



Clockwise from top, poor families under the open sky yesterday, after the Public Works Department had evicted them from two derelict buildings at Motijheel AGB Colony in the capital on Wednesday. Workers discard a wooden door during demolition of one of the buildings which would be replaced by high-rises. The occupants had continued to live there disregarding a notice stating that the buildings had been declared abandoned in 2005 for being old and too risky to dwell in.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED, PALASH KHAN

# Eviction leaves AGB Colony occupants under open sky

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Works Department (PWD) began demolishing two dilapidated buildings at Motijheel AGB Colony staff quarters in the capital on Wednesday forcing over a hundred occupants to vacate the buildings and making some of them stay under the open sky.

"We are making way for a Tk 200-crore project to build four 20-story buildings to accommodate more government employees at the place," said PWD chief engineer Md Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan.

A total of nine dilapidated buildings were declared risky in 2005, of which seven have so far been demolished in phases, he said.

The remaining two are now being knocked down, he said, adding the project would be implemented under the government's annual development programme this year.

The action forced some 60 occupants to stay under the open sky for the last four days as they readily could not manage alternative accommodation.

Those who have no relatives in the

city could not find accommodation either, as it was the middle of the month, they said.

"I have given Tk 5,500 to a person who claimed to be the owner of the room I rented but he vanished after the demolition started," said Minu Begum, a tenant of one of the two buildings.

All her belongings got drenched in rain under the open sky, she said.

"We have been living in the building paying Tk 2,000 to a man named Alam per month," said Firoza Begum.

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# Judge shortage makes Ctg litigants suffer

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

The cases filed each month in Chittagong district overwhelmingly outnumber the ones adjudicated during the period. As the cases pile up at the courts, at the end of the year the backlog becomes too heavy a burden. Amid this, a shortage of judges has made things unbearable for litigants.

"My family has been running a case since 2003," said Md Mohsin, from

costs."

Not only that, delay in the disposal of the case adds to mental stress, she said.

Fourteen posts of judges out of the total 50 have been vacant under Chittagong district session judge's and judicial magistrates' courts for two years, said court sources.

The figures are exclusive of the metropolitan courts.

Due to the shortage, appeals like time

BACKLOG IN MAY, JUNE, JULY 2015			
TYPES OF CASES	NO. OF CASES FILED PER MONTH (APPROX.)	NO. OF CASES ADJUDICATED PER MONTH (APPROX.)	PENDING (APPROX.)
Criminal	400	300	100
Civil	1,200	300	900
Total	1,600	600	1,000

SOURCE: PROSECUTION

Rangunia upazila.

The family members have to travel all the way to the city to appear at the court regularly.

"On the hearing dates, we have to reschedule our other important activities," he told The Daily Star.

"Both our time and money go to waste if the hearing is not held due to the shortage of judges."

Another litigant, Morium Begum, said, "We have to pay lawyers and bear other

petitions cannot be heard, and the interim orders needed to make the judicial process get going are not being issued, said lawyers.

Eventually justice-seekers suffer the most. Judges are overworked too. They are forced to perform additional duties, which is putting a huge pressure on them, said Abul Hashem, a public prosecutor.

He said 1.5 lakh cases -- 1.2 lakh of them civil and the rest criminal -- were pending

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# Bangabandhu's portrait installed at Nat'l Press Club

UNB, Dhaka

A portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was installed at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday for the first time since the country's independence.

Prime Minister's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury unveiled the portrait on the ground floor of the press club in the morning, marking National Mourning Day and recalling the contributions of Bangabandhu to building the club.

Senior journalists Golam Sarwar, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Jatiya Press Club President Shafiqur Rahman and journalist leaders were present on the occasion.

A prayer session was also held after the opening of the portrait.

Later, the journalist leaders placed wreaths at the portrait.

Terming the installation of the portrait a historic incident, Iqbal Sobhan said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman allotted the land for the press club.

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