

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 (BGS), 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 in November.

But, delay in handing over the acquired land has slowed down the process, said the sources.

The district administration has so far handed over some 52 acres of land to CDA while handing over of the rest 117 acres is yet to be made.

The applicants are now getting worried while some of them have already started thinking of withdrawing their applications.

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

us," said CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin while talking to this correspondent 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.



Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin and Dr Sharif Bhuiyan hold a copy of the book titled 'National law in WTO law-effectiveness and good governance in the world trading system' authored by the latter at the book launching ceremony at city's Brac Centre Inn yesterday. Prof Wahiduddin, extreme left, and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain were also present.

EID-UL-AZHA, VICTORY DAY Jail authorities submit lists of 550 prisoners for their release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities have submitted lists of 550 prisoners to the home ministry recommending their release under special consideration on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha and the Victory Day.

A deputy secretary of the home ministry on Thursday said they received the lists containing 550 names of convicts in 67 jails across the country. A review meeting was also held in this regard at the ministry on Thursday.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG-Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star that the Dhaka Central Jail authorities sent a list of 47 convicts, including five females, to the ministry.

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 Repression Act, will be considered for release.

He, however, said the convicts who committed serious criminal offences might be considered for release if they were suffering from any terminal diseases, including cancer, or are very old in age.

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.

According to sources, a committee comprising district magistrates,

jail superintendents and district superintendent of police prepares the lists of convicts for release under special consideration on various occasions, including Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Independence Day and Victory Day.

IBA graduation ceremony held

The Graduation Ceremony of the 11th BBA and 39th MBA batches of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University (DU) was held at the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) auditorium yesterday.

A total of 158 BBA and MBA students graduated this time.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz attended the ceremony as the chief guest and awarded certificates to the graduates while Director of IBA Prof Muhammad Ziaul Haq presided over the function.

Addressing the graduating students, Prof Faiz said, "This country needs people who can change the livelihoods of the general masses for the better. We need individuals who can manage uncertainties and create opportunities. We need people who will get things done, and work for the country that has given us our identities. We need the BBA and MBA graduates as we find all these in them."

MBA Programme Chairperson Mushtaque Ahmed, BBA Programme Chairperson Mahjabeen Ahmad, BBA Graduate Ilma Nur Chowdhury, MBA Graduate Md Samiur Rahman and Head of HR, Grameenphone Md Imadul Amin also spoke.



Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, former vice chancellor of Chittagong University, hands over some books to Dr M Mahbubur Rahman, director of Heritage, a private archive on the history of the country, at Auctroy-Kajla near Rajshahi University yesterday. Historian Prof Muntasir Mamun, second from left, is also seen.

Private archive on history launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Heritage, a private archive on the history of the country, was launched at Auctroy-Kajla near Rajshahi University yesterday.

Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, former vice chancellor of Chittagong University, inaugurated the archive in presence of more than hundred intellectuals from across the country.

Prof Atul Hai Shibli, former province chancellor of RU, chaired the function while eminent historian Prof Muntasir Mamun, noted litterateur Prof Hasan Azizul Haque, RU History department Chairman Prof Mohammad Shafi, Prof Safar Ali Akhand, Prof Abul Kashem and Prof Chitta Ranjan Mishra spoke.

A number of teachers from

different universities, colleges and schools, lawyers and journalists attended the function and many of them donated their personal collections to the archive.

Dr M Mahbubur Rahman, a teacher at RU History department, initiated the archiving in March 2002 with an aim to documenting the history and traditions of Bangladesh as well as facilitating historic researches.

The archive now features a huge collection on some 365 aspects of history including local histories from 60 districts, daily newspapers, magazines, research journals, posters, leaflets and other publications.

A trust was formed for directing the archive. The trust will also publish a quarterly, conduct research and organise seminars.

Homage paid to liberation war martyrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of men and women yesterday gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital to pay homage to those who were lost during the liberation war in 1971.

At 5:15pm, they lit candles marking the programme titled 'Alor Smarone Katuk Andhar' when the choir of Surtirtha sang 'Aguner Parashmoni Chhoro Pran'.

