

Govt land ‘grabbed’ for building hospital

ANWAR ALI, *Rajshahi*

The Islami Bank Foundation (IBF) has allegedly grabbed six acres of prime government lands worth about Tk one crore at Noapara on the outskirts of the city for building a 'medical college and hospital' at a cost of Tk 300 crore.

The land along the Rajshahi-Naogaon highway near the airport belongs to the Roads and Highways Department (R&H), its officials claimed.

They said they tried several times to recover the land but failed due to political intervention.

The alleged land grabbing has created problems for local residents as well because they have lost passages to their plots, some of them alleged while talking to this correspondent recently.

On behalf of the residents, one Saidur Rahman last week filed a

case with Rajshahi Senior Assistant Judge's court, alleging that passages to their plots have been encroached because of the land grabbing by IBF. He accused seven persons in the case.

The court on July 16 issued a show-cause notices on the seven accused including Dr Zahangir Alam, Director of the project and administrative officer Imajuddin Mondol.

In 2002, after the IBF started construction of an Islami Bank Medical College and Hospital on the land, the residents in separate letters to Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner and the R&H Department alleged that IBF grabbed parts of their lands along with government lands.

They also said that construction of a high-rise building near the Rajshahi Airport would also create

problem for air traffic.

The IBF plans to construct a 500-bed hospital on the land.

The R&H Department in March last year attempted to recover the land, but returned without even assessing the captured land due to obstruction by musclemen, R&H sources said.

"They (grabbers) are using political influence and muscle power and do not care government records", R&H Executive Engineer Delwar Hossain said talking to this correspondent recently.

"How we will file a case when we can't even assess the captured land?", he said replying to a question.

The R&H Department in May this year wrote a letter to Public Prosecutor Quamrul Monir to serve a legal notice on IBF, but the notice has not yet been served, the

sources said.

When contacted, Imajuddin Mondol, denied the allegations and said the land was purchased from one Habiba Begum.

"The then DC several years ago donated some three bighas of land to Habiba, who sold it to us", Mondol said.

"Different government records showed the land as a private property. We need not see R&H records. So there is no question of land grabbing", he said replying to a question.

Asked about the matter, Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Sayed Ahsanul Haque said he would inquire how the district administration could donate a roadside land belonging to R&H department to an individual.

"Such donation is illegal. Let us inquire it first", he said.



PHOTO : STAR

The under-construction Islami Bank Medical College and Hoispital on a 'grabbed' land at Naodapara on the outskirts of Rajshahi city.



Big help for a poor talent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon has promised to help Narayan Chandra Roy (Joy), son of a rickshaw-puller to continue studies.

Joy secured GPA-5 in this year's SSC examination from Nilphamari Government Boys' High School.

The state minister assured his father Monmohon Roy through telephone at the deputy commissioner's (DC) residence. He promised him fund of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Foundation and to help him get admitted in a good college in Dhaka.

Earlier, Milon congratulated Joy for his brilliant result. Joy used to come to school at Nilphamari by a bicycle covering a distance of 10-kilometre. He bought the bicycle with a grant from the school's poor fund when he was a student of class seven.

Joy's mother Taru Bala Roy is a poor employee at a community clinic at Angar Para village in Khansama upazila, Dinajpur.

Human chain to raise fund for ailing RU student

RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred teachers and students of Physic Department and Panchagarh District Samity at Rajshahi University jointly formed a human chain in front of the Central Library on the campus yesterday seeking help for Masters student Muhammad Zakaria, suffering from blood cancer.

Earlier on the day, they jointly brought out a silent procession and paraded the campus.

Zakaria, is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Doctors have advised him to go to India or Singapore for better treatment. His family said this will need at least Tk 20 lakh.

Donations may be sent to Assistant ENazrul Islam, savings account No -066094, Agroni Bank, Rajshahi University Branch.

DOUBLE MURDER IN GAIBANDHA Thousands lay siege to DC's office for trial of culprit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Several thousand people from Palashbari upazila brought out a procession in Gaibandha town and laid a siege to the Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday demanding punishment to Mostafizur Rahman Mosta, former chairman of Bedkapa Union Parishad, for his alleged involved in a double murder and attempt to bury alive an eye witness to the murders.

They marched 11 kilometres from Palashbari to the town, chanting slogans demanding punishment to 'criminal Mosta' and arrest of his gang.

They also submitted a memorandum to the DC.

At a rally in front of the DC's office, speakers said Mosta and his gang created a reign of terror in the

area but police did not take any action against them. A tougher agitation will be built if they are not arrested immediately, they said.

