



Workers of Rajshahi City Corporation dump waste on a side of a street yesterday. Though there is a designated dumping zone behind the boundary walls, they continue to do so for the last three days. The workers are on a strike to press home their 11-point demand, including implementation of wage structure fixed by the government. The photo was taken near Bilshila intersection of the city.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

Protest or foul play?

RCC employees dumping waste on city roads as indefinite strike continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Foul stench of household waste filled the air of Rajshahi for the third consecutive day yesterday as the city corporation employees observing an indefinite strike continued dumping waste materials on the city streets, much to the disgust of the dwellers.

The employees collected waste from households, but dumped those on roads, instead of designated waste dumping spots, aiming to force the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) authorities to meet their demand, said the residents.

On July 9, a group of RCC employees went on strike for an indefinite period of time, demanding what they said payment of wages as per the government rules, among others.

During a visit to different areas of the city yesterday, this correspondent found waste materials lying scattered on the roads.

"I saw garbage dumped at several points in Laxmipura area. Those are not regular spots for dumping," said Monirul Islam, an easy-bike driver in the area.

Manik Bhowmik, a businessman in the city's Sopura area, said, "We are being forced to walk the streets with bad odour filling the air."

Three labourers were seen dumping wastes on a road at Bilshila intersection of the city. Approached, they claimed a ward councillor had asked them to do so to press home their demands. He, however, declined to name the councillor.

Aslam Sheikh, a resident in the area, said he has been living in the city for the last three decades and has never seen the city so much filthy like this.

"What type of protest is this where city dwellers are to pay price for fulfilling some people's demands?" he questioned.

Asked, a conservancy official, on condition of anonymity, said they could not bring out cleaning vehicles from garage as the employees padlocked it.

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JS DISCUSSION ON 16TH AMENDMENT

SCBA splits over MPs' comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has apparently split over expressing reaction to the statements made by the ruling party ministers and lawmakers in parliament about the Supreme Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment of the constitution.

The Pro-BNP and ruling Awami League backed SCBA leaders yesterday organised separate press conferences in its auditorium and gave conflicting statements regarding the issue.

The statements made by senior ministers and lawmakers in the parliament on July 9 about the chief justice and two veteran lawyers is clearly tantamount to contempt of the court, said SCBA President Advocate Ziaul Abedin at a press conference.

The ruling party leaders, lawmakers and ministers have been making statements after the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court delivered a verdict declaring illegal the 16th amendment.

"Expressing anger, they made objectionable comments about senior lawyers Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam. They even criticised the honourable chief justice..." he said.

Advocate Ziaul, also a BNP leader, said the SCBA strongly condemned the objectionable statements. The SCBA also demanded that the Speaker refrain from making any remark.

He requested all to stop the dispute, he said, which can tarnish the image of the judiciary and to become respectful to the courts. The SCBA president said the lawmakers perhaps had forgotten the provisions of the rules of business.

"The respected persons whom the lawmakers criticised were not present in parliament and they are not members of the House. There are rules about making statements in the parliament. As per rules, the persons who are not present cannot be criticised in the parliament."

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Section 57 a weapon to suppress journalists

Leaders tell DRU protest rally; demand its abolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terminating section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) act as a weapon to suppress journalists, journalist leaders yesterday demanded that the government immediately abolish it.

They also demanded release of all the journalists arrested under the section and withdrawal of cases filed against them.

Actions must be taken against those who filed the cases to destroy the image of the journalists, they added.

The demands were made at a protest rally organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) at its office in the capital.

The journalist leaders threatened to wage a tougher movement if the government failed to abolish the section.

So far, thirteen cases have been filed under the section against 23 journalists.

Shawkat Hossain Badshah, DRU president, said the government must abolish the section instead of incorporating its main contents in other acts or forming a new one that reflects the section.

Citing section 19 and 20 of the draft Digital Security Act, he said the sections are similar to section 57 of the ICT act.

"We will submit a memorandum to the concerned ministries to realise our demand

to scrap the section," he said.

Shawkat Mahmud, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, said the law minister must announce abolition of the section in parliament. He also demanded that the minister take measures so that no one can lodge cases under the section.

Shaban Mahmood, president of Dhaka Union of Journalists, said they will continue their protest as long as the section is not scrapped.

Ruhul Amin Gazi, former BFUJ president, said, "We wanted freedom of the press, but it was faded by the section. No journalist can accept that."

He also demanded that the law enforcers stop harassing journalists abusing the section and their law enforcers' power.

Speaking at the programme, Mohammad Zahid, the main protagonist of the case, said police forced him to testify against The Daily Observer journalist.

His statement has not been recorded at the court yet.

Zahid, a worker at a meat shop, said, "After the incident, some policemen came and asked me to say that he [Ashik] was

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Journalists at a rally at DRU yesterday demanding the scrapping of section 57. PHOTO: STAR

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Self-defence of accused starts today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday completed reading out charges derived from statements of 225 prosecution witnesses to 31 accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Earlier in the day the court read out charges to the last four accused in the cases, making the figure 31.

The accused are: former inspector general of police (IGP) Khoda Baksh Chowdhury, three former CID officials -- Special

Superintendent of Police (SP) Ruhul Amin, ASP Ashur Rashid and Munshi Atiqur Rahman.

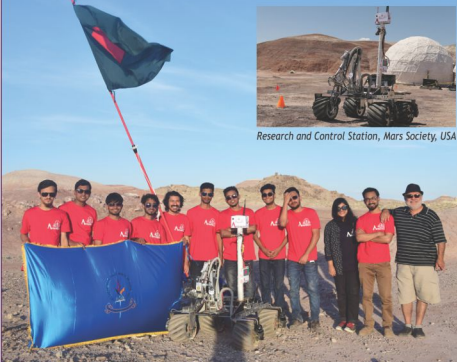
All the four, now on bail, will appear in court today.

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Participants at a roundtable discussion on "independence of the judiciary and way forward" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. From left, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of BELA; Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University; Syed Abul Maksud, eminent columnist; Badul Alam Majumdar, secretary of SHUJAN; M Hafiz Uddin Khan, its president; Kazi Ebadul Haque, former justice of the Supreme Court; Shahdeen Malik, eminent jurist; and Dilip Kumar Sarkar, coordinator of SHUJAN.

PHOTO: STAR



Your journey to Mars begins here...

"Team Attendant", from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) secured first position among all participating Bangladeshi universities in University Rover Challenge (URC) 2017 held in the United States in June 2017.

The international robotics competition held annually in the Utah desert, USA organised by Mars Society for university students featured teams vying to build the world's best 'next generation' student-designed Mars rovers that will one day work alongside astronauts exploring the Red Planet.

A record 82 teams took part in IUB 2017 where "Team Attendant" of CSE, IUB secured first position among all participating Bangladeshi universities, second in whole Asia and tenth globally by defeating many high-ranked universities including Cornell, USA; McGill, Canada; University of Warsaw, EU. Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA secured first position while Czestochowa University of Technology from Poland and Brigham Young University, USA won the second and third places respectively.

For more details, please visit: <http://iurc.marssociety.org/home/about-urc-urc2017-scores>

Students of the "Team Attendant" are all majoring in CSE at IUB with a minor/specialization in Robotics & Intelligent Machines

If you are eager to join the race, this is the time to get enrolled!

Undergraduate admission details...

Last date for online application: July 13, 2017 till 11:30 pm

Admission test: July 15, 2017 at 10:30 am

To apply and for more information: www.iub.edu.bd/admission

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