

Mayor Sarwar owns Tk 20cr lands in Barisal

Task force finds 18 plots in town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The special task force of Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has found 15 acres of prime land owned by Barisal City Corporation Mayor and former whip Majibor Rahman Sarwar.

Sirajul Islam, sub-registrar at Barisal Sadar land registration office admitted the task force findings but declined to give details.

Sources at the land registration office said the task force led by Maj. Abdul Hye went to the office on Thursday and asked officials to give information on lands owned by Sarwar and his family members.

After search the task force found documents that Sarwar and his family owned a of total 17 acres of land in 22 commercial, residential, industrial and farming plots. The value of the lands is at least Tk 20 core, they said.

Eighteen of the plots are in

Barisal city Corporation area and four are on the outskirts of the city, the sources said.

Fourteen of those plots comprise a total of 8.5 acres and a rest eight cover about 8.5 acres, the sources said.

The lands in Barisal city owned by Sarwar and his family are in prime areas including Chanmari, Puran Bazar, Kawnia, Kalibari Road and Hospital Road, they said. Details of the lands and their value are being ascertained, sources in the task force said yesterday.

Among these land documents 21 were registered in the name of Sarwar and only one in the name of his wife Nasima Sarwar.

Documents show that most of the plots were purchased during the four-party alliance rune when Sarwar was the most powerful man in Barisal. He was ruling party whip in the Jatiya Sangsad, minister-in-



Majibor Rahman Sarwar

charge of the district and mayor of the city corporation.

Only four of the plots were registered in 1980s.

Search for other land property and other assets owned Sarwar and his family continued, the sources said.

Task force members held a meeting at district ACC office on Friday to review the documents and information collected so far, the sources said.

Details about the findings may be made available to newsmen today, sources in the task force and land registration office said yesterday. After assessing the findings, the task force may submit its primary report to ACC in Dhaka within this week. Cases may be filed against Sarwar after that, sources added.

The ACC task force started probe into alleged corruption and irregularities done by the BCC mayor on Tuesday after his arrest in Dhaka. Since then, the task force found fixed deposits of about Tk two core in two bank accounts and transactions of cores of Taka by him in last five years, the sources said.

Jessore Editor Case filed against eight, woman held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mostafa Awaluddin lodged an FIR with Jessore Kotwali police Friday night naming eight persons as accused in the murder of his elder brother Mostafa Kamal who was editor of Weekly Haq Protibad.

Unidentified miscreants stabbed Mostafa to death Friday early morning at a place five kilometres from Jessore town.

Police took eyewitness Monowara Khatoon into custody for interrogation after the murder.

The slain journalist was also proprietor of Haq Fisheries at Narayanpur village under Jessore Kotwali police station.

Jessore Kotwali thana OC MA Matin said they have launched a vigorous investigation into the murder.

Arms recovered in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Army yesterday recovered arms and ammunition from a criminals' den at Goipara of Batnatali under Manikchhari upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, army raided Batnatali Goipara, a remote area in Manikchhari upazila, at 4.30 pm and recovered two country made gun, four rounds of ammunition, security sources said.

Sensing presence of army, the criminals fled the den leaving arms and ammunition.

Five of fake NGO held for cheating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police yesterday arrested five officials and staff including female ones of a fake NGO for allegedly cheating about 300 unemployed youths by collecting over Tk 15 lakh from them in name of employment.

The arrested staff of the NGO at Kamal Nagar, Swaranika International Company Ltd, are assistant manager Rehena Khatun, daughter of Abdul Kader of village Shushilgati in Debhata upazila, assistant manager Rizia Khatun, daughter of Azizur Rahman of village Haidarabad in Shyamnagar upazila and Hafizur Rahman, son of Yunus Khan of Rasulpur in Sadar upazila in Satkhira district and Ariful Islam, son of Atiar Rahman of village Shukurkhola in Jhhikargachha upazila and Sazed Ali, son of Zinnat Ali of village Bhabati in Keshabpur upazila in Jessore district.

However, the so-called executive director along with other directors fled away with the money, said arrested Rehena Khatun.

They pasted advertisement on walls of different government and non-government offices for recruitment of officials and staff.

