



Bangabandhu Avenue in the city was virtually off limits to traffic yesterday, as hawkers set up makeshift shops there to do a brisk trade during the Eid season. Right, a photo taken a month ago shows a bulldozer demolishing a temporary shop at the same spot during an eviction drive by Dhaka South City Corporation. In the absence of follow-up measures, such drives seem to bring little result as hawkers return within days.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



ENCLAVE EXCHANGE Verification process starts on July 6

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India will start on July 6 the process of verification of people living in 162 enclaves to be handed over to each other as per the landmark Land Boundary Agreement.

During the exercise, officials of the two countries will ask people living in the enclaves whether they would like to take Indian or Bangladeshi citizenship or want to retain their citizenship as per a joint headcount conducted in 2011.

The exercise will start on July 6 simultaneously in all enclaves which will be given to Bangladesh as per LBA," a senior Indian home ministry official said yesterday.

The verification process in Indian

enclaves will be completed before July 31, termed "Appointed Day" for the exchange of enclaves.

As per LBA, Bangladesh will get 111 Indian enclaves comprising of around 17,160 acres while India will get 51 Bangladeshi enclaves comprising of 7,110 acres.

Bangladesh and India will implement the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) of 1974 and Protocol of 2011, in a phased manner over the next 11 months.

Between July 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016, the entire process, including physical exchange of enclaves and land parcels in adverse possession along with boundary demarcation, is expected to be completed.

DU teacher fired over sexual abuse

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday sacked Prof Saiful Islam, chairman of theatre and performance studies department, for sexually harassing a female student.

The decision came from a DU syndicate meeting, with Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

"After reviewing reports on the allegations of sexual harassment against the teacher, the university syndicate found him guilty of committing the crime and decided to fire him," the VC told The Daily Star.

Syndicate members said Prof Saiful was sacked for moral turpitude and this is the maximum punishment by the university to a teacher.

The DU suspended Prof Saiful on September 15 last year after some students of the department had sent a letter and some audio clips to the vice chancellor and the proctor, complaining that the teacher tried to sexually assault their female friend at his home on September 13.

In the letter, the aggrieved students

said the department chair's office contacted her on September 8 regarding the answer script of her mid-term exam and told her to see the chairman.

The victim said the professor called her on September 10 and offered her help on condition that she would not disclose the matter to others.

The student informed a female teacher about the incident. Prof Saiful called her again on September 13 at 5:30pm and asked her to meet him at a house on the campus.

The victim said when she went there around 5:40pm, the teacher harassed her. She recorded her conversation with the teacher on her mobile phone.

ANOTHER ALLEGATION OF ABUSE

The DU authorities formed a five-member investigation committee to probe another allegation of sexual harassment against a teacher of applied mathematics department.

The move came after a female student of the geography department filed a complaint with the sexual harassment prevention committee against the teacher.

Cops create bribe fund!

FROM PAGE 1

Iftekharuzzaman welcomed the police move in identifying and suspending the "corrupt" police personnel.

"But suspension is not enough. It's a temporary measure. They should be given exemplary punishment as per the law," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said the police administration has always been perceived as a corrupt institution.

According to the Global Corruption Barometer 2012, a survey carried out by Transparency International, political parties and police are the most corrupt institutions in Bangladesh.

On the Barisal bribe fund, Iftekharuzzaman said this kind of corruption occurs at different levels. Proper investigation should be conducted to find if any other cops are also involved, he added.

According to BMP sources, collection of money for the joint bribe fund began in January.

Some 600 personnel sat for departmental tests successfully in October last year; 230 of them passed and were awaiting promotion.

The 10 cops, who have been suspended, were also on the merit list. They made others believe that only the exam success won't work, and started setting up the fund with each of the 230 personnel contributing Tk 30,000 to Tk 50,000, sources added.

According to BMP Commissioner Shaibal, around Tk 77 lakh was collected under the fund.

Of the money, Tk 17 lakh was

deposited with a joint account of ASI Anisuzzaman, nayek Kabir Hossain and driver Bablu at a Dutch-Bangla Bank branch in Barisal.

The rest of the money was given to Zillur Rahman, he said.

