



Chunks of land fall into the Dharla at Badaitari village in Mogholhat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila as erosion by the river continues. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

SIX VILLAGES IN LALMONIRHAT

Erosion by Dharla wreaks havoc

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Continued erosion by the Dharla river has become a matter of concern for the people of six villages of Mogholhat and Kulaghat unions in Sadar upazila.

The river devoured large areas of croplands, homesteads and orchards in Badaitari, Senpara, Kurul and Karnapur villages of Mogholhat union and Shiberkuti and Dakkhin Shiberkuti villages of Kulaghat union in the last six months.

"Two bighas of our arable land with standing crop have been washed away in the last two weeks.

Our homestead on six decimals of land is under threat of being devoured at anytime. Due to the erosion, we have shifted our homestead eight times in the last five years," said Sabiha Begum, 45, of Badaitari village.

"I hoped our last four bighas of arable land would be saved from the Dharla river as Water Development Board (WDB) authorities told us the embankment protection work would be started soon, but the land was devoured by the Dharla around one month ago," said Nasir Uddin, 63, of Senpara village.

"Now I have only eight decimals of homestead land, which is also under risk of being devoured at any time," he said.

Proshanto Chandra Sen, 34, of the village, said their arable lands have already gone into

the Dharla, and if their homesteads are devoured they will become street people.

He demanded immediate construction of the protection embankment.

Mogholhat Union Parishad (UP) Member Nazrul Islam told this correspondent that WDB authorities told them in October last year that the embankment protection work to check erosion will be started soon, but it has not started yet.

Mogholhat UP Chairman Habibur Rahman said if the WDB does not take steps to check the erosion now, it will be more serious in the coming rainy season.

"Many residents in his union have already been rendered homeless as their homesteads and arable lands were devoured by Dharla river," he said, adding that he is in regular contact with the WDB authorities in this regard.

District WDB Executive Engineer Abdullah Al-Mamun said Tk 9.75 crore was allocated for 5,840 metres embankment protection work in the district under Trans-boundary River Embankment Protection and Development-2 project in July 2017, but the work has been delayed as the project is being implemented through Direct Procurement Method system, not Open Tender Procurement.

"WDB officials visited the erosion affected vulnerable spots, but there is no scope for checking erosion temporarily due to lack of funds," he added.

Ensure

FROM PAGE 1
home minister and attended the meeting and discussed the matter sincerely.

"Now, we are just waiting for the authorities. We hope Khaleda Zia will be taken to United Hospital for better treatment," Khan told the reporters.

BNP Vice-Chairman Hafizuddin Ahmed accompanied Khan in the meeting.

Insiders say the BNP standing committee members on Saturday night decided to send a delegation to the home minister as party leaders and Khaleda's relatives failed to meet her on Thursday and Friday respectively due to her illness.

HOME BOSS' RESPONSE

Khan said the government would decide on Khaleda's treatment outside the jail after consultation with expert doctors. "But the decision will be made as per the jail code. If anything is needed to be done beyond the jail code, we will take steps after consultation with doctors," he told journalists at his office.

BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan and Maj Hafiz Uddin came to me about treatment of their chairperson at United Hospital. I told them that we are doing everything for her treatment and will do what will be needed in future," he said.

Khaleda has a surgically installed metal piece in her body and a special kind of MRI machine is needed for conducting a test and this machine is available at United Hospital. That is why the BNP leaders requested the government to take Khaleda to that hospital, said the minister.

SEVEN-DAY PROGRAMMES

The BNP and its associate bodies yesterday announced weeklong programmes, including demonstration and formation of human chains, demanding release of Khaleda.

Party's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the programmes at a press briefing at party's Nayapalton headquarters.

As part of the programmes, the party's Dhaka North City unit staged demonstration in front of Hossain Market in the capital's Badda area. Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was present at the programme.

Rizvi said Dhaka South City unit would also hold a similar programme in the capital today.

Kid, teenager raped in Jashore, B'baria

STAR COUNTRY DESK

An eight-year-old child was raped in Ghop area of Jashore town on Saturday night, while a teenage girl was raped in Brahmanbaria on April 11.

Our Benapole Correspondent reports: A girl student of Class I went to attend a function at Jashore Central Jail School ground with three friends, said the victim's father.

