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Motive to grab camp's land

Biharis allege over Saturday's attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Urdu-speaking people of Kurmitola Bihari Camp have alleged that grabbing the land of the settlement was the prime motive of Saturday's attack that left 10 of their community members killed.

They also submitted to the state minister for home a list of people that allegedly had carried out the attack. The list includes local lawmaker Elias Uddin Mollah and Jewel Rana, general secretary of Pallabi Thana Jubo League.

"Since 1993, people have been trying to grab the land of the camp," alleged Sadaqat Khan Fakku, president of Urdu-speaking Peoples Youth Rehabilitation Movement.

With no ownership deeds, the Bihari refugees are an easy target of land grabbers, observed Mohammad Shawkat Hossain, general secretary of Kurmitola Bihari Camp branch of Stranded Pakistanis' General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC).

"We just have lists mentioning which person lives in which block of the camp," he added.

The land of the camp was given to them in 1972 as a temporary settlement for the stranded Pakistani refugees after the 1971 Liberation War.

Wedged in between Dhaka Cantonment and Pallabi and Kalshi of Mirpur, the large swath of land housing 1,734 families as per a 2008 census is a very lucrative real estate.

Good communication network also makes the camp attractive to the land grabbers, said the Biharis, as the community is known in Bangladesh.

It is connected to the Begum Rokeya Sarani by one main road, and adjacent to the Mirpur-Airport road flyover, the slope of which is close to the camp. A wide dual carriageway road runs right through the camp.

The SPGRC leaders alleged that a state minister in 2010 offered them 1.75 kathas of land each across Beribandh on the outskirts of Dhaka in exchange of their space in the camp.

"In 2009, our public relations secretary Mohammad Khurshid and I were called in by the commissioner of ward number 2. He tried to bribe us into giving him information about refugees who are very poor and can easily be persuaded to give up their land," said Shawkat.

"On another occasion in 2009 when I called a public meeting to press home our demands, political goons came and tried to dissuade me from doing so, saying I should encourage people to leave instead," he went on.

In 2008, a private real estate firm grabbed 27 plots of the camp, said Shawkat.



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Living a life of contradictions

ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The Kurmitola Bihari Camp branch office of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation

Committee has a picture of the founder of Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, hung inside a room painted glaringly in red and green.

When asked why the room had been painted in red and green, some members of the organisation explained it away as a representation of the reality before them. In other words, they seem to be caught between a country they and their ancestors left behind or have never been to and their connection with the only soil they have known as home.

Media reports suggest that the refugees or their earlier generations migrated from the Indian state of Bihar to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) at the time of Partition in 1947. But the birth of Bangladesh in 1971 left them in a state of turmoil over their identity, for they wished to be Pakistanis.

However, Pakistan has not yet offered them citizenship. Despite innumerable promises of citizenship made by successive Pakistani governments since the early 1970s, vast numbers of Biharis were ignored by Islamabad, with the result that they virtually turned into people without a country. The Biharis' plight in Bangladesh has to do with the overt pro-Pakistani role an earlier generation of them played in Bangladesh's War of Liberation, when the Pakistan army remained engaged in a genocide of Bangalis.

The Kurmitola camp is situated on either side of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Militants hit Iraq's biggest refinery

Saudi Arabia warns of civil war

AFP, Baghdad

Militants attacked Iraq's main oil refinery yesterday as they pressed a major offensive, while Baghdad vowed to "face terrorism" amid warnings the country could fall apart.

But even as officials touted progress, militants seized three villages in northern Iraq and India said 40 of its nationals had

been kidnapped in Mosul, a city whose capture last week by insurgents marked the beginning of the onslaught.

With regional tensions rising, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the Islamic republic "will do everything" to protect Shiite shrines in Iraqi cities against the militant assault.

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Subhan involved in kidnap, looting

Witness testifies on '71 war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan along with other Razakars had picked up his brother from their house in Pabna before he was killed with three other people during the Liberation War in 1971.

Azizul Sarder, a resident of Ramnathpur village under Ishwardi in Pabna, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Subhan and his accomplices had also looted their house before burning it down on October 30, 1971.

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GUIDELINES ON FATWA

3 yrs on, SC yet to release full verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court is yet to release its full judgment in a case relating to fatwa or Islamic religious edict, more than three years into the announcement of a short verdict on it.

Due to an absence of a detailed verdict, the nation is deprived of a guideline neces-

sary to prevent torture and violence against women, according to some lawyers and human rights activists.

The SC's full verdict is expected to provide guidelines to stop abuses of fatwa and misinterpretations of religion, they said.

