

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 Naopara 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 notice 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.

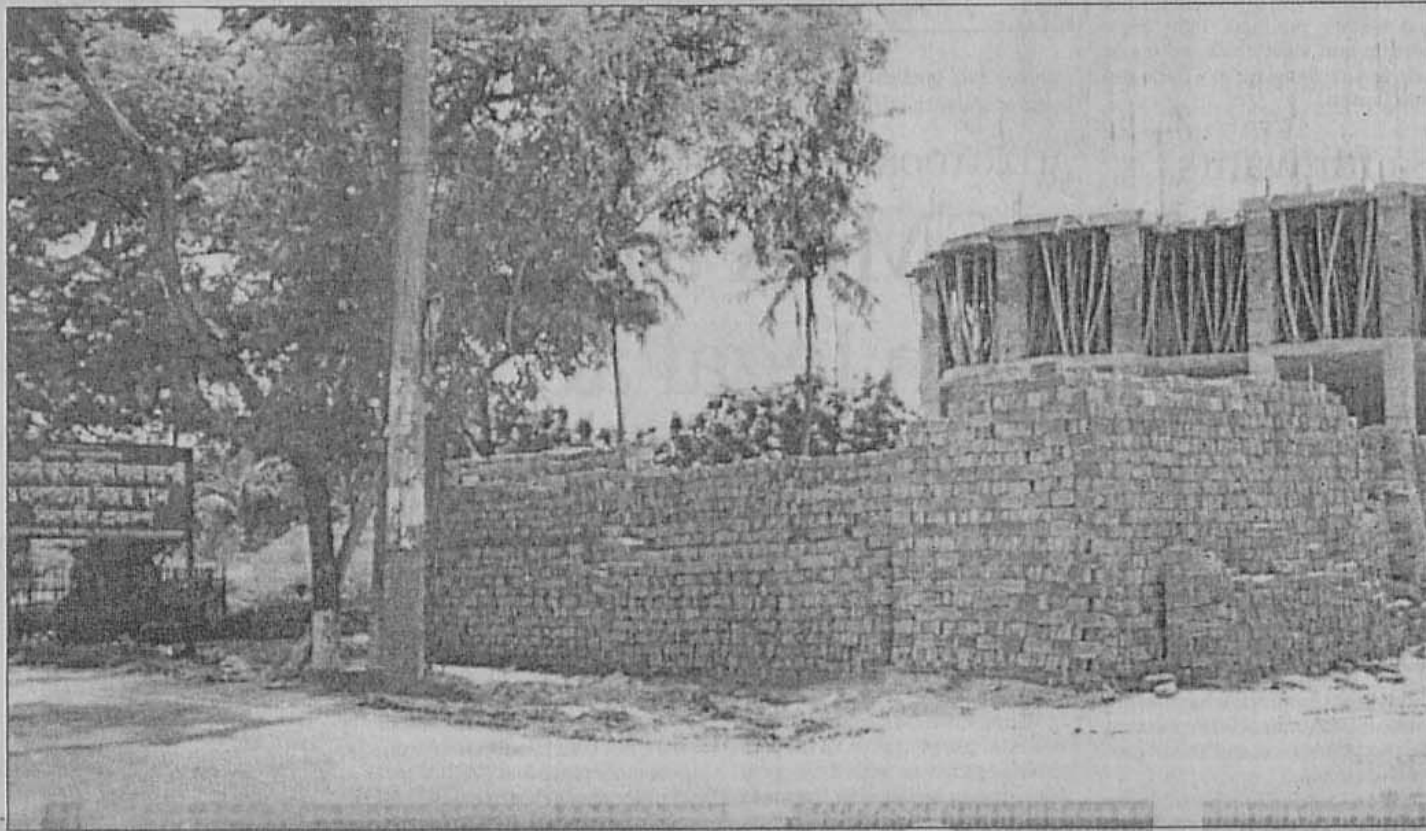
When contacted, Imajuddin Mondol, denied the allegations and said the land was purchased from one Habiba Begum.

"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.



The under-construction Islami Bank Medical College and Hospital on a 'grabbed' land at Naopara 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, Agrani 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 involvement 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 Lito, an eye witness to the murders, beat him and attempted to bury him alive. Local people rescued Lito.

Few days back, villagers in the area barricaded the Boga-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 Palashbari 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 Iftikhar 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 Hajji 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 Shoaib, 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, Maoshir Rahman, Safinur Rahman and Amirul Islam alias Madhu.

All are from Bozapur village in Mohepur 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 Mohepur upazila headquarter. Malek died while being taken to hospital. His nephew Uzzal Hossain filed a case with Mohepur police accusing eight alleged outlaws.

