

Cattle farmers

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The farmers also alleged a syndicate of unscrupulous people and cattle smugglers is active in Dahagram.

When the union parishad authorities refuse to issue tokens, racket members buy cattle from helpless farmers at a much lower price and take those to markets in Bangladesh territory and sell at higher prices, they said.

"Tokens are issued secretly. We demand that the list of people who get tokens be made public every week," said Amir.

Contacted, Habibur Rahman, chairman of Dahagram Union Parishad, refuted the allegations.

"The tokens are issued in a transparent manner. However, the demand for tokens is high. We receive some 200 to 250 applications every week, but we are able to issue only 60," he said.

"As many people cannot be issued tokens, they become angry, and are hence making these false allegations," Habibur added.

"If anyone wants to see the list of issued tokens weekly, they can come to my office," he added.

Contacted, Patgram Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Nurul Islam said he had already warned Dahagram UP chairman not to issue tokens to non-farmers.

"I will soon take steps to ensure weekly publication of the list," he added.

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Saiful Islam, 34, a resident of Rashtra village in Tangail's Basail upazila, sold a piece of his land and borrowed some money to go to Saudi Arabia with a job.

However, during the pandemic, like many other fortune seekers, he had to return home empty-handed in 2021.

It was a bewildering situation for Saiful and his wife Lovely.

With no earnings or savings, they were finding it hard to remain afloat. The couple has two school-going children.

It was then Saiful decided to try mushroom cultivation and make a career out of it.

While abroad, he watched content on mushroom cultivation on YouTube and found it an interesting idea.

He participated in a 10-day online training course at the National Mushroom Development Institute. Later, he collected mushroom spores from Savar and started his farm on a small scale. Three months later, he started harvesting and selling mushrooms.

Meanwhile, his recruiting company in KSA reached out to him and asked him to collect his dues and join work again. It came as a window of opportunity for him to be able to repay his loans.

"Actually, due to pressure from creditors, I needed to pay them back as soon as possible, so I was forced to go abroad again," said Saiful.

He worked there for two more years but his



heart remained with his mushroom farm.

"My wife was finding it difficult to manage the farm alone, including maintenance works, production and marketing of mushrooms. So, the farm was shut down," Saiful said.

Meanwhile, Saiful came to know more about mushroom cultivation from YouTube and others involved in it. Two years later he returned permanently with all his savings and reopened the farm to resume mushroom cultivation.

This time the couple had a new plan.

They rented a small shop near Karimganj

market nearby and launched a food shop selling items prepared with mushrooms.

"From around 300 spores, we harvest about 4-5 kg of mushrooms daily. Some of those are sold raw, and the rest are used in our shop for various mushroom dishes including chops, fries, and pickles," he said.

"People are, nowadays, aware of the health benefits of mushrooms and many come to the shop to try our dishes. The shop is doing well, with daily earnings ranging from Tk 2,000 to Tk 3,000," he said.

Lovely chipped in, "We named the farm and the mini restaurant after our daughters."

Saiful said he is preparing to expand his business by producing mushroom spores to help others interested in its cultivation.

'Alor Iskul' brings

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school materials for free," said Shamsul Islam, assistant commissioner of Shyampur Zone.

Initially, the school operated with nine students, one teacher, and a single room.

Today, it has four classrooms, a washroom, an office room, and a faculty of five teachers, he said.

Amanur Dewan, a rickshaw puller, shared his struggle to educate his daughter before discovering the school.

"I wanted to educate my daughter and tried to get her to a school in the Faridabad area. But they charged Tk 300 to Tk 350 monthly. So I had to stop it as I was unable to afford the amount," he said.

"Now my daughter receives education for free," he said.

Atikur Rahman, owner of a scrap factory, highlighted their collaboration with the police to support the school financially.

"We provide a subscription fee based on our capacity, ranging from

Misappropriation of govt land?

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officer of CCC, expressed shock at the developments when this correspondent reached out to him for comments.

"As the city corporation does not own the land, I declined to sign an agreement with the company in October. I wonder how they are constructing structures despite this," he said.

"Perhaps they have gotten verbal permission from the mayor. I will talk to the mayor about it," he said.

Even the CCC's engineering department did not know anything.