Meanwhile, a few SC lawyers, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the apex

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Tonnes of mangoes are being offloaded from a truck seized in Tangail on its way from Rajshahi to Noakhali yesterday. The mangoes were found tainted with formalin.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Rivers drying up

7,428km waterways lost navigability in 4 decades, Sangsad told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 7,428 kilometres of waterways lost their navigability in the last 39 years, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan told parliament yesterday.

Replying to a group of lawmakers' queries, he also revealed that the government had taken measures to bring back navigability of 53 river routes at a cost of Tk 11,500 crore.

On the shrinkage of waterways over the years, the minister said according to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority statistics, there were around 13,660km of waterways in 1975.

He also said the present length of the waterways was around 6,232km according to the latest statistics.

But the length shrinks to around 4,032km during the dry season, he added.

Shahjahan Khan said his ministry had taken up a project titled "capital dredging on 53 routes of inland waterways" to dredge those routes.

"The first phase of the project involving Tk 1,873 crore

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the two Dhaka City Corporations polls will be held during the tenure of this government?

Yes (21%)
No (79%)

TOTAL VOTES: 214

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government would be able to keep the prices of essentials at a tolerable level during the Ramadan?

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PRAYER TIMING June 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

সুপের পানির চাহিদা পূরণার্থে সুলভ মূল্যে সুস্বাদু ...

প্রিমিয়ার

ড্রিংকিং ওয়াটার

পরিবেশক আবশ্যিক

জনসাধারণের বিশুদ্ধ পানির চাহিদা পূরণার্থে সুলভ মূল্যে "প্রিমিয়ার" ব্র্যান্ডের ড্রিংকিং ওয়াটার বাজারজাতকরণের জন্য পরিবেশক আবশ্যিক। সর্গশ্রী আত্রাই প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহকে আগামী ০৩/০৭/২০১৪ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে অফেরথযোগ্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার মূল্য মেয়র, চসিক অনুকূলে দাখিল পূর্বক শর্তাবলী সমন্বিত সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করার জন্য আহ্বানকরা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য প্রতি জার পানির মূল্য ২৫/- (পঁচিশ টাকা)।

কর্তৃপক্ষ - চট্টগ্রাম-সিটি কর্পোরেশন

যোগাযোগঃ

- তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (মাস্ট্রিক), আন্দরকিল্লা, চট্টগ্রাম।
- প্রিমিয়ার ড্রিংকিং ওয়াটার প্র্যান্ট, সাগরিকা, চট্টগ্রাম। ফোনঃ ০১৮১১ ৩৮২৬২, ০১৮১৮ ০০৯৭৫৮

BD-2559

Biofuel from coffee beans

MAIL ONLINE

You may currently grab a coffee while filling up your car at a petrol station, but in the future you could be refuelling your vehicle with the aromatic brown liquid too.

Scientists claim that a 'green' biofuel made from waste

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সুন্দরবন গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
পেট্রোসেন্টার (১৪ তলা)
৩, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫

গ্যাস সম্পদ অফুরন্ত নয়; এর অপচয় ও অবৈধ ব্যবহার রোধ করুন।

জোয়ার গ্যাস সম্পদ ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে দেশের শিল্পক্ষেত্রে এগিয়ে আসুন।

সূত্র নং-০৭.০১.১০/৩১৩ তারিখঃ ১৬.০৬.২০১৪

ভোলা এলাকায় শিল্প উদ্যোক্তাদের গ্যাসের সংযোগ গ্রহণের আহ্বান

এতদ্বারা ভোলা এলাকার শিল্প উদ্যোক্তা এবং দেশের অন্যান্য অঞ্চলের শিল্প উদ্যোক্তাদের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সম্প্রতি সরকার ভোলায় শিল্প, বাণিজ্যিক এবং অন্যান্য শ্রেণীর গ্রাহককে গ্যাস সংযোগের অনুমতি প্রদান করেছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, বর্তমানে ভোলায় অফুরন্ত গ্যাসের মজুদ আছে।

ভোলায় সকল শ্রেণীর গ্রাহকের জন্য গ্যাস সংযোগ উন্মুক্ত হওয়ায় এবং সেখানে পর্যাপ্ত গ্যাসের মজুদ থাকায় গ্যাস-ভিত্তিক শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপনে আত্রাই দেশীয় শিল্প উদ্যোক্তাদের শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপনের মাধ্যমে গ্যাসের সংযোগ গ্রহণের আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। ভোলার গ্যাস সম্পদ ব্যবহার করে দেশের আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে এগিয়ে আসার জন্য শিল্প উদ্যোক্তাদেরকে উদাত্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

জিডি-২৫৫০ - কর্তৃপক্ষ