

# Land grabbers ignore PWD objection, police keep mum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A group of people allegedly led by a local leader of ruling Awami League (AL) have continued their occupation of valuable lands of Public Works Department (PWD) in Bhatar Khal area of the city years after expiry of lease contract for the land.

Making the situation worse, the group on Friday morning broke the boundary wall of PWD office and started construction work to add 20 decimals of PWD land to their occupied portion.

Following complaint

from PWD officials, police visited the spot, but did not take any action to evict the illegal occupiers from PWD land worth about 8 crore taka, said Barun Kumar Biswas, sub-divisional engineer of PWD Barisal sub-division.

"Taking lease of PWD land outside the office boundary wall, some people made makeshift shops and have been doing business there for the last 15/20 years. When the tenure of that lease expired in 2006, PWD decided not to renew the lease contract and asked them to vacate the premises.

But the former lessees continued doing business on that land illegally," he said.

Hearing about their breaking the PWD wall on Friday morning, PWD officials rushed to the spot and sought help from police to save the official property.

On Friday night, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron, also city Awami League convenor, visited the spot and asked the two parties to maintain status quo and settle the matter through negotiation.

He also asked the PWD

authorities to withdraw their complaint with the police, saying that he will see the matter, said PWD officials and Kotwali police.

However, a PWD official seeking anonymity said they had to withdraw the complaint about land grabbing under pressure.

During local journalists' visit to the spot on Friday noon, the construction workers employed by alleged land grabbers said Mohiuddin Ahmed Khokan, president of ward No 10 and convening committee member of city AL is leading the act.

Asked about the matter, AL leader Khokan claimed that at least 16 legal leaseholders of PWD land are doing business there and they have continued depositing the lease money till date.

Recently BCC authorities asked them to vacate the land for expanding road and so, they started transferring their shops behind the PWD boundary wall after taking 'informal approval' from the authorities concerned and 'leaders', Khokan claimed.

Matiur Rahman, officer in charge (investigation) of Barisal Kotwali police station, said on Friday afternoon, "After receiving the allegation of land grabbing from PWD authorities, police visited the spot and stopped construction work there. Further action will be



PHOTO: STAR

A section of unscrupulous people, who have kept occupying lands of Public Works Department (PWD) in Barisal city even five years after expiry of their lease term, break walls of the PWD office compound on Friday, apparently to extend their encroached area.

## ABDUCTION OF KALPANA CHAKMA RECALLED

# 'Crimes in hill districts go up as perpetrators go unpunished'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Mohila Samity and Hill Women's Federation (HWF) yesterday reiterated their demand for proper implementation of the CHT peace accord for greater interest of jamma people.

They made the demand at a meeting jointly organised by CHT Mohila Samity and HWF in remembrance of the role of Kalpana Chakma, former organising secretary of HWF, on the 16th anniversary of her abduction yesterday.

Kalpana Chakma was kidnapped allegedly by security personnel from her house at New Lalyaghona under Baghaichhai upazila in Rangamati 16



File Photo of Kalpana Chakma

years ago but the law enforcers have failed to rescue her or trace out the abductors, speaker said at the meeting at district Shilpakala Academy.

As the perpetrators of such crimes go unpunished, incidents of human

rights violation including murder and rape of indigenous women and children have continued in hills, they said.

In absence of full implementation of CHT Hill Tracts Peace Treaty, land disputes in the hills are increasing day by day and criminal activities like murder, rape and abduction continue, they said, adding that anti peace treaty elements must be eliminated paving the way for full implementation of the accord.

They demanded removal of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury from the post of chairman of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission and bringing amendment to the commission act to make it truly functional to resolve land

# Clash for control of mosque body

## 10 injured, 8 houses vandalised in Ishwardi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 people were injured and eight houses vandalised during clashes between two groups of villagers over taking leadership of a mosque committee at Jagannathpur village in Ishwardi upazila yesterday and on Monday night.

Police and local people said two rival groups-one led Siddikur Rahman Moyez and the other by Md Mofazzal Hossain-have a rivalry over establishing supremacy at the village.

