

**BISHWANATH HARTAL VIOLENCE
250 AL men sued**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Father of Selim Ahmed, one of the three victims killed in Bishwanath during an opposition-called hartal over Ilias Ali's missing, filed a case yesterday accusing 250 activists of the ruling Awami League.

The names of 132 including Bishwanath Upazila AL President Muzammil Ali's son Juba League leader Mizanur Rahman and upazila AL General Secretary Babul Akhtar were mentioned in the case.

Selim's father Rafique Miah of Saban Tengra village filed the case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court of Sylhet. Magistrate Moazzem Hossain took the case into cognisance and asked the officer-in-charge of Bishwanath Police Station to investigate the incident and record an FIR in this regard.

Lawyer Hassan Ahmed Patwari said the case was sent to the police station for recording an FIR.

During the countrywide hartal on April 23, a chase between the police and AL supporters and the BNP activists took place in Bishwanath when two opposition activists -- Selim Ahmed and Monwar Hossain -- were killed in firing. Another victim, Zakir Hossain, succumbed to his injuries the following day.

That day, police intercepted around 3000 to 4000 opposition activists as they took out a procession in Bishwanath upazila headquarters.

Four cases -- two by the police, one by the Bishwanath UNO and the other by the driver of UNO.



Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Ahmed Ataul Hakeem meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

**VESTED PROPERTIES RETURN ACT
'Formulate rules'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of eight human rights and civic organisations on Wednesday demanded the government to immediately formulate the rules of the Vested Properties Return (Amended) Act 2011.

They said the government was supposed to formulate the rules and publish the district-wise list of vested properties as mentioned in "Ka" and "Kha" schedules through gazette notification within 150 days of the act being put into effect.

But neither was done although time is running out, they added.

The act's implementing would face a setback if the gazette is not published in due time, they said in a joint statement, demanding the government to immediately publish the list of vested properties.

Their other demands include formation of a tribunal to resolve ownership claims, inclusion of the provision compatible with the desires of the victims and creating awareness among the masses about the rules.

The organisations include Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, Association for Land Reform and Development, Orpito Shompotti Ain Protirodh Andolon, Nijera Kori, Sammilito Samajik Andolan, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and Human Development Research Centre.

Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, Kamal Lohani, Advocate Ranadas Gupta, Dr Abul Barakat, Shamshul Huda, Advocate Tobarok Hossain, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Sara Hossain are the signatories to the statement.

**DU TEACHER'S 'ABDUCTION'
No reality yet to be found**

STAR REPORT

Police are yet to find any reality behind the "abduction" of Dhaka University teacher Dr Nuruddin Alo, who reappeared on his own at Khagrachhari Police Station on Wednesday after 42 hours of his alleged abduction.

Alo, a lecturer of Political Science department, was undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital under police supervision, reports our Khagrachhari correspondents.

Acting SP of Khagrachhari Abdus Salam told The Daily Star that they could not get enough information about "abduction" of the teacher who went on missing on Monday from the city's Uttra.

The police officer said, "We have interrogated the teacher but he could not memorise the abduction [incident] properly." Most of the conversations, he made, were "irrelevant," said the SP.

Police requested the Dhaka University authorities and Sahabagh Police Station to bring back the teacher to Dhaka.

OC of Sahabagh police Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star that the activities of the teacher bear testimony to his mental instability.

"So, we fear to take responsibility of him," OC said adding, "We have requested the university authorities to take over the responsibility of the teacher."

DU Proctor Prof MA Ali said the university authorities would send representative to bring back Alo shortly.

Earlier, the teacher on Monday sent a text message from his mobile number to his student Enamul Haque Emu saying, "They have kidnapped me. Please do something for me."

Later, Emu filed a GD with Shahbagh police.

The DU teacher reappeared on his own at a Khagrachhari Police Station on Wednesday and claimed to police that he had been abducted and tortured, but he somehow managed to escape. Police then sent him to Dighinala upazila hospital for treatment. Two hours later, he narrated to police and the media the story of his abduction.

Alo at the police station claimed that his two colleagues--Prof ASM Maksud Kamal of geology department and Associate Prof Amrain Hussain of political science department-- and Syedul Bakin, uncle of a woman, who earlier at a press conference claimed to be Alo's wife, abducted him from the capital's Uttara area on Monday evening.

