

# ASK against eviction of street hawkers without rehab

Expressing deep concern at the announcement of clearing footpaths of Dhaka city, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday said hawkers and small traders on the streets must be rehabilitated and given alternative opportunities first.

In a statement, the rights body said this kind of move without taking any rehabilitation programme would directly affect the livelihoods of a huge number of hawkers and small traders.

These hawkers and small traders have employed themselves without taking help of the government, for which it is the duty of the administration to arrange alternative livelihoods for them before conducting any eviction drive, it said.

The organisation laid importance on both free footpaths and the livelihoods of these low-income people. The two Dhaka city corporations are scheduled to clear the footpaths from July 1 after two small-scale drives -- at Gulistan yesterday and at Farmgate on June 12.



Numerous stones and brick chips protrude from this pothole-riddled road stretching from Kadamtali to the old railway station, especially the BRTC area, in Chittagong city. Apart from damaging the suspension, this slows down vehicles, particularly rickshaws, leaving passengers vulnerable to mugging. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Tarun League men exchange gunfire

## 3 Sylhet slum kids hit by rubber bullets

Two factions of Awami Tarun League, an unofficial youth organisation aligned with the Awami League, exchanged gunfire in Sylhet city on Sunday night, leaving three children of a nearby slum hit by rubber bullets.

The three -- AL Amin, 6, Shuvo, 8, and Shohag, 5 -- of the slum in the Electric Supply Road area where the gunfight continued for half an hour were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. A bullet hit the left leg of Shuvo while AL Amin's neck and Shohag's right hip were grazed, said hospital sources.

Witnesses said more than a dozen houses and 10 shops in the area were hit by bullets during the clash between the two groups led by Munna, 29, and Ershad Ahmed, 28. The used shotguns.

An activist of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal said the two had an altercation over joining of two Chhatra Dal activists in Tarun League around 10:00pm, leading to the clash.

Police said the two had a long-running feud over establishing supremacy. Police arrested Ershad yesterday evening. The Tarun league men numbering around 20 fled when police rushed in. A case was filed.

# Ctg youth arrested for 'attempted rape' of girl

Police arrested a youth for attempting to rape a four-year-old girl at Taltola in Panchlaish area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The arrestee Shofikul Islam, 26, of Gaibandha is a rickshaw puller. Quoting victim's family, police said Shofikul allured the girl of his neighbourhood with chocolates and took her in his room. Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed in and handed him over to police after catching him red-handed. A case was filed.

# South Asian countries must beef up efforts to end hunger

Speakers tell food conference. They said although the region has made a lot of progress in terms of food production, millions still suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization, 28.14 crore people of South Asia suffer from hunger. "We are losing arable land to urbanisation, river erosion and salinity

# Road crashes kill 4

Prionkar Nath, 30, of Boalkhali upazila, was killed when a covered-van hit his motorcycle in Bandar area of Chittagong city yesterday, reports our staff correspondent in Chittagong city.

In Mymensingh, Mohoruddin, 75, of Meduari was killed when a bus ran him over while he was crossing the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bharaduba area of Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

In Rangpur, two persons--Bullet Mian, 18, and Sakindra Nath Roy, 22, of Nilphamari--were killed and four others injured when an auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a three-wheeler on Jaldhaka-Rangpur road in Gonjipur area of Gangachara upazila on Sunday.

# Death sought for Forkan

Police submitted a report on Sunday saying it could not execute the tribunal's arrest warrants, for the four were on the run, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told The Daily Star.

# Price of

Abul Hasem, vice president of Moulvibazar Traders Association, said security, traffic congestion and poor drainage are the main problems they face.

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