

A 'missing' building and Tk 19cr investment

Despite paying DSCC, 281 people yet to get their allotted shops

MD ABBAS

Rafiqul Islam of Old Dhaka has been working at a machinery shop for several years, saving his earnings to accumulate Tk 5 lakh over a decade.

With his hard earned savings, Rafiqul booked a shop at the MA Aziz Market Complex, an under construction five-storey building owned by the Dhaka South City Corporation.

Expecting to receive his shop in 2019, Rafiqul and 280 others now find themselves in a distressing situation, as they are yet to receive any concrete information from the DSCC regarding the long-awaited delivery date.

What's worse is that the building where he booked the shop remains incomplete and abandoned. He wants to know the whereabouts of the Tk 19 crore he claims have been invested by potential shop owners like him.

"I invested to buy a shop, thinking about the future of my son and daughter. Former mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon completed his term, and the new mayor took office, but the construction of the market remains unfinished," Rafiqul told The Daily Star.

Sakina Rahman, who invested Tk 7

lakh in three installments to the DSCC in hopes for a shop to call her own, echoed the same.

When these individuals contact the relevant department to enquire about the progress of the construction and the anticipated delivery of their shops, the response they receive is consistently vague, often they are simply told, "soon."

According to the DSCC engineering department, the construction of the building on 38.64 katha land at the Chankharpul intersection, was estimated to cost Tk 32 crore, with construction initially set to be completed by October 2019. The deadline was later extended to November 2020. The contractors halted the construction after completing only the basement, and the building has since been left abandoned.

Prior to the commencement of the building's construction, interested individuals were asked to apply for shops through a newspaper notice.

Among the applicants, 281 people were allocated shops, each of whom deposited Tk 3 lakh to the DSCC fund. An additional Tk 2 lakh was given in a subsequent installment. The price of each shop in this market ranges from Tk 10 to 13 lakh.

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UNFINISHED DREAMS... The MA Aziz Market Complex remains frozen in time. Once envisioned as a DSCC market to be set up within 2019, all that has been completed is a mere basement which is now repurposed as a garage for rickshaws and vans. Meanwhile, investors are left in limbo, waiting for their promised shops. Inset, the abandoned site now hosts a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which is particularly concerning when the city is grappling with a dengue outbreak.

PHOTO: STAR

GONO ODHIKAR
Nur, Rashed
sued over
'vandalism' at
party office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad president Nurul Haque Nur, general secretary Muhammad Rashed Khan and other leaders and activists of their faction have been sued on the charge of vandalism and forceful entry into its Paltan office.

Col (ret'd) Mia Moshuazzaman, owner of a building that houses the office, former joint convener of the party and a supporter of its another faction led by Reza Kibria, filed the case with Paltan Police Station on Thursday night, said Officer-in-Charge Salahuddin Mia.

Nur and Rashed were among 17 named and around 75 unnamed accused in the case.

Earlier in the day, Nur and his followers stormed into the office, said the OC.

Police cordoned off the Gono Odhikar Parishad office at Pritom Zaman Tower in Paltan. The law enforcers have been deployed in front of the building since Thursday night as the party office has been locked.

Sub-inspector Akram Hossain said they were on duty on the third, fourth and fifth floors and in

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COPYRIGHT ACT 2023

A law to protect intellectual rights

ASIFUR RAHMAN and
SUKANTA HALDER

Aiming to safeguard intellectual property rights, the government is going to increase the punishment for violating copyrights, with more specific definitions and the inclusion of some new provisions.

The new bill of Copyright Act 2023 will replace the existing Copyright Act 2000, which has now been placed to get the nod of the president.

According to the act, copyright ownership in cases of the creator's demise, will be passed to their rightful heir – a crucial addition absent in the previous legislation.

The bill classifies copyrights into two distinct categories: one for literature, drama, songs, and arts, which endure throughout the creator's lifetime and extend for 60 years after their passing.

