



Disarranged and dismayed residents of New Colony in the capital's Lalmatia stand by and watch as their houses get demolished yesterday, inset, leaving them homeless. Though the residents of the three buildings claimed they had a High Court stay order against the demolition, National Housing Authority officials said they did not have any legal barrier to carryout the drive.

PHOTO: STAR



NHA evicts residents of New Colony 'flouting HC stay'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of the residents of New Colony in the capital's Lalmatia alleged that they had been evicted unlawfully and left homeless by the National Housing Authority (NHA) yesterday, violating a stay order of the High Court, and demolished their buildings.

The residents claimed they have stay order against any demolition and there was a date of hearing in court on January 18 which was shifted to January 21 but NHA did not follow

the order.

They said NHA along with law enforcing agencies started demolishing buildings 9, 13 and 15 around 10:00am. A group of musclemen also took part in the drive.

Residents said the authority did not give them time to evacuate.

There are seven buildings in the colony where 144 families live. The families got the allotment of the flats from government for members being in the government service.

Now the government has taken a plan to build new buildings, which are

being protested by a group of the residents, said some residents of the area.

This group went to the court and was fighting legally.

However, an NHA official said they did not have any legal barrier to carryout the drive and it was conducted in front of two magistrates and as per their directions.

He said, on Monday, they informed the residents to evacuate their buildings, which was announced through loud speaker.

No musclemen were used during the drive, he added.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Syed Ashraf Ali, former director general, Islamic Foundation Bangladesh and a renowned Islamic scholar, died at Eden Multicare Centre in the capital, due to lung complications yesterday. He was 77.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers yesterday at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, and was buried in Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard, says a press release.

During the Liberation War in 1971, Ali played a major role in setting up the Swadhin Bangla Biplobi Betar Kendra in Chittagong.

He authored a number of books, treatises, and articles on religion, and hosted programmes on televisions.

HC starts

FROM PAGE 4

The HC bench of Justice Md Emdadul Huq and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah fixed January 26 for resuming the hearing on the rule, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star. Earlier three judges of separate three HC benches have felt embarrassed to hold hearing on the rule, he added.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT WEALTH INFO ACC indicts Tarique's mother-in-law

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charge against Syeda Iqbalmand Banu, mother-in-law of BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, in a case against her filed for not submitting her wealth statement.

ACC Deputy Director Abdus Satter Sarker and also the investigation officer of the case submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing six people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO showed Banu fugitive and appealed to the court to issue an arrest warrant against her.

On January 30 of 2014, ACC Deputy Director RK Majumdar filed the case with Ramna police as she failed to submit her wealth statement within the stipulated time.

According to the prosecution, the ACC issued a notice to Banu on October 20, 2011 asking her to submit the statements of her moveable and immoveable assets within seven workdays.

But Banu did not submit any statement to the ACC although her caretaker Zakir Hossain received the notice on January 25, 2012.

Later on January 30 in 2012, the High Court stayed ACC's notice for four months. But on May 3, 2012, the Supreme Court stayed the HC's order.

On September 2007, the graft watchdog filed another case with the Kafrul Police Station against Tarique, his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman and Iqbalmand Banu for concealing wealth information. Later, the HC stayed the proceedings of the case.

Trial of two ex-cops begins

FROM PAGE 3

victim Faruk Hossain Kamal's sister and fixed January 26 for cross-examination. In her statement, Parveen said the accused picked up Kamal from their home in the capital's Kafrul area and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom.

When refused, the trio tortured Kamal in police custody. Later, he was shown arrested in an extortion case and produced before a Dhaka court with a five-day remand plea. The court, instead, sent him to jail due to health condition.

Kamal was admitted to a jail hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died a week later, said Parveen in her statement.

HC questions Menon-led Viqarunnisa governing body's legality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the formation of a special governing body, led by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in Dhaka.

The court asked the government and the minister to explain in four weeks why formation of the body should not be declared illegal.

Justice Zinat Ara and Justice KM Kamrul Kader gave the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond on January 13.

Eunus said it was contemptuous and illegal to form a special committee to run the institution when there was a rule pending with the HC in this regard.

On February 17, 2013, the HC issued a rule asking the government and Menon to explain why formation of a special body should not be declared illegal, he said.

According to a 2008 government circular, the government could not run any institution, which is on monthly payment order (MPO), by any special committee, such institutions must elect governing committees, he said.



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