Hearing the allegation, the BMP formed a three-member probe committee on June 13. "We formed the committee as we came to know about the bribe fund. And we found the allegation true," said Shaibal.

The probe committee would submit its report soon, he added.

Meanwhile, the police headquarters formed another probe committee on June 17. The committee summoned Zillur Rahman, Bablu Jamaddar, Kabir and Monir to Dhaka.

Based on the investigation of security cell of the police headquarters, this committee recommended suspending the 10 cops.

"Before the probe committees and me, the accused admitted to their involvement in creating the fund to give to the ministries concerned for promotion," the BMP commissioner told this newspaper yesterday.

DC Zillur also acknowledged his role, added the official.

This correspondent tried to talk to Zillur but his mobile phone was found switched off. He is said to have gone on a leave three days ago.

Contacted, Shoyeb Ahmed, deputy police commissioner (headquarters) and head of the BMP-formed probe committee, said, "We have finished our investigation. We will talk about it just before submitting the report."

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Rony on 2-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A counsel for Bakhtiar Alam Rony, son of ruling Awami League lawmaker Pinu Khan, yesterday again told a Dhaka court that his client was drunk when he shot dead two people in the capital's New Eskaton on April 14.

His client had no intention to kill any people, claimed advocate Kazi Nazibullah Hiru, adding that Rony committed the crime in a drunken state. So, he should not be placed on remand.

Moreover, his client is sick, and he should be given proper treatment in jail custody.

The lawyer made the comments while moving a petition seeking bail for Rony and cancelling the seven-day fresh remand prayer against him by detectives.

But the prosecution opposed it, saying Rony had killed the people intentionally, and he should be placed on remand for gleaning more information about the killings.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Aminul Haque rejected the defence plea and granted a two-day fresh remand for Rony.

The court also asked the investigation officer of the case to be more cautious to follow High Court directives during interrogating Rony on remand.

Rony was earlier remanded for eight days in two phases in the same case.

In the remand prayer, Dipak Kumar Das, a sub-inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police and also the investigating officer of the case, said he had earlier quizzed Rony intensively for eight days and got vital clues about the killings.

But Rony, the prime accused in the double murder, was trying to hide a lot of information vital to the probe. So, he needed to be remanded again to find more information about the killings, Dipak said.

Revision trial in Felani murder case resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Revision trial in the Felani murder case resumed at a special court of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in West Bengal's Cooch Bihar district yesterday, three months after an adjournment in the trial.

On March 27, the court was adjourned for three months as the assistant public prosecutor of the BSF became sick, said Abraham Lincoln, lawyer for the Bangladesh side.

Felani's father Nur Islam is doubtful about getting a fair verdict after the trial proceedings were adjourned several times.

"The Indian government has admitted through the revision trial that the first verdict was not right. Now, a hope for getting justice has been created for Felani's family and Bangladeshis. Previous all records of the first trial are in favour of getting justice as BSF member Amiya Ghosh admitted himself as the killer," said Lincoln.

Fifteen-year-old Felani Khatun was shot dead by the BSF while she, along with her father, was returning home from India through Anantapur border through Phulbari upazila of Kurigram on January 7, 2011.

In this connection, the trial began in the BSF special court on August 13, 2013.

Later, the court acquitted the lone accused, Amiya Ghosh, of the murder charge.

Felani's father appealed to Indian High Commission to Bangladesh for revision trial in the case.

On his appeal, the revision trial began on September 22 last year.

Scamster got scot-free 'due to backing'

FROM PAGE 1

Muhith, however, said nobody had the courage to punish a certain bank like the way Sonali Bank was punished.

Regarding the Basic Bank issue, the minister said a new board of directors had already been formed and the board was preparing an investigation report on the bank's loan crisis.

The government would take actions on the basis of the report, he said. "A few steps have already been taken so that the accused persons cannot flee the country."

Yesterday, some lawmakers demanded that the list of defaulters be published. In response, Muhith said such a list had already been presented before parliament in 2010. "If you ask for it again, it will definitely be placed again."

The Bangladesh Bank in May 2012

unearthed a loan scam of over Tk 3,600 crore in Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch. Of the sum, little known Hall-Mark Group alone took Tk 2,686 crore, using forged documents in connivance with some bank officials.