Rehana Samdani Kona read out the declaration of the annual programme, which has been organised since 1988 in memory of the lost ones in the liberation war. This year the theme of the programme was 'Liberation War Then-Now'.

Recollecting her memories, freedom fighter Shamsunnahar said, "I was a member of a conservative family, but it could not prevent me from working for the liberation war."

Another freedom fighter Amirul Islam from Sirajganj said, "We are yet to be liberated. We need another war to enjoy the fruits of independence."

Manisha Majumder and Bashmar Bandopadhyay recited poems, while Chandan Roy and Mita Haque rendered songs.

Organised by Naripokkho, a women's rights organisation, the programme was attended by its members, human rights and cultural activists and journalists.

Obituary

Shafika Hossain, wife of Syed Badaruddin Hossain, former registrar of Dhaka University and president of Padatik Natya Sangsad, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 73, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two sons, grandchildren and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Ghorashal.

Her quikhwani will be held at the residence of her youngest son Syed Ishtiaque Hossain at House-52, Road-27, Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers on December 10.

Comrade Nurunnabi

Comrade Nurunnabi, central committee member of Workers Party of Bangladesh, passed away at Dhaka Community Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 83, says a press release.

He was also the President of Bangladesh Korea Moitree Samity and Cuba Sanghati and Moitree Samity, Bangladesh.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and host of admirers to mourn his death.

Md Reza-ul Islam

Md Reza-ul Islam, former additional chief engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), passed away at Square Hospital in the city due to respiratory failure on December 5 at the age of 66, says a press release.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at 59/A West Rajabazar residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the quikhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

'Contribute more to child literature'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Speakers at a festival on child literature in the port city yesterday urged the litterateurs to contribute more to child literature.

Litterateurs didn't have enough time to contribute to child literature since they had to respond to different national crises since the independence, they added.

Bangladesh Shishu Sahitya Academy organised the festival titled 'Shishu Sahitya Utsab' at Chittagong Press Club (CPC).

Noted naturalist and science writer Prof Dwijen Sharma inaugurated the festival as the chief guest.

Resident editor of the daily Prothom Alo poet Abul Momen, Lutfar Rahman Riton, editor of children's weekly Toitambur, Selima Sabih, Aslam Sani, Prof Tapankar Chakravarti and Academy Director poet Rashed Rouf addressed the ceremony with writer Fahmida Amin in the chair.

Speakers said child literature is undergoing a very critical time at present, as mainstream writers are not giving enough time for the

children.

The academy chalked out various programmes that include discussion on different aspects of child literature, seminar and recitation from different literary works.

Academicians, litterateurs, cultural activists, poets, writers and intellectuals from across the country attended the daylong festival.

Saarc Charter Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The 22nd anniversary of the signing of the Charter establishing the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) will be observed today.

The Charter was signed during the first-ever Saarc Summit held in the city on December 8 in 1985.

Member states are celebrating the Day in a befitting manner, according to a message received here from the Saarc Secretariat in Kathmandu.



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.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light rains or drizzle might also occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh, Met office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 12.7 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.0	16.0	66	66
Chittagong	26.8	18.0	64	70
Rajshahi	27.0	14.0	89	72
Khulna	27.6	16.2	80	63
Barisal	28.8	15.6	77	63
Sylhet	25.7	15.5	71	70
Cox's Bazar	29.7	18.0	61	64



Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury addresses the closing ceremony of US Operation Sea Angel-2/Asar Alo at Armed Forces Division yesterday.



Bangladesh Coast Guard Director General Commodore Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad distributes relief among the cyclone-affected people on the premises of AK Pilot High School in Barguna on Thursday.



Grameenphone officials distribute relief among the cyclone victims at Morelganj in Bagerhat on Thursday.



Rajshahi District Association, Dhaka President SM Zahurul Huq hands over relief materials for the Sidr-affected people to Bangladesh Scouts Chief National Commissioner Md Fazlur Rahman at Scouts Bhavan in the city on Thursday.



Sammilita Sanskritik Jote distributes money among the Sidr-affected families in Barguna recently.



Fakhrul Aziz, founder of Centre for Human Employment and Development (CHED), distributes relief among the cyclone-affected people at Bhandaria upazila in Pirojpur recently.