

City land records go digital today

Revenue to rise by Tk 20 crore a year; bad time ahead for realty crooks

PINAKI ROY
Woe betide those who try to grab public or other men's land in the capital, for the city starts getting in a computerised land management system (CLMS) from today.

rocket to Tk 29.47 crore from Tk 9.47 crore in FY2003-04. Instituting the CLMS in Demra would take about six months and cost about Tk 97 lakh. In return, the land ministry expects to earn an additional Tk 3.89 crore a year from this circle alone in taxes, official sources said. After Demra, the system's coverage will be gradually expanded to the four other revenue circles of the capital. In the next six months the CLMS will come into operation in

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A mobile court yesterday fined real estate developers, left, for roadside dumping of construction materials and waste and restaurants, right, for adulteration of foods and selling Iftar items on Topkhana Road in the capital.

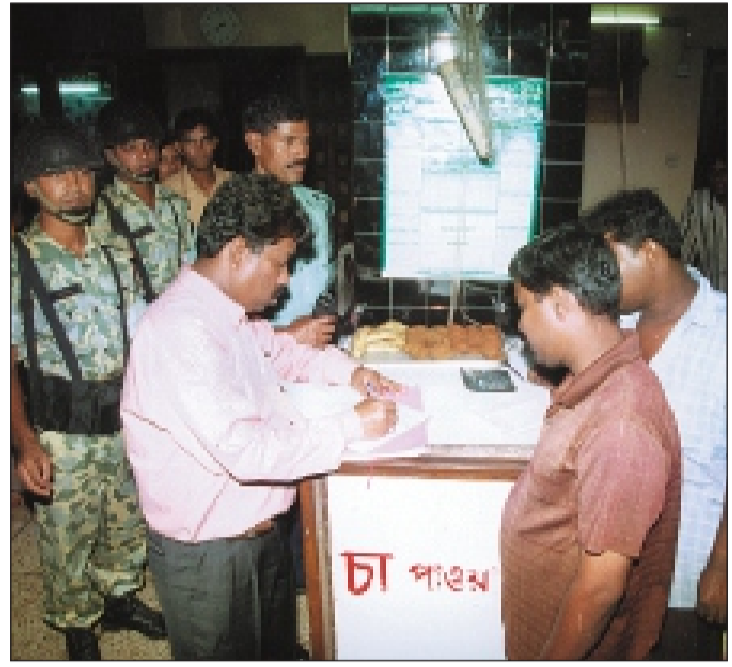


PHOTO: STAR

Sadarghat-Ashulia circular water route to open in Jan

RAFIQ HASAN

Part of the circular water route stretching from city's Sadarghat to Ashulia will be opened for traffic sometime in January next year, said shipping ministry sources. The circular water route around capital Dhaka had been planned for execution in two phases. The first phase involves water route from Sadarghat to Ashulia and the second from Ashulia to Demra-Kanchur. Shipping ministry sources said the work of the first phase is going on in full swing and over 31 percent has already been done. "Hopefully, the rest of the work

would be finished by December this year," Shipping Secretary Ismail Zabihullah told The Daily Star recently. Sources said the deadline for completion of the first phase was advanced by six months from the earlier date in June 2005. The government had allocated Tk 36 crore for the first phase of the project while the cost for completion of the second phase has been estimated at around Tk 250 crore. Paperwork on the second phase of the project has also been completed, said the shipping secretary. Under the two projects, 25 major landing stations would be set up for

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BUSINESSMAN ABDUCTION Wholesalers strike at Sylhet, no headway in case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Wholesale traders in Sylhet yesterday enforced a half-day strike in the city's wholesale markets to press authorities to free abducted businessman Md Habibur Rahman. Sylhet Byaboshayee Samity, which called the strike, also held a brief rally at the Kalighat Point at the end of the strike that brought business in Kalighat, Mohajirpatty, Dhopadighirpar, Ali Amzad Road and Laldighirpar areas to a halt. President of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries Md

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Antigraft body to get down to work this month