The other category, encompassing film, sound recordings, photography, digital content, and more, will maintain copyright protection for 60 years from the initial date of publication.

These amendments aim to strike a balance between incentivising creativity and encouraging innovation within the intellectual property realm.

The new act imposes a maximum prison sentence of four years for most violations. However, violations pertaining to film and folk culture will carry a stiffer

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➤ Violations pertaining to film, folk culture will carry stiffer punishment of 5yrs

punishment of five years.

Notably, the inclusion of folk culture in the copyright act is a significant development that comes after much debate, sparked by a copyright dispute involving the Mymensingh Geetika song, "Sarбата Mangal Radhe," and the Sherpur-based folk band Shorolpur.

The band claimed the song was their original track after

Meher Afroz Shaon and Chanchal Chowdhury covered it on a commercial platform in 2020. The band had taken the copyright of the song in 2018. However, in January 2022, the copyright office cancelled the copyright of the band.

The new act introduces an entire chapter dedicated to Securing Rights of Folk-knowledge and

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No scope to bring back caretaker govt
Says law minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

The caretaker government system will not be reintroduced in the country and the Election Commission will hold the next parliamentary election under the present government, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

He said this while addressing a meeting of Kharera union unit of Awami League in Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria.

The law minister said BNP Jamaat has been trying to turn Bangladesh into a "failed state".

They don't want to contest in the polls but expect somebody will again put them in power through backdoor, the minister added.

Bangladesh will turn into a state of anarchy if BNP Jamaat come to the power again, he said.

He said history says they are the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They formulated law so that trial over the Bangabandhu killing does not take place.

Not only this, they appointed the killers to

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'Will retaliate if attacked'

JL leaders, activists warn BNP at Dhaka rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pointing towards BNP, Jubo League leaders yesterday said they are ready to give a fitting reply to those who will try to obstruct the development march of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Leaders of the ruling party's youth front made the remarks while speaking at a rally, held on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital, protesting the killing of its activist in Narail's Kalia upazila.

"The BNP-Jamaat is a terrorist force... as long as they do politics in the country, they will continue to foil its peace," Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, general secretary of Jubo League, said at the rally.

"We will not engage into conflict; we will deal

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False cases can't stop our movement
BNP leaders tell Ctg rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government is trying to foil BNP's movement by suing party leaders and activists with false cases, said the party's port city unit leaders and activists at a rally yesterday.

"But it could not stop our movement... we will not rest until this government is overthrown," said BNP city unit convener Shahadat Hossain.

Shahadat said this while speaking at a protest rally held in front of the BNP Chattogram city unit office in Kazir Dewri area.

The event was held protesting the attack on BNP party office allegedly by Awami League and BCL activists on Wednesday.

Shahadat alleged that the administration is arresting BNP leaders and activists in accordance

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DHAKA ORPHANAGE SOCIETY

Home for Hindu orphans

DIPAN NANDY

The Dhaka Orphanage Society (Hindu), located in a narrow Farshganj road, is facing numerous challenges that have drawn attention to its neglected state.

There's an illegal truck parking right in front of its main gate, and the surrounding area is strewn with garbage.

Despite these unfavourable conditions, the Dhaka Orphanage Society (Hindu) remains as the only shelter for Hindu orphans in Dhaka, providing a safe haven for children without guardians.

During a recent visit, it was observed that both the interior and exterior of the building have deteriorated over time. Additionally, local traders have been indiscriminately dumping waste around the premises.

HISTORY OF ORPHANAGE SOCIETY

This is one of the oldest orphanages in Dhaka and was established to cater to orphaned Hindu children and teenagers. In 1908, the orphanage home was founded on 60 percent of a three-acre land granted by the



PHOTO: STAR

government on Orphanage Road, adjacent to Bakshibazar.

Rani Rashmoni provided significant support to the institution in 1936-37 while its later patrons included Manik Ghosh, Utpal Roy, Swadesh Debnath, Binoy Ghosh, Kalidas Baidya, and Sudhanshu Shekhar Halder.

