

10 YEARS INTO ENCROACHMENT OF CENTURIES OLD TEMPLE Ex-MP's sons still have grasp on Teknaf's first Buddhist temple

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

The law of the land is quite strict against hurting the sentiment of any religious community or any action that threatens communal harmony.

But in Hnila union of Teknaf, the authorities never took any action against the individuals who demolished and encroached on a 200-year-old Buddhist temple that had an iconic tin-roofed wooden structure.

When the incident took place in 2010, Mohammad Ali, the father of both the accused, was the then president of Awami League's Teknaf upazila unit. Mohammad Ali was a lawmaker with AL ticket in Cox's Bazar-4 (Ukhia-Teknaf) constituency, from 1996 to 2001. He passed away on November 13 this year.

One of Mohammad Ali's sons, Rashed Mahmud Ali, was a leader of



The iconic tin-roofed wooden structure of Dakkhin Hnila Boro Buddha Vihar, in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar, which was razed to the ground in 2010. Right, the 150-year-old Buddha statue, made of octo-alloy, is still kept in the Ordination Hall of the temple compound.



PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, COLLECTED

2011. In the report ANM Nazim Uddin, the then Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), recommended that the grabbers be evicted from the land that belongs to the Buddhist temple.

Asked about the report, ANM Nazim Uddin, currently the deputy secretary of fisheries and livestock ministry, said "I might have given [opinion in] the investigation report after visiting the temple site in Teknaf, where I served as a UNO between 2009 and 2012."

Shyamal Mitra Barua, deputy director of Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust, said after visiting the temple site in 2012, he found evidence that the temple and its statues were vandalised by former MP Mohammad Ali and his sons.

He also said although he mentioned it in his report submitted to the religious affairs ministry, "no steps were taken to protect the historical temple."

Asked, Md Nurul Islam, secretary to the religious affairs ministry, said they would take the matter seriously and launch an investigation to find out whether their officials overlooked the allegation of the encroachment and vandalism.

Contacted, Hnila UP Chairman Rashed Mahmud Ali said, "My father took the temple's land from a former monk of the temple via a notary public [deed] in 2001. We later planted trees there... We will return the land if we made any mistake."

After the attention of Cox's Bazar DC (Revenue) Md Amin Al Parvege was drawn on the issue of encroachment and vandalising of the temple in Hnila, he said he would take necessary action after reviewing relevant documents.

When the incident took place in 2010, Mohammad Ali, the father of both the accused, was the then president of Awami League's Teknaf upazila unit.

Bangladesh Chhatra League in Hnila in 2010. He is now the chairman of Hnila Union Parishad (UP) and also the president of AL in the same union.

In August 27 that year, henchmen of Rashed and his brother Mahub Morshed forcibly took possession of 11 acres of land belonging to Dakkhin

Hnila Boro Buddha Vihar, the first Buddhist temple in Teknaf upazila. The temple's main building was razed to the ground by the offenders.

Before desecrating and plundering around 18 priceless and ancient Buddha statues kept inside the temple, the goons physically assaulted and drove away the monks from there too, said Kyaw Zaw Aung, secretary of the temple.

He also said he and other monks went into hiding after the attackers issued life threats on them for protesting the grabbing of the temple's land.

The attackers however did not demolish the temple's Ordination

Hall -- a separate tin-roofed structure in the compound -- where a massive 150-year-old Buddha statue, made of octo-alloy or Ashtadhatu, is still situated.

Buddhist devotees later recovered a smaller and damaged stone statue as well as a footprint of the Buddha and stored both in the Ordination Hall along with the octo-alloy statue.

Thousands of Buddhist devotees used to gather at the temple every year to celebrate religious festivals as it is Teknaf upazila's first Buddhist temple and it houses a Buddha statue that is around one and a half centuries old, said Kyaw Zaw Aung, the temple secretary.

Burglars had detached and stolen small parts from the statue despite it being under close watch of the monks. But now, when it has been lying unprotected, they might succeed in stealing the entire statue, he feared.