Saifur tells visiting ADB vice-president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The independent Anti-Corruption Commission will get down to work by this month after the government appoints chairman and members of the high-profile antigraft body after Eid, the finance minister said yesterday. "Bangladesh would slide down the rank of Transparency International's most corrupt countries once the commission starts work, the public procurement regulations are complied with in govern-

ment purchase and if the media runs objective and investigative reports," Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters after his meeting with visiting Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank Liqun Jin. Saifur quoted Jin as expressing the hope that the perception about Bangladesh held outside would change positively if the antigraft watchdog body starts functioning. Jin earlier met representatives of donor agencies in Dhaka and discussed Bangladesh's being the

most corrupt nation according to the Corruption Perceptions Index of the Berlin-based anticorruption watchdog and other issues. Saifur said the ADB executive agreed with him that the mechanism that TI and the World Bank use to gauge the level of corruption is not right. "Where doesn't corruption take place? If we have Fokker-sized corruption here, they (donor countries) have jumbo-sized ones over there." "Since we happen to be the aid

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Lawyers' body asks govt to cancel 19 judges' appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sammiliti Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (SASP) yesterday demanded that the government immediately cancel the 'unconstitutional appointment' of 19 judges. They also called for resignation of the law minister and trial of the persons responsible for the controversial appointment. "Otherwise, we will launch a movement for the ouster of this government and people are ready to rally behind us," SASP Convenor eminent lawyer Barrister Amir-ul Islam told a gathering of lawyers. "We will continue to boycott the courts of those judges until the

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Two policemen guard the entrance to Concord Twin Tower at Shantinagar in Dhaka yesterday as part of the heightened security measures for Eid shoppers at major shopping centres.

Rights groups worried at HR violation by law-enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 248 people were killed last month, said monthly reports of different rights organisations, expressing concern over continuing law and order slide and violation of human rights by law-enforcers. Some rights organisations including Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR), Mass-line Media Centre (MMC), Democracy Watch, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) and Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh published the reports yesterday. The BIHR said 275 people were tortured by police and 10 people

Top 'criminal' drafted in Rajshahi BNP

City leadership furious

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Frustration is brewing in Rajshahi city BNP leadership following inclusion of an alleged top listed criminal in the party on Wednesday. Rajshahi City BNP General Secretary Nadim Mustafa, MP had initiated alleged criminal Benzeer's inclusion. Nadim, who pledged many times to take action against crimes since he took the party post early this month, welcomed Benzeer placing floral wreaths around his neck. Benzeer was always on the list

of top criminals of different intelligence agencies for the last few years. He joined the BNP with hundreds of allegedly low-profile political leaders including Maksudul Karim Samrat, Motiur Rahman Lal and Mesbarur Rahman from Awami League and Mamtaz Khan and Anwar Hossain Rubel from Jatiya Party (Ershad). The defection occurred at a reception for Nadim, lawmaker of Puthia-Durgapur constituency, organised by ward No. 9 unit of BNP with party leader Kala Chand in the chair. Embarrassed BNP leaders including Rajshahi City

Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP said it will benefit Nadim to establishing his supremacy but tarnish the image of the party. Some senior leaders described Benzeer and the low-profile AL and JP leaders as 'opportunists', saying they defected to BNP to save their skin from Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). "Benzeer, widely known as a don of criminals, was not accused of any murder. But there are allegations of

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Tiger kills fisherman in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A fisherman was killed by a Royal Bengal Tiger on Latabarey canal in the Sundarbans Saturday. Police said Abdul Gaffar, 45, son of Mizan Uddin of Betkhali village in Shyamnagar upazila, went to fish in the Sundarbans with other fishermen Friday. A Royal Bengal Tiger pounced on him and dragged him into the deep forest. Fellow fishermen recovered his body yesterday morning.

Writ petition challenging Rab withdrawn

UNB, Dhaka

A writ petition challenging the formation of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) was withdrawn yesterday. Advocate Raziur Rahman Chowdhury, one of the petitioners, moved a petition before the High Court bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Momonur Rahman and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury seeking withdrawal of the case. The court allowed the petitioner to withdraw the case filed on October 25.