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

are involved in toll collection, tender manipulation, land grabbing, illegal occupation of shrimp enclosures and drug trafficking", alleged Samsuzzaman Babu, former organising secretary of Satkhira BNP at a press conference held at Satkhira Reporters Club on April 23.

The party high command summoned Habib and Palash for a meeting in Dhaka on June 23 to mend the differences. The high command asked them to form a committee by June 29.

As they again failed to form the committee within the deadline, 39 top leaders of district and upazila levels were summoned by the high command for another meeting in Dhaka on July 4 to solve the crisis.

At the meeting at Hawa Bhaban, BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman asked them to form a committee within 15 days. But they could not do it even in 13 days after expiry of the deadline due to intra-party conflict.

"In case of their failure the party high command may think to choose new faces to lead the party in Satkhira", said a senior leader. Former state minister Syed Didar Bakht may be chosen to lead the party in Satkhira, some party leaders said.

Didar Bakht was state minister for information during Jatiya Party rule. He joined BNP after fall of Ershad.

Local govt fair held in Tangail

A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A day-long Local Government Fair-2005, organised by Democracy Watch, an NGO, was held on the premises of Bhasani Hall in the town on Monday.

The programme included a rally, open discussion, screening of films and a cultural function.

Tangail Deputy Commissioner Saifuddin Ahmed Majumdar attended the inaugural function, presided over by Talea Rehman, Executive Director of Democracy Watch.

Police Superintendent Mirza Abdullah-hel-Baki, college teacher Golap Mohammad Dewan, former Chairman of Tangail Pourashava Sawkat Ali Talukdar and Jatiya Mohila Shangkha Chairman Rabea Anwar spoke at the inaugural function.

Nine local NGOs opened stalls at the fair. The programme concluded with a cultural function where artistes of the Shipkalka Academy presented performances.

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN UNDP/DHAKA



UNDP has been actively engaged in support of Bangladesh's socio-economic development for more than 30 years. In recent years, UNDP's activities have focused on: (a) democratic governance; (b) environment and natural resource development; (c) human development (employment/livelihoods and women's advancement); (d) poverty reduction; and (e) disaster management. UNDP is often requested to formulate new development initiatives that require both specialized knowledge and solid working experience in various fields. Hence, UNDP is now inviting applications from Bangladeshi development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, where Bangladesh's development aspirations and the needs of its people take center stage.

All the vacancies advertised below relate to jobs in UNDP's office in Dhaka. Applicants must be comfortable with team work in a multicultural work environment and be physically fit to undertake field visits. They must have solid experience in providing practical advice to policy makers, understand how the Government and technical assistance function, and work closely with counterparts in GoB, civil society, the private sector and the donor community. They must also be fluent in spoken English and Bangla and highly proficient in written English. Finally, all applicants are expected to be fully computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint) and able to conduct information searches via the Internet. They are expected to become proficient in the use of UNDP's corporate computerized management system. Prior working experience in the relevant field abroad or in UN-related institutions in Bangladesh would be an important extra asset.

VACANCY # 1 : PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW (NO-B)

Under the supervision of the Assistant Resident Representative (Governance), this programme officer will assume day-to-day responsibility for a portfolio of governance projects which are implemented in close cooperation with key national institutions. The Programme Officer's primary objective will be to facilitate the provision of technical support to key governance institutions within the public sector. He or she must have a solid understanding of institutional and procedural prerequisites for "democratic governance", especially in the field of human rights and the rule of law, and must also possess strong project management skills. The Programme Officer will carry out the following functions:

- participate actively in UNDP's upstream policy dialogue on governance issues with GoB officials, academia, NGOs and other partners;
- develop strong specialized knowledge about selected governance issues by listening and learning from senior project experts, the Internet, UNDP's practice area networks, etc.;
- work closely with all other members of the Democratic Governance Team, both professionals and support staff, so as to achieve a high-quality team effort and efficient support for all UNDP-funded projects in the field of Democratic Governance;
- ensure that the Democratic Governance programme is proactively monitored through field visits, and that the accountability for project implementation, incl. financial planning and budgets, is strictly adhered to in the interest of substantive results.

Competencies : A successful candidate must possess most of the following competencies and personal qualities: (a) A Master's Degree from a reputable university in a Governance discipline, e.g. law, economics, political science, sociology, or public administration; (b) working experience for at least five years (preferably longer) in an institutional environment that is directly relevant to Democratic Governance; (c) substantive conceptual/analytical skills; (d) strong inter-personal/negotiating skills; (e) good leadership and team building skills; (f) strong networking and communication skills; and (g) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

VACANCY # 2 : PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (NO-B)

Under the supervision of the Assistant Resident Representative (Environment and Energy), the Programme Officer will assume day-to-day responsibility for a portfolio of projects in the Environment and Energy sector which are implemented in close cooperation with key national institutions and other partner organizations. The Programme Officer's primary objective will be to facilitate the provision of technical support to key institutions in the environmental and renewable energy sector. He or she must possess strong project management skills and also have a solid understanding of Bangladesh's current needs for energy, especially energy that is environment-friendly as well as affordable and accessible to low-income people. The Programme Officer will carry out the following functions:

- participate actively in UNDP's upstream policy dialogue on environment and energy issues with GoB officials, academia, NGO's and other partners;
- develop strong specialized knowledge about selected environment and energy issues by listening and learning from senior project experts, the Internet, UNDP's practice area networks, etc.;
- work closely with all other members of the Environment and Energy team, both professionals and support staff, so as to achieve a high-quality team effort and efficient support for all UNDP-funded projects in this sector;
- ensure that UNDP's Environment and Energy programmes are proactively monitored through field visits, and that the accountability of project implementation, including financial planning, management and budgets, is strictly adhered to in the interest of substantive results;
- maintain current knowledge of Bangladesh's development issues in general and its environmental and energy challenges in particular and, on that basis, ensure periodic reviews of project outputs and outcomes; make appraisals of project proposals, and draft significant sections of new programme documents, necessary correspondence and internal reports.

Competencies : A successful candidate must possess most of the following competencies and personal qualities: (a) A Master's Degree from a reputable university in a discipline related to environment or energy or other relevant natural science disciplines; (b) working experience for at least five years (preferably longer) in an institutional environment that is directly relevant to the environment/energy sectors, preferably in international agencies; (c) substantive conceptual/analytical skills; (d) strong inter-personal/negotiating skills; (e) good leadership and team building skills; (f) strong networking and communication skills; and (g) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

VACANCY # 3 : PROCUREMENT OFFICER (NO-B)

Under the supervision of the Deputy Resident Representative (Operations), the Procurement Officer will assume day-to-day responsibility for UNDP's Procurement Unit - with particular emphasis on managerial functions such as (a) strategic planning, (b) mobilization of impartial technical advice in support of specialized purchases of both goods and services, (c) work flow analysis, (d) creation of a customer-friendly tracking system for all procurement processes, and (e) procedural reforms leading to simplification and increased efficiency in UNDP's procurement processes. Alongside these managerial functions, the Procurement Officer will carry out the following tasks:

- provide supervisory and pro-active support for all members of UNDP's Procurement Unit, including those responsible for shipping and inventory matters;
- liaise closely with UNDP's Programme Section and provide pro-active support to the procurement planning needed in all UNDP-funded technical assistance projects in Bangladesh;
- oversee recurring market surveys of available providers of goods and services regularly needed in UNDP's projects and ensure continuous updating of UNDP's list of reliable vendors/suppliers;
- participate in all aspects of UNDP's procurement processes, including bid opening, bid appraisal, technical evaluation, and preparation of detailed submissions to UNDP/Dhaka's Contracts, Assets and Procurement Committee (CAPC) and to the Chief Procurement Officer at UNDP/HQ
- undertake other general tasks as directed by the supervisor.

Competencies : A successful candidate must possess most of the following competencies and personal qualities: (a) A Master's Degree from a reputable university in Business Administration or another relevant discipline; (b) working experience for at least five years (preferably longer) with management responsibilities, incl. budgeting, planning, and procurement of goods and services; (c) good analytical skills; (d) strong inter-personal/negotiating skills; (e) good leadership and team building skills; (f) strong networking and communication skills; and (g) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. They will be expected to appear for a written examination, and only those whose exam results are satisfactory will be invited for an interview by a panel of UNDP officials. The candidates selected will receive remuneration commensurate with UNDP's salary scale for national professionals, along with child allowance, health insurance and pension benefits. They will be recruited initially for a 3-month probation period, after which contracts will be renewed annually following based on consistently satisfactory performance and annual assessment of the same. **Good computer and English language skills are required for all the above-noted posts.**

All applications must include a detailed curriculum vitae and information about present salary/benefits. They are to be submitted at the latest by close-of-business on **Tuesday 2 August 2005** through post office or courier to: Deputy Resident Representative (Operations), UNDP, G.P.O. Box 224, Dhaka-1000, or UNDP, IDB Bhaban, E/8-A Begum Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka. The envelope should be clearly marked with the title of the post being applied for.

UNDP reserves the right to hire incumbents below the advertised levels according to its own internal policy. UNDP's recruitment processes are based exclusively on professional qualifications. Unsolicited interventions ("shupareesh") in favour of a particular applicant will automatically result in the immediate disqualification of the recommended applicant. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. Further information can be found at the following web-site: <http://www.un-bd.org/undp/jobs/>

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