



PHOTO: STAR

Developer company Ocean City Ltd sets a signboard claiming ownership of this *khas* (government) land in Kuakata sea beach, defying an order from a mobile court that conducted a drive to free the area from illegal occupiers recently.

OCCUPATION OF KHAS LAND IN SEA BEACH AREA Realtor faces eviction case in Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Kalapara upazila land office has filed an eviction case against housing company Ocean City Ltd that has continued construction work by occupying *khas* (government) lands in Kuakata sea area.

Receiving the case on May 26, upazila revenue office has sent it to Patuakhali deputy commissioner (DC) to take lawful step to recover the government land from occupiers.

A mobile court formed by the DC of Patuakhali on April 16 this year stopped all works of a hotel that Ocean City authorities were constructing on Kuakata sea beach, Kalapara land office sources said.

The mobile court removed signboards from the *khas* land that was occupied by Ocean City and others developer companies on the beach.

It also asked Ocean City authorities

to submit within next seven days papers of the land that they occupied but the housing company failed to show any valid papers in this regard.

As the company recently restarted the construction work of the hotel in defiance to the mobile court order, Mohipur union land office submitted a report to Kalapara upazila land office and the latter filed the eviction case.

A few years ago, some occupiers led by the Ocean City occupied 4.77 acres of *khas* land on nine plots of Mouja No 34 with the help of a false *khatiyan* (record document) No 1346. Later Kalapara upazila land office cancelled the false *khatiyan* on October 20 in 2004 according to an order issued by the then additional deputy commissioner (Revenue) of Patuakhali, land office sources said.

But Ocean City authorities continued their attempt to occupy those *khas*

lands through different ways and started construction work to set up a hotel, ignoring the district and upazila administrations.

When contacted, Md Milon Bhuiyan, project director of Ocean City, said, "We purchased land from local men and we are demanding its ownership according to a civil court order. I did not know about the eviction case filed against Ocean City."

Abdul Awal, assistant commissioner (Land) of Kalapara upazila, also the acting upazila nirbahi officer, said, "We sent the case to the DC office to evict occupiers from the *khas* land. We will also take such steps against all other occupiers to recover government lands on the sea beach."

Lawful steps will be taken against all occupiers immediately, said Amol Krishna Mondol, acting DC of Patuakhali.

Monday.

Md Sagir Mia, senior jail superintendent and in-charge of Barisal Central Jail, yesterday said both sides agreed to amicably settle the matter after the jail authorities agreed to bear the treatment cost of the victim and take action against the offenders.

Jailor Abu Sayem said, three jail guards -- Nur Hossain, Ujjal and Siddik -- have been identified. But the authorities only cautioned them as they do not have the jurisdiction to punish the jail guards, he added.

Deputy commissioner (DC) ASM Arifur Rahman said that the allegations would be investigated.

At least 32 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of rival UP chairman and member candidates in Munshiganj, Sherpur and Madaripur district yesterday and on Monday night.

In Munshiganj, the supporters of two member candidates clashed at Charboiragadhi village under Baluchar Union of Sirajdikhan upazila yesterday afternoon, leaving at least 10 people from both sides injured, reports our correspondent.

The clash ensued when counting of votes was going at Charboiragadhi Primary School centre at around 4:30pm. Witnesses said the supporters of member candidates Badsha Mia and Sanaullah equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other following an altercation between them at around 4:15pm.

Police and Rab personnel went to the village, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, Banu Bibi, 60, was admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest were given first aid.

At least 15 people were injured as the supporters of two rival chairman candidates in the election to Bagbari Union Parishad of Nalitabari upazila locked in a clash over control of a polling centre yesterday, reports UNB.

Five of the injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital while the rest to Nalitabari Health Complex.

Witnesses said the trouble began at around 3:00pm as the supporters of chairman candidates Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Zakir Hossain tried to capture Jangaliakanda Primary School centre.

Law enforcers foiled the bid to capture the polling

place in nine unions under Rayganj upazila of the district peacefully. Police arrested the husband of a candidate for reserved seat at a centre in Pangashi Union on charge of charge of campaigning for his wife during election.

In Dinajpur: Barrings some stray incidents, elections to seven union parishes under two upazilas of the district were held peacefully.

Incidents of chase and counter chase between the supporters of the rival candidates took place in Bulakpur,

Meson and Barnopur centres in Shingra Union of Ghoraghhat upazila.

