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Land dispute threatens solar plant

205-acre 'khas' land allotted for plant; locals say it's their land, demand compensation

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Locals on a char of the Padma in Pabna's Sagarkand claim that they own the land the government allocated for a solar power plant and are demanding compensation for their loss of land and livelihood.

They are producing documents issued by a surveyor last year as evidence for their claim, while the local administration maintains that the land is government property.

The dispute ensued when Pabna district administration allotted 205 acres of "khas" land at Ramakantapur Mouja of Sagarkandi union in Pabna's Sujannagar upazila to North West Power Generation Company Ltd (NWPGL) on September 30 this year for Tk 15.25 crore.

The company has taken the initiative to install a 60-megawatt solar power plant as part of government's plan to reach a target of generating 10 percent of its power from renewable resources by 2020 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Locals, who have been living on the char and farming there for many years, started agitation soon after the allocation was made demanding compensation for their loss of livelihoods.

They claimed that around 100 households and 400 farmers depend on the land for their livelihoods.

When this correspondent visited the proposed plant area, it found that the locals tore off the signboard of the company set up at the project site.

"We have been farming on the char for over four decades. I have been cultivating on 19 bigha (7.6 acres) in Ramakantapur mouja. Suddenly the land was acquired for

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A double decker on Airport Road in Kurmitola and another bus on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Karwan Bazar burn. It could not be known how the buses caught fire less than an hour apart yesterday afternoon but the police have ruled out sabotage after primary probe.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Justice can't be instant

Observes Indian CJ over killing of rapists by cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Chief Justice of India SA Bobde yesterday condemned the practice of extrajudicial killings, saying that justice loses its very character when it takes the form of revenge.

The observation came as a top Indian rights group yesterday launched an investigation into the police shooting of four rape-murder suspects after accusations they were gunned down in cold blood to assuage public anger.

But in a country where violence against women is rife and an overburdened criminal justice system means attackers often escape punishment, many Indians also celebrated the suspects' deaths.

The launch of the investigation by the National Human Rights Commission comes as India also reeled from the death of another woman yesterday, set on fire on her way to a sexual assault court hearing in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Justice Bobde, however, admitted the recent events in the country have reignited a debate with new vigour

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Three of a family killed in Barishal

Mason arrested, confesses to murdering them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Three of a family were killed in Barishal's Banaripara upazila early yesterday.

The dead are: Marium Begum, 75, her son-in-law Md Alam, 60, and her nephew Md Yusuf, 18.

Police yesterday arrested one Jakir, who admitted the killing during interrogation, said Md Ahsan, additional deputy inspector general of police (Barishal Range).

All of them were strangled to death, Ahsan said, quoting Jakir.

Police recovered the bodies yesterday morning.

Bodies of Marium and Alam were found on their beds while Yusuf's body was found beside a pond adjacent to the house, said Shishir Kumar Paul, officer-in-charge of Banaripara Police Station.

Jakir is a mason and was tasked with completing some unfinished works of the under construction single-storey building, said the OC.

Jakir had allegedly been stalking Mishkat, daughter-in-law of Marium who also lives in the house, for the last couple of days, OC Shishir said.

Bodies were sent to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College morgue for autopsies, the OC said.

A case filing in this regard was under process when the report was filed last night.

White House will not participate in hearing

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT PROBE

REUTERS, Washington

The White House said on Friday it would refuse to take part in hearings in the US House of Representatives set for next week that will consider what articles of impeachment to bring against President Donald Trump.

In a letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, White House counsel Pat Cipollone called the Democrats' impeachment inquiry "completely baseless" and said that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had ordered Democrats to proceed with articles of impeachment "before your committee has heard a single shred of evidence."

"We don't see any reason to participate because the process is unfair," said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We haven't been given any fair opportunity to participate. The speaker has already announced the predetermined result and they will not give us the ability to call any witnesses."

Nadler rejected that criticism and expressed disappointment, saying in a statement: "The American people deserve answers from President Trump."

Pelosi on Thursday asked the Judiciary Committee to draw up articles of impeachment - formal charges - against the Republican president. The committee could draft and recommend the articles by next Thursday and the full Democratic-led House could vote on them by Christmas, imperiling Trump's presidency as his 2020 re-election campaign looms.

Pelosi in September launched the impeachment inquiry into Trump's request that Ukraine investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to face the president in the 2020 U.S. election.

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Man killed for protesting harassment of niece

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A man was allegedly killed by his niece's stalkers for protesting against the crime in Kusthia's Kumarkhali upazila early yesterday.

Manna Alam, 26, son of Jamal Khan of the upazila, died of numerous stab injuries, said police.

The law enforcers held four people: three teenage boys, and Munna Mondol, 20, in connection with the killing.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Jahangir Alam Khan of Kumarkhali Police Station said some youths in Shadipur area often used to harass Manna's niece on her way to school.

As she informed her family about this, Manna met the youths and told them to stop harassing the girl, said the OC, adding that the youths threatened him with dire consequences for

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Oceans running out of oxygen

Scientists fear for marine life



AFP, Madrid

The loss of oxygen from the ocean due to climate change risks "dire effects" on sea life, fisheries and coastal communities, a global conservation body said Saturday.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said that around 700 sites had been identified globally with low oxygen levels -- up from only 45 in the 1960s.

In the same period, the group warned, the volume of anoxic waters -- areas totally devoid of oxygen -- have quadrupled.

The ocean absorbs around a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions, but as global energy demand continues to grow there are fears that the world's seas will eventually reach saturation point.

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Dhaka sends delegation to The Hague

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will have various engagements with the international community at The Hague as the International Court of Justice is set to start its three-day hearing on the Rohingya genocide case from Tuesday.

A Bangladesh delegation, led by Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque, will leave for The Hague, Netherlands, today, an official in Dhaka told UNB.

"The delegation includes

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 8

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A digger of the Roads and Highways Department demolishes an illegal structure at Savar Bus Stand yesterday. The department demolished around 500 such structures between Amin Bazar and Nabinagar on the highway.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



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নাচালে
৭২ তম সাথার
শুভ উদ্বোধন

আজ ৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৯ ইং, রবিবার

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নাচাল, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