



Workers removing some disassembled bamboo-made shops from the new rail station area in Chittagong city. The railway authorities yesterday demolished about 100 such unauthorised shops, mostly selling food for day labourers and rickshaw-pullers, between the new and old rail station areas, which are about quarter a kilometre apart.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

UPAZILA PARISHADS No move yet to elect women to reserved posts

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The Election Commission (EC) is yet to take any initiative for holding elections to the posts reserved for women in the upazila parishads though polls to chairman and vice chairperson posts of almost all the upazilas have already been completed.

Until holding elections to some 1,600 posts reserved for women, formation of the upazila parishads will remain unfinished because the elected women are entitled to act as members of the parishads.

"We haven't discussed the issue in the commission meeting till now. But I have issued an unofficial note today about it," Election Commissioner Abdul Mobarak told The Daily Star.

"In the note addressed to the chief election commissioner, I said elections to the reserved posts for women should be arranged immediately in these upazilas," he said.

After seeing the note, the CEC will give necessary directives to the secretary of the EC Secretariat, Mobarak added.

Another commissioner, Abu Hafiz, told reporters that they would take necessary steps to hold the elections soon.

Out of 487 upazilas across the country, elections in 472 were held in different phases between February 19 and May 19.

According to the Upazila Parishad Act 1998, the number of reserved member posts for women in a given upazila will be equal to the number of unions and municipalities in that upazila.

The members or councilors elected in reserved posts for women in the union parishads or municipalities will contest in the elections for the reserved posts in the upazila parishads.

The elected representatives—general members, councilors, chairmen and mayors—of unions and municipalities will vote to elect the women in the upazila parishads.

SC halts dam construction on Kobadak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to maintain status quo on construction of a dam across the river Kobadak in Tala upazila of Satkhira.

The court also scrapped a High Court verdict that had rejected a writ petition which challenged the legality of construction of the dam.

The SC sent the writ petition to HC for further hearing and disposal.

Following the SC order, the dam cannot be built across the river, said Manzill Murshid, the petitioner's counsel.

Tala upazila parishad authorities have been building the dam with the government and Karitas, an NGO, funding the project.

On January 1 last year, the HC rejected the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh seeking directives to save the river from encroachment.

The organisation later filed an appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict, and the SC passed yesterday's order after hearing the appeal.

Shibir attacks cops after arrest of leader

Clash leaves 3 police, arrestee hurt in Rajshahi
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir activists of Rajshahi University unit attacked police that triggered a clash between the two sides, injuring three policemen and a Shibir leader at Choddopai near the campus Sunday night.

Around 10 Shibir activists blasted three cocktails while police fired rubber bullets on them, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station.

With splinter injuries, Sub-inspector Masud Rana and constables Shahinur Rahman and Rakib were taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Afzal Hossain, sports affairs secretary of Shibir's RU unit, who was shot in the right leg, was also taken to RMCH.

Police came under the attack by the Shibir men right after the former arrested Afzal, an accused in 18 criminal cases, said the OC.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

WAR CRIMES TRIALS

Chief prosecutor returns to court

But Haider continues as acting chief prosecutor despite his presence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After more than one month of absence, chief prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo yesterday appeared at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 during the war crimes proceeding against Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam.

The chief prosecutor sat on the first row of the prosecution team and observed the activities of the prosecutors, occasionally giving some instructions to his colleagues while the three-member tribunal was recording the deposition of a seizure list witness.

Senior prosecutor, Syed Haider Ali, however, claimed himself as acting chief prosecutor of the tribunal. "The ministry is yet to tell me anything," Haider said, adding that until the ministry asked him to step down as "acting chief prosecutor", he would continue with his position.

Tipoo took one month's medical leave from April 13 and went abroad for treatment. The law ministry appointed Haider as acting chief prosecutor for the period of his absence.

Tipoo returned to his workplace on April 30, and since then there has been a chief prosecutor and an acting chief prosecutor, apparently causing fractionalisation in the about 21 members' prosecution.

Yesterday, after completion of the cross-examination of the 14th prosecution witness, police constable Sazul Mahmud, 33, the tribunal-1 Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim enquired Tipoo, in his 80s, about his health condition. Tipoo said he was feeling better. The tribunal then wished him good health.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CORRUPTION CHARGES SC scraps HC acquittal of Aman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a High Court verdict that had acquitted BNP leader Amanullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman of corruption charges.

A special court, set up on the Sangsad Bhavan premises, on June 21, 2007 sentenced Aman to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing the information from the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The same court also sentenced Sabera to three years' imprisonment as she was found guilty of abetting Aman.

Following an appeal filed by the couple, the HC on August 16, 2010 acquitted them of the corruption charges.

The SC passed the order yesterday after hearing an appeal filed by the ACC against the HC verdict.

The apex court also sent the appeal filed by the couple back to the HC for further hearing and disposal.

The duo, however, will

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Hospital sealed off over 'wrong treatment' in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Local administration sealed off a hospital in Kapasia of Gazipur yesterday following a complaint by the family that their new born baby died due to wrong treatment in the hospital Sunday.

Kapasia Uapzila Nirbahi Officer Alauddin Ali took the action against "Toke Adhunik Hospital".

Kapasia police Officer-in-Charge Ahsan Ullah said Jesmin, wife of Mostofa of Ghosherkandi village, was admitted to the hospital with pregnancy Saturday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Discussion

Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh will organise a discussion marking the International Day of UN Peacekeepers; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Seminar

GIZ in partnership with Western Marine Shipyard Ltd has organised a seminar on "Occupational Health and Safety: Impact 99%—Together we can change"; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 9:30am.

DUA MAHFIL



With profound sorrow we inform you all, Mominul Haq (Khoka), prominent freedom fighter, has passed away on May 23, 2014 (Friday) in Singapore at the age of 81. He was a longtime associate of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his cousin.

There will be a dua mahfil at Baitul Aman Mosque, Road 7, Dhanmondi, Dhaka on **May 30, 2014 (Friday)**. Family members of the deceased have requested all his friends, relatives and well-wishers to join the dua mahfil and pray for his departed soul. May Almighty Allah grant him eternal Heaven.

*There will be separate seating arrangement for women.

— On behalf of the family, Farhana Haq Chowdhury

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- No TA/DA will be provided for participation
- Participants of "Idea Flight" and "Imagine the Future", must bring your projects on the above mentioned day

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