



UNO in CHT leases khas land illegally

SANJOY KUMAR BARIJA

The upazila nirbahi officer of Ramgarh upazila in Khagrachhari allegedly misused his power to lease five acres of khas land illegally for a personal project.

Ramgarh UNO ANM Badruddoza's actions went viral recently on social media where it was revealed that he, on behalf of a cooperative, took lease of 18 acres of land in the upazila -- including five acres of khas land -- for a period of 30 years.

"Since 2003, khas land settlement for personal interest was completely stopped in Chattogram Hill Tracts following a circular of the CHT affairs ministry," said Pratap Chandra Biswas, deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari district.

Contacted, UNO Badruddoza said, "We took 18 acres of land, including five acres of khas land, from locals in the area in the name of Friends Fund Shomobay Samity for 30 years on April 1 this year.

"I am a member of the Samity and the other fourteen members are my friends."

Badruddoza, a BCS cadre from the 29th BCS, joined his current posting in Khagrachhari on February 23 this year, according to the local government website.

He took the lease at Tk 10 lakh, according to the documents obtained by this newspaper.

The UNO also allegedly installed a government solar-powered panel for his personal use and levelled a hill to make a road on the land last month.

Md Saiful Islam, a local journalist who visited the site, said, "The UNO razed a hill with an excavator around a month ago and had been using a government solar-

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Strong current of the Kirtankhola river has washed away a part of road that connects Lamchhari village in Charbaria union to Taltali area in Sadar upazila. Many other roads in Barishal districts faced a similar fate due to the flood. People are seen trying pass a particularly bad section of the road.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

5 officials of correction centre held

Superintendent suspended over killing of 3 boys

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police arrested five people, including Abdullah Al Masud, superintendent of the Jashore juvenile correction centre, on Friday night in connection with the incident of torturing three boys of the centre to death.

The four other arrestees are Masum Billah, assistant superintendent, Mushfikur Rahman, psychosocial counsellor, and physical instructors Shahanur and Omar Faruk, police said.

On Friday, police took 10 people, including several officials and inmates of the correction centre, in custody for interrogation.

Of the 10, five were arrested as police primarily found their involvement in the murder, said Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, superintendent of Jashore Police, while speaking to reporters on Friday night.

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Russia makes first batch of vaccine

Says report as US developing virus strain for human 'challenge' trials

AGENCIES

Russia has produced the first batch of its new vaccine for Covid-19, the Interfax news agency quoted the health ministry as saying yesterday, hours after the ministry reported the start of manufacturing.

President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday announced it had been first in the world to approve a vaccine. But the announcement was met with caution from scientists and the World Health Organization who said it still needed a rigorous safety review.

"The first batch of the novel coronavirus vaccine developed by the Gamaleya research institute has been produced," the health ministry said in a statement quoted by Russian news agencies.

Putin said the vaccine was safe and that one of his own daughters had been inoculated, though clinical trials were not yet complete and final stage testing involving more than 2,000 people only started this week.

Western scientists were sceptical, with some warning that moving too quickly on

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Mujib to stay in Geneva till full recovery

August 16, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TALKS WITH UK MINISTERS LIKELY

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will stay in Switzerland until complete recovery of his health as the guest of the Swiss government. Earlier the prime minister was to spend 10 days in Switzerland but he has now decided that he would stay there until complete recovery of his health.

Bangabandhu is improving satisfactorily In London, according to a health bulletin issued by his personal physician. Despite weakness the prime minister is meeting his visitors and taking interest in various issues of national interest. He spent a very busy day today.

Among those who called on him today are Indian Foreign Secretary TN Kaul, Secretary General of Amnesty International Martin Ennals and President of Bangladesh National League Ataur Rahman Khan.

The prime minister is expected to receive some more British ministers before he leaves for Switzerland.

CONSTITUTION BODY FINALISES POWER OF PRESIDENT

The Constitution Committee of the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh today finalises the matters connected with power and function of the president. The committee has been working for the last few days to finalise the draft constitution for placing before the House when it goes into next session.



