

DHANMONDI PLAYGROUND
HC refuses to
hear greens'
petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday refused to hear a writ petition that sought its directives on the government authorities to remove illegal structures from the Dhanmondi-8 public playground in the capital and to ensure people's access to the open space.

The playground was opened to the public on Thursday, days after protests by green activists, but the structures built by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, which had illegally occupied the field for two years, stayed there as before.

Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Habibul Gani came up with the refusal when petitioners' lawyer barrister Fida M Kamal said the bench should not hear the petition if it had already decided not to issue any rule in this regard.

The lawyer's response, mixed with a tinge of disappointment, came after the judges inquired about a 2011 HC judgment on the city corporation, police, and the public works ministry to

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Voter roll
update starts
May 15: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will start updating voter roll on May 15 across the country, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday.

The citizens, who will be 18-year old on January 1, 2015, will be included in the list, he told reporters at a press conference at the Media Centre of the EC Secretariat.

The voter list updating programme will be conducted in three phases.

But the time frame of these phases is yet to be finalised, he said.

The EC-appointed officers will collect data going door to door at union and ward level.

Later, the new voters will have to visit the EC-set registration centres for taking photos, the CEC informed.

Simultaneously, the names of persons died will be excluded from the voter list.

The commission plans to complete the task by December and hang the draft voter roll at every upazila parishad.

Like previous years, special committees will be formed in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) so that names of Rohingyas or other trespassers cannot be included in voter roll, he said.

EC officials told The Daily Star that around 46 lakh people might be included in the voter roll and the programme might cost around Tk 50 to 60 lakh.

There are around 9.19 crore voters in the country now, said EC officials.

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2 fake, 1 unlicensed
doctors jailed

1 hospital sealed in Dhamrai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion arrested two fake doctors, having nothing more than Higher Secondary Certificates, and one doctor, who did not have a Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council licence, on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

The team caught Shabuj Khan, 38, a college graduate, for running a private chamber in Ashulia and deceiving the locals, mainly garment workers.

Furthermore, in order to substantiate his medical practice, he had been using the licence and medical certificates of a real doctor from Satkhira by the name of Tayebur Rahman, said the officials.

Shabuj was jailed for four years and fined a total of Tk 2 lakh.

Meanwhile, in Islampur of Dhamrai, another impostor, Abdus Salam, 32, was arrested at his workplace, Icon Clinic. Salam was jailed for two years and slapped a fine of Tk 1 lakh.

However, the clinic authorities were not punished.

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Eight muggers
held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police arrested eight alleged muggers in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial and Mohammadpur area in last two days.

Acting on tip-off, a team of detectives arrested Nur Alam Habu, Nazrul Islam alias Tuhin, Abdul Mannan, Khokhon Chandra Bishwash and Kamal Muni with a pistol, 17 bullets and a stolen car, a microbus and two motorbikes at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani.

Another DB team arrested Abdur Rahim, Jahidul Islam Roman and Wasim with a pistol, two bullets, four tolas of gold jewellery, and a stolen car and a microbus in Beribadh on Sunday, the officials said. But their four cohorts fled.

The eight were also arrested earlier but were released on bail.

EVICTED OF 40 FAMILIES IN JOYDEVPUR
SC stays jailing of
govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for four weeks a High Court verdict that sentenced four incumbent and retired government officials to different terms of imprisonment for violating an injunction six years ago.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique gave the orders after hearing four petitions filed by the accused.

The accused were also asked to submit separate leave to appeal petitions to this court against the HC judgment in four weeks.

In March 2008, the HC ordered the Gazipur administration not to evict Abul Kalam and eight others from their West Lakhimpura village in Joydevpur municipality of Gazipur.

But the officials led by Syed Mizanur Rahman, the then Gazipur deputy commissioner, evicted 40 families and demolished 13 houses saying the land was government's.

The HC on April 24 this year sentenced Mizanur, joint secretary and director (administration) of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, to 30 days in jail; Syed Abdur Rob, manager of Gazipur Court of Wards, to 15 days and fined him Tk 1 crore.

It also sentenced its Assistant Manager Sabbir Ahmed and ex-chairman of the Land Reform Board Monirul Islam to five days in prison.

DHAKA-ARICHA HIGHWAY
Hawkers on
footpaths
major reason
for accidents

Roundtable told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Hawkers occupying the footpath of the Dhaka-Aricha highway is one of the major reasons of accidents on the highway, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They were speaking at the roundtable on "Role of Mass Media in Road Safety" organised by Brac's Road Safety Programme and Advocacy for Social Change at its Savar office.

Quoting local newspapers, speakers said within the 55km stretch of the highway, over 408 people were killed in road accidents in 2010, over 517 in 2011, over 141 in 2012 and over 132 people in 2013.

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Seekers of South
Korean jobs allege
illegarities
in BOESL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 1,500 people who are looking for jobs in South Korea yesterday threatened to observe a non-stop sit-in programme before the Probashi Kallyan Bhavan in the capital from June 5 to press home their demands.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity conference room, the job seekers, who passed the Employment Permit System (EPS) and Computer Based Test (CBT) in 2012 for Korean jobs, alleged that Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Ltd (BOESL) had committed "irregularities" in preparing a job roster of the aspirants.

The Korean embassy issues visas to the candidates referred by the BOESL, said the jobseekers.

Some Korean Language coaching centres, run by some Bangladeshi people, are also involved in the "irregularities", they added.

Tofazzal Hossain, a job seeker, alleged that some 452 out of 460 visas were issued

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MILKY MURDER CASE
Charge sheet to
be challenged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The complainant of the Jubo League leader Riazul Haque Khan Milky murder case will challenge the charge sheet submitted earlier dropping the names of three main accused.