When the girl was returning home at night, Murad, 22 son of Alauddin of Ghop Road in the town, took her behind his house and raped her, he added.

Hearing the girl's screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her, but Murad escaped. She was admitted to Jashore General Hospital.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: A teenage girl was raped by a neighbour at Borishol village under Sadar upazila on April 11.

Police recorded the case on April 19,

eight days after the incident.

During this time, a few local Awami League leaders tried to save the rapist from police custody after police detained him, alleged the victim's mother, a poor woman.

According to the case statement, the victim was going to her maternal aunt's home on April 11 when Ali Akbar Bhuiyan, 55, of the same village, forcibly took her to the nearby shed of shallow tube-well and raped her. Passersby heard the girl's screams and rescued her. They took the girl to her mother, who took her to a private clinic.

Police detained Bhuiyan on April 18 after the mother lodged a verbal complaint against him on April 17. He was sent to jail through a court on April 20.

The girl was sent to Sadar Hospital for medical test the same day.

Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Ziaul Hoque said they are waiting for medical report.

26 drug peddlers back to normal life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Leaving drug peddling, 26 people, including two women, from seven upazilas in the district have returned to normal life and are now earning their livelihood in an honest way.

They expressed their feelings at a views exchange meeting at Pirojpur Police Lines yesterday.

"Before we gave up drug peddling, people would look at us with disrespect. Even our family members had to bear insults from the locals," said Jakir Hossain of Nesarabad upazila, who left drug business recently.

"Now I earn honestly through grocery trade," said Shahin Jomadder, a former drug peddler of Bhandaria upazila.

While speaking as the chief guest, Superintendent of Police Mohammad Salam Kabir said drug abuse is a threat to the young generation.

"All of us should come forward to abolish drugs to save our young generation," he said, adding that they would give legal assistance to those who give up drug peddling.

Additional Superintendent of Police GM Abul Kalam Azad, ASPs from different circles and officers-in-charge of seven police stations, among others, were present at the programme.

Housewife killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the body of a housewife hanging from a tree at Rajapur village in Jashore Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased, Ferdousi Begum, 24, was wife of Mazharul Islam of the village.

Deceased's brother Asaduzzaman said Ferdousi was killed by her husband as Mazharul often used to torture her for dowry since their marriage.

Asaduzzaman said he went to his sister's house and found her hanging from a tree.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy.

2 'identified' over inciting violence

FROM PAGE 1

The team contacted the Facebook authorities requesting details of these IDs, including their phone number and email address, according to officials.

In another development, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) sent a letter to Facebook requesting closure of all fake IDs under the name of Iffat Jahan Isha.

Isha is the president of DU Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall unit BCL.

The BCL on April 13 reinstated her as president of the unit just 48 hours after expelling her from the position on the allegation that she assaulted three female students for taking part in quota reform demo.

The pro-Awami League student body said it found Isha "innocent" in its investigation.

Earlier, some photos of a wounded leg of another BCL activist of the residential hall were circulated in Facebook with captions that Isha had cut tendons of her leg.

A high official of BTRC yesterday said they have sent a letter to the Facebook authorities last Tuesday requesting closure of all the 17 fake accounts following a home ministry order.

ATTACK AT DU

According to investigators, a status was posted from a Facebook account around 11:54pm on April 8, saying "a DU student named Abu Bakkar has been killed in police firing".

Within one and a half hours of the posting, a group of professionals launched an attack on DU VC's residence, they added.

Officials suspect that the Facebook users who spread such rumours were linked with those who attacked the VC residence.

"For this reason, we are collecting details of these social media users to keep them under surveillance," an official told this newspaper.

Najmul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of the Cyber Security & Crime Division, said they have scrutinised some 200 social media IDs that were involved in spreading rumours during the demonstration on DU campus.

"Finally, we detected 15 IDs who wrote posts to incite attacks."

On April 11, a total of five cases were filed by the DU authorities and police against a huge number of unidentified people.

Three of the cases were over vandalism, arson and obstructing law enforcers to perform their duties during the quota demonstrations, one was in

connection with the attack on DU VC's residence and another for spreading rumour in social media.

The cyber crime division is investigating the social media case, filed with Ramna Police Station. The Detective Branch (DB) of Police is overseeing four other cases, filed with Shabbagh Police Station.