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FRAUD GANG

Bangladeshis arrested in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian Immigration Department has reportedly busted a "document forgery" ring and nabbed four of its members, including three Bangladeshi men.

One of the Bangladeshis, aged 39, was claimed to be the "mastermind" of the ring, who would earn between RM 8,000 and RM 10,000 a month from the forged documents.

The syndicate was crippled following two months of surveillance.

Malaysian English-language daily The Star yesterday ran a report on its online version on the incident, after the country's national news agency Bernama ran a similar report on Friday.

None of the reports, however, mentioned names and details of the Bangladeshi suspects.

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Grey reef sharks form long-term friendships



MAIL ONLINE

Sharks have a reputation for being heartless killers, but at least one species forms long-lasting "friendships," scientists have discovered.

Grey reef sharks are swift, large-eyed predators that frequent coral reefs in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

They often head out to the open water at night to hunt. But during the day, they return to the same spot on their reef, congregating in clusters of up to 20 individuals.

To study this social behaviour, marine biologists at Florida International University tagged 41 grey reef sharks near the Palmyra Atoll, a remote Pacific island more than 1,000 miles from the coast of Hawaii.

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Woman shot dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A woman was shot dead and her 10-year-old son injured after unidentified criminals opened fire in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Morsheda Begum, 45, was from Babuchhara area in the same upazila. Her husband Abdul Malek is the president of Sonamia Tila Bhumi Rokkhyia Committee in Babuchhara.

Police could not immediately give any reason why the criminals opened fire.

Dighinala OC Uttam Chandra Deb said some unidentified criminals fired shots indiscriminately in Babuchhara, nearly 12 kilometres away from Dighinala town, around 1:30am.

The couple and their son were asleep at home when the criminals opened fire. Waking up to the sound

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Pregnant woman, teen raped

STAR REPORT

A teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped by a group of miscreants on Thursday in Dinajpur, while police on Friday arrested a youth allegedly for raping a pregnant woman.

The victim of Dinajpur is a 17-year-old and a tenth grader of a local high school in the district town.

Police arrested four persons in connection with the incident.

The arrestees are Shanto Kumar, 20, of Sweeper Colony in Balubari area of Dinajpur town; Bulbul Islam, 18, of Umarpail Balubari area; Sazu Mia, 18, and Pata Sarkar 18, of Mission Road area of

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:30
JAMAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi inaugurates a plasma bank for fighting Covid-19. A plasma donation campaign was hosted there yesterday where people who have had Covid-19 and have recovered fully donated blood.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

2nd virus wave threatens Europe

S Korea reports spike in cases as NY museums, galleries to reopen from Aug 24

AGENCIES

British holidaymakers returning home from parts of Europe began having to quarantine under new restrictions yesterday, as a second wave of virus infections threatened more disruption and economic chaos on the continent.

The UK opted to remove France, the Netherlands, Malta and several other countries from its list of places exempt from self-isolation rules, sparking a rush for plane, train and ferry tickets by Britons desperate to get back before the 0300 GMT change.

All travellers arriving from the three countries -- as well as Monaco, and Caribbean island states Turks & Caicos and Aruba -- after the deadline must quarantine for 14 days.

French student Antoine, 23, cut short his holiday to rush back to Bristol, in southwestern England, where he is at university.

"I'm a waiter in a small cafe near college, I can't afford to spend 14 days in the house," he said at London's St Pancras railway station after arriving on a Eurostar train.

France is facing a resurgence of the disease that emerged in China late last year and has so far infected over 21 million people and killed more than 766,000 globally.

French authorities have reported more than 2,500 new cases on each of the past three days -- levels not seen since May.

Meanwhile Germany added most of Spain -- where cases have also surged in recent weeks -- to its list of regions from where arrivals must show a negative Covid-19 test or quarantine for two weeks.

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