In an effort to get the possession of the temple's land back from the clutch of the encroachers, the Buddhist devotees from the area in 2011 submitted at least six petitions to different offices at the local administration as well as a memorandum to the prime minister's office via the deputy commissioner (DC) of Cox's Bazar. "But no one helped us protect this historical temple," lamented Kyaw Zaw.

"The grabbers completely destroyed the historical temple where our forefathers prayed; we prayed. We want our temple back," said septuagenarian Aung Kyaw Rakhine, a resident of the area.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent came across a man who was cutting earth from near the temple site. "It was a historical temple in Teknaf upazila where thousands of devotees from across the country gathered every year... but now it belongs to Rashed chairman and his brother Mahub," the man said identifying himself as Monir Ahmed. This paper has obtained a copy of an investigation report dated May 3,

Health watchdog remains invisible

FROM PAGE 1
But the picture is different for other committees. Different parliamentary bodies held at least 132 meetings since late March.

According to JS procedure rules, a standing committee must meet at least once a month.

There are 39 parliamentary standing committees that are supposed to examine bills, review different activities of the ministry concerned, enquire into irregularities, and make recommendations.

MP Muhibur Rahman Manik, a member of the standing committee on health ministry, said they have contacted the committee chief about media reports on the committee's lack of initiatives.

"We cannot call for meetings. The committee chief can," he added.

Committee Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said he couldn't hold meetings because the committee members live in different places.

"After holding a meeting on March 24, we had fixed a date for the next meeting. But that could not happen due to the countrywide lockdown from late March," he told The Daily Star.

"Later, we couldn't hold meetings as many officials and security personnel of parliament tested positive for Covid-19. We are waiting to see whether the Covid-19 situation becomes normal," said Selim, also a presidium member of

the ruling Awami League.

Asked whether he will call for a meeting soon, he said he would talk to the committee members in this regard.

Over 7,300 people have died with Covid-19 and more than five lakh got infected in the country.

Hundreds of new cases are still being detected every day in Bangladesh.

On top of the government's initial mishandling of the situation, mismanagement and irregularities made the battle against the outbreak more difficult.

Reports of misappropriation of money during procurement of medical equipment became common. Fraudulent activities by Regent Hospital and JKG Health Care over tests and resignation of former director general of Directorate General of Health Services added fuel to the fire.

But none of these could draw the attention of the health watchdog.

As the government is procuring vaccines and taking preparations to tackle a possible surge of infections in winter, the role of the JS body becomes all too crucial.

Contacted, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said she would talk to the chief of the parliamentary body concerned.

"Let's see what can be done," she told The Daily Star.

About the meetings of other committees, she said maybe they have the courage to hold the meeting, but the committee members of the health ministry may still feel unsafe to come out and hold meetings.

"A few members and chairmen have expressed such concerns. Given the situation, we cannot insist anyone to come and hold a meeting despite the health concerns."

The speaker said some standing committee chairmen have sought permission to hold meetings virtually.

"But the rules of procedure of our parliament does not mention anything about it. It's a new and unanticipated thing. That's why we haven't made a decision yet," she said.

"I am trying to look into how the privacy of the meetings would be ensured and what parliaments in other countries are doing."

Ifekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said it's shocking and surprising for people to see the indifference of the JS committee on health ministry.

The standing committees are usually inactive and ineffective, he told The Daily Star.

But the committee on the health ministry should not be so indifferent at a time of a national crisis, he said.



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স্মারক নং-০০.০১.০০০০.১৭৬.৩৫.০০৩.২০-৩২০৯৮ তারিখঃ ২৮/১২/২০২০