The accused are Zahidul Islam Tipu, general secretary of Motijheel thana Awami League; Wahidul Alam Arif, Jubo League general secretary of Dhaka city (south) unit; and Mahbulul Haque Hirok, who earlier gave a confessional statement before a court.

Abdullah Al Mansur, a counsel for the complainant, yesterday filed a petition before a Dhaka court saying that Maj Rashedul Haque Khan Milky, brother of the victim, was now in the United Nations (UN) Mission.

He will come back home on June 5 and file a no-confidence petition against the charge sheet, the counsel said.

So time is needed for submission of the no-confidence petition, he said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan fixed June 9 for filing the petition.

Earlier, on April 15, the

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AL, BNP against
indigenous unity

Claims Santu Larma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lately neither the ruling Awami League nor the BNP want unity among indigenous people, said Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma yesterday.

He was exchanging views with journalists following a meeting of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum held in the auditorium of Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in the capital.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, moderated the meeting where people of indigenous communities spoke about the situation they were in currently.

Santu Larma, also chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, said there had been no progress regarding implementation of the CHT peace treaty.

The influx of Bangla speakers and Rohingyas in the Chittagong hill tracts is only worsening the situation there, he said.

Political parties approach indigenous communities and makes commitments to them before election to attain votes, but after the election they forget their commitments, he further said.

Shaktipada Tripura, organising secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said although the government had signed a peace accord with the indigenous communities, it did not

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I saw father being shot
dead on Qaisar's order

Martyr's son testifies in war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A martyr's son yesterday testified that he saw the Pakistani army shoot his father and six of his father's colleagues to death at the direction of Syed Mohammad Qaisar in Habiganj on May 29, 1971.

Mostafa Ali, the ninth prosecution witness in Qaisar's case, said they even could not bury his father's body, as Qaisar's cohorts threw the deceased into the Khoai river.

"My brother and I witnessed the brutal killing of our father...I want justice for the killings," Mostafa cried at International Crimes Tribunal-2.

The 67-year-old said Qaisar and his aides had also looted their domestic animals and fed the occupation army with the meat of the animals after his father's killing.

Qaisar, a state minister of HM Ershad's regime, faces 16 charges, including genocide and murder, in Brahmanbaria and Habiganj during the Liberation War.

During his 62-minute testimony, Mostafa, son of martyred Majat Ali of Dakkhin Lenjapara in Shaistaganj of Habiganj, said Qaisar had arrived in Shaistaganj Rest House with the Pakistani army on April 29, 1971 and set up a camp there.

Mostafa said his father worked at Shaistaganj Food Godown, and he and his brother Nowshad would regularly carry meals for his father there.

On April 29, when the two brothers went to the food storage, they found Mostafa Shaheed and some other freedom fighters were collecting and distributing food from the warehouse.

Mostafa said around 1:30pm, Qaisar and his three or four cohorts arrived in the storehouse and left within a few minutes, but after sometime, the accused, members of Peace Committee and the Pakistani army, returned chanting the slogan "Pakistan Zindabad".

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BANGABANDHU BRIDGE
Train operation
resumes after 18 hrs

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Rail communications between Dhaka and the northern and southwestern districts resumed around 5:00pm yesterday, some 18 hours after nine coaches of an intercity train ran off the tracks on the Bangabandhu bridge Sunday night.

Railway authorities primarily blamed a tornado sweeping over the bridge at that time for the derailment but formed an inquiry committee to find if there were other reasons like defects in the tracks or negligence of staff.

Officials said none of the 500 passengers on board was injured but a train guard.

Dinajpur-bound Drutojan Express derailed around 11:30pm on Sunday near the Siraiganj end of the 4.5km bridge and nine of its 12 compartments tilted towards the concrete median dividing the rails from the road.

Relief trains from Dhaka and Ishwardi reached the scene early yesterday but the rescue progressed slowly, as the bridge is a critical place.

"We could not use heavy cranes...We were unable to restore the coaches quickly for the use of hydraulic machines," said Monirul Islam Firozi, divisional engineer of Bangladesh Railway (Pakshey division).

The train was moving at below 20km per hour on the

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Representatives of the Bangla Academy employees' union present a bouquet to Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman at the academy last evening during a reception accorded to the educationist for his winning India's third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan recently. Bangladesh Gyan and Srijanshil Prokashak Samity hosted the reception.

CYCLONE GORKY ON THIS DAY 23 YRS AGO
People still reeling
from shock

Demand permanent protection of city embankment

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

People living in coastal areas of Chittagong city are still reeling from shock of the Cyclone Gorky that ripped through the region on this night in 1991.

On April 29 in 1991, the massive cyclone hit the coastal areas, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

Around 1.5 lakh people were killed, properties worth around Tk 6,000 crore were damaged in the storm and the water surge of around five to eight meters caused by the storm.

The Daily Star correspondent has recently talked to some of the survivors, who have demanded permanent protection of the city embankment to avoid such disaster in future.

The memoirs of that night still haunt

him, said Md Yousuf, a resident Muslimabad in the city's Patenga area, who lost both his parents in the cyclone.

"When the storm started around 11:30pm that night, everyone was running for a safer place. Around midnight, as rumor of water surge spread, my parents took shelter on the attic of our tin-shed bamboo house," said the 53-year old son, who demanded permanent protection for the port city embankment.

"The next morning the duo was found crushed inside the house that was flattened by the storm."

Md Ishak, another survivor from the city's Charpara area, who lost his father and two sisters in the cyclone, said the damaged part of city embankment had to be built permanently so that no future cyclone and

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