Three cops suspended for extortion

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Three policemen were suspended on charge of extortion yesterday. They are constables Billal Hossain, Nizamuddin and Billal Mia of Jibanganj Bazar police outpost in Nabinagar. Police sources said local traders were extorting money from Shyamgram Bazar and handed them over to police. They were closed to police lines. Superintendent of Police ATM Tareque said departmental action will be taken against them.

Arafat illness not life-threatening

No sign of leukemia in tests

AFP, AP, Paris

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is undergoing tests at a military hospital outside Paris, does not have a life-threatening illness and his condition is "curable", one of his senior advisors said yesterday. "I can assure you that he is not suffering from leukemia or any serious problem. His situation is curable, and we hope that he will recover soon," Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP. Arafat, 75, was flown to Paris on Friday aboard a French government jet to receive treatment after collapsing in his West Bank headquarters. The ailing Palestinian leader was undergoing a battery of tests at the Percy military hospital in the southwestern Paris suburb of Clamart to determine the nature of a blood disorder. "His condition is better than expected," Abu Rudeina added. When asked about the nature of Arafat's illness, the advisor replied: "I am not a doctor, but all options are being considered including poisoning. It is up to the French doctors. He is under the full control of the French doctors."

Initial results from a battery of tests on Yasser Arafat found no signs Saturday of leukemia, Palestinian officials said, but blood doctors were still probing the cause of the ailing Palestinian leader's dramatic deterioration in health. "Arafat does not have leukemia," Mohammed Rashid, a close Arafat aide, said Saturday night. "It's been ruled out." Results from additional tests to determine what was wrong were due Wednesday, he said. Arafat was rushed from the West Bank to a French military hospital after being ill for two weeks with what was initially described as a bad flu, with symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea. Doctors were now trying to determine whether Arafat might be suffering from a viral infection or some type of poisoning, an Arafat aide said. He declined to give further details. But Rashid, speaking to reporters at a Paris hotel where a contingent of Palestinian officials was staying,

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Gulshan mob lynches extortionist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob yesterday lynched an extortionist at Korail slum in Gulshan and unknown assailants killed a rickshawpuller in Badda. Mohammad Mizan, 32, and his accomplice Ali went to extort Tk 10,000 from a shopkeeper at the slum. They demanded the sum Saturday and threatened the shopkeeper with dire consequences if he failed to pay the sum. Informed, locals lurking around the shop held Mizan at around 10:30am, while Ali fled. They beat up him, spiked rod into

his eyes and left him unconscious on the road. He was pronounced dead when police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Another mob of the slum gouged out the left eye of extortionist Rajan, allegedly Mizan's accomplice, when he went to collect toll from another shopkeeper Saturday night. In Badda, police recovered the body of rickshaw-puller Manir Hossain bound and gagged by his clothes from a pond near Nikunja-1 embankment at 10:30am. His family was in the dark about the reason for his killing.

RECRUITMENT BNP men ransack civil surgeon's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Rangpur

Unruly BNP men ransacked the house of the civil surgeon last night as he did not comply with their request to appoint their candidates. A group of BNP men numbering 15 to 20 entered the house of the civil surgeon of Rangpur at 7:30pm and ransacked his rooms after they failed to get him, eyewitnesses said. The civil surgeon's office invited applications for the posts of 54 third class and fourth class employees at eight upazila health complexes in the district.

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Ershad Shikdar's accomplices acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Saturday acquitted Jamaal Faruk and Liaquat Lashkar, two accomplices of notorious criminal Ershad Shikdar, of murdering Joyнал Sheikh. An appellate bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice Tofazzal Hossain gave the verdict. Earlier, Judge Hasan Imam of the Special Court, Khulna awarded death sentence to Faruk and life imprisonment to Liaquat in 2001. Ershad, also a death convict in the case, was executed in Khulna jail on May 10 for killing Jubo League

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
17	1		5-23
18	2	4-44	5-22

Prayer Timing		
November 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-42	4-49
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-23	5-28
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation