

Plaintiff found guilty in land-grabbing case

Accused to get compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A civil court in Rajshahi yesterday fined a man Tk 20,000 for attempting to occupy a piece of land through false documents in a false case he filed against another.

The man -- identified as Md Sirajul Islam -- is from Mohonpur upazila, said Saidur Rahman, bench assistant of the court.

The court of Senior Assistant Judge MA Sayeed Shuvo ordered that the fined money be given to the accused in the case as compensation, said the bench assistant.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to file a criminal case against Sirajul Islam for preparing false land documents.

In 2013, Md Sirajul Islam filed a land partition case with the court accusing one Md Darul Islam, claiming ownership of a piece of seven decimal land.

During the trial process, the court found that the three land deeds Sirajul placed at the court are false.

Court bench assistant Saidur Rahman said a criminal case was already filed against Sirajul with the metropolitan magistrate court yesterday.



Seeing a hawkler selling spotted dove on the streets of Dhanmondi in the capital, this man bought all 10 birds, and set them free. He later identified himself to the photographer as Atikur Rahman Atik, a ruling party lawmaker (Sherpur-1) and whip of the parliament.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Flawed building rule to blame for urban sprawl of the capital

Urban planners tell BIP event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the government has been implementing Building Construction Rules-2008 for managing the capital's structures properly since 2008, urban planners at a programme yesterday said a provision in the rules is actually doing quite the opposite and turning Dhaka into an unliveable city.

Prof Akter Mahmud, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), said the rules included a provision in 2008 that the height range or floor area ratio (FAR) of a building would be same in all areas.

FAR is the ratio of gross floor area to the size of the land or the permissible built-up floor area for a particular piece of land. But all areas do not have the same utility facilities and other services, said Prof Mahmud.

He made the observation while virtually unveiling a report on "Population density, liveability and development management

of Dhaka city" by BIP.

FAR has been kept same for the entire city without considering the population density of a particular area, said Prof Mahmud. Due to the provision, most areas people live in have already surpassed their capacities. As a result, it is getting difficult to reach proper utility services and other facilities to all.

Dhaka has become a city of mismanagement, he added.

For example, Dhanmondi residential area was developed for a population of 15,000-18,000 with allocation of 1,083 plots in 1965, he said.

But over the years, the number of plots and height of the buildings were increased. Now there are 1.5 lakh people living in the area with the same road networks and utility management system, said Akter.

He said Rajuk is a liable authority for controlling such an unplanned development. If the authorities cannot

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Redouble efforts to repatriate Rohingyas'

Civil society groups urge international community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Civil society groups based in Cox's Bazar have called for the international community to redouble efforts for quick repatriation of Rohingyas, saying that Bangladesh itself is facing multiple challenges brought on by climate change and Covid-19.

Prolonged flooding this year alone has caused displacement of 2.5 million people in the country, while the pandemic has pushed poverty rate to 30 percent, they said.

More than three years after the influx of some 7,50,000 Rohingyas, the international humanitarian assistance is also dwindling, adding further pressure to the local economy, livelihood, ecology and infrastructure, they added.

Cox's Bazar CSO NGO Forum (CCNF) observed these at a virtual press conference yesterday, ahead of a donor's conference, which will be co-hosted by the US, UK, European Union and UN Refugee Agency tomorrow.

"For the last three years, local fishers are almost failing to catch fish as Rohingyas are involved in fishing. Thus, their

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PROTESTS AGAINST JUTE MILL CLOSURE IN KHULNA

13 detainees shown arrested as named accused in case

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Thirteen people out of the 14 who were allegedly detained by police -- during and following a clash between law enforcers and agitators protesting jute mill closure in Khulna's Atr industrial area on Monday -- were shown arrested in a case yesterday.

Sub-inspector Mehedi Hasan of Khanjahan Ali Police Station under Khulna Metropolitan Police filed the case, accusing 14 people by name and some 250 unnamed people.

Prabir Kumar Biswas, officer-in-charge (OC) Khanjahan Ali Police Station, told The Daily Star that the case was filed at 4:15pm on Monday.

However, until Monday evening, KMP Deputy Commissioner (North) Mollah Jahangir Hossain had not been able to confirm the matter, when contacted via phone. He had said at

the time that legal action was being taken, and that nine people were detained.

When asked, OC Prabir said the case was filed for loss of life and property, vandalism and assault on police, mentioning names of 14 people and 200 to 250 unidentified.

"Of the accused, 13 have been arrested and handed over to the court, OC added.

The accused in the case are Janardan Dutta Nantu, Khulna coordinator of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal; Mozammel Hossain Khan, former

Jute CBA general secretary of Jashore Jute Industry; Oliar Rahman, convener of Fultala upazila branch of Goasamhati Andolon; central member of CPB

Mizanur Rahman; workers Rabiul Islam, Sheikh Rabiul Islam alias Robi, Shamsur Alam, Al Amin Sheikh,

Nowsheer Ali, Faruk Hossain, Jahangir Sardar, Shahidul Islam and Abul Hossain.

Of them, Mozammel is on the run, said police.

An organisation called Sammita Nagarik Parishad started a blockade of Khulna-Jashore highway in Atr industrial area as per a pre-announced program at 11am on Monday. Hundreds of activists from various social organisations and jute mill workers in Khulna participated in the programme.

When police confronted the protesters, a clash broke out, during which police charged batons and used tear gas.

Agitators claimed that about 20 workers including 10 women were injured at that time.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Ex-DIG Mizan, wife indicted in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against suspended DIG Mizanur Rahman and three others in a graft case.

The other accused are: Mizan's wife Sohelia Anar Ratna, his brother Mahbubur Rahman, and nephew Mahmudul Hasan, a suspended sub-inspector of police.

Of them, Mizan and Mahmudul are now in jail, while Sohelia and Mahmudul are on the run. Mizan and Mahmudul, who were present in the court, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman of the Special Judge's Court-6 of Dhaka read out the charges to them.

Before that, the judge dismissed the petitions submitted for discharging the two from the case and fixed October 27 for starting trial of the case.

On January 30, ACC Deputy Director Monjur Morshed, also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet against Mizan and three others.

On June 24 last year, ACC filed the case against Mizan and three others on charges of amassing over Tk 3 crore beyond known sources of income.

According to the case statement, Mizan submitted his wealth statement to the ACC in August of 2018, citing that he has Tk 1.56 crore of wealth. But he concealed information about the remaining Tk 3.07 crore and kept it in different forms under his wife and relatives' names.

SWECHCHASEBAK LEAGUE LEADER KILLING

Gouripur municipal mayor suspended from post in local AL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Syed Rafiqul Islam, an accused in the murder case of local Swetchasebak League leader Shuvra, was temporarily suspended from his post of Awami League municipal unit president yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam Minto, office secretary of Gouripur upazila AL confirmed the matter.

Rafiqul is also the mayor of Gouripur municipality.

Minto said the decision was taken at an emergency meeting of Gouripur upazila unit of AL held at the party office, with its acting president Helal Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

Letters were also sent to district and central AL bodies seeking cancellation of Rafiqul Islam's primary membership in the party.

He also said the decision was taken for his alleged involvement in the killing, and for paving the way for a smooth and neutral investigation into the killing.

Among others, local lawmaker Nazim Uddin Ahmed and upazila AL's secretary Bidhubushan Das were present at the meeting.

Masudur Rahman Shuvra (28), secretary of Swetchasebak League Gouripur upazila unit, was hacked to death on Saturday by unidentified assailants in the upazila's Pan Mahal area.

Two others -- who were with Shuvra at the time -- we injured in the attack.

The victim's brother filed a case against 14 people on Monday night. Police arrested four accused, but the others, including Rafiqul, are on the run.

JnU gets first ever student dormitory

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JnU) authorities yesterday unveiled its 16-storey Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall for female students.

JnU Vice Chancellor Mijanur Rahman inaugurated the hall, marking the university's 14th founding anniversary. Students will live there after the pandemic ends, the VC said.

"This is the first residential hall for students since the university's establishment in 2005," said JnU Registrar Md Ohiduzzaman.

On December 22, 2013, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid laid the foundation stone of the hall in Old Dhaka's Banglabazar area, adjacent to the university.

On October 20, 2014, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, chairperson of University Grants Commission, inaugurated the construction work.

To mark "JnU Day", the university also chalked out elaborate programmes, which included hoisting national and university flags, procession, virtual discussion and cultural performances. The day-long celebration began around 9:15am yesterday.



To help ensure that everyone can celebrate this year's Durga Puja regardless of financial conditions, Bidyanondo has set up a shop at the capital's Karwan Bazar where all clothing items, from lungis to frocks and saris, are priced at Tk 10. People from all around were seen flocking to the location to choose their favourite clothes for the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Roads and Highways Department on Monday conducted a drive in Chattogram city to reclaim its land, on which a trader had allegedly built a warehouse for his tyre business. But the drive led to major traffic congestion, as the seized tyres were just piled up at Monsurabad area, obstructing about half of this road, and no initiatives were taken to relocate the tyres until yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

ARMS, NARCOTICS CASES

Court accepts charges against Samrat

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took cognisance of charges against expelled Dhaka South Jubo League president Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat in two cases filed under the arms and narcotics control acts.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka passed the order after scrutinising case dockets and other relevant documents in presence of Samrat, now in jail.

The court also rejected Samrat's bail petitions after his lawyer moved those on medical grounds.

The court fixed November 30 for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

Meantime, a group of people carrying different banners and placards chanted slogans on the court premises, demanding immediate release of their leader Samrat.

Earlier on November 6 last year, Rab pressed charges against Samrat, an alleged kingpin of the illegal casino business in Dhaka, in the arms case. The elite force on December 9 in 2019, pressed charges against him in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act. Samrat's accomplice Enamul Haque Arman was also charged in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'YouthCan!' initiative for vulnerable youths launched in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh yesterday at a virtual event launched the global initiative "YouthCan!" in Bangladesh, to support young people who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care.

According to Dr Md Enamul Haque, national director of SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh, the initiative has been working in 31 countries and has established six global and more than 130 corporate partnerships. Bangladesh is the 32nd country under the initiative.

The risk of labour market and social exclusion is especially high for youths who have lost or are going to lose parental care. They lack support, network, positive role models, employability skills, training and work experiences, he said.

"This initiative will create direct opportunities for youths, empowering them through training, mentorship and work experience to have a better transition to employment," he added.

ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak launched the initiative at the programme and assured to establish seven Sheikh Rassel Digital Computer Labs in seven working districts of SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh.

In addition, ICT Division is going to establish 300 School of Future at upazila level, which will allow students to gather experience on various technologies. "Collaboration can be made with SOS members so that they too can have the opportunity to gather these experiences," he said.

Rajneesh Jain, international representative of SOS Children's Villages, said if youths get proper education at the right time, it will help them to stand on their own feet and successfully become responsible citizens.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1