

KHAGRACHHARI SHISHU ACADEMY COMPLEX

Dilemma over location delays construction for months

KAFIL MAHMUD, *Khagrachhari*

Construction of Shishu Academy complex in the town has not started 17 months after inauguration of the Tk 9.34 crore project as the authorities have remained undecided about the location even after allotment of land for the academy.

Khagrachhari bazar fund committee on June 20, 2008 allotted about one acre of land for Shishu Academy Complex in court area of the district town, said sources at district Shishu Academy office.

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) on March 2 last year approved the fund of Tk 9 crore 34 lakh 82 thousand and 518 for the project that was scheduled to start

in June 2010 and complete by June 2013.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on November 20, 2009 ordered the local administration to acquire land for construction of Chief Judicial Magistrate's (CJM) Court and the authorities proposed the same location for the purpose.

On August 30 last year, the district administration sent a proposal to Bazar Fund Administration to cancel the allotment of the land for Shishu Academy Complex.

The work for the project has remained hanging as the authorities are yet to take a concrete decision regarding the matter, sources said.

Chairman of

Khagrachhari Hill District Council and Administrator of Khagrachhari Bazar Fund Administration Kujandra Lal Tripura said they have no legal power to cancel the allotment of the land that was earlier decided for Shishu Academy.

District Children Affairs Officer Ushan Chowdhury said, "The construction of Shishu Academy Complex, aimed at physical, mental and cultural development of local children, has not started in 17 months. Now the project seems uncertain."

Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Anis-ul Haque Bhuyan said, "The place is appropriate for the CJM court as it is near the District and Sessions Judge's

Court, local police station and district administration office. I informed local lawmaker Jatindra Lal Tripura of the matter for solution."

President of District Bar Association Mohammad Taiyab Ali said the Shishu Academy authorities should compromise the issue for betterment of the local people as the place is appropriate for the CJM Court.

Local lawmaker Jatindra Lal Tripura, also chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Refugee Affairs Task Force, said, "I told Khagrachhari Hill District Council chairman, the deputy commissioner and the authorities concerned to take proper initiative through compromise to implement the two projects."



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Munshiganj district unit forms a human chain in front of the deputy commissioner's office in the town yesterday demanding speedy trial of the war criminals. Similar programmes were observed in other districts too.

SNIPPETS

Attack on BNP man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

President of Swechchesebok Dal Bauful upazila unit was injured seriously as Jubo League activists attacked him on Saturday night. Injured Abul Kalam Mridha, 42, was admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital in critical condition. Police and local sources said some 4/5 Jubo League men led by one Abdul Malek Mir beat up Mridha mercilessly, leaving him injured critically at about 8:00pm. Later, he was sent to the hospital. The incident occurred while Mridha was returning home from nearby Boga Bazar.

Two cocktails recovered

UNB, *C'navabganj*

Police recovered two cocktails from Ranihati area of Shibganj upazila yesterday. Mirza Abdus Salam, officer in-charge of Shibganj police station, said local people found the cocktails at a mango orchard near Ranihati High School and informed them. Later, the law enforcers seized the cocktails. However, nobody was arrested in this connection.

3 BCL leaders land in prison

UNB, *Sylhet*

Three BCL leaders of Sylhet city were sent to prison for assaulting police when they were produced before the court yesterday. Those sent to prison are BCL city unit vice-president Abdul Hye Al Hadi, his colleagues Abdul Hafiz and Abdul Ahad. Enamul Haq, officer-in-charge of Shah Paran PS, said he and Assistant Police Commissioner Jabeur Rahman were interrogating the litigant and accused of a women repression case on Saturday night. BCL leaders entering the PS asked the policemen to set free the accused. On refusal they hurled abusive at the police officers and physically assaulted an ASI and constable.

Man held with fake dollars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel in a drive arrested a man along with 43,800 fake dollars from a computer shop in Suihari area of the district town yesterday. The elite force also recovered paper, computer, printer and scanner for making counterfeit currencies from the possession of Imran Khan Rana, 35, son of Aslam Mia of Chhotogurgola in the town. Md Humayun Kabir, ASP of Rangpur Rab-5, said on secret information, they raided the shop and seized 438 notes of \$100, arrested Rana.

Indian clothes seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and coastguard in a joint drive arrested three people along with contraband Indian clothes worth over Tk three crore from Khanjahan Ali Bridge of the district town on Saturday night. The arrestees are Idris, Monir and Anwarul. Police said on secret information, a joint team of Rab-6 and coastguard seized a covered van and arrested the trio with the clothes at about 10:30pm. The seized items included sarees, three-pieces and sweaters.

Fugitive convict held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Police arrested a fugitive convict from Kachua village in Assassuni upazila on Saturday night. The arrestee is Tapon Kumar Das, 37, son of Nitai Chandra Das of the village. On secret information, the law enforcers arrested Tapon from his house. Tapon was absconding since the district court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment in a criminal case last year. The court also fined him Tk one thousand.

Schoolgirl violated

UNB, *Sirajganj*

A schoolgirl was violated allegedly by a teenage boy at Barapakuria village in Kamarkhanda upazila on Wednesday. The accused is son of Shahidul Haque of the village. Quoting local sources police said the boy took the girl, a Class I student of a local school to his house and violated her at around 11:00am. Hearing the hue and cry, local people rescued the victim in profusely bleeding condition and admitted her to a local hospital. However, the boy managed to flee the scene. A case was filed in this connection.

STANDOFF OVER PROMOTION ISSUES

Haji Danesh university teachers on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Teachers of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) here yesterday morning began work abstention for an indefinite period to realise their two-point demand.

The demands include promotion of all deserving teachers within the timeframe and immediate implementation of the pending order to promote the associate professors.