Devdas Bhattacharya, additional commissioner (DB) of DMP, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have already collected footage from different media outlets and from CCTV cameras installed on the university campus to identify those who attacked the DU VC's residence.

"It has become difficult for us to identify the attackers as they have destroyed all the CCTV cameras installed at the crime scene and the footage we have found was either captured before the attack or after it," he said.

Earlier on April 12, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said those who attacked the DU VC's residence during the Quota reform demonstration are professionals.

A detective, requesting anonymity, said they have to go slow for investigation of the cases as they were asked to inform the high officials before taking any steps.

A 'mother' for orphans

Natore DC fondly nurtures 84 orphan girls

BULBUL AHMED, Natore

Usually, being the deputy commissioner of a district, one lives a reserved and routine life.

But for Natore Deputy Commissioner Shaheena Khatun the story is different.

One will surely be surprised, when he/she knows that 84 orphan girls of Dighapatia Balika Shishu Sadan, a non-governmental voluntary organisation, call her 'Ammu.' And it's not just a word for them, she really is.

Shaheena also treats all the girls like her own daughters Tahia Anan Dhira and Kashfia Aziz Prachi.

The orphanage home, which is run with the financial assistant of the civil society people and the DC's fund, was established in 1985 and obtained registration under Social Welfare Department in 1995.

Secretary of Dighapatia Balika Shishu Sadan Mostaq Ali Mukul said Shaheena visits the orphan girls, aged between one and 18, every week and inspire them in many ways.

She advises the girls to get educated and not to use abusive language, Mukul said.

"I have seen almost 20 DC's in the last 30 years, but Shaheena Khatun is exceptional," Administrative Officer Jalal Uddin said, adding that she lives a simple life and does not behave like a bureaucrat.

After joining the district administration in September 2016 DC Shaheena has changed the entire scenario of the orphanage home, including its boundary walls, beds, dining room and training centre.

One of the orphans Rashida Khatun said on the occasion of Pabela Baishakh she gave us same outfits as

her two daughters.

Sathi Khatun said 10 fellow girls will appear in next year's SSC examinations.

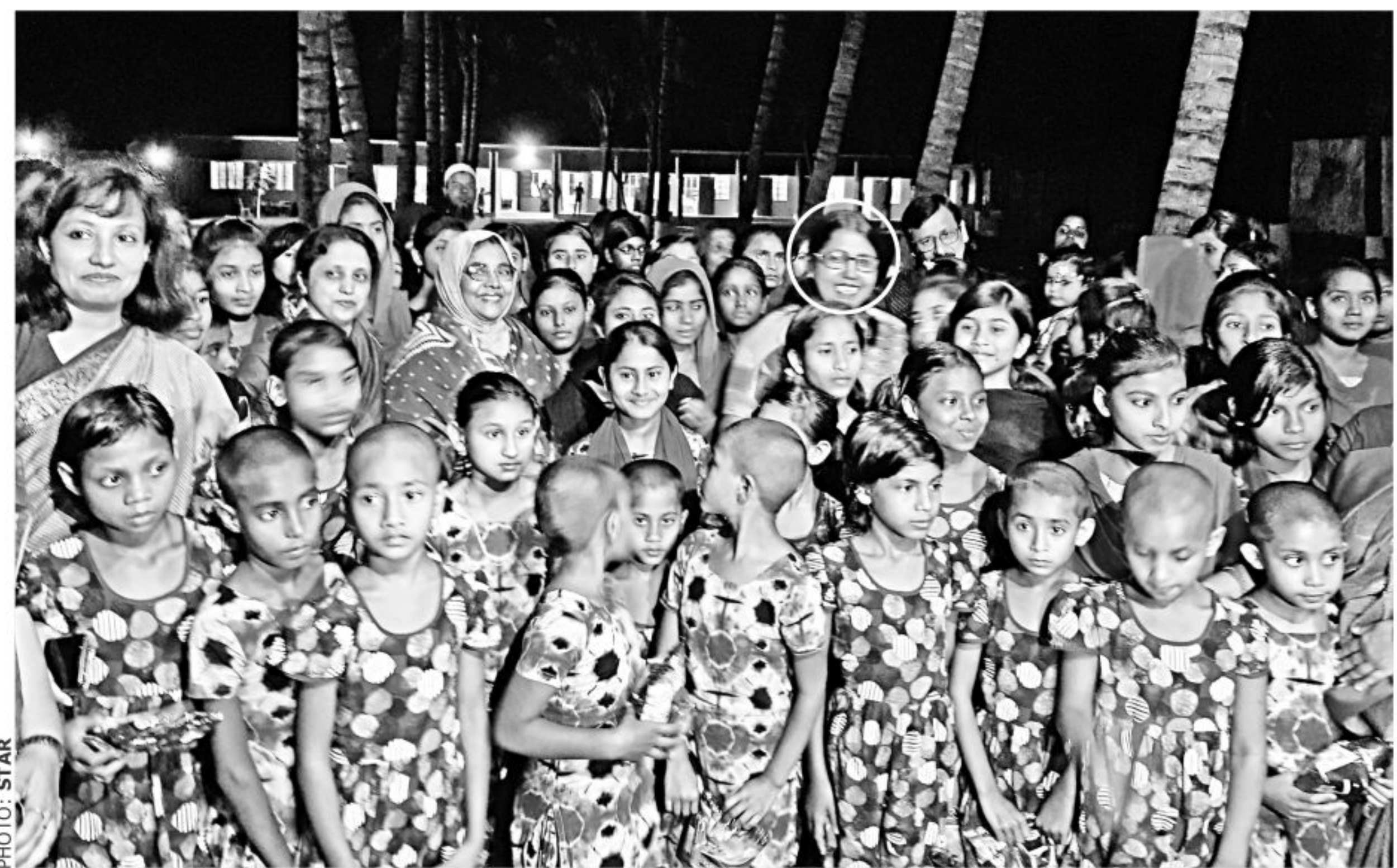
Abdus Salam, president of Lathi Bashi, an anti-extortion committee in Natore, said, "We feel proud that we have such a woman as our deputy commissioner."