Later, the central bank handed the matter over to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for investigation. In October 2012, the anti-graft body filed 11 cases against 27 top officials of Sonali Bank and Hall-Mark Group on charges of misappropriation of money.

The accused people in the chargesheet include Sonali Bank's former managing director Humayun Kabir, deputy managing directors Mainul Haque and Atiqur Rahman, general managers Nani Gopal Nath and Mir Mahidur Rahman.

Of them, DMD Atiqur died in jail. Mainul and Mir Mahidur are now in jail

while Humayun and Nani Gopal are on the run.

BASIC Bank's woes started in 2009 when the government appointed Sheikh Abdul Hy Bacchu as its chairman.

Spearheaded by Bacchu, the bank indulged in all sorts of irregularities in giving out loans. The anomalies surfaced in 2012 after the central bank launched an investigation into the matter. Subsequently, the chief executive officer of the bank was removed and the board dissolved. More than Tk 4,000 crore had been swindled from this state-owned specialised bank.

Bacchu resigned from his post in July last year following allegations of financial irregularities.

Although the central bank's investigation report was sent to the ACC, the anti-graft body did not take any visible action against the accused.

Youth highly moral

FROM PAGE 1

"The fact that corruption is a crime, moral turpitude is crime has not been established. As a result, corruption is becoming an acceptable matter," he said, recommending an end to the culture of impunity to set examples for youths.

Almost half the youths surveyed said they would agree to pay a portion of their future salary to the employer in exchange for a job.

On average, around 21 percent of them experienced corruption in different services - 29 percent (of the 21pc) in getting licence, permit or clearance, 29 percent to get rid of police harassment, 25 percent to get healthcare from government health facilities, 20 percent to get a job, 18 percent to get

admitted to educational institutions and 17 percent to get more business for their organisations.

Though 71 percent of the youths said they would complain about corruption, 62 percent of those who would not complain explained their inaction by saying complaints would not bear any result.

Their trust in public services is low compared to that in private services. Eighty-six percent of them have negative impressions about the level of integrity in politics, 66 percent about law enforcement agencies, 65 percent about land administration and 57 percent about legal service.

Family, educational institutions, friends, TV, Radio and newspaper are among the top factors which help

create the concept of integrity, the participants told the researchers.

Of the total respondents, 51 percent are students, 16 percent housewives and 12 percent businesspersons. Of them, 58 percent come from rural area and 42 percent from urban area.

Sultana Kamal, chair of TIB's Trustee Board, stressed the need to utilise the possibilities in youths in creating an honest and corruption-free society.

She criticised the poor budgetary allocation for education, saying, "If we want to give the right education, we need to invest."

She noted the education system must be improved because the current system was not helping the youth to learn ways to lead an honest life.

Maya, Qamrul should quit

FROM PAGE 1

In February 2008, a special court sentenced Maya to 13 years' jail for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 6.29 crore and concealing assets worth Tk 5.9 crore. The court also fined the AL leader Tk 5 crore. In October 2010, the HC cleared him of the charges.

But on June 14 this year, the Supreme Court scrapped the HC judgment and directed it to hold further hearing and dispose of Maya's appeal challenging the lower court verdict.

On the allegation, Iftekharuzzaman

said in such cases resignation of political leaders increases their acceptability among people and helps keep the trial free of influence.

He also urged the government to conduct an unbiased investigation into the import and distribution of "sub-standard" wheat from Brazil by the food ministry headed by Qamrul.

Meanwhile, the BNP also demanded Qamrul's resignation yesterday, accusing him of importing "rotten" wheat from Brazil.

MAYA SERVED NOTICE

Maya was served a legal notice yester-

day over his legitimacy as a lawmaker and a minister.

The notice asked him to explain within 24 hours under what authority he was holding his office after the apex court annulled his acquittal in a graft case.

Eunus Ali Akond, a SC lawyer, served the notice on Maya in "public interest", claiming that the AL leader had no right to hold the posts of a MP and a minister following the court verdict.

The lawyer told The Daily Star that he would file a writ petition with the HC, seeking necessary directives over the matter if Maya failed to respond to

Crocodiles will indeed shed tears

FROM PAGE 1

Dinajpur and asked Opposition leader Raushan Ershad, a critic of the Rampal plant, "Let