

Leaseholder builds market on rly land violating rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A leaseholder is building a concrete structure for a market comprising 114 shops on Bangladesh Railway land in Joypurhat municipality although the lease agreement does not allow any such construction.

Besides, the lessee did not obtain from the municipality authorities any approval for plan which is mandatory for any concrete structures under its jurisdiction.

Joypurhat municipality authorities issued three notices signed by Mayor Md Abdul Aziz Mollah on February 27, March 7 and April 5 to the lease holder, asking the leaseholder to submit plan of the market, according to the official records of Joypurhat municipality.

Following the last notice on April 5, the leaseholder submitted an application for approval of the plan on Sunday, municipality sources said.

"Only temporary structures can be made on such a leased land. But no lessee is allowed to construct a permanent structure, especially with concrete roof, there. We will take necessary steps if the work for the structure continues in violation of the rule," said the mayor.

Railway sources said that they leased off 9,111 square feet area near Gate-1 of Joypurhat Railway Station to Raj Kumar Khoitan Raju on October 9, 2011 for Tk 1,37,115.

As per the agreement the



PHOTO: STAR

Leaseholder of this land, owned by Bangladesh Railway authorities in Joypurhat municipality, has continued work for a market comprising 114 shops although the lease contract, to be renewed on yearly basis, does not allow any such construction. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

lease needs renewal every year, if it is to continue.

The market with concrete roof is being constructed on 14,000 square feet land, said railway officials.

Kamal Hossain, the supervisor of the construction works site, said his employer 'obtained' the remaining railway land later.

The site officials declined to show any documents of the contract.

According to the Joypurhat Railway officials, the land had been leased to Gopal Kumar Khoitan, father of present lessee Raj Kumar Khoitan, since January 2, 1993. Last year

Raj Kumar Khoitan took over the land from his father and started the concrete construction work early January this year.

Works of 40 rooms have already been completed.

When contacted, Md Abdul Hamid, assistant station master of Joypurhat Railway station, said, "I informed my higher officials about the gross violation of the lease agreement. At one stage the construction work remained suspended for a few days, but later it restarted due to mysterious reasons."

Construction of the market will create problem when the shops will be

rented to people as the railway authorities have right to get back the land any time if required, said an official of Parbatipur Railway seeking anonymity.

Sources said estimated price of each of the shops at the market would be Tk 3 to 4 lakhs, depending on sizes.

Raj Kumar Khoitan Raju, the lease holder, could not be contacted for his comment as his cell phone was found off.

Asked about their inaction regarding the market construction on the leased land, a few high officials of Bangladesh Railway (Western Zone) declined to make any comment.

Fishes poisoned to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fishes of a farm were poisoned to death by criminals at Kazir Beel (water body) in Kalaroa upazila on Sunday night.

Quoting local people police said, Golam Rasul, son of Monsef Sardar of village Talundia in the same upazila had been cultivating different species of fish on 15 bighas of land taking lease from the others at Kazir Beel for the last seven years.

Criminals poured poison and fishes worth Tk 11 lakh died at about 9:00pm on Sunday.

Police suspect that the incident was a sequel to some village enmity.

Tk 50,000 looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A snatcher took away Tk 50,000 from a client at Sonali Bank Baufal branch yesterday noon.

Victim Abdul Qader Mridha said when he was leaving the bank, a snatcher who was waiting at the gate, took away the bundle of money from his hand and ran away.

Patients suffer as lone X-ray machine lies idle for years

KAFIL MAHMUD, Khagrachhari

The lone X-ray machine at Mohalchhari upazila health complex has long been lying idle allegedly as it cannot be operated due to low voltage of electricity.

The 300 mm X-ray machine was installed in 2004 but it could not be used due to low power supply, said radiographer of the health complex, Bathun Chakma.

"The machine needs 220 voltage and uninterrupted power supply for operation while we get around 170 to 180 voltage at the health complex," he said adding if the X-ray machine lies idle for a few more months, it will rust away.

Orthopaedic patients are now referred to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for X-ray. They often undergo immense sufferings due to financial constraint and bad communication. Because of this, many poor patients are forced to take help of quacks, said Residential Medical Officer Suipruchi Chowdhury.

"There is only one X-ray



PHOTO: STAR

The lone X-ray machine at Mohalchhari upazila health complex in Khagrachhari district has remained inoperative for years due to inadequate power supply at the centre, much to the worry of treatment seekers.

machine for 50 thousand people of Mohalchhari upazila. It is really sad that they are not getting X-ray service despite presence of the machine and operator", said Mohalchhari upazila parishad chairman Sona Ratan Chakma.

He said, due to the financial crisis and communication problem, the poor people of the area had been suffering a lot for the last several years. Besides, there is no private X-ray machine

operator in the upazila. We informed the situation to the authorities concerned several times but to no effect, the UP chairman said.

Sona Ratan also urged the authorities to take immediate steps to activate the X-ray device.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon of Khagrachhari Dr. Hasan Imam Chowdhury said, "We wrote to the higher authorities several times about the problem but we did not get any positive response".

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