



The work of Mollarhat Bridge on Betka-Tegharia road on two sides of the Dhaleswari canal flowing between Char Chashimuddin in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj and Dakkhin Keraniganj of Dhaka is going on in full swing, following recent resumption of the work after a suspension for eight months. The bridge, when completed, will ease communication for a large number of people of Tongibari, Sirajdikhan and Louhajang of Munshiganj and Fatullah of Narayanganj and Keraniganj of Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

Two govt employees among eight fraudsters jailed

They tried to occupy land with fake document

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A court here yesterday sentenced eight people, including two government employees, to different jail terms in a fraud case.

The convicts are Giashuddin Mollah, assistant teacher of Sreeramnagar Non-government Primary School, Abu Bakkar Siddique, peon of Nagarkanda sub-registrar office, and its extra moharar Mohammad Ali and Esametara Begum, Sujit Kumar Biswas, Delwar Hossain, Usha Biswas and Anju Akter.

Of them, Giashuddin and

Esametara were tried in absentia, said Mujibur Rahman, public prosecutor (PP) of Faridpur Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge Mohammad Motiar Rahman of Faridpur Special Judge's Court sentenced Giashuddin to life term imprisonment and seven years under two sections,

Abu Bakkar to 15 years and six others to 10 years each, said PP Mujibur.

The court also fined Giashuddin Tk 55,000, in default, to suffer six months and 15 days more in jail, Abu Bakkar Tk 25,000, in default, to

suffer two months and 15 days more in prison and six others Tk 20,000 each, in default, to suffer another three months in jail, said Mujibur.

According to the case statement, Sheikh Abdul Motalab and his two brothers Murad Hossain and Farhad Hossain of Poradia village in Nagarkanda upazila bought 39 decimals of land from seven people of the area on March 5 in 2012.

But claiming ownership of the land, Giashuddin on March 11 filed a case with Nagarkanda Police Station, accusing Motalab and his two siblings and the

seven land sellers.

After investigation, it was found that Giashuddin made a fake document of the land with the help of the peon and the extra moharar of the sub-registrar office.

Later, Motalab filed a case with the police station, accusing 10 people on May 2 in 2013.

Of the accused, two died while the then Faridpur ACC deputy assistant director ASM Sajjad was investigating the case.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the judge found the eight guilty and pronounced the verdict.



The Lakhutia Zamindar Bari at Lakhutia village in Barishal's Babuganj upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

LAKHUTIA ZAMINDAR BARI

Heritage site to get back glory as govt takes initiative

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The Department of Archaeology in Barishal is preparing to take over the Lakhutia Zamindar Bari and temple, one of the oldest archaeological sites in Barishal division.

The office has already sent a field investigation report to its head office in Dhaka requesting them to take necessary steps to acquire the ancient site.

The department took the initiative after a Bangladeshi origin Australian citizen, Dr Alpana Roy, one of successors of the Zamindar family, sent a letter to Bangladesh High Commission in Australia last October to protect the heritage site, confirmed Barishal Divisional Museum sources.

Alpana Roy, a solicitor of the High Court in Australia and daughter of Pankaj Roy, expressed her concern for the present situation of the Zamindar Bari and she also demanded protec-

tion of the heritage site.

The Zamindar Bari, situated on 49.50 acres of land in Lakhutia village under Babuganj upazila, was built by Rup Chandra Roy in the 17th century.

Currently it is being used by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) as Multiple Seeds Production firm.

On a recent visit, it was seen that most of the buildings and temple already are ruined, still, a one storied main building, five temples in Zamindar Bari, are still standing on the site, which needs renovation. Thickness of the bricks is 45 cm to 75 cm.

"Recently, we heard that the Zamindar Bari would be demolished for some development works. This news hurts every Roy family members living in Bangladesh and abroad. The entire Roy family is strongly opposed to the move to demolish of the remaining building and temples" Dr Alpana

mentioned it in her letter.