Contacted, Abu Siddique, superintendent engineer (civil) of CCC, said, "We don't know anything about the project. The mayor's personal secretary Abul Hashem may know what's going on."

Hashem could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, CDA is the statutory body that permits the construction of establishments in the port city.

"CCC officials neither informed us nor sought any permission," said Hasan

Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA. "I think something fishy is going on. We will send the city corporation a letter," he added.

The Public Works Department owns the land under what used to be the Panchlaish Residential Area project. It was handed over to CCC in 1988 for maintenance and future road expansion, said Rahul Guha, executive engineer of PWD, Chattogram.

Subhash Barua, vice president of Forum for Planned Chattogram and a town planner, said constructing structures on the land earmarked for potential road expansion is impractical and problematic, suggesting that the proposed gymnasium and kids' zone may merely be a façade for another commercial project in an unsuitable location beside a busy road.

THE MAYOR'S VERSION

Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said CCC reclaimed the land for beautification due to unsocial activities occurring at night in the previously open space.

Admitting that CCC is

working alongside Miracle Miles for the beautification project, he said, "As the city corporation doesn't own the land, we could not sign any agreement with the company."

However, this does not still explain why PWD, the original owner of the land, was not kept in the loop before initiating the project.

Regarding CDA's permission, he said the city corporation has never taken permission from the CDA to construct establishments.

"We do not need permission," the mayor said.

When asked why his colleagues were kept in the dark, he said the engineering and town planning departments of CCC knew about the project.

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BCL factional clash leaves 15 hurt in CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 15 people were injured as two factions of Chittagong University Chhatra League clashed on the campus over a trivial matter yesterday.

The clash took place in front of the Suhrawardy dormitory between shuttle train compartment-based BCL factions "Sixty-Nine" and "Bijoy Group", said BCL insiders.

The supporters of Sixty-Nine introduced themselves as followers of former Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin's while the other group as Education Minister Chowdhury Mohibul Hassan's followers.

Campus sources said previous enmity following a dispute over changing group of a BCL activist led to the clash.

The groups locked into a chase and counter-chase throwing brickbats. Later, proctorial body and police brought the situation under control.

Proctor Nurul Azim Sikdar said, "We will take action in this regard."

CU Medical Center's In Charge Mohammed Abu Tayeb said, "Fifteen Chhatra League activists were given primary treatment."

ARSON ON TRAINS

Railway endured loss of over Tk 9cr: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railways Minister Zillul Hakim yesterday in parliament said the estimated financial loss of the railways due to arson attacks by BNP-Jamaat ahead of the 12th general elections was over Tk 9 crore.

The minister said this while responding to a question from Awami League MP Morshed Alam.

"Before the 12th national polls, BNP, Jamaat, and their allies carried out arson attacks on trains. The estimated financial loss of the railway is Tk 9.28 crore," he said.

Meanwhile, Minister for Textiles and Jute Jahangir Kabir Nanak told parliament that approval has been given to put 16 BTMC textile mills under Public Private Partnership (PPP) out of 25.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

رَبِّ ارْجُهُمَا كَرِيَانِي صَغِيرًا

Today is the 47th death anniversary of **Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman**. All his relatives, well-wishers and acquaintances are requested to pray for the eternal peace of his soul.



Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:30 12:30 4:15 5:52 7:15

JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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ADMISSION NOTICE

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY (38th Batch)

Applications are invited from physicians (MBBS or equivalent with BMDC registration) for admission into the 38th batch of Certificate Course on Diabetology (CCD) session January to June 2024. The course was designed by a joint committee of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS) and Distance Learning Programmers of Open University of UK for providing standard diabetes care. Students can join the course in Online mode or Offline mode according to their preference. Doctors willing to get admitted into 38th batch are requested to do online registration for both online and offline modes through the DLP website (www.dlpbadas-bd.org). Selected candidates will subsequently get instruction to complete admission procedure. Students are requested to register early as seats are limited. Offline centers will be reopened in Chattogram, Sylhet and Rajshahi together with existing centers in Dhaka if sufficient number of students are available. For any query please call DLP office (+8801718851777).

National Prof A K Azad Khan

President, BADAS & Chairman, DLP

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh



Memo No.45.02.0000.001.07.072.23, .073.23 & .001.24-18

Dated : 15/02/2024

e-Tender Notice

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