



RANA PLAZA

Most survivors find it difficult to make ends meet: survey

PAGE B1

RASHOMON PHENOMENON

Third part of second instalment from Lifschultz on Manzur murder

PAGE 7

THE STORY OF A SONGBIRD

Bashir Ahmed passes away but his songs will shine on forever

PAGE 9

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATIONS HC orders ignored

Lack of govt action, monitoring make public suffer

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Five years ago, the High Court ordered the government to dredge and clean the four rivers around Dhaka and remove illegal structures from their banks, in efforts to save these lifelines of the capital.

A series of government actions followed, but not for long. The consequences have been terrible -- the rivers continue to be choked by grabbers and their waters have become even more toxic.

This is just one example of how HC directives in public interest have been disregarded and, sometimes, forgotten both by the court and the government authorities, thanks to the absence of a monitoring body.

Over the past two decades, around 500 such directives have been issued. Most of the important ones, however, have not been implemented.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

KEY POINTS

- HC issued around 500 directives in last two decades
- Most of them remain unimplemented
- Lack of political will, monitoring system among key reasons
- No visible action against non-compliance
- Public sufferings, illegal occupations continue



A pole, circled, marks the river Shitalakkhya near Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj, but sand and grit traders occupy land beyond the mark and have even filled up a portion of the shore. All these acts ignore a High Court order to keep the land clear.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ANOMALIES Govt to ban 600 hajj agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around half of the agencies will be kept out of this year's hajj operations due to their alleged involvement in various irregularities, including human trafficking.

"The allegations against 600 agencies are being investigated. Criminal cases against some of them may begin soon," said Bazlul Haque Harun, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on religious affairs ministry, yesterday.

He was talking to reporters at the parliament's media centre after a meeting of the committee.

A special committee, led by a joint secretary of the ministry, was scrutinising the allegations against the agencies, he said.

According to the Bangladesh hajj mission in Saudi Arabia and the religious affairs

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Khaleda unhappy over Jamaat role

Suspects its 'secret deal' with govt

RASHIDUL HASAN

Raising questions over the absence of the Jamaat's organisational activities, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has expressed her suspicions as to whether the Islamist party has reached a "secret understanding" with the Hasina government.

The BNP chief also expressed her annoyance over Hefajat-e Islam Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi's recent comment that he has no enmity with the Awami League government.

At a meeting of the BNP-led 19-party alliance on Thursday night at her Gulshan office, Khaleda also criticised the chiefs of the Khelafat Majlish and Islami Oikya Jote, two components of the coalition, over their failure to "handle" the Hefajat chief, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

Khaleda expressed her strong resentment over the Jamaat's "aggressiveness" in challenging BNP-backed candidates in the recent upazila elections, especially in the BNP strongholds of Bogra and Feni.

The Jamaat-e-Islami, a major component of the alliance, should not have engaged in the battle of ballots with the BNP-backed candidates in the polls, she added.

The BNP chief advised the 19-party leaders not to talk about these issues with journalists.

Talking to The Daily Star, the chairman of a component of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

TEESTA LONG MARCH BNP to hold 6 rallies on way to barrage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will hold six rallies during its long march to the Teesta Barrage, scheduled to start from tomorrow, demanding fair share of the water of the Teesta river.

Led by BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, the long march will start at 8:00am from the BNP Naya Paltan office.

The street rallies would be held at Kaliakair, Tangail, Kaddar intersection in Sirajganj, and Bogra on Tuesday, BNP Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed said at a press briefing yesterday at the office.

After an overnight stay in Rangpur, the party

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Fake ID cards in just 30 mins!

ZYMA ISLAM and PROTİK CHAKRABARTY

Friday's seizure of thousands of fake national identity cards has raised the question of how easily NIDs - the single most trusted identification verification document -- can be forged.

The card gives access to all the details about a citizen and is widely used for registering land, getting utilities or telephone connections, buying SIMs (subscriber identity module), opening bank accounts and getting marriage certificates. It is worrying that this important personal document can be forged through using basic graphics editing software and printed out as any original one would look like by an ordinary colour printer (ink-jet).

Even the material used to make the card is the commonly available offset paper.

A ride to Nilkhet in the capital and Tk 350 were all The Daily Star correspondents needed to get a fake NID within half an hour.

Several shops in Nilkhet, a known place for computer-based know-how, supplies fake NIDs to their clients and it is no secret. Among the markets there, Gausul Azam Supermarket and Bakushah Market

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

JS to probe forgery of NID cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a two-member sub-committee to probe into fake National Identity Cards made by some unscrupulous quarters on different occasions.

The parliamentary standing committee on the public administration ministry came up with the decision following the seizure of a huge number of forged NID cards on Friday.

Headed by ruling Awami League lawmaker RAM Obaidul Muktafi Chowdhury, the sub-committee was asked to talk to everyone concerned, including the Election Commission, and submit a report soon.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A rickshaw-van loaded with water cans in front of Rajarbagh Police Lines late at night. Many residents of Shahjahanpur, Motijheel and Shanti Nagar have their water brought into their homes from a pump in Rajarbagh as the water supplied to their home via Wasa pipes gives off a bad odour.

8 lawmakers facing murder charges

Reveals Shujan study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight incumbent lawmakers are accused of murders and 23 of their colleagues accused in other criminal cases, claims Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan).

The House witnesses a dominance of businesspersons with half of the lawmakers

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Half of the MPs businessmen

15 of them did not pass SSC

Annual income of 55 MPs is over Tk 1 cr

258 MPs pay taxes regularly

stsgroup
Apollo Hospitals
Touching Lives

The first & only JCI accredited hospital in Bangladesh

For any appointment or when Emergency Strikes

Just Dial
10678 from any corner of the country

Which will ensure fast appointment or best emergency service as per your need

