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SHAH CEMENT

4,000 acres of Milk Vita land grabbed

House committee irked; orders authorities to reclaim land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed strong resentment over the grabbing of around 4,000 acres of land belonging to the state-owned Bangladesh Milk Producers Co-operative Union Limited, popularly known as Milk Vita.

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings also asked the authorities to identify corrupt and inefficient employees of the milk producer and remove them from the organisation.

"Of the 5,000 acres of Milk Vita's cattle-grazing land in Pabna, Sathia and Bera area, around 4,000 acres have been grabbed so far. The committee expressed serious dissatisfaction over the matter," a member of the Jatiya Sangsad committee told The Daily Star.

Officials of Milk Vita who were present at the meeting in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban said they were taking legal measures to recover the grabbed land.

In reply, the committee said the milk producer's high-ups were not sincere in their efforts to recover the land.

The parliamentary watchdog also said the Prime Minister's Office gave a 14-point recommendations to improve Milk Vita's current sorry state, but the company authorities didn't pay heed to those.

A member of the committee said Milk Vita's profits were shrinking, while its production had fallen to 90,000 litres from two lakhs.

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Holding her 11-day-old baby girl in her arms, Khadeza sits at Bangamata Bidyaniketon, a temporary shelter for the victims of the Chalantika slum fire, in the capital's Mirpur-7 yesterday. Recovering from a caesarean section, she is too weak to stand in long queues outside the shelter for relief. Her rickshaw-puller husband cannot help her either as he has to go out to earn a living. More than 1,000 shanties were razed to ashes in the massive fire on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Why should not Minni be granted bail?

HC asks govt to explain in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain within a week why Aysha Siddika Minni should not be granted bail in a case filed over the killing of her husband Rifat Sharif.

It also fixed August 28 for hearing the rule and summoned the investigation officer of the case to appear before it on that day along with case documents.

Besides, the court asked the superintendent of Barguna police to explain why he held a press conference on July 18 and said Minni was involved in the murder even before the investigation was completed.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman asked the Barguna SP to submit his explanation before the HC by August 28. The court passed the order after hearing a bail petition filed by Minni.

During the hearing, Minni's lawyer AM Aminuddin appealed for his client's bail under any condition and said "she is a 19-year-old woman and she will not leave the country if she is granted bail".

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hussain Bappi opposed the bail petition, saying that Minni and four other accused had given "confessional" statements to the magistrate and therefore, she could not be granted bail.

On August 8, another HC bench, led by Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman, refused to grant bail to Minni, upon which her lawyer withdrew the bail petition from the HC bench saying he would

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'Not proud as Indian'

Amartya Sen slams Modi govt decision

NDTV ONLINE

Nobel laureate Dr Amartya Sen has vehemently criticised the government's move on Kashmir, saying it not only emphasised majority rule "as opposed to it sustaining the rights of all human beings".

"I don't think ultimately you will have any resolution in Kashmir without democracy," he told NDTV in an interview on Monday.

Pointing out the loopholes in the government's decision on multiple levels, the 85-year-old told NDTV: "As an Indian, I am not

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Pakistan to move ICJ over Kashmir

More arrests in J&K to deter protests; schools remain deserted after opening

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan yesterday said it would take its dispute with India over Kashmir to the International Court of Justice, after New Delhi revoked the special status of its part of the region earlier this month.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise move has increased tensions with arch rival Pakistan which lays claim to Kashmir and has accused India of human rights violations in the territory at the heart of more than 70 years of hostility between them.

Islamabad reacted with fury to that decision, cutting trade and transport links and expelling India's ambassador.

"We have decided to take the Kashmir case to the International Court of Justice," Pakistan's foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, told ARY News TV on Tuesday. "The decision was taken after considering all legal aspects."

The case would centre on alleged human rights violations by India in Muslim-majority Kashmir, which both countries claim in full but rule in part, Qureshi said.

A decision by the court would advisory only. However, if both countries agreed before-hand, the ruling would become binding.

A spokesman for India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. India denies committing human rights violations in Kashmir.

The development came as security forces detained 30 people overnight in Indian Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, local officials said, seeking to keep a tight lid on protests over the federal government's controversial move.

Crowds have demonstrated frequently in the city despite a severe clampdown on phone and internet services, a ban on public gatherings

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'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab at Pekua upazila in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead Kamal Hossain Prokash alias Badsha Dakat, 33, was a listed robber in Chanua union of Chattogram's Banskhali upazila, said Rab.

Rab conducted a drive in Mognama Ghat area of Pekua on information that a group of robbers, led by Badsha, was preparing for robbery there, claimed Major Mehedi Hasan, Cox's Bazar company commander of Rab-7.

Sensing Rab's presence, the criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

At one stage of the "gunfight", the criminals fled the scene leaving bullet-hit Badsha behind, he further added.

Rab rescued Badsha and rushed to Pekua Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the Rab official claimed.

The body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Rab also claimed to have recovered four locally made fire arms, 12 bullets, four sharp weapons and eight empty shells of bullet from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the Rab claims.

A case was filed in this connection.

Sailor's message in bottle found 50 yrs later in Alaska

AFP, Washington

A man gathering firewood in Alaska discovered a bottle with a handwritten message inside wishing the finder "happy sailing" more than 50 years after it was dropped into the sea by a Russian sailor.

"Sincere greetings! From the Russian Far East Fleet mother ship VRXF Sulak," it read. "We wish you good health and long years of life and happy

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 21

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-25	12-45	4-45	6-38	8-00
JAMAAT 5-00	1-15	5-00	6-41	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

3 abducted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Armed criminals abducted three people from Bandarban's Ruma upazila on Monday evening, said police.

The three are Basu Karmakar, 32, Nayan Das, 28, and Md Mizan, 30, of the upazila. They are drivers of "Chander Gari" (locally modified passenger vehicle).

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ruma Police Station, said some criminals kidnapped the three at gunpoint from Minjiri Mukh area when they were returning to Ruma upazila town from remote Munnam Para of the upazila.

Army and police are jointly working to rescue the victims, said the OC.

Khalilur Rahman, secretary of Jeep Owners' Association of Ruma, said the criminals yesterday demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh over phone to free the abductees.

On August 5, some criminals sent a letter to the organisation, demanding

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A CNG-run three-wheeler squeezes through a gap between two buses on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the capital's Matuail area yesterday. Many drivers do not comply with a ban on plying of three-wheelers on highways and it often leads to serious accidents. Only two days ago, eight people were killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a bus on Cumilla-Laksham road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

8 arrested on rape charges

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested three men for their alleged involvement in a gang-rape of a female dancer in Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila.

The arrestees are Shafiqul Islam, 24, Mahmudul Hasan, 23, and Sajib Miah, 21, of the same upazila, said police.

The victim filed a case against five men, including the three, with Sonargaon Police Station yesterday, said Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

According to the case statement, accused Mahmudul made a trap and invited the victim to Sonargaon for performing in an office programme.

As the victim reached the location, the criminals forcibly took her to a nearby tamarisk bush and gang-raped her at knifepoint, the statement read.

Hearing the victim scream, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her. But the criminals managed to flee, the

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