DC Shaheena said "I always told my two daughters that I have another 85 daughters that include my house help Chadni Khatun as well."

She said one cannot do a lot in his or her life but she feels good when she gets chance to do something for the orphans.


"Recently one of the girls Surma Khatun got job in family planning department while Rashida Khatun obtained job in police on their own merit, which pleased me a lot," she said.

She said as it is very difficult to feed 84 children regularly on voluntary basis she is trying to enlist the orphanage home in the government list.



Natore DC Shaheena Khatun (marked), accompanied by local elites, among the orphan girls on the premises of Dighapatia Shishu Sadan in Natore Sadar upazila after inauguration of the new building of the orphanage on March 8.

PHOTO: STAR



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ট্রান্সক্রিপশন সার্ভিস, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, ঢাকা

নং-১৫.৫৩.০০০০.১১৬.৩৯.০৬৩.১৩-৫৯০ তারিখঃ ২২-০৪-১৮

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ট্রান্সক্রিপশন সার্ভিস, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, ঢাকার নিম্নবর্ণিত পুরাতন (অকেজো ঘোষিত) গাড়িটি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) আগামী ২৫/০৪/২০১৮ইং তারিখ রোজ বুধবার সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকার সময় বাংলাদেশ বেতার, ঢাকা চত্বরে বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকাশ্য নিলাম অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রত্যেকে জামানত বাবদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা) নগদ জমা রাখতে হবে যা ফেরতযোগ্য। সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী কর্তৃক নিলামের সমুদয় টাকা সাথে সাথে পরিশোধ করতে হবে এবং নিজ খরচে গাড়িটি নিয়ে যেতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী কর্তৃক নিলামের মোট দরের ৫% হারে আয়কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিলাম গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। গাড়ির বিবরণ নিম্নে দেয়া হলঃ

রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর	ঃ	মেট্রো-ভ-৬৯৬১
মডেল	ঃ	প্রোটন সাগা মালয়েশিয়া, ১৯৮৭ইং
গাড়ির ধরণ	ঃ	কার স্টিল বডি
প্রস্তুত কারকের নাম	ঃ	প্রোটন সাগা মালয়েশিয়া
চেসিস নং	ঃ	C21ASN- A030984
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সিলিন্ডার সংখ্যা	ঃ	০৪ (চার)
দরজা	ঃ	০৪ (চার)

মোহাম্মদ জলিলুল হক
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পরিচালকের পক্ষে
ফোনঃ ৪৪৮১৩১৫১ (দপ্তর)

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