, but quality is still a major concern, they told the discussion, "Seeding Fertile Ground: Education That Works for Bangladesh", at the office of the Prothom Alo, a Bangla daily, in the capital.

"The purpose of education is not memorising something and answering the questions...but to help them develop learning and understanding

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دعوات الاحرام الى الحج

CHANGE IN DUA MAHFIL DATE

Kindly note that the dua mahfil of Late Mr. A. M. Hyder Hussain will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014 baad Asr**, instead of April 4, 2014. The venue will remain unchanged at House 5, Road 56, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

A. M. Hyder Hussain
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The last minute shift in date is unavoidable and the family of the departed regrets any inconvenience caused.



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