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Eviction drive stumbles at Banasree

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eviction team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday stopped its drive in the city's Banasree area following an altercation between two groups of people of Banasree Kalyan Samity over the drive.

Abul Kalam, president of Banasree Kalyan Samity, said locals did not force the mobile court to stop its drive; they rather requested it to complete the drive an hour before 4:00pm (normal working time) as an altercation was going on between two groups of people of the Samity.

He said the team started the drive at Block-E around 11:00am and then went to Block-C around 2:00pm. At that time, younger brother of former general secretary of the Kalyan Samity and a member of the Samity were locked in an altercation over the issue.

"We later brought the situation under control and settled the issue," he said.

Kalam said on the first day of the drive on 27 July, locals decided to resist the eviction drive. But for the Samity's decision and request, they did not do anything like that.

He added that they requested every resident in Banasree area to follow proper rules in building any structure and not to set up commercial establishments in the residential area so that their structures would not be knocked down in future.

Thirty-two illegal ramps in front of



A bulldozer knocks down an illegally built ramp at the entrance to a house in the city's Banasree yesterday. Right, leaders of Banasree Kalyan Samity try to stop the eviction drive by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha. Shops on the ground floors of residential buildings in the area are kept closed to escape action.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

First flight of Hajj pilgrims tomorrow

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

The first flight for Hajj pilgrims this year will commence on August 4, Thursday, from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Hajj activities today, Mohammad Ibrahim Bahar, president of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab), told The Daily Star on Monday.

A flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines is scheduled to carry the first 419 pilgrims, added the Haab president. "More than 2,500 pilgrims under government management and 5,500 under private hajj services have already received their visas from the Saudi embassy in Dhaka. We hope there will be no mismanagement in this year's hajj services."

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ALLEGED CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY Ex-Bangalee officer of Pak army held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a former Bangalee army official who allegedly worked for the Pakistan army and committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War hours after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 had issued an arrest warrant.

Muhammed Shahidullah, 72, an alleged commander of a Pakistani army camp in Comilla in 1971, was arrested at his house in Golaper Char under Daudkandi upazila of Comilla around noon, Md Shah Abid Hossain, superintendent of police of the district, told The Daily Star.

He will be produced before the tribunal today (Wednesday), he added.

This is the first time a former military person has been arrested in connection with the wartime offences, Abul Kalam, conducting prosecutor of the case, told this correspondent.

Earlier in the day, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque issued the arrest warrant against Shahidullah following a petition moved by Abul Kalam.

In his petition, Kalam said investigation against Shahidullah began on October 11 last year and the probe found "evidence of his involvement" in crimes including murders committed in 1971.

Shahidulla is an "influential person" in his locality and "intimidated" the potential prosecution witnesses of the case, Kalam told the tribunal, adding that he might go into hiding if he was not arrested.

So, he should be arrested and kept in jail for the sake of "proper investigation", he argued.

Kalam later told this newspaper that although Shahidullah was a Bangalee, he worked for the Pakistan army during the War.

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Moudud has to vacate Gulshan residence

SC scraps HC order for mutating the house land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed will have to vacate the Gulshan residence, where he is living using the name of his brother, as the Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a High Court verdict that had directed the authorities to mutate the house land in his brother's name.

The apex court, however, quashed the proceeding of a corruption case filed against Moudud and his brother Monzur Ahmed on the charge of grabbing the land of the residence.

Now, Rajuk can take steps to take possession of the land, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters after the SC ruling. "He is living there as a land grabber."

Moudud, however, said that he will file a petition with the SC seeking review of its verdict.

A five-member bench of the appellate division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha delivered the verdict yesterday.

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Last mammoths 'died of thirst'



BBC ONLINE

One of the last known groups of woolly mammoths died out because of a lack of drinking water, scientists believe.

The Ice Age beasts were living on a remote island off the coast of Alaska, and scientists have dated their demise to about 5,600 years ago.

They believe that a warming climate caused lakes to become shallower, leaving the animals unable to quench their thirst.

Most of the world's woolly mammoths had died out by about 10,500 years ago. Scientists believe that human hunting and environmental changes played a role in their extinction.

But the group living on St Paul Island, which is located in the Bering Sea, managed to cling on for

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West Bengal to be renamed

Decides Mamata cabinet OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

The Mamata Banerjee cabinet in West Bengal in a meeting yesterday approved proposal for changing the state's name to either "Banga" or "Bangla".

The ruling Trinamool Congress, in a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to be held from August 26 to 29, is likely to make an attempt for changing the name.

Partha Chatterjee, education minister of West

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 3
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Pilgrims have started arriving at the hajj camp in the city's Ashkona. Inset, one reads a Hajj booklet. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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