In separate statement, Maksud Kamal and Amrain Hussain yesterday refuted the allegation said the news items published in different media involving them with the "so-called abduction" of Dr Alo was false, baseless and motivated.

Sources said the teacher was in an altercation with a female physician named Nurun Nahar, hailing from Chittagong.

Land grabbers untouchable for govt links, says Bapa leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday said the government is reluctant to take steps against land grabbers as many of them have connections with the government.

"The governments are unable to take steps because a section of influential businessmen are now becoming lawmakers, busy fulfilling their own interests without

considering the environmental damage," said Bapa Vice President Prof Khondoker Bazlul Hoque.

He was addressing a press conference, "Ashonno Jatiya Budget (2012-13) O Poribesh Bhabna" (forthcoming national budget and thoughts on environment), organised by Bapa at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Bapa Executive Member Prof AM Muazzem Hossain alleged that the government could not implement

policies on environment conservation due to the influence of a section of policymakers, comprising businessmen and politicians.

It would be difficult to find open spaces in the capital in the future if the government fails to stop these people from illegally grabbing lands and encroaching on rivers, he said.

Bapa President ASM Shahjahan urged the government to take up environment conservation through effective steps and suffi-

cient allocation in the budget.

However, Bapa Joint Secretary Jakir Hossain said only the government's goodwill and budgetary allocation are not sufficient.

Political commitment is also vital in preventing influential quarters from committing anti-environment activities, he said.

Bapa placed an eight-point recommendation, which includes formation of a national river commission, formulation of a 15-year-

long plan on environment conservation, compelling industries to construct effluent treatment plants and shifting tanneries out of the capital.

Besides, they also laid emphasis on increasing allocation for forestation, stopping corruption in the forest department, dredging rivers to increasing navigability, increasing the supply of pure drinking water and protecting the biodiversity of rural areas.

Wonderland demolition resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk continued demolition drive at Wonderland park in the capital yesterday after a two-day recess and pulled down more structures.

The eviction is aimed at freeing around four-acre area of Gulshan central playground, which the amusement park had been occupying illegally, according to the government authorities.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhha (Rajuk) flattened the frontal boundary wall of Wonderland on May 7 following a Supreme Court verdict.

After the wall demolition, Rajuk allowed the park authorities two days to remove expensive rides and machineries from inside the park on their own.

Exactly after two days, the eviction drive resumed, tearing down the children park's rest of the set-ups.

"We are back to continue the demolition", said Rajuk Executive Magistrate Rokon Ud Doula Rokon, who along with Rajuk Executive Engineer Nurul Islam led the drive yesterday.

Rokon said, "The progress in removal of rides and machineries by the owner during last two days is remarkable".

GM Mostafizur Rahman, managing director of Wonderland, was found imploring the Rajuk officials to allow him some more time to dismantle heavily-

mounted tower, different hydraulic children's game equipment and electric generators.

"Rajuk has been unusually meticulous and came back precisely on time to evict this children park", Rahman said.

He alleged that a powerful political quarter, including ruling party lawmakers, were active behind such hurried action, as they aspired to occupy the land for commercial development.

Rajuk chairman Nurul Huda earlier told The Daily Star that it would remain an open public space.

The entire central playground is shown as an open public park in the layout plan of Rajuk.

Dhaka City Corporation leased out the said portion of Gulshan central playground to M/s Via Media to develop commercial amusement park without legal authority in 1990.

Saiful Bhuiyan, a Gulshan resident, made a visit to the park area along with his two kids while demolition was going on yesterday.

"My three-year-old son was so upset with the demolition of the park that he could not sleep last three nights and forced me to take him to see what was happening", he said.

Meanwhile, two antic canons belonging to the British colonial era, set up at the main entrance of the park, were taken back under the custody of the National Museum.

Star **LIFE** style

is going **20 PAGES**

& that too with a whole lot of flair and verve. Along with our staples that our valued readers have enjoyed over the past eleven years, on the eve of the supplement's twelfth anniversary, we have ventured out to introducing many new columns that we hope will satiate our readers.

As we endeavour to go forward hand in hand with our valued patrons and well-wishers, we sincerely hope that we can continue to draw on the excellent support that Star Lifestyle has enjoyed in the past.

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