### **CITY**

### People have no faith in BNP

Says Hasan Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP's recent road marches failed to gain any momentum as people of the country have no faith in them.

Regarding BNP's recent road march from Cumilla to Chattogram, he said they couldn't muster the expected number of participants. "They only created traffic congestion," he said.

Hasan Mahmud, also the information minister, made these remarks while responding to questions from journalists following a memorial meeting for the late journalist Azad Talukdar at the Chattogram Press Club.

He said BNP's actions indicate their intention to obstruct the democratic process

Hasan Mahmud assured that elections will take place on schedule, and any attempt to disrupt the polls will be met with resistance from the country's people.

Commenting on BNP's decision not to contest elections under Sheikh Hasina's government, he said it reflects their fear of elections and the subsequent risk of defeat.

He also said BNP seems to have pinned its hopes on foreign intervention to come to power.

## Teen found dead in Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat

Police recovered the body of a 19-yearold college student from a paddy field at Mohammadpur village in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila yesterday.

Sourav Hossain, son of Khaza Miah of Boro Mohammadpur village, was a student of Sorail Degree College.

According to locals, Sourav left home on Thursday around 9:00pm after getting a phone call and didn't return home. His family members couldn't even reach him

Later, locals spotted him in a paddy field near his home with his left arm's vein cut off and informed police.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Joypurhat Modern Zilla Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said Jahidul Haq, officer-in-charge of Panchbibi Police Station

The OC said they are looking into the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

# CRB in grabbers' clutches again

Encroachers occupy 3-acre land to build houses

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Encroachers have reoccupied most of the railway land at CRB's Tulatoli area in Chattogram city and built structures illegally, turning the scenic hilly area into a slum.

The estate department of Bangladesh Railway (BR) earlier recovered the land, around three acres in area, through an eviction drive in March 2022. Grabbers had attacked BR staff during the drive, leaving seven critically injured.

During a recent visit to the spot, this correspondent observed that encroachers have already built hundreds of structures there illegally, including shanties and shops.

Mentionable, a Detailed Area Plan prepared by the Chattogram Development Authority, which was published in Gazette on January 25, 2009, announced that the around 210 acres of land in CRB area is a cultural heritage site and cannot be used for any commercial purposes or for building any bigh rises.

A study conducted by a teacher BR official of Chittagong University's botany information.

department found around 225 rare plant species in the CRB area.

BR made a list in 2022 and found that over 1,700 people were living in the slum. According to locals and BR officials, a number of gradientes led by local

a number of syndicates, led by local influential people, constructed these structures again and rented those to low-income people, including rickshaw pullers and day-labourers.



Talking to at least 10 slum dwellers, this correspondent found that Abdus Shukkur, a local influential, has built over 100 shanties in the slum and is also living in a house built illegally on railway land.

land.

BR officials also corroborated the

Contacted, Shukkur admitted that he had grabbed railway land to build his house, but denied grabbing any other land to build shanties for slums.

"My opponents are spreading false information by tagging me as a land grabber to take advantage," he claimed.

BR filed a case against nine grabbers including Abdus Shukkur with Kotwali Police Station for attacking BR staff in an eviction drive last year.

Sujan Chowdhury, estate officer (east) of BR, said, "We removed more than 800 illegal structures from Tulatoli of the CRB last year, but encroachers have reoccupied the land."

"I have informed the higher authorities about the matter. Hopefully, they will launch eviction drives soon to recover the land," he added.

Earlier, the railway wanted to build a hospital in CRB under a Public-Private Partnership. But the estate agency was forced to shift the hospital project elsewhere amid continuous protests from the port city residents.

Besides, BR has also stopped the construction of ATM booths at CRB after the controversy started.

## Illegal sawmills posing threat to reserve forests

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Out of 50 sawmills located in Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj, 40 lack necessary documentation from relevant departments. These sawmills have been established within a 10-kilometre radius of protected and social forest areas.

Consequently, it is leading to depletion of valuable forest resources. Locals are concerned that if the trend persists, the existence of both social and protected forest areas could be jeopardised.

According to the Forest Department Act, setting up sawmills within 10km of forest area is prohibited. Yet, there are more than 20 sawmills within this area.

Such sawmills have been set up inside

such sawmills have been set up inside protected social forests, on forest edges, and even near the offices of forest officials, said Khalilur Rahman, Raghurandan range officer of the Forest Department.

Climate researcher Dr Ashraful said wildlife is being destroyed as a result of deforestation. The natural environment is under threat, which is greatly affected by climate change.

Usman Mia, president of Social Forestry Committee, said various trees are being illegally sold by unauthorised sawmills from social forests.



PHOTO: STA

Forty out of 50 sawmills in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj are being operated without necessary documentation from relevant departments. Many of them are also set up within a 10-kilometre radius of protected and social forest areas.

Meanwhile, legitimate sawmill owners complained that they are suffering due to illegal

Tree felling and wood cutting are going on in these illegal sawmills under the nose of the range office, alleged Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Habiganj unit.

When contacted about this, Khalilur Rahman did not comment on the issue.

Upazila Forest and Environment Committee President and UNO Manjur Ahsan said they have continued to operate mobile courts to stop illegal sawmills.

"I have already ordered the closing of one sawmill located on the side of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Andiura union," he said.

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Jamalpur Road Circle
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Memo No. 35.01.3936.180.07.003.23.2811

Date: 05.10.2023

#### e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in e-GP system Portal (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>) by the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Jamalpur Road Circle, Jamalpur for the procurement of below mentioned works:

Jamaip	ur Road Circle, Jamaipur for the procurement of below ment	ioried works:	
SI No.	Name of works	Last Selling Time	Tender Closing Time
01.	Construction of 37.92m (1x36.58m) long P.C. Girder Bridge (Beparipara Bridge) at 11th km. (Ch. 10+752 km) on Bakshiganj-Sanandabari-char Rajibpur Road (Z-4615) under Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur.	05-11-2023, 17:00	06-11-2023, 12:00
	Invitation Reference No. 05/e-GP/JRC-Jam/PMP-Bridge/2023-2024		
02.	Construction of 44.02m (1x42.68m) long P.C. Girder Bridge at (Jamira Bridge) at 19th km. (Ch. 18+100 km) of Jamalpur (Madarganj)-Koyra-Mansurnagar (Kazipur)-Abdullah More (Sarishabari)-Tangail (Dhanbari) Zilla Highway (Z-4029) under Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur.	05-11-2023, 17:00	06-11-2023, 12:10
	Invitation Reference No. 06/e-GP/JRC-Jam/PMP-Bridge/2023-2024		
03.	Periodic Maintenance Programme for Construction of 34.88m (1x33.54m) Long P.C. Girder Bridge Ratangonj Bridge at 9th km (Ch. 08+400m) on Kalihati-Ratangonj-Shakipur Road (Z-4016) under Tangail Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	05-11-2023, 17:00	06-11-2023, 12:20
	Invitation Reference No. 07/e-GP/JRC-Tan/PMP-Bridge/2023-2024		
Tho	so are online tenders, where only a Tander will be accepted	lin a CD partal and no off	fling/hard conice will

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system Portal (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>)

(Md. Moniruzzaman)

(ID: 601961)

Superintending Engineer (C.C), RHD

Jamalpur Road Circle

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