

New plan for saving 4 rivers

Govt mulls Tk 850cr scheme as drive against grabbers intensifies in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has intensified drives in Dhaka and elsewhere to evict river grabbers, while also mulling a Tk 850 crore project to save the four rivers around the capital.

The move comes after the High Court ordered the government to protect every river, terming rivers a "legal entity" and asking the authorities to act like their "guardians".

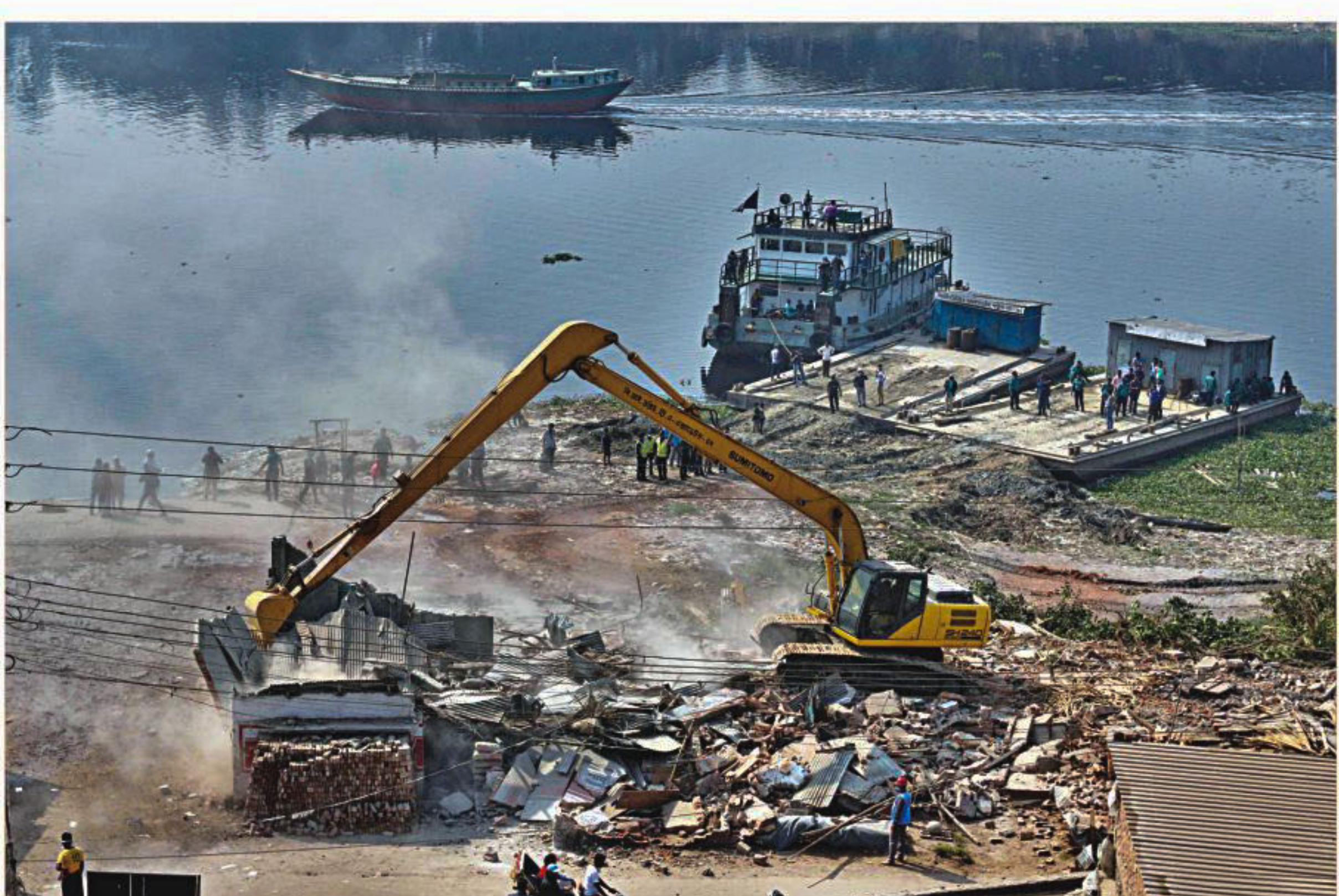
Yesterday, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) knocked down 211 illegal structures, including one three-storey and five two-storey buildings, that were built along the Buriganga at Ashrafabad in Kamrangirchar.

With them, the BIWTA demolished 656 structures in the last four days.