Conflict between the two groups deepened over erecting concrete structure of Jagannathpur Purbopara Mosque one and a half months ago.

Only a few days ago, Mofazzal Hossain replaced Siddikur Rahman Moyez as president of the mosque committee and this angered Moyez and his men who locked in a clash with their rivals following an altercation over the issue on Monday night.

During the clash, the rivals groups used firearms, sticks and iron rods, leaving at least 10 people from both



PHOTO: STAR

This house, one of the eight, was vandalised during a clash between two groups of villagers over control of a mosque committee at Jagannathpur village in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna district yesterday.

sides injured. Six of them belong to Moyez group while the rest to Mofazzal group.

The injured were admitted to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex. One of them, who received bullet injuries during the clash, was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Police said Moyez group filed a case with Iswardi

Police Station on Monday night, accusing Mofazzal and 13 others of his group.

At around 10:00am yesterday, the supporters of Moyez attacked their rival villagers, prompting them to retaliate. At least eight houses were vandalised and a tea stall was torched during the clash that continued for an hour.

Being informed, police

rushed to the village and dispersed the clashing groups. Mofazzal group did not file any case in connection with the incidents as filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

Police have been deployed at Jagannathpur village and the mosque to avert any further incident, said Md Akbar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Iswardi



PHOTO: STAR

Contractor has indiscriminately dug a plot to construct a new building of Rajshahi College, posing threat to the adjacent Science Building of the institution.

# Six coastguard men sued on charge of killing fisherman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A case was lodged with Barisal Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against six coastguard men yesterday on charge of killing a fisherman and injuring two others following the fishermen's refusal to give illegal toll.

Harun-or-Rashid, secretary Barisal district unit of Bangladesh Khudra Matsyajibijelej Samity filed the case No 202/ 12 under Section 156 of criminal procedure code with the court for receiving order for registering it as a regular murder case with the police station concerned and arresting the accused.

Toufizuddin, senior chief petty officer, SK Kar, AB Fazlu and Azim, members, and Jasim and Razu, associates of coastguard, were made accused in the case for killing fisherman Jewel Farazi, 18, son of Mustafa Farazi of Lamchhari area under Barisal Sadar upazila, by shooting and injuring fishermen Kabir Hossain, 40, and Abdul Hannan, 20, after they allegedly refused to pay 'monthly bribe money' to the coastguard, court sources said.

After hearing the petition, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Zahidul Kabir asked the officer in charge (OC) of Kawnia police station to register it as a regular case immediately and investigate it, said Sahadat Hossain, bench officer of the court, and advocate Shamsul Huq, lawyer for the complainant.

"The coastguard members often harass the marginal fishermen by demanding bribe, collect illegal tolls and torture fishermen in case of refusal to meet their illegal demands," the complainant said in the case.

"Only one week into resuming fishing after a seven-month ban, the coastguard patrol team on June 6 demanded their monthly bribe from the poor marginal fishermen engaged in fishing in Arial Kha and Kirtankhola rivers.

"When the fishermen expressed their inability to give the bribe money, the agitated coastguard members beat the fishermen and at one stage opened fire on them. The fishermen tried to flee by jumping into the river and marginal fishermen Jewel Farazi, Hannan, and Kabir Hossain received bullet injuries during the incident.

"The coastguards then chased and nabbed injured Kabir and Hannan while floating body of bullet-hit Jewel was recovered from the river the next day," goes the case statement.

Rafikul Islam, OC of Kawnia police station, said, "We have not yet received the court order about the case lodged by the fishermen against coastguard members. After receiving that we will act according to the direction of the court under legal procedure."

Lieutenant Commander Nur, spokesman of the coastguard Barisal station, said the six-member coastguard team, led by Toufiz, senior chief petty officer, were compelled to shoot four rounds of blank fire after the agitated fishermen declined to stop fishing by using banned thickly knitted 'current' net or 'moshari' net and injured a coastguard member.

Two of the fishermen were captured and handed over to the police after lodging a case for creating obstacles to performing official duty, using banned nets for fishing and attack-

# ASI gets 14 years' RI for abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court on Monday sentenced a policeman to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an abduction case.