The speakers included ATM hamsul Alam Badsha, Fazlur Rahman, Nurunabi Proddhan, Nurul Islam, Habibur Rahman.

Allegations have it that Mosta and his gang on January 30 killed Abdul Kader Khatu and Nazir Hossain of Hasanpur village in Palashbari over a land dispute. Later, on July 7, the gang led by Mota caught Jahangir Alam Liton, an eye witness to the murders, beat him and attempted to bury him alive. Local people rescued Liton.

Few days back, villagers in the area barricaded the Bogra-Rangpur highway for arrest of the culprits. They encircled Mosta's house, caught and handed him over to police.



PHOTO: STAR

Several thousand people from Polashbari upazila laid a siege to the Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday demanding trial of Mostafizur Rahman and his gang for their involvement in a double murder at Hasanpur village.

Satkhira BNP dogged by internal feud

Deadline to form committee ignored

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Satkhira district committee of BNP can not be formed due to intra-party feud despite repeated instructions from the party high command.

Frustration has gripped the party rank and file and there is no chain of command, some senior leaders seeking anonymity told this correspondent.

On the other hand, allegations of extortion, land grabbing and such other illegal activities by many of the mid-level leaders are tarnishing the image of the party, they said.

There are speculations among many party leaders and activists that the high command may bring new faces in party leadership because of the internal feud, they said.

The BNP high command on June 8 last year dissolved the district committee headed by MA Jalil and Syed Iftekhar Ali and formed a committee with Habibul Islam Habib MP, MA Jalil and Rahmatullah Palash as president, senior vice-president and general secretary respectively and asked them to form a full fledged committee within three months.

But the committee could not be formed in one year due to internal feud.

The feud among district level leaders of BNP and its front organisations has spread to the committees in the nine upazilas.

On the other hand, district BNP's senior vice-president MA Jalil who kept himself aloof from political activities after losing the last municipal election has become active and sided with Palash.

The leaders said the party is now virtually divided into two groups, one led by Habib and the other by Palash.

Most of the leaders and activists are being used as tools to take revenge on rivals, they said.

The rivals are accusing each other for alleged involvement in toll collection, land grabbing, tender manipulation, illegal occupation of shrimp enclosures and drug trafficking. Field level party activists blame senior leaders for collapse in chain of command.

Senior leaders including some of the lawmakers are now busy building fortunes instead of party activities, alleged a senior leader belonging to the Palash group.

The party is losing public support being discredited due to misdeeds of some top leaders of BNP and its fronts who sided with Palash", said two senior leaders of Satkhira Pourasava BNP seeking anonymity.

"Some leaders of Palash group

JOURNALIST BALU MURDER

Top Khulna police official summoned to Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Assistant Police Commissioner Zahurul Huq and Inspector Abdul Hamid of Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) were summoned to Dhaka yesterday by the Home Ministry Monitoring Cell to review progress in investigation of journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case.

They left for Dhaka with the case docket to join a meeting of the Monitoring Cell today, KMPM sources said.

Dainik Janmabhum Editor Humayun Kabir Balu was killed in bomb attack allegedly by extremists on June 27 last year in front of his office-cum-residence at Haji Ismail Road in Khulna.

Two cases were filed in this connection. Investigation Officer of the case, Inspector Abdul Hamid of DB, submitted charge sheet in the case under the Explosive Substances Act on April 26, accusing eight alleged outlaws.

The chargesheeted accused are founder of Purba banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho) Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan, Ripon Ahmed alias Shoiab, Shumon, Iqbal Hossain Sadhin, Nazu, Masum alias Jahangir, Rimon, Zahidur Rahman and Shymal alias Didar.

7 outlaws get life for FF murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Seven outlaws were sentenced to life term yesterday for killing in freedom fighter Malek murder case in Jhenidah.

The convicts are Liaquat Ali alias Babu, Mansur Rahman alias Gadu, Rabiul Islam, Anisur Rahman, Maoshiur Rahman, Safinur Rahman and Amirul Islam alias Madhu.

All are from Bozapur village in Mohespur upazila in Jhenida district.

In a sequel to previous enmity, they shot dead Abdul Malek on November 24, 2003 when he was returning home at Bozapur from Mohespur upazila headquarter. Malek died while being taken to hospital. His nephew Uzzal Hossain filed a case with Mohespur police accusing eight alleged outlaws.

Investigation Officer of the case, SI Abdur Rashid submitted charge sheet in the case on March 20.

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