Md Shaheen Alam, assistant custodian of Sher-E-Bangla Memorable Museum in the Department of Archaeology of Barishal, said "We already sent a proposal to our department to acquire five acres of land with old building and temple. If we get the permission, this site would be the biggest heritage site in Barishal division."

Kajol Ghosh, president of Barishal Sangiskritik Sangathan Samonoy Parishad, demanded preservation of this heritage site.

Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, senior assistant director of BADCO Lakutia Seeds Multi Production Firm, said "We have no budget to protect the building and temple, but if Archeological Department takes initiative to protect this site, we will welcome them."

Every year a number of travelers come here to visit the site, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

With rare mental disorder, Noor-e-Jannat has been leading her life in a bamboo cage for years at Sadipur (Salimpara) village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Life in cage for years

Day labourer father seeks help for the six-year-old girl's treatment

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

With her rare mental disorder, a six-year and two-month-old girl has been leading her life in a bamboo cage for years at Sadipur (Salimpara) village in Sadar upazila.

Noor-e-Jannat is a daughter of Siddiq Ali of the area.

She needs immediate treatment to treat her disease, but, it is tough for her day labourer father to bear the expensive treatment.

They last took Jannath to doctors in 2015, said the father.

"We could not treat her properly due to our poverty", said mother Fensi Ara.

Fensi said she noticed abnormal behaviour of her daughter a year after her birth.

Jannath hurts herself with whatever she gets in front of her, said the tearful mother.

Later, they took her to doctors at different hospitals in Dinajpur including M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, but there was no improvement. She needs better treatment in Dhaka but they are yet to arrange the required money for this,

said her parents.

During a visit to the girl's home on Friday, this correspondent found the girl tied up with a strong rope inside the cage so she cannot come out from it.

Her daughter's entire body is filled with bruises. The bruises were made by her, said the mother.

On a request, the parents freed the girl from the cage for a while. The girl wanted to play with other children of neighbours, but the children are scared of due to her abnormal behaviour. At that time, the girl attempted several times to injure herself.

She does not hurt others, said the mother.

"As a mother, it's an unbearable pain to me to see my only daughter in such way. I want to treat my daughter at better hospital if the solvent persons in the country come forward", said Fensi.

Every night Jannath needs to have a sleeping pill for a sound sleep, said the mother.

Neighbour Nazmoon Nahar believes that the girl can return to normal life if she is treated at better hospital in Dhaka. She urged the rich people to help the family.

Partners in polls now in opposition

FROM PAGE 1

The Grand Alliance has 289 out of 300 parliamentary seats. Among the alliance partners, the JP bagged 22 contesting the polls with its electoral symbol "plough".

Three MPs of Workers Party, two each from the JSD and Bikolpodhara Bangladesh and one from Tarikat Federation were also elected with the AL's electoral symbol.

Anwar Hossain Monju, the lone lawmaker from the Jatiya Party (JP-Monju), a component of the Grand Alliance, was elected with his party's electoral symbol "bicycle".

The Jatiya Sangsad has 258 AL lawmakers. The number will go up to 301 after the election to 50 reserved seats for women. Under the constitution, 43 of the reserved seats would go to the ruling party.

The Jatiya Oikyafront bagged only eight seats -- six won by the BNP and two by the Gonoforum. The eight MPs-elect are yet to take oath as the alliance

rejected the polls results alleging massive irregularities and rigging.

'FROM GOVT' TO OPPOSITION

After taking oath as MPs on January 3, members of the JP parliamentary party unanimously decided to be part of the new government.

The following day, JP Chairman HM Ershad, who was a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her immediate past tenure, announced that his party would act as an opposition party in the new JS.

Ershad also declared himself as the leader of the opposition.

Since the restoration of democracy in the country in 1991, this parliament is going to have the lowest 22 opposition MPs.

In the 10th parliament, the JP with 40 lawmakers sat on the opposition bench, but it also had three representatives in the previous cabinet.