Police and Rab personnel brought the situation under control. Fire broke out at Boratipur centre in Bulatipur Union of Ghoraghhat upazila during counting of votes. Fire fighters rushed to the centre and extinguished the blaze.

Police said the fire originated at the centre from electric short circuit. Elections to the rest of the union parishes in other districts were held peacefully.

Elections in 131 unions largely peaceful

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Peaceful elections were held in 131 unions of 17 districts under the second phase of union parishad polls yesterday.

Voting took place in 11 unions in Kishoreganj, 11 in Kushtia, one in Gazipur, five in Gopalganj, six in Chandpur, 12 in Tangail, six in Dhaka, seven in Dinajpur, three in Narsingdi, six in Netrakona, nine in Pabna, five in Bhola, 10 in Munshiganj, 10 in Mymensingh, 12 in Sherpur, nine in Sirajganj and eight in Sylhet, according to our correspondents.

Seventeen people were arrested in Pabna, Sirajganj and Kishoreganj districts for violating code of conduct during elections.

In Pabna: Law enforcers arrested four people in Bera and Dhalarchar unions during yesterday's election. The arrestees are Zakirul, Faridul Saiful and Faribul. Of them, Zakirul, Faridul and Saiful were picked up from in front of Adarsha High School centre in Bera upazila while campaigning for a chairman candidate.

Rabiul was arrested while roaming near Rajdhondial Primary School centre in Dhalarchar Union riding a motorbike. He was later sentenced to six months imprisonment.

In Netrakona: Elections to six union parishes in Khaliakjuri upazila were held peacefully. About 54,000 voters cast their votes at 54 polling centres. Twelve executive magistrates, one judicial magistrate and members of the law enforcing agencies were on-duty during polling.



PHOTO: STAR
Voters stand in long queues at Rajanagar School polling centre in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj district, below, women wait at Danga Primary School centre in Narsingdi to cast their votes during the union parishad (UP) elections held in 131 UPs in 17 districts yesterday.

32 hurt in poll-related violence

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At least 32 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of rival UP chairman and member candidates in Munshiganj, Sherpur and Madaripur district yesterday and on Monday night.

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In Sherpur, the supporters of two member candidates clashed at Charboiragadhi Primary School centre at around 4:30pm. Witnesses said the supporters of member candidates Badsha Mia and Sanaullah equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other following an altercation between them at around 4:15pm.

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Law enforcers foiled the bid to capture the polling

centre and brought the situation under control.

Our Madaripur correspondent reported that two rival groups of Awami League local unit clashed in Umedpur Union under Shibchar upazila yesterday and on Monday night, leaving seven people from both sides injured.

Zaman Munshi's men attacked Latif Munshi's supporters at Umedpur village on Monday night, leaving five of them injured. They are Tofazzal, 20, Abdur Rahman, 25, Rokon Bepari, 21, Yakub, 23, Shahjahan, 24.

As a sequel to Monday night's incident, Latif's men swooped on Zaman and one of his supporters named Badsha Poddar, 45, at Umedpur yesterday morning. They also set Zaman's motorbike afire.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Shibchar Police Station Mizanur Rahman said two sides lodged complaints with the police station after the incidents. "We will take necessary steps after investigation," the OC added.



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Jail guards torture youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Guards of Barisal Central Jail on Sunday evening picked up a youth and allegedly tortured him inside the jail compound following a trivial matter.

Victim Anwar Hossain, 22, an autorickshaw driver, was rescued early Monday following intervention by journalists and human rights activists.

Witnesses said, a bicycle of Mohim Hawlader, a class-VIII student of Town School, was stolen a few days ago from Chandmari area in the town.

On Sunday afternoon, he saw the bicycle at Bangabandhu Udyan being used by Sohel Bepari, son of a tailor working at Dhaka Central Jail.

Mohim asked his maternal uncle Anwar to catch the boy while he himself went home to bring the documents of the bicycle.

Sohel, meanwhile, called the jail guard colleagues of his father.

When Mohim returned to the spot one and a half hours later, local people informed him that some jail guards picked up Anwar and took him inside the jail compound.

After a hectic search family members found injured Anwar inside the jail compound. Local journalists and human rights activists, on information, rushed to the jail, rescued Anwar and sent him to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital early

Monday.

Md Sagir Mia, senior jail superintendent and in-charge of Barisal Central Jail, yesterday said both sides agreed to amicably settle the matter after the jail authorities agreed to bear the treatment cost of the victim and take action against the offenders.

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