### KHULNA'S BASTUHARA COLONY

# No permanent allotment for residents in 52yrs

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

In 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman allotted 33 acres of land for squatters and displaced people in Mujgunni area of Khulna city to reside there.

Back then, the land was largely an abandoned wetland on the outskirts of the city, where the people gradually built settlements over the years. Eventually the area came to be known as Bastuhara

At present, around 15,000 people from at least three generations are living in the colony. However, they have no permanent land document for their allotments of 450 square feet space for each family.

Apart from the residential establishments, there is a government primary school, an MPO-affiliated secondary school, four mosques, a madrasa and an orphanage in the colony.

Most residents of the colony are low-income people who live handto-mouth, working in informal professions such as hawkers, small traders, and day laborers, among

Even after more than 50 years, the land has yet to be permanently allotted to the settlers, despite their repeated plea for permanent registration of their plots at nominal value or symbolic value.

Abdur Razzak, a resident of the

allotment of land, they are being registered to their names," he said. unable to build the structures as per requirement.

"My seven-member family lives monsoon, almost all belongings get drenched in rain as I could not expressed frustration. build any concrete structure while

"If we could afford, we would have

purchased land or settle anywhere else in the city. Unfortunately, we in a shabby tin-shed house. In do not have the ability to buy land elsewhere as it is too expensive," he

On September 12, 1998, the the family continues to grow. If I go then prime minister Sheikh to bank for home loan, they want Hasina announced to initiate



I cannot produce," he added.

Sabur Mollah, 76, who came from Bakerganj of Barishal with five family members, have been living in the colony since 1972. The government changed in 2001. extended family members have grown in number to 23 and are state minister for labour and now living in two plots.

10-12 feet room? This is the reality mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, under rain water in monsoon. of almost families who live here, and then chairman of the Housing

residents of Bastuhara Colony at a public meeting there. Although the registration process was started, it stopped after the

Later, in 2013, former employment Begum Mannujan largely unhygienic, while almost "How many people can live in a Sufian, Khulna City Corporation

colony, said without permanent with their allotted lands yet to be Authority pledged to resume the registration process for the colony and rename it as "Bangabandhu Nagar".

Accordingly, an 8-member survey committee consisting of the representatives of the state minister, KCC, deputy commissioner of Khulna, Housing Authority, and Bastuhara Colony Registration Committee was formed to carry out the on-site survey.

The committee prepared a list of 1,502 families living in the colony through field survey and submitted a report. However, no progress was made since then.

Before allotting the land, Bangabandhu had pledged in this regard at an electioneering rally in 1970 at Khulna Circuit House ground.

Under his direction, the process of development and allotment registration of Bastuhara Colony began 1972 onwards, but later stopped after his assassination.

Visiting the colony recently, this correspondent observed that almost all structures are tin-shed houses in a congested, shabby, and dilapidated condition, where poor, working class people are living in a precarious state.

Lack of drainage and sewerage facilities turned the environment of the area remains submerged

### 75pc telecom towers in Feni still non**functional**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 75 percent of the mobile telecom towers in Feni are nonfunctional as of 5pm yesterday, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

In 11 flood-affected districts, approximately 7 percent of the mobile towers are out of service

Of the total 14,551 towers, 1,008 inactive at present in the flood-affected Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Chattogram, Khagrachhari, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet and Cox's Bazar.

The BTRC said it is trying to resume operation of the affected mobile towers in coordination with the

commission said two speedboats have been deployed in Fulgazi upazila of Feni in coordination with mobile operator Robi and tower operators Summit and Edotco to expedite network restoration efforts.

Additionally, speedboats have been SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

### **FLASH FLOOD Eminent citizens** urge unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven prominent citizens, including academics, authors, journalists, and rights activists, have called on the government and the people of Bangladesh to unite and work together to support the victims of the recent devastating floods.

In a statement issued to the media yesterday, they urged civil society, particularly social, cultural, and civic organisations, to take a more proactive role in providing coordinated assistance to those affected.

The statement highlighted that at least 18 people have lost their lives across 12 districts in the floods. It noted that citizens from all walks of life, including students and teachers, have stepped forward to assist flood-hit families.

The interim government has also sent relief items to the affected areas.

