

## Tk 300cr CDA housing project hits snag

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Delay in handing over acquired land holds back the allotment and development of Ananya Residential Area, the biggest-ever housing project of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) involving an amount of Tk 300 crore.

Overlapping by a small stretch of land of Bakhrabad Gas Company Limited (B GSL), and missing of lands inside the demarcated area for acquisition are reportedly causing the delay for which over 5000 applicants are now deeply concerned and passing their days in anxiety.

The district administration is thinking of seeking instructions from the ministries concerned that might further delay the handing over of plots.

According to sources, some 5200 applicants submitted application forms to CDA by October 2 along with a total deposit of around Tk 220 crore for 1521 plots in the project being developed on 174 acres of land beside the under-

construction Oxygen-Quaish Road.

Sorting of application forms in 15 categories and sub-categories was nearing an end as the allotment of the plots through open lottery was due to be made on Wednesday.

According to district administration sources, the land acquired for CDA overlaps some 72 decimals of land previously acquired by Bakhrabad Gas Company Limited.

Besides, there are some missing lands within the area demarcated for Ananya project as these are owned by some private developers.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ashraf Shamim said, "The overlapping and missing of lands that result in an overvaluation of around Tk 6 crore can't be overlooked."

"We are still working on the matter and we will seek guidelines from the ministries concerned," he said while talking to The Daily Star on Thursday evening.

But CDA officials and engineers concerned said such mistakes are not very unusual and the district administration could solve it, if necessary, by excluding both the overlapping and missing lands.

The applicants, who deposited money ranging from Tk 4 lakh to Tk 5 lakh each, argued that if they don't get plots through lottery, the delay would incur financial loss for them as they could earn some profits every month by keeping the money in banks.

"We are now developing plots on 52 acres of land, and we will hold the lottery as soon as the rest of the acquired land is handed over to



PHOTO: STAR

Students of St. Gregory's High School take out a colourful procession from Laxmi Bazar in the old part of the city yesterday to mark the 125th founding anniversary of the school.

### Army sets up library for SSC examinees at Sharankhola

UNB, Bagerhat

In a bid to facilitate the study of the students of cyclone-battered Sharankhola upazila ahead of the SSC examination, the army has set up an evening library at Tafalbari.

The library was opened on Thursday in two rooms of Rayenda Pilot High School, adjacent to the temporary army camp.

Teachers from nearby schools are imparting lessons to some 300 students who lost their books and other study materials during the Cyclone Sidr.

The army will open another library next week at the same village.

Commander of the local army camp Lt Col Sayeed Siddiqui told UNB that the students are being provided with all kinds of teaching materials so that they can prepare themselves for the examination.

### Death anniversary



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Brig Shabab Ashfaq, says a press release.

He passed away while in service at Chittagong Cantonment on this day in 1999.

Born in 1952, Brig Shabab joined the Army in 1971 and served in various posts, both at home and abroad, in his 29 years of service.

His family has requested all friends and relatives of Brig Shabab to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

### China mine blast toll reaches 105

AFP, Beijing

The death toll from China's latest major coalmine disaster rose to 105 on Friday, official media said, as hopes for survivors ebbed in a tragedy compounded by bungled rescue efforts.

Twenty-six more bodies were recovered on Friday morning following a gas explosion at the mine in northern China's Shanxi province, according to the Xinhua news agency.

At least 120 workers were in the

Ruizhiyuan mine at the time of the accident on Wednesday night although the exact number is not known, Xinhua said, citing the local rescue headquarters.

Fifteen people have been rescued or managed to escape, it added.

The State Administration of Mine Safety said it remained unclear how many were still missing.

"We still don't know the exact numbers who are trapped. We are trying to clarify that," administration spokeswoman An Yuanjie told AFP.

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He said those who were not convicted of serious crimes, including murder cases, arms cases, explosives cases, acid-hurling cases, major drugs cases and cases filed under Women and Children's Repression Act, will be considered for release.

Inspector General (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hasan said the home ministry would review the list and forward it to the law ministry. Later, the list would be sent to the president who would consider the matter.

"At least 240, including 50 women convicts, were released under special consideration on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr," the IG-Prisons said.

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