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন।
২	এজেন্সি	: দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন।
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সন্ত্রাসের নাম	: প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন শক্তিশালীকরণ প্রকল্প।
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সন্ত্রাসের কোড নং	: ২২৪২৪৪৫০০
৫	সম্প্রদায়িক সন্ত্রাসের শ্রেণী	: ঢাকা।
৬	যে কার্যের জন্য দরপত্র	: দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন লোকাল এরিয়া নেটওয়ার্ক (ল্যান) স্থাপনসহ আনুষঙ্গিক
৭	দরপত্র সূত্র নং	: ০০.০১.০০০০.১৭৬.৩৫.০০৩.২০-৩২০৯৭
৮	তারিখ	: ২৮/১২/২০২০
৯	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)
১০	বাজেট ও অর্ধের উৎস	: প্রকল্পের বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ।
১১	স্ট্যান্ডার্ড টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	: ২৮/১২/২০২০
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৯/০১/২০২১ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২০/০১/২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	: প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকার অফিস কক্ষে আগামী ২০/০১/২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০৫ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কর্মসূচি কক্ষের দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।
১৫	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান/দপ্তর	: প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন শক্তিশালীকরণ, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
১৬	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান/দপ্তর	: প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন শক্তিশালীকরণ, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
১৭	প্রতিসেট দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: প্রতিসেট স্ট্যান্ডার্ড টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের অফেরতযোগ্য মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
১৮	দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত	: দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক (সিডিউল ব্যাংক) হতে ৩,৫০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন শক্তিশালীকরণ প্রকল্প এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
১৯	দরপত্রের বৈধতার মেয়াদ	: দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের কার্যকারিতা (Tender Validity) দরপত্রের খোলার তারিখ হতে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন পর্যন্ত বহাল থাকবে।
২০	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি	: দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন লোকাল এরিয়া নেটওয়ার্ক (ল্যান) স্থাপনসহ আনুষঙ্গিক সেবা সরবরাহকারী প্রকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান, দরপত্রের সাথে স্ট্যান্ডার্ড টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট এ উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলী অনুসারে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট, টিআইএন সার্টিফিকেট, আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়নপত্রসহ আনুষঙ্গিক কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
২১	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	: মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল আওয়াল।
২২	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	: পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব) এবং প্রকল্প পরিচালক, দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন শক্তিশালীকরণ প্রকল্প।
২৩	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	: দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
২৪	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগের বিবরণ	: ০২-৫৮৩১৬৪৭৬

জিডি-২০৮৬

RAPE ATTEMPT Bus helper arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A bus helper was arrested in connection with a case for attempting to rape a college student in a moving bus in Sunamganj.

Police arrested Rashid Ahmed from Gobindaganj area of Chhatak upazila yesterday, Superintendent of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) in Sylhet Khaleque-uz Zaman said.

Earlier on Saturday evening, a college student jumped off a moving bus at Sunaganar in Sunamganj's Deraí upazila to escape rape attempt by the bus driver and his helper.

The injured girl was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Victim's father filed a case with Deraí Police Station accusing three unnamed people the same night.

NGO worker found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

An employee of a non-government organisation (NGO) at Benapole Land Port was found dead yesterday.

The deceased, Al Amin, 25, a NGO worker at the port, was son of Mizanur Rahman.

Police some unidentified people called Al Amin out of his house early yesterday. Later in the morning, villagers spotted his body lying behind his house and informed the police.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University

Temporary Office: Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.

RE-REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

No: BSMRAAU/Registrar-172/2020/76 Date: 29/12/2020

Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Education (MOE)/Secondary and Higher Education Division
Agency	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University (BSMRAAU)/University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC)
Procuring Entity name	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University (BSMRAAU), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Procuring Entity Code	:
Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
Expression of interest for Selection	: Local Consulting Firm having international consultants.
Title of Service	: Feasibility Study for the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University Development project.
EOI Ref. No.	: BSMRAAU/Registrar-172/2020/76
Date	: 29/12/2020

KEY INFORMATION

Procurement Sub-method:	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

Budget and Source of Funds	: GOB (Development Budget)
Development Partners	: GOB

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

Project/Programme Name	: Feasibility Study for the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University Development project.
EOI Closing Date and Time	: 19/01/2021 02:00 PM