Earlier, the BIWTA identified 906 illegal structures along the bank of Buriganga and launched a drive on January 29 to evict the grabbers. The drive will continue until February 14.

"In the first three days of the drive [before yesterday], we demolished 445 structures, including two seven-storey buildings, one six-storey building,

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A bulldozer knocks down an illegal structure on the Buriganga during an eviction drive by the BIWTA in Kamrangirchar's Ashrafabad area yesterday. The authorities carried out the drive to stop river grabbing by influential people.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Sighs, cries as crash kills 10-year-old

Clutching her father's fingers, 10-year-old Faija was crossing a road at Uttara yesterday morning. Her mother and younger brother were nearby.



Faija

All of a sudden, a speedy microbus hit the girl from behind, throwing her a few yards away. Within moments, the vehicle went over her.

A critically injured Faija was rushed to a local hospital but doctors declared her dead.

The fifth grader of Milestone School was among four people who were killed in separate road accidents in the capital yesterday. The other incidents happened in Baridhara and Malibagh.

Such deaths on roads seem unstoppable with precious lives being lost every day.

In August last year, protests for safe roads

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Settle police cases fast

PM asks officials

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for building a more "people-friendly" police force and instructed the authorities concerned to dispose of cases properly and on time to ensure quick justice.

"Being imbued with patriotism, you will have to work in order to become more people-friendly and create confidence among the people," she said while addressing senior police officials on the occasion of Police Week-2019 at her office.

The PM said cases were not being resolved on time and there was lack of police personnel who conduct those cases.

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Cops want land, a fleet of choppers

High-ups place more demands at meetings with PM, home boss

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police high-ups yesterday placed before the home minister a host of demands that include land allocation for the force and appointment of police officials to the key posts, including that of the director general, at the passport department.

They also demanded empowerment of superintendents of police to preside over law and order meetings in districts, a fleet of 10 helicopters, financial rewards for recovering narcotics and in-situ promotions for officials with ranks from additional deputy inspector general (DIG) to additional IG.

Over the last few years, the director gen-

eral of the department of passport has been appointed from the Bangladesh Army on deputation. Previously, officials from the admin and police cadres had held the post.

The police officials made the demands at a meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on the second day of the five-day Police Week 2019.

They sought replacement of old vehicles, armoured personnel carriers in every district and allocation of land for setting up schools and colleges for police.

They also demanded overtime allowances for working more than eight hours a day and allowances for traffic policemen in

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JAILING OF JAHA ALAM ACC now blames Salek

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission now blames businessman Abu Salek, accused of misappropriating about Tk 18.5 crore from Sonali Bank, for making jute mill worker Jaha Alam a scapegoat.

"Abu Salek used to work at the NID project [of the Election Commission]. That's why it was easy for him to commit a forgery. He found a photograph of Jaha Alam which resembled that of him. So he used Jaha Alam's address in a bank account," ACC Commissioner AFM Aminul Islam told

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Dispose of drug cases in 6 months

HC to lower courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the lower courts concerned to finish the trial proceedings in all drug-related cases within six months of taking cognisance of charges.

As many as 155,866 such cases were pending with sessions judges' courts across the country till December 31 last year. The courts disposed of 8,977 drug-related cases last year, according to a Supreme Court study report published yesterday.

The HC observed that the trial proceedings in such cases remain unfinished for a long time even after taking cognisance of their charges by trial courts as the witnesses are not produced before the courts and their statements are not recorded on scheduled dates.

During hearing a bail petition in a drug-related case, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman yesterday said the trial courts' efforts were not evident for quick disposal of those cases.

Such a case could be disposed of in a single day if the judge, the

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প্রতিদিন সকাল ১০টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

প্রধান অতিথি : জনাব শ. ম. রেজাউল করিম, এমপি
মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।

বিশেষ অতিথি : জনাব নুরুল্লাহী চৌধুরী (শাওন), এমপি
সিনিয়র ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট, রিহাব।

গেস্ট অব অনার : জনাব মোঃ মোশাররফ হোসেন ভূঁইয়া, এনডিসি
চেয়ারম্যান, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর)।

সভাপতি : জনাব আলমগীর শামসুল আলামিন (কাজল)
প্রেসিডেন্ট, রিহাব।

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দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার ১টি
মোটরসাইকেল ও
৩য় পুরস্কার ১টি
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16th Death Anniversary

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director **Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)**. We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

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In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-mature departure has made us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishers to pray for him from the core of their heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)
Death: 6th February, 2003

Bereaved members of the family