

HC clears way for graft case against former RPGCL boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for resuming a corruption case filed against ABM Fazle Elahi, former managing director of Rupantarita Prakritic Gas Company Limited (RPGCL).

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Khilkhet Police Station on March 11, 2008 against Elahi and five other RPGCL officials over misappropriating state money worth Tk 9.75 crore from the Marine CNG Pilot Project at Aricha-Daulatdia Ferryghat.

The HC yesterday vacated its earlier order that had stayed the proceeding of the case against Elahi in 2009.

The court delivered the verdict after rejecting a petition submitted by Elahi in 2009 for quashing the proceedings of the case.

US offers help in education sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Visiting US official Robert O Blake yesterday said the US wanted to work for improving the education system in Bangladesh, which would help the students cope with future demands.

The US always wants to help Bangladesh in this area, and the two countries have taken up some measures in the sector jointly, he told journalists during his visit to Fulbari Aziaria Senior Madrasa in the district's Golapganj upazila.

The US state assistant secretary for South & Central Asia hoped that the new generation would be able to build themselves up as competent citizens since they were increasingly becoming interested in learning better English.

Stressing the need for improving the madrasa education, Blake wanted to know whether the Bangladeshi madrasa students are like that of madrasas in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

In reply, the Fulbari madrasa authorities told him that the students did not have any link to terrorism or extremism and that they learned science and English.

Blake noted that the US was now stressing more on people to people contact between the US and Bangladesh than the government level contact.

US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan Mozena accompanied Blake during his visit.

The US officials later addressed a gathering of 50 students of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) on "violent extremism in Bangladesh".



Newly manufactured energy-saving bulbs being tested at the factory of Energypac Electronics Ltd. Inset, an official addressing an orientation programme for some employees of the company on the lamp's quality.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh Urban Institute launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Urban Institute (Buri), an initiative to address growing challenges of urbanisation, was launched in Dhaka on December 8 at an international seminar on urbanisation.

Leading urban experts, leadership of the Municipal Association of Bangladesh, town mayors from across the country, leadership of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, economists, architects, social scientists, entrepreneurs and high-ranking officials from World Bank, Korean Research Institute of Human Settlements, Asian Development Bank and GTZ were present.

Dr Gowher Rizvi, adviser to the prime minister, launched the institute prior to the international seminar.

Facilitated by the policy action centre



PHOTO: STAR

Police getting a group of BNP activists into a prison van, not in picture, after arresting them at the capital's Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh. The opposition activists gathered there yesterday to attend a meeting commemorating recently deceased Sayeed Iskandar, younger brother of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

PURBACHAL HOUSING PROJECT Provide plots against all acquired lands

Demand Gazipur land owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gazipur district residents, whose lands were acquired for Rajuk's Purbachal New Town project, yesterday demanded plots and adequate compensation for all the affected land owners.

As per Rajuk, only those who had their residence in the acquired land are eligible to apply for plots in the project, said Sheikh Reza Ahmed, whose land was also acquired, at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Rajuk states that owners of 16.50 decimal of land can apply for 3-katha (10 katha = 16.50 decimal) plots while owners of 33 decimal of land can apply for 5-katha plots, he said.

Only 2,000, from around 15,000 land owners, have applied for the plots while Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirpakkha (Rajuk) allotted only 576 plots so far, he added.

Reza said not only were they getting a

fraction of the actual market price of their lands as compensation, some officials of Gazipur Deputy Commissioner's Office were also demanding bribes for the compensation's paperwork.

The government is giving Tk 1.20 lakh for each bigha of land (1 bigha = 33 decimal) whereas the current market price is Tk 2 to 3 crore, he said.

The land owners can not even get the whole amount as the officials were demanding nearly 30 to 40 percent from each bigha as bribe.

If anyone denies paying, the officials delay the paperwork unnecessarily." Due to this, around 60 percent of the land owners failed to get their compensation, said Reza.

Stating that the acquisition left many with no source of livelihood since 2000, he also urged the government to provide at least flats to those who owned less than 16.5 decimal of land.



Journalists form a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding arrest of the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Rani. Sagar and Rani were murdered in the capital on February 11.

PHOTO: STAR

CASE OF FRAUDULENCE
Charges against Amar Desh acting editor dropped

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday discharged Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman in a case filed against him for illegally using Alhaj Md Hasmat Ali's name as the publisher of the daily and damaging his social image.

Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur passed the order after Hasmat Ali submitted a petition to the court seeking permission from it for withdrawal of the case.

In the petition, Hasmat Ali told the court that they had amicably settled the matter out of court. During yesterday's hearing, Mahmudur Rahman was present at court.

Police arrested Mahmudur Rahman in June of 2010 after Hasmat Ali filed a case against him.

In the case, Hasmat accused Mahmudur Rahman of using his name illegally as the publisher even though he submitted an application to the Dhaka deputy commissioner for excluding his name.

HC quashes case against Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the proceedings of a corruption case filed against former mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in 2007.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against Mohiuddin and three others on charge of illegally drawing Tk 1.47 crore from the city corporation fund to launch Bijoy TV, a private television channel.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed delivered the verdict yesterday after hearing a petition filed by Mohiuddin in 2008 for quashing the proceedings against him.

The court quashed the proceedings on the ground that the charges brought against Mohiuddin were not proved.

In 2008, the HC had stayed the proceedings of the case against Mohiuddin and issued a rule upon the ACC and government to explain why the proceedings should not be quashed.