In the 9th Jatiya Sangsad, the BNP-led opposition alliance had 41 MPs.

Parliamentary affairs expert Prof Nizam Uddin Ahmed said, "There is no scope for the so-called opposition parties [Jatiya Party and others] to hold the government accountable to parliament as their lawmakers have been elected with Awami League's support."

He said the JP and other parties would have no moral ground to act as real opposition parties as they are components of the Grand Alliance.

AL President Sheikh Hasina has been elected leader of the House for a third consecutive term. The 47-member cabinet was formed on January 7, with Hasina as the prime minister.

BUSINESS OF FIRST SITTING

The maiden sitting of the new parliament will begin at 3:00pm today.

At the beginning of the sitting, the Speaker and deputy speaker of the House will be elected and they will be sworn in by the president.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, some AL

leaders said Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was very likely to continue in her post.

They, however, said the PM was likely to pick a new deputy speaker.

The president, who addresses the first parliamentary session of a new year, will give a speech on the first day of the session. The cabinet has already approved the speech.

The Business Advisory Committee of the new parliament will be formed today with the new speaker as its head. The committee will decide the tenure of the inaugural session and other businesses of parliament.

The standing committees on different ministries are likely to be formed during this session.

Experts said the government will have to refrain from interfering in the functions of the crucial standing committees through which parliament can effectively oversee the activities of the executive branch and fight corruption.

Brazil mother

FROM PAGE 16

Nickollas jumped up and down with friends at the right moments during the match, in unison with the thousands of other enraptured fans wearing the club's dark green shirts.

"My narrating is something of my emotions. I'm not a professional," said Grecco. "Everything I see and feel, I tell him, even when I need to curse the referee!"

It is not the first time disabled fans have caused a social media sensation simply by following the sports they love.

During the 2018 World Cup in Russia a video of a Colombian fan narrating a

match against Poland to his deaf friend using hand movements went viral.

A Brazilian interpreter then showcased a similar technique with a group of deaf fans in Sao Paulo.

The Grecco mother and son have been featured on various Brazilian TV programs, and even visited a Palmeiras training session.

The boy's father and sister however support other teams -- so to avoid family divisions his die hard Palmeiras fan mother came up with a scheme.

She resorted to the skills of none other than the boy's idol, PSG star Neymar, when they met at an event.

"Neymar lifted him on

his shoulders and he passed his hand through Neymar's hair, it was a big moment! So I asked Neymar what team he used to support as a child, and he said he was a Palmeiras fan!"

"So I said 'Do you see, Nickollas? Your mother, your player ... I think your team should be Palmeiras!'"

A local businessman recently hosted the duo and some of Nickollas' friends for the season opening match in a stadium box at the Allianz Park in Sao Paulo.

One little boy with Down Syndrome, who wore huge earphones and the national football jersey, threw his arms in a trusting hug around every stranger.

Low-scoring day in Ctg

FROM PAGE 1

chasing down a modest 141 for eight with eight balls remaining.

The first six matches in

Chattogram, however, did not disappoint as the venue lived up to its billing as the best for batting in the country. The highest and second-highest totals in BPL were

recorded by Rangpur Riders (239 against Chittagong) and Comilla Victorians (237 against Khulna) within a span of just two matches.

In yesterday's first game, all-rounder Shahid Afridi took the player-of-the-match award in the first game as his figures of two for 10 runs in four overs,

with a miserly economy rate of 2.50, helped orchestrate Chittagong's downfall. After that, a sensible, unbeaten 51-ball 54 from opener Tamim Iqbal guided Comilla to a comfortable victory as they chased down the total in just 16.4 overs.

In the next game, Forhad Reza was the pick of the

bowlers for Rangpur, scalping three wickets for 30 runs. On a day that saw bowlers rule the roost, Rangpur batsmen Rilee Rossouw became the second to score a half-ton (55 runs off 43 balls) and was well supported by AB de Villiers (37 off 37 balls) on their way to successfully chasing the total.