

## Stay alert, defend flag

PM tells army  
UNB, Bogra

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all including the members of the Bangladesh Army to always stay alert and uphold the dignity and honour of the national flag.

"We've earned the national flag through our independence... so, all of you have to remain always alert so that the flag is never desecrated," she said, referring to the fact that the country's independence came through the bloodshed of millions of martyrs.

The prime minister said this while addressing the National Standard awarding function of the 12 Lancer of the Armoured Corps and the fifth reunion of the corps at the Armoured Corps Centre and School at Bogra Cantonment.

Sheikh Hasina also asked the army to continue their works with prudence, professional efficiency and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Torn pieces of fabrics and countless brick chips lie on the street as people stand by and watch anxiously in the aftermath of a clash between Harijans and traders of Mohajon Patty yesterday in Kastoghar area of Sylhet, over traders' demand for eviction of the minority Hindu community. The clash broke out during a half day strike yesterday observed by the traders, claiming that Harijans sold drugs and damaged business environment of the area.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



## Demolish illegal structures on Padma river

### HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to demolish all illegal structures from the banks of the river Padma and bamboo fences built for fishing in the river between Madaripur and Munshiganj in 30 days.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to take appropriate legal action against the persons responsible for constructing such structures and to submit a report by December 13 after complying with the order.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Rezaul-Ul Hoque and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman came up with the order while hearing a writ petition filed by lawyer Kamruzzaman Kochi.

Illegal structures were reportedly built along the river banks and in the river for fishing, in violation of the relevant laws and therefore, the environment and water flow of the river are being damaged, petitioner's counsel ABM Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Deputy Attorney General Tapas Kumar Biswas said the local administration of Shibchar Upazila in Madaripur has arrested three people- Shafiqul Islam Majhi, Dween Islam and Habibur Rahman for building bamboo fences in the river.

## RECRUITING TEACHERS FOR MPO-LISTED EDU INSTTS 6 MPs trounce Nahid for wishing to rein in boards

### Threaten to resist move at any cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several ruling alliance and independent lawmakers yesterday lambasted the government, especially the education minister, for planning to take over the authority of non-government MPO-listed educational institutions' managing committees in teacher recruitment.

Threatening to resist the move at any cost, six treasury and opposition bench lawmakers, on point of order, called upon the Speaker to settle the issue after discussions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Nurul Islam Nahid said soon a Non-government Teachers Selection Commission would be appointing teachers at primary, secondary and higher secondary schools, madrasas and colleges following a merit list based on a test and thereby curb corruption.

Each lawmaker heads the constituency's four managing committees and nominates

people to head the others. It is widely believed that bribery and political consideration get priority in appointments.

Independent MP Rustam Ali Farazi raised the issue, saying Nahid left the House guessing he would be criticised.

The other protesters are Awami League MPs Nurul Islam Shujan and Dhirendranath Shamvhu, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal MP Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, Workers Party of Bangladesh MP Fazle Hossain Badsha and Independent MP Haji Selim.

Shujan said corruption was everywhere and termed illogical axing the authority accusing the committee's of corruption.

Fazle said it was not unfair that Nahid accused MPs of indulging in corruption.

"The minister took the decision at the advice of bureaucrats who are responsible for different irregularities in educational institutions," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



KIBRIA  
MURDER CASE

## Recording of testimonies deferred for 5th time

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Moultribazar

The Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday, for the fifth time, deferred the date to November 18 and 19 for recording testimonies of witnesses in the former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria murder case due to absence of two witnesses.

Earlier, the absence of the accused and their lawyers compelled the tribunal to reschedule proceedings on October 28 and 29, and November 4 and 12.

According to tribunal sources, the depositions of only six out of 171 witnesses in the case have been recorded since the process began on September 30.

However, thirteen of the 32 accused, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, were present in the dock.

The then opposition lawmaker and Awami League leader Kibria and four others were killed in a grenade attack on a rally in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

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## DSCC takes initiative to relocate street vendors

### DNCC mayor urges govt to approve organogram without delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the aim to spare people of sufferings particularly from traffic congestion, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is planning to shift hawkers from footpaths and streets of the Gulistan area to other places to ensure safe and smooth movements of the pedestrians and vehicles.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Annisul Huq yesterday asked the government to approve its organogram immedi-

ately to ease acute manpower crisis of the corporation.

A 16-member committee, headed by DSCC's chief estate officer Khalid Ahmed was formed to find a suitable solution to shift hawkers from footpaths and streets of the Gulistan area.

"We are planning to clear the footpaths and roads at Gulistan initially and gradually other roads and footpaths will come under the initiative," said DSCC mayor Sayeed Khokon at a view exchanging meeting with the leaders of Bangladesh

Hawkers' Federation at Nagar Bhaban.

He said the committee will submit a report by the next seven working days.

Khokon also said from Thursday no hawkers will be allowed on the streets of Gulistan area.

At the meeting, the leaders and activists of the hawkers' federation demanded to allow them to sit on footpaths along one side of the roads and complained they have to give illegal toll to a section of police and some political persons to sit on footpaths and streets.

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