

Sylhet hawkers vandalise Nagar Bhaban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of hawkers vandalised the Nagar Bhaban, official building of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC), in Bandar Bazar area on Monday.

The hawker attacked the SCC officials and vandalised the building following an announcement asking them to vacate the makeshift stalls on the footpaths, says SCC Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

He said a group of hawkers led by Sylhet Hawkers' Kalyan Samity President Abdur Rakib entered the building and beat three staff members. Later, another group of hawkers also entered the Nagar Bhaban around 6:30pm and vandalised two SCC vehicles.

The attack was carried out following the SCC's direction to remove all illegal shanties from the footpaths, said Sadek Kawsar Dastagir, assistant commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

Abdur Rakib, also president of Sylhet Metropolitan Hawkers' League, is behind the incident, he said, adding, Rakib was arrested last year in a case for occupying footpath illegally.

Last budget

FROM PAGE 3
lawmaker Mayeedul Islam, after adoption of the obituary motion and munajat, the speaker adjourned the house at 12:51pm to resume it again today at 10:30am.

The tenacity

FROM PAGE 3
Meanwhile, Chittagong Railway Station was also overcrowded yesterday due to the rush for buying advance train tickets, our Chittagong correspondent reported.

Station Manager Abul Kalam Azad informed that 6,636 tickets out of 9,522 were being sold at 10 counters. Rest of the tickets were being sold online and a percentage of those was kept for VIPs and railway employees.



Students participate in a procession brought out by the Department of Environment, Chittagong, marking World Environment Day yesterday. This photo was taken in Circuit House area.

PHOTO: STAR

AMASSING Tk 1.10CR ILLEGALLY ACC sues ex-GM of Bapex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against a former general manager of Bapex for helping his wife amass Tk 1.10 crore worth of wealth beyond their known source of income.

ACC Deputy Director Helal Uddin Sharif filed the case with Ramna Police Station yesterday afternoon against AKM Anwarul Islam, former GM of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex), accusing him of helping his wife Farida Yasmin amass the illegal wealth.

Last year, the ACC submitted a charge sheet in another case filed against Anwarul for amassing around Tk 32 lakh worth of wealth beyond his known source of income.

According to the case statement, on September 5 in 2016, Farida submitted her wealth statement to the ACC after it had served her a notice on August 24, 2016, seeking her wealth statement.

In her statement to the ACC, Farida mentioned that she had a net wealth worth Tk 150.53 lakh (Tk 58.02 lakh movable property and Tk 92.51 lakh immovable property) that she acquired from her husband and from house rentals. She did not declare any liabilities in the statement.

However, during an enquiry, the ACC found that Farida had concealed Tk 4 lakh in an account with First Security Islami Bank.

Moreover, scrutinizing her tax return files that she had submitted to the NBR between 2005-06 and 2015-16 fiscal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Implement ban on polythene

Environmentalists urge government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Termining plastic and polythene as threats to environment, various organisations in Chittagong have urged people to be aware against the non-biodegradable products which have been wreaking havoc on the environment.

Speakers yesterday at different programmes marking World Environment Day also urged the government to be stricter in implementing the law enacted in 2002, banning use of polythene.

Chittagong office of the Department of Environment held a programme at Hall 24 in the port city.

Abdul Mannan, divisional commissioner of Chittagong and also chief guest of the programme, said every minute at least one million pieces of polythene are being sold globally, becoming a

major concern for the world.

"We could not stop the menace of plastic and polythene. We are preserving even our food in plastic boxes, an unhealthy practice that may result in serious health hazards. We must be aware and make people aware in this regard," he added.

Referring to the government initiative, he said the government is trying to replace polythene with bio-degradable jute products. All have to come forward to implement the initiative.

At another programme, People's Voice -- a social platform of environmentalists, and the Chittagong chapter of Bangladesh Chemical Association urged the government to take steps to close down all polythene factories, for the sake of saving environment.

The organisations held the programme at Cheragi intersec-

tion in the port city.

Sharif Chowhan, president of People's Voice, said the government must bring back the glory of jute in order to save our country from plastic and polythene.

He said everyday thousands of plastic bottles and polythene bags are clogging up our drainage system and reducing the fertility of our lands. People should let it go the way it is now continuing.

Dr AQM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, advisor of the platform, questioned the implementation of the law in stopping widespread use of plastic.

"The government has failed to contain the menace. It is high time we must come forward to raise awareness among people, and simultaneously the government must come up with a strategy to protect our environment," he said.

Save Pasur river, Sundarbans

Call made at World Environment Day observance in Mongla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A number of organisations observed World Environment Day in Bagerhat's port town of Mongla yesterday, with calls to save the river Pasur and the Sunderbans.

The programmes, organised by Mongla River Water Keeper, Bangladesh Environment Movement, Bapa and Waterkeepers Bangladesh, were held at the Mongla College Road and Mongla College Library auditorium, and included a human chain, seminar, and painting and essay competitions.

Speakers at the human chain and seminars said damages to the Sundarbans have already begun, even before the factories round the

world's largest mangrove forest are fully functional. The food chains of the forest as well as adjoining areas are breaking down, they said.

The losses will increase when all the factories are fully operational, speakers added, citing a recent study by the Department of Environmental Science of Khulna University.

Later in the day at the auditorium of Mongla College Library, an essay competition was held, with the theme "The Pasur River is the life of the Sundarbans".

Md Nur Alam Sheikh, Mongla coordinator of Bapa, chaired the event. The principal of Mongla Government College, Md. Golam Sarwar, spoke as the chief guest, among others.

Stop plastic production

Demand Savar citizens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Speakers at a human chain in Savar yesterday urged the government to stop production and use of plastic products as soon as possible, to save environment from pollution.

Socheton Nagorik Committee, a citizens' platform, in association with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), organised the human chain beside Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Genda, marking World Environment Day.

Speakers demanded that all kinds of illegal plastic production and its marketing be stopped.

They also urged the government to enforce strict law to stop the use of plastic products in the country to protect environment.



WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY



আর এফ এল
ব্রাহ্মবিশ্ব

SAVING
ENVIRONMENT
ANY WAY

You and we together are saving
at least some trees from being killed every day.

We wish the earth a sound environment beyond this
World Environment Day!