Convict Abu Taher, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Ramna police station in DMP, is son of late Abdus Sattar of Bakhra village under Kalai upazila in Joypurhat district.

Additional district and sessions judge Md. Nur Ali handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

The court also fined him Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Abu Taher abducted one Hafizuddin's wife and

her minor daughter and son from their house at Purbajalashi village in Panchagarh municipality area on 24 February, 2011.

On 26 February, Hafizuddin filed a GD against the ASI with Panchagarh police station in this connection.

Later, on 12 April, Hafizuddin filed a case against the same accused with Panchagarh District and Sessions Judge's Court.

District Women Affairs Office investigated the case as per court order and submitted its investigation report in the same year.

After examining nine witnesses and records of the case, the judge handed down the verdict.

## SNIPPETS

### Schoolboy murdered

UNB, Sherpur

A schoolboy was killed allegedly by neighbours at Kharia village in Sribardi upazila on Monday night. The dead is Ilias Ali, 13, class V student of Kharia Government Primary School and son of Ismail Hossain, a Saudi expatriate of the village. Police and locals said, there was a long-standing dispute between Ismail and his neighbour Masud and his family members over a piece of land. Masud along with his three aides called Ilias out and took him to a lonely place at the village on Monday night. He did not return home and his body was found in the morning near Jhenia High School, one kilometer away from Kharia village. Being informed, police recovered the body from behind Jhenia High School and sent it to hospital for autopsy. OC of Sribardi PS suspected that Ilias was strangled and later his body was dumped behind the school. Police arrested four people including Masud suspecting their involvement with the killing.

### Fish trader fined

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A fish trader was fined by a mobile court for selling harmful Piranha at Choudhury Bazaar in Pirgachha upazila on Monday afternoon. According to the upazila administration, on secret information, a team led by Kaniz Fatema, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Pirgachha upazila, raided the bazaar with help of local police and fined Shah Alom Tk 500 for selling band Piranha. The team also seized 56 kg Piranha fish from him. Later the mobile court dumped the fish under the ground.

### Injured Jubo League man dies

UNB, Jessore

A Jubo League activist succumbed to his bullet wounds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early Monday. The deceased was Tariqul Islam, 26, of Talikhola area in the district town. Police said Tariqul suffered bullet injuries during a clash between two factions of local Jubo League in Talikhola police line area on June 6. OC Abdul Jalil of Kotwali PS said eight people, including Tariqul were injured during the clash that ensued over establishing dominance in the area. Tariqul was first taken to Jessore Medical College Hospital and later shifted to DMCH where he died.

### Schoolboy drowns

UNB, Sylhet

A schoolboy drowned in a ditch at Charugaon village in Sadar upazila yesterday. The victim was identified as Reaz Uddin, 9, a class III student and son of Ansar Ali of the village. Quoting family members, officer in-charge of Jalalabad police station Gausul Alam said Reaz fell into the ditch adjacent to their house while playing near it in the morning. Later, the family members spotted the floating body at about 1pm. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Man commits 'suicide'

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man allegedly committed suicide at Khoyerbari village of Madankhaly union under Pirganj upazila on Monday night. The deceased was identified as Monwar Hossain, 50, son of Taslim Uddin of the same area. According to Pirganj police, following a family feud Monwar Hossain committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room. Hasan Shamim Iqbal, officer-in-charge of Pirganj police station said, the body was handed over to his family members without autopsy on request from family members. A UD case was filed with this connection, the OC added.

### Youth hacked to death

UNB, Bogra

A young man was hacked to death at Phulbari Dakkhinpara in the town yesterday. The dead is Sohel, 25, son of Aftab Muhuri of Phulbari Shashanghat area. Bogra Sadar PS Sub-Inspector (SI) Saiful Islam, quoting locals, said a gang of local criminals, equipped with sharp weapons, called Sohel out and dragged him to Dakkhinpara, half a kilometer away from his house at 11am. The criminals hacked him there leaving him severely injured. Duty doctor at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital declared Sohel dead on arrival.