

Enclave swap gives rise to new land disputes

Kurigram's Dashiarchhara sees clash on second day; 11 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A day after Dashiarchhara of Kurigram's Phulbari upazila became a part of Bangladesh in a historic enclave swap, two groups of claimants of a piece of land clashed there yesterday injuring at least 11 people.

The injured were taken to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex.

Police and local sources said Emdadul Haque, the son of the present land owner Shirajul Islam, raised objection when Rasel Mia, the son of Abdul Hai, tried to fence the land around 2:00pm, claiming they were the real owner.

At one point, Emdadul attacked Rasel and soon it turned into a violent clash between the relatives of the two men. They clashed with sticks for about half an hour till police intervened, said the sources.

The injured were Abdul Hai, 50, Rasel Mia, 17, Obayedul Haque, 52, and Khairul Islam, 22, of one group, and Shiraj Mia, 70, Emdadul Haque, 38, Harun-ar-Rashid, 35, Abul Kalam Azad, 32, Abu Siddik, 28, Aleya Begam, 28, and Sahera Banu, 20, of the other.

Shiraj Mia said, "I have been the owner of the 15 decimals

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Flood waters yesterday in Nizampur of Mohipur union in Patuakhali, where the inundation has affected 28 villages of two unions in Kalapara.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

GATCO GRAFT CASE

HC verdict on Khaleda's challenge

Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver verdict on August 5 on B N P Chairperson



Khaleda Zia's two petitions challenging the legality of the trial proceedings of Gatco corruption case against her.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the Gatco graft case under emergency power rules (EPR) against Khaleda and 12 others including Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami on September 2, 2007 on charges of corruption in awarding Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) a contract for container management at inland container depots in

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Poor sanitation facilities plague DU Arts Building

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

Every day long queues are seen in front of the seven toilets for 6,000 female students at Dhaka University's Arts Building, revealing an appalling condition of its sanitation facilities.

Not only does the building lack enough women's toilets but the existing seven are located on two floors -- five on the ground and two on the third floor of the six-storey building -- making their access to sanitation even more difficult.

The case however is different for 8,500 male students as there are 17 lavatory blocks with 34 toilets for them and each of the blocks has three urinals additionally.

Though women make up 41 percent of the total students of the Arts Building, 857 female students have to

857 female students share one toilet while it is one for 250 male students

share one toilet when it is one for 250 male students.

Maliha Sultana Ohi, a second-year student of mass communication and journalism, said because of the queue, many often ignored the need to go to the toilet.

Besides the toilets are not cleaned properly, and there is a scarcity of soaps most of the time, added Momtaz Monowara, a fourth-year student of international relations.

When taps or other sanitary equipment get damaged, the authorities do not even bother to repair them timely, she said.

After all this, the women's toilets can at least be used regularly but 12 of the 34 toilets for male students remain unusable because of the broken pans and commodes.

Visiting the 65,000 sq ft Arts Building which houses 28 departments, this correspondent found that all the lavatory blocks are located beside classrooms and most toilet doors are broken.

Sohel Rana, a master's student of information science and library management, said most of the time it became impossible for them to concentrate in class because of malodour coming from the toilets.

Of the blocks, five are on the ground floor, four on the first floor, three on the second floor, two each on the third and fourth floor, and one on the fifth floor.

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President leaves for Vietnam on Aug 9

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Md Abdul Hamid is expected to pay a four-day state visit to Vietnam



from August 9 at President Truong Tan Sang's invitation and discuss issues including exchange of visits, connectivity, trade, investment, tourism and culture.

The prime minister, deputy prime minister, secretary general of Communist Party, chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City and a business delegation are also expected to meet Hamid, says a foreign ministry press release.

TK 704CR REALISED DURING EMERGENCY RULE SC stays HC refund order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its chamber judge's orders that stayed High Court judgments directing the government to return to 11 business houses around Tk 704 crore realised during the emergency rule.

Hearing Bangladesh Bank's 11 leave-to-appeal petitions, the Appellate Division permitted the central bank to move separate regular appeals before it challenging the HC verdicts.

It asked Bangladesh Bank to submit in six weeks separate concise statements containing the argument points.

The four-member bench also asked Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to submit a report on the business houses' tax returns focusing the relevant years.

M Amir-UL Islam told journalists that his client, Bangladesh Bank, would move 11 appeals. Following 11 separate writ petitions, the HC had passed the judgements between 2010 and this year, declaring that the money, collected during the military-backed caretaker regime, has been taken illegally.

The chamber judge, following Bangladesh Bank's separate stay petitions,

had also asked Bangladesh Bank to file the leave-to-appeal petitions.

The business houses comprise S Alam Group's S Alam Steels Ltd, S Alam Cold Rolled Steel Ltd, S Alam Brand Ltd, S Alam Vegetable Oil Ltd, Galco Steels Ltd, Chemon Ispat Ltd and S Alam Super Edible Oil Ltd (Tk 60 crore); the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company (Bangladesh) Ltd and Boraora (Sylhet) Tea Company Ltd (Tk 237 crore); Meghna Cement Ltd (Tk 52 crore); Bashundhara Paper Mills Ltd and East West Property Ltd (Tk 15 crore); Unique Eastern Property Ltd (Tk 90 crore); Unique Ceramics Industries (Pvt) Ltd (Tk 70 lakh); Unique Hotel and Resort Ltd (Tk 17.55 crore); Unique Vocational Training Centre (Tk 65 lakh); Borak Real Estate (Pvt) Ltd (Tk 7.10 crore); Eastern Housing Ltd (Tk 35 crore); and East West Property Development (Pvt) Ltd (Tk 189 crore).

Over Tk 1,200 crore was reportedly realised from different business companies and individuals and was deposited to the national exchequer following anti-corruption drives during the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

People make their way across a derelict patch of eroded asphalt, not on any remote corner of the capital but right at the edge of Bangladesh Secretariat, the UBL intersection. The photo was taken yesterday.



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