Being allured, unemployed youths handed over Tk 15 lakh to the cheats and joined the office, police said. When they realised that it was a fake NGO, they informed the matter to police. Later, police arrested five of its officials and staff.

While talking to this correspondent, Habib Ahmed, son of Shafiqur Rahman of village Sarafpur in Assassuni upazila said that he had applied for the post of assistant manager. He had handed over Tk 30,000 to Golap and Farhad of the NGO and joined the office later.

But when they realised that it was a fake NGO, they informed the matter to police. Later, police arrested five of its officials and staff.

On contact, Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Safiqur Rahman confirmed the incident.

BNP leader arrested in Srimongal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A BNP leader and Satgaon Union Parishad (UP) member of Srimongal upazila Masuk Ahmed has been arrested.

Joint forces arrested him on charge of extortion, tender scam, possessing arms, ammunition and other criminal activities on Friday.

Later, he was handed over to Srimongal police.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Fins and other parts of shark and other marine fishes caught in the Bay of Bengal are exported to United States and some European countries. Their export would increase if the processing could be developed as per demand of importing countries, people involved in the business said.

Bomb found again at RUET

8 bomb like things recoverd from Kulaura station

RU CORRESPONDENT

A bomb was recovered from a bathroom at Shaheed Salim Hall of Rajshahi University Engineering and Technology (RUET) yesterday.

Earlier, two locally made bombs were recovered on May 24 and another on May 22 from near the main gate of RUET. One of the bombs was wrapped in an aluminium sheet which contained some writings in the name of Jadid al Qaeda.

Campus sources said, the bomb recovered yesterday was wrapped in red tape and plastic paper.

A cleaner first saw and informed hall authorities, who called police from Motiher police station.

Police informed bomb experts who took it away in a bucket full of water.

When contacted, Motiher police

station Officer-in-Charge Ferdous Ahmed said it was a locally made powerful bomb, not similar to those recovered earlier.

Provost Sayed Mafiz Uddin of Shaheed Salim Hall said he urged police to investigate the two bomb recovery incidents in about a week.

Campus sources said Shaheed Salim Hall is dominate by activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir, student front of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: Eight bomb like things were recovered from Kulaura railway station area in Moulvibazar Friday night.

Khondaker Golam Shahnewaz, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kulaura police station, said a tin container covered with red tape was seen near the entrance of the waiting room at the station at about 9.45 pm

on Friday. The station authorities informed police.

Police rushed there and cordoned the railway station area and started search. They found four tin containers and three plastic containers, all covered with red tape.

Explosives experts team of RAB-9 came, examined and destroyed those at about 12:30 am yesterday. RAB source said, each of the containers contained a device and two pencil batteries but no explosive materials.

During search, they found a knife, a scissors, a candle, some wires and red tapes near the spot.

Police suspected that some people might have been making bombs there but fled away.

Moulvibazar deputy commissioner and police superintendent visited the spot.

One killed, 15 injured in attack by land grabbers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A landless person was shot dead and 15 others were injured, three of them seriously, in an attack on them by land grabbers at village Bairagirchak in Kaliganj upazila.

The deceased is Kabir Hossain Sana, 45, son of Kurban Ali Sana of village Bairagirchak in Kaliganj upazila.

Injured Khairul Islam, Ala Uddin, Akram Hossain, Khadiza Khatun, Jeher Ali, Sufia Khatun, Abdur Rahim, Malek, Jabbar and others were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital and local clinics for treatment.

Police said, over 300 landless families took 300 acres of government khas land lease and were staying there since 2002.

But the land grabbers who earlier possessed the land illegally

launched at least eight attacks on them. A landless old man named Abul Hossain, 67, of Bairagirchak was also beaten to death in an attack in 2005.

However, on Thursday night, land grabbers fired 25 bullets at the landless at village Bairagirchak.

Mahabbat Mir, Abdul Gafoor, outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) leader Abdul Halim, Pute, Ebadul and Ohab Ali Peyada allegedly led the attack.

Being informed, Kaliganj OC Nur Islam asked the landless to leave their homes and asked them to gather at a remote corner of the village, alleged landless Abdul Karim of Bairagir Chak.

Accordingly, they gathered on the eastern side of the village, he said. Armed culprits opened fire at them at about 5 am leaving Kabir dead and others injured, he said.

Lightning kills five in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least five people including a woman have been killed in lightning here.

The deceased are Kalpona, 15, of Faridpangashi village, Afzal Hossain, 38, of Ratonkandi village, Dipu, 22, of Kaliarchar village and Ahmad Ali, 28, son of Kutti Pramanik of Nandailpur village in Shahzadpur upazila and Yusuf Ali, 36, son of Abdur Razzak of Delua village in Belkuchi upazila, police said.

Kalpona died on the spot when thunderbolt struck her while she was working at the court yard of her house during rain on Friday evening. Rest others died while on way to their homes from local bazaar during rain the same day.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Cost of reckless driving...A bus, trying to overtake another, fell into a ditch along Tongi-Kaliganj road at Nimtoli in Gazipur, killing five people and critically injuring 12 others yesterday. Relatives (inset) wailing at the spot.

Tk 1cr given for re-excavation of Shyamasunday canal in Rangpur

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

The government has sanctioned Tk one crore for re-excavation of Shyamasunday canal, the main out let for sanitation and drainage in Rangpur town.

The money given by the local government ministry will be utilised by Rangpur municipal authorities.

"This is the first time after digging of the canal in 1890 that a sizeable amount of money has been sanctioned for re-excavation of the canal", said Rangpur deputy commissioner.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Rangpur Municipality Chairman Abdur Rouf Manik thanked the caretaker government on behalf of the town dwellers for this sanction.

"I never thought that I could finish re-excavation of the canal during my tenure due to fund constraint. The government's gesture is appreciated by all quarters in the town", he said.

The elite of the town said joint forces should closely monitor re-excavation of Shyamasunday canal so that the work is done properly and smoothly.

Otherwise the project may not be implemented properly, they apprehended.

Environmental and socio-cultural organizations in the district have long been demanding re-excavation of Shyamasunduri canal which is virtually dying due to lack of steps by the authorities, encroachment and dumping of garbage.

As the canal was clogged, the drainage system of the town was badly affected, creating health hazards for the townspeople.

RDRS, a national NGO and Care Bangladesh re-excavated about four km of the canal this year after the municipal authorities with the help of joint forces evicted a large number of encroachers and removed illegal structures on both sides of the canal.

The sanctioned money will be utilised for re-excavation of rest 14 kilometres of the canal.

Nazrul University starts academic activities today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam Biswabidhalaya (JKKNIB) at Darirampur in Trishal begins its academic activities today.

A simple function at the conference room of the university will mark launching of the Nazrul university, a long cherished desire of people of the area where the rebel poet spent his boyhood.

Noted folklore specialist President of Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum Dr. Ashraf Siddiquee will attend the inaugural programme as chief guest. Vice Chancellor of JKKNIB Prof Dr. M Shamsur Rahman will be in the chair. Among others, treasurer of the university Dr. Shafayet Hossain will be present as special guest.

Some eminent teachers from Dhaka and Mymensingh will attend the function to be rounded off with a cultural function.

Dr. Atatur Rahman, Assistant Controller of the university said that all preparations for launching academic session have been completed.

A preparatory meeting for today's inaugural function was held at the university yesterday morning.

Construction of all academic buildings has been completed to begin classes. Work on other infra-structures including construction of dormitories for students, boundary wall of female hostels and a cafeteria would be completed soon, he said.

A project to establish an university after the national poet at Trishal was taken up at a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Commission (ECNEC) on February, 2004.

Nazrul stayed at Darirampur and studied at Darirampur High School in Trishal for two years.

Kazi Rafizuddin, a police sub-inspector, who was posted at Bardwan in West Bengal brought Nazrul to his village home at Darirampur.

The university is three kilometers away from the Trishal upazila headquarters and 22 kilometers from Mymensingh district town. It is about 100 kilometers from Dhaka.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Inspector General of Police Noor Mohammad inaugurating Sonadanga model police station in Khulna.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Scramble for water... As summer heat increases and makes life difficult, supply of water by Chittagong City Corporation decreases due to load shedding and lack of steps by city fathers. The photo was taken from Lalkhan Bazar yesterday.