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

Brief Description of Assignment	: (a). Different types of survey such as digital, topographical, land use, physical feature, hydrological, archaeological, accommodation, geological, traffic and transportation, drainage, existing flora and fauna and other relevant surveys of 638.5428 (six hundred thirty eight and point five four two eight) acres land for the preparation of master plan. (b). Conducting detailed impact assessment (i.e. need analysis, financial, environmental, Social, Vehicle movement, implementation plan etc.). (c). Preparation of a Master plan including 2-D and 3-D view with animation for at least next fifty years or above of BSMRAAU. Consultant has to submit a preliminary conceptual layout with soft & hard copy including 3D view with animation. (d). Guideline of optimum use of land. (e). Carry out different surveys and investigation. (f). Summarized related infrastructure of BSMRAAU for next fifty years and above. (g). Feasibility Study with Conceptual Architectural 3D View (for each building four images) of proposed numbers of buildings/structures/components for preparation of BSMRAAU development project. (h). Project cost estimation including construction, land acquisition, rehabilitation, compensation etc. (i). Preparation of DPP for BSMRAAU Development Project by the instruction of BSMRAAU Authority, UGC and MOE. The number of DPP copy should be ensured as needed. (k). Preparation of IEE, EIA, SIA, TIA, EMP, WMP etc for BSMRAAU. (l). Study about scope of job opportunity for aviation and aerospace graduates, demand of aviation and aerospace graduates, present and future status of research in aviation and aerospace sector, socio-economic condition of Bangladesh and in the project area. (m). Any other relevant task in light of objective and purpose of feasibility study of the development project of BSMRAAU. (n). All reports and document to be supplied in hard & soft form. The number of supplied copies to be defined by the BSMRAAU authority.
Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	: (a). Background of the firm with Brochure. (b). Adequate experience of the firm for preparation of digital master plan, different survey and assessment, preparation of DPP, architectural & engineering design, drawings, estimation and supervision. The firm must have the experience of consultancy service of university/institute (aviation and aerospace university is highly preferred). (c). Adequate experience of the firm for preparation of urban development plan, architectural & engineering design, drawings, estimation and supervision of smart, sustainable and eco-friendly city. (d). The firm should have good amount of Yearly Turn Over for the proven credibility. (e). Particular experience in design & drawings of Academic/Institutional facilities under any University/Institute (aviation and aerospace university is highly preferred) and at least one contract value of taka 1.00 (one) crore. (g). Specific experience in preparation of a complete and full-fledged master plan for a whole complex showing proposed structure under any University/Institute (aviation and aerospace university is highly preferred). (h). Availability & Summary of qualification of key professional and experience of technical staff (aviation and aerospace institute/university design and planning, smart, sustainable and eco-friendly city design and planning, aviation, aerospace, aerospace and space specialist and architecture of international standard is highly preferred). The firm must submit the detailed resume of national and international resources aviation expert. Resume must contain reference contact for verification. (j). Up-to-date Trade License, TIN certificate, VAT registration and other necessary relevant documents. (k). Minimum 03 (three) years audit report & bank solvency certificate of the firm.
Other Details (if applicable)	: Consultants may associate with other international firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. Consultant will be selected in accordance with PPA/2006 and PPR/2008 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by GOB with its updated amendment. b) Interested consultant may obtain further information at the address below during office hour. c) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without assigning any reason whatsoever. d) EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned.
Association with foreign firms is	: Encouraged

EOI Detail Information	Phasing of Services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
Ref No	NA	BSMRAAU Liaison Office, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka.	29/12/2020	19/01/2021

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

Name of Official Inviting EOI	: AIR COMMODORE MD ZAHIDUL SAYEED
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	: Registrar, BSMRAAU
Contact Details	: Group Captain Md Maksudul Alam, Project Director (Acting), Mobile: 01769995064, maksud8615@bsmraau.edu.bd
Address of the Office Inviting EOI	: BSMRAAU, Liaison Office, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
Email Address of Office Inviting EOI	: registrar@bsmraau.edu.bd.

Registrar
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
Aviation & Aerospace University

GD- 2083