The agitating teachers also questioned an alleged disparity in promoting the teachers.

Educational activities at the university paralysed on the first day as the teachers continued agitation abstaining from their classes to realise their

demands.

During a visit to the university, this correspondent yesterday found most classrooms under lock and key while the helpless students roaming around the campus.

Some semester examinations also did not take place on the day.

HSTU sources said, 120 teachers went on the work abstention.

Dr Md Shahadat Hossain Khan, general secretary of HSTU Teachers' Association told this correspondent that they had submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Dr M Afzal Hossain on November 29 to meet their demands.

'But there is still no sign to implement our demands' he said adding

that the teachers would continue boycott of classes till the demands are met.

Md Alamgir Hasan, an associate professor, alleged that the university authorities forced him to join the agitation by showing indifference to the demands.

Sources said, HSTU teachers have been agitating for the last one year to realise their demands. The vice chancellor at different meetings pledged to consider the demands but there was no progress in this regard for unknown reasons.

Contacted, Dr M Afzal Hossain said that he is likely to hold a meeting in the afternoon regarding the matter. He also hoped that the crisis will be over soon.



PHOTO: STAR

Landless people bring out a procession in Rangpur town yesterday to press home their eight-point demand including allocation of khas land. They later submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner.

Landless people agitate, place 8-point demand

A CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Hundreds of landless people of the district demonstrated in the town yesterday morning to press their 8-point demand including allocation of khas land.

Earlier, the landless people, under the banner of Rangpur Zila Bhumihin Sangram Parishad, brought out a huge procession.

The processionists paraded the main roads of the town. Later they gathered at the deputy commissioner's (DC) office premises with banners and festoons.

Idris Ali and Ranjit Kumar

Sarker, president and secretary of the Parishad spoke at the rally there.

At the rally, leaders of several organisations urged the government to allot khas land among the landless people immediately.

They said allocation of khas land was an election manifesto of the Grand Alliance government. They also alleged that, the government, instead of giving them khas land was trying to evict the hapless people from khas land. They warned of non-stop movement if the government failed to

meet their demands in three months.

After the rally, they submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner.

Contacted, Idris Ali told this correspondent that the landless people are worried due to the vested property bill recently okayed by the Jatiya Sangsad.

"The government must rehabilitate the affected landless people before implementing any law," he said.

Dearth of farm labourers hampers Aman harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Noakhali*

Acute shortage of farm labourers is seriously hampering Aman paddy harvest in Noakhali this year.

While visiting Subarnachar, Hatiya and Companiganj upazilas a couple of days ago, most of the farmers told this correspondent that they could not reap their paddy in time due to a dearth of day labourers.

They said about 35 to 38 day-labourers are needed to harvest crop from one hectare of land.

"Though we get some labourers, they charge too much that we cannot afford by any means," the farmers said, adding that a labourer is charging Tk 300 a day against Tk 225 last year.

The mid-level farmers

are the worst sufferers as they cannot harvest their paddy in time because of unaffordable labour cost, the farmers added.

Master Tariq Ullah, Chairman of Char Jabbar Union Parishad, said the situation has arisen, as most of the labourers have changed their profession and moved to different parts of the country to earn their livelihood as there was no work during the lean period.

They migrate to cities and other districts and earn wages by pulling rickshaw or working at brickfields, mills and garment factories, the UP chairman said.

Md Abdus Sobhan, a former union parishad member of Purba Char Bata union Parishad under Subarnachar upazila, said wage hike

will push up their production cost this year.

The farmers of Char Bogadiya, Hazipur and Noapara under Subarnachar upazila; Nalerchar, Boyarchar, Jahajmara and Oskhali under Hatiya upazila; Musapur, Char Elahi, Serajpur, Maniknagar and Char Boishaki under Companiganj upazila, have also expressed their anxieties as paddy harvesting is going very slow due to lake of sufficient labourers.

Abdur Rahim, a farmer of Jahajmara village under Hatiya upazila, said many farmers in the upazila have been compelled to harvest Aman paddy on their own. After harvesting, the farmers take their paddy to their homes in rickshaw vans, carts and power trolleys, he said.

Classes start a week ahead of semester final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Classes on a subject of the fourth year students of Criminology and Police Science (CPS) Department at Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) began yesterday, just seven days before the second semester final examinations.

Campus sources said the fourth year students of the department yesterday attended some classes on comparative policing conducted by a senior official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The CID official will take several more classes on the subject today, sources added.

The students concerned are worried about their preparations for taking the test on

the subject as what they said the guest teacher will complete the six months' course only in two days.

The CPS department suspended the classes on November 30 as semester final examinations of all years of the department will begin on December 11, university sources said.

Contacted, Mohammad Asaduzzaman Sadi, chairman of CPS department, said senior police officials take classes on the technical subjects, but they are not available all the time.

Though the university opened the CPS department from 2003-2004 academic year, the authorities have not yet signed any agreement with police department to conduct the classes on technical subjects.

2 killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Two people were killed over land dispute at village Bonogram Dakhinpara in Santhia upazila in the district early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Hamid, 65, son of Ariful Islam Pramanik of the village and Sadek Ali Sheikh, 38, son of Khurshid Alam Sheikh of village Razapur of the upazila.

Police said, Hamid was killed due to enmity over a piece

of disputed land while Sadek was beaten to death by a mob.

Md Robiul Hassan, officer in charge of Ataikula police station, said a gang of 18 to 20 people led by Sadek attacked the house of Hamid around 4:00am. The attackers hacked Hamid to death with sharp weapons.

Hearing the cry of the victim's family members, locals rushed to the spot and caught two of the attackers, Md Sadek Ali and his associate Md Jane Alam, and beat them up leaving Sadek dead on the spot.