Due to communal riots, the orphanage was relocated to the Farshganj residence of local landlord Gokul Chandra Sen in 1950. In 1962, the institution was

registered with the Ministry of Social Welfare under the Hindu Act (238/1962 Ordinance-1961).

Rani Mitra joined as the female caretaker in 1965.

During the Liberation War, the orphanage home suffered looting of its documents. However, after independence, it was reopened under the initiative of Rani Mitra.

In the 1980s, a five-story building was constructed with a grant from the Norway-Bangladesh Association. Until

1990, the organisation received grants from the World Food Program.

Currently, the orphanage accommodates a total of 89 orphans – 62 girls and 27 boys. The facility employs six teachers. The authority provides three meals a day, including vegetarian meals in the morning and evening, meat on Fridays, eggs on Mondays, and fish on other days for lunch. The children are also provided with new clothes during festivals and school uniforms, said Kalipada Saha, the superintendent of the orphanage home.

Fifteen-year-old Karen Kha Tripura, who has been residing in the orphanage for over nine years, said, "It's a great opportunity for children like us to live in a caring atmosphere."

Kalipada Saha said, "We work tirelessly for the children living here. We require nearly Tk 40 lakh annually, which is contributed by the government, donors, and society members. However, more funds are needed to improve our services."

About the condition of the building, he said, "We are working on it."

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USAID BANGLADESH ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH THROUGH ENERGY (BADGE)

Request for Technical and Financial Proposals (RFP)
from eligible Bidders

The Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) is a five-year project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and implemented by Tetra Tech. BADGE aims to support sustainable livelihoods based on renewable and clean solar energy for the local inhabitants in Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. These areas, also known as "host communities," have been impacted by hosting the Rohingya population. Tetra Tech is requesting for proposals (RFP) from eligible bidders who can supply and install solar energy-powered home systems, fish dryer chambers, irrigation pumps, and electric vehicle charging stations. Prospective bidders should have relevant experience in implementing renewable energy-based equipment and services, including supply, installation, and maintenance. Details are provided in the Scope of Works (SOW) as outlined in the RFP. For more information, please visit the Tender/EOI section of www.bdjobs.com.

অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান

বাংলাদেশ অ্যাডভান্সিং ডেভেলপমেন্ট অ্যান্ড গ্রোথ থ্রু এনার্জি (BADGE) একটি প্রকল্প যা ইউআইসিডি স্টেটস এজেন্সি ফর ইন্টারন্যাশনাল ডেভেলপমেন্ট (ইউএসএআইডি)-এর অর্থায়নে এবং টেট্রা টেক (Tetra Tech) এর বাস্তবায়নে পরিচালিত। BADGE কক্সবাজারের উখিয়া এবং টেকনাফের স্থানীয় বাসিন্দাদের, যারা 'হোস্ট কমিউনিটি' হিসেবে পরিচিত (রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্প/কমিউনিটি বাসীত), তাদের জীবন যাত্রার মান উন্নয়নের এবং টেকসই জীবিকা নির্বাহের জন্য বিভিন্ন সহযোগিতা যেমন, সৌর বিদ্যুৎ চালিত হোম সিস্টেম, ফিশ ড্রয়ার চেম্বার, সেচ পাম্প, এবং বৈদ্যুতিক পাম্পের চার্জিং স্টেশন স্থাপন করতে অগ্রহণী। এ উদ্দেশ্যে Tetra Tech উপরে উল্লিখিত সরঞ্জামসমূহ সরবরাহ, স্থাপন এবং রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ পরিষেবা বাস্তবায়নের কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাছ থেকে দরপত্র/প্রস্তাব জমা দেয়ার জন্য আহ্বান করছে (RFP)। আরো বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য, অনুগ্রহ করে www.bdjobs.com এর টেন্ডার/ইউআই (TENDER/EOI) বিভাগে দেখুন।