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Taskforce action on

Utility connections to 28 buildings snapped for housing illegal chemical warehouses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four teams of a government taskforce yesterday snapped the utility connections to 28 buildings, including one belonging to Roxy Paints, for housing illegal warehouses in Old Dhaka.

Like the last two days, a section of the traders protested and created obstacles to the drive.

Since the taskforce, comprising of 14 government agencies, started the drive on Thursday, officials disconnected electricity, gas and water connections to 76 buildings in old town.

At least 71 people were killed and scores injured in a chemical-fed fire at Churihatta in Chawkbazar on February 20, prompting the government to act against chemical factories and warehouses in the area.

On February 25, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon announced that a month-long crackdown would be launched against warehouses of “dangerous chemicals”.

Yesterday, chemical factory and warehouse owners continued to demand that the drive should stop and owners should be given time to relocate.

A team led by Air Commodore Zahid Hossain, chief waste management officer of DSCC, disconnected utility lines of seven warehouses and factories on Nilambor Saha Road and Monesshor Road in Hazaribagh for storing plastic goods and flammable chemicals.

The team snapped gas and water connections to Roxy Paints in Hazaribagh and asked them to relocate their ware

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Members of the government taskforce conducting a drive against chemical warehouses in Old Dhaka inspect containers in front of a dye storage in Hazaribagh yesterday. Later in the day, the taskforce disconnected all utility connections to the storage.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

16 injured as locals clash with police

Demand curbs on Rohingya movement

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

At least 16 people, including two police men, were injured in a clash after locals blocked a road in Ukhia yesterday morning demanding quick repatriation of the Rohingyas and fences around the refugee camps.

Several hundred locals under the banner of Odhikar Bastobayon Committee (committee for ensuring rights) formed a human chain at Koat Bazar with a 14-point demand around 7:30am, witnesses said.

The demands include restrictions on the refugees' movement and jobs at the Rohingya camps.

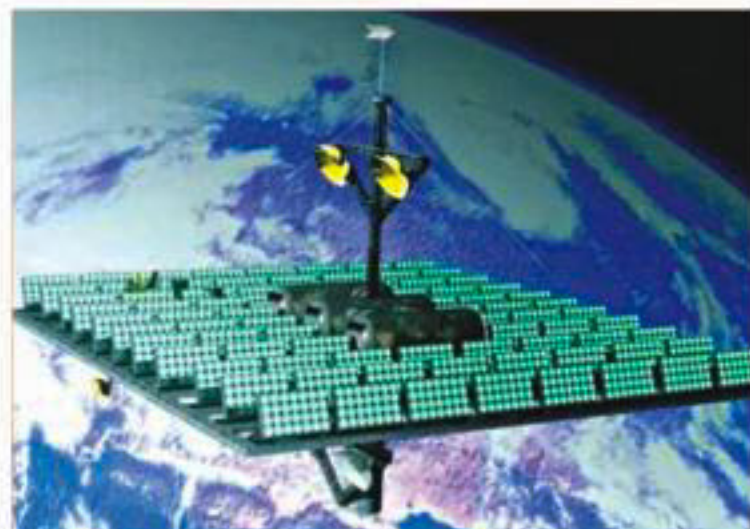
At one point, they blocked the road to stop vehicles of NGO officials. As police tried to clear the road, the clash started.

Police baton charged the protesters, some of whom threw brickbats at them and vandalised at least five vehicles including two belonging to police.

Mohammad Imrul Kayes, one of the leaders of the Committee, alleged that police had attacked their peaceful programme.

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China plans solar plant in space



CNN ONLINE

China says it is working to develop a solar energy plant in space that could one day beam enough power back to Earth to light up an entire city.

If scientists can overcome the formidable technical challenges, the project would represent a monumental leap in combating the Earth's addiction to dirty power sources which worsen air pollution and global warming.

A space-based solar power station could also provide an alternative to the current generation of earthbound and relatively ineffective renewable energy sources.

Scientists had previously thought space solar plants (SSPs) would be prohibitively expensive.

But with Beijing pledging to invest 2.5 trillion yuan (\$367 billion) in renewable power

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Pak breaks 2-day lull along LoC

Troops fire at border posts in J&K; Indian army retaliates; Islamabad plans crackdown on militant outfits

AGENCIES

Breaking a two-day lull in cross-border skirmishes, Pakistan troops yesterday violated ceasefire again by targeting forward posts and villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor sector in Jammu, officials said.

“The firing from across the border started around 0300 hours and stopped at 0630 hours,” a defence spokesman said.

Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing mortar shells and small arms on forward posts and villages.

“Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively,” the spokesman said adding there was no report of any casualty on the Indian side.

Barring a two-hour cross-border firing in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on Saturday afternoon, the guns had fallen silent all along the LoC since Friday night.

The lull in the cross-border firing had come as a major relief to the border residents, especially in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, where Pakistan had violated ceasefire for over 50 times, killing four persons, including three members of a family and injuring several others.

The ceasefire violations by Pakistan witnessed a spurt after India's air strike on the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camp in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on February 26 in a “pre-emptive” action following the terrorist group's February 14 suicide bombing in Pulwama in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Amid heightened tensions, Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat visited Jammu-based White Knight Corps on March 2 and reviewed the operational preparedness of the forces in the Corps Zone in view of the current situation along the LoC and the International Border, reported PTI.

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Shahidul Alam challenges the legality of case against him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted photographer Shahidul Alam has filed a writ petition with the High Court, challenging the legality of the case in which he suffered in jail for 107 days.

In the petition submitted on Sunday, Shahidul appealed for staying the proceedings of the case filed against him under the

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UPAZILA POLLS

One killed as AL factions clash

22 others hurt in violence in 3 dists

STAR REPORT

An Awami League leader was killed and 22 others were injured in factional clashes over the upcoming upazila election in three districts from Sunday night till yesterday.

In Nilphamari, the AL man was killed when supporters of two chairman candidates for Kishoreganj Upazila Parishad clashed in Bahagli Chairman Para village on Sunday night.

The victim, Tapan Kumar Sarker, 65, former general secretary of Kishoreganj upazila unit AL, was a supporter of party chairman candidate Zakir Hossain Babul. He was also

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



TAINTED BY AIR

A man tends to a display of food set up on right next to a busy road in the capital's Fakirapool bus stop. Such an open-air display in one of the most polluted cities in the world is a recipe for illness for anyone who consumes the dishes on offer.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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