The signatories praised the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement for its efforts in crowdfunding and distributing various relief items to those impacted by the floods. They noted that the overwhelming response from the public, with people donating cash and relief materials, demonstrates the deep compassion and commitment of Bangladesh's citizens to support those in need during challenging times.

The statement included a seven-point recommendation, emphasising the importance of encouraging people to assist flood victims according to their capacity by quickly gathering and delivering essential items—such as dry food. drinking water, clothing, emergency medicine, and cash—to nearby relief centres.

It also called for better coordination with local organisations and authorities, suggesting that a coordinated delivery of relief supplies could reduce costs and increase the efficiency of aid distribution.

The signatories urged prioritising aid to remote and hard-to-reach areas, with special attention to marginalised groups such as women, children, the elderly, the disabled, Dalits, Indigenous people, and the third gender.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

### Jashore AL leader, son sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman in Jashore filed a case against Jashore district Awami League President Shahidul Islam Milan and his son Sunday night, accusing them of leading a violent attack on his home on June 27.

In the case filed with Kotwali Police Station, the businessman, Asaduzzaman, said Milan and his son Samir Islam Piyas looted and vandalised his house in Hamidpur village. In addition, the case also accuses 150 to 200 unnamed individuals.

According to the case statement, a group of 150 to 200 armed men, allegedly under the leadership of Milan and Piyas, arrived at his home in a microbus, private car, and several motorcycles around 12:30pm on June 27.

The attackers, carrying firearms and and seven tractor-trolleys. They rounded up Asaduzzaman and his family members at gunpoint.

They first beat up Asaduzzaman, seizing his mobile phone, and then assaulted his two sons, confiscating and destroying their mobile phones as well. The attackers then entered the house, vandalising it with hockey sticks.

The assailants reportedly broke into the Almira (wardrobe), stealing Tk 10 lakh in cash and 30 pieces of gold jewellery valued at approximately Tk 30 lakh. They also stole other valuables worth over Tk 10 lakh, according to the case statement.

Asaduzzaman said he and his family have been living at the property since 1993. He said he is in possession of all valid documents proving ownership.

However, he alleged that Milan has long been demanding possession of the property, claiming it belongs to his brother-in-law, Nurul Islam, without providing any legal documents or proof. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Illegal sand lifting continues unabated in Chowagachha



MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Residents of Jashore's Chowgachha upazila have alleged that the local administration is yet to take any action against a syndicate that has long been illegally extracting sand from Marjad Bawar area in Patibila union.

Hundreds of truckloads of sand are being lifted from the spot using excavator every day, putting the nearby croplands, river-protection dam, roads and other structures and trees at risk, they also alleged.

According to the Sand Quarry and Soil Management Act, 2010, no sand can be extracted from rivers, canals, ponds and other waterbodies within one kilometer of any road, culvert or other structure.

However, some local influential in Patibila union -- Touhid Sheikh, Tito, Farukh Ahmed, Ibrahim Hossain, Liton Hossain, Mithu, Roshan Ali and Ala Uddin -- have been lifting sand without adhering to the law.

Visiting the spot recently, this correspondent observed excavators were engaged in illegal sand extraction on the riverbank.

Ziarul and Kabir Hossain, two workers who were lifting sand using excavator, said Mithu owns the machines.

The extracted sand is sold for different development works including filling up of lowlying lands, and construction works, they also said. About 100 truckloads of sand are being lifted

Tk 2,500-3,000, they added. Wishing anonymity, a local said sand lifting must be done from a designated sand quarry with the government's approval.

every day, and each truckload of sand is sold for

Farooq Hossain, who also owns excavators, said, "We know our activities are illegal. Many others are also running their machines here. We have been lifting and selling sand after managing officials concerned of the administration. We provide sand to different government-run development works at low cost.'

Contacted, Chougachha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sushmita Saha said policemen were sent to stop illegal sand lifting after receiving complaint in this regard.

Legal action will be taken against those involved, she added.



## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় পুরাতন কোর্ট বিভিং রোড, রাঙ্গামাটি-৪৫০০।

#### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারে (অক্টোবর/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পমর্স্ত) রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত দি-পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট ২০০৮ অনুসারে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ি, ঠিকাদার, যোগানদার ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচেছ।

20.1	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেপ,আয়কর সনদ,ভ্যাট রেজিষ্ট্রেশন সনদ,ব্যাংক সলভেপী সনদ ও অন্যান্য শর্ভবিদী দরপত্র দাতার দিলিলপত্রের বিবরণ যাহা পিজি-৩ এবং এর সাথে সংযুক্ত বাংলায় টেভার ভকুমেন্ট/সিভিউলে উল্লেখ আ						
দরপত্র সম্প	কিত তথ্য ঃ			wis paragraph		/ 6	
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান			১। পূলিশ সুপার রাঙ্গামাটি এর কার্যালয়।			
	দরগত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস			২। ডিআইজি, চট্টগ্রাম রেঞ্চ এর কার্যালয়।			
				১। পুলিশ সুপার রাঙ্গামাটির কার্যালয়।			
	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস			২। ডিআইজি, চউগ্রাম রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়।			
184	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা ১।পুলিশ সুপার রাগামাটির কার্যালয়।						
আফসের না	ম ও ঠিকানা ঃ			100	z mer o filozof		
101	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন সভার তারিখ			২৪/০৯/২০২৪ ইং বেলা- ১২.০০ ঘঃ।			
251	দরপত্র বাব্রু খোলার তারিখ ও সময়			২৩/০৯/২০২৪ ইং বেলা- ১২.০০ ঘঃ।			
22.1	দরপুত্র সিডিউল জমা প্রদানের/গ্রহনের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়			২২/০৯/২০২৪ ইং বেলা- ১২.০০ ঘঃ।			
, 301	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)			১৯/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।			
ð١	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ			২৭/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ			
তথ্যাদি ঃ							
βl	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত			রাজস্ব খাত।			
অর্ছের উৎস ঃ				-01			
91	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি			উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।			
কাজের বিবরণ	1						
61	তারিখ			২৫ / ০৮ /২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।			
01	দরপত্র সূত্র নং			রেশন/ ৪৪১৬ (১৮)/১ম খন্ড			
81	কি কারনে দরপত্র			জেলা পুলিশের রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়।			
01	দরপত্র সম্পাদনক	ারী প্রধান		পুলিশ সুপার, রাঙ্গামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা।			
31	মস্ত্রনালয়/বিভাগ সংস্থা			স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ। বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			

#### দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরন ৪-

01

GD-257

উন্নত মানের মসুর ডাল(ছোট দানা)

সংরক্ষিত নমূনা মোতাবেক ডাল ক্রয় করা হবে।

সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয়( ভিটামিন "এ" সমৃদ্ধ)।

চিনি ক্রয় (উন্লত মানের)

191	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মীর আবু তৌহিদ বিপিএম (বার)		
. 70.1	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পূলিশ সুপার ।		
197	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রাঙ্গামাটি জেলা।		
२०।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	অফিস ফোন-০৩৫১-৬২২০৪। জাব্ধ-০৩৫১-৬৩১২৭।		

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মোচাবেক কাৰ্যাদেশ

মোতাবেক

বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ-(ক) নির্নিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

(খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরোকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষন করেন। (গ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের ক্রয়ের পরিমান বৃদ্ধি অথবা,হ্রাদ করার বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।

(ম) দরদাতাগণ'কে তাদের নিজস্ম প্যান্তে আবেদন করে দরপত্র সিভিউল ক্রয়। করতে হবে। প্রকৃত ঠিকানার/মালিক ব্যতিত অন্য কোন প্রতিনিধির নিকট দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

> মীর আবু তৌহিদ বিপিএম (বার) বিপি নং-৭৯০৬১১৯৭৩২ পুলিশ সুপার রাঙ্গামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা कान-७२२०८, काञ्ज-७०১२९ ।

ই-মেইল sprangamati@police.gov.bd



Locals fishing in a canal connected to the Bhadra river in Khulna's Paikgachha upazila. After the tidal water recedes from the canal, many kinds of fish can be found there, prompting people to engage in such fishing activities. The photo was taken recently.

### No scope to delay polls **Says Workers Party**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Workers Party of Bangladesh, a key ally of the recently ousted Awami government, yesterday said that there is no scope to delay the next election.

They said timely election is mandatory to kick start a new democratic process.

In a statement issued yesterday, the politburo responded to the Chief Advisor's address to the nation, highlighting the urgency of holding elections.

"The immediate past government failed to create a fair electoral process. Due to the absence of fair elections, there is now a strong public demand for one," the statement said.

The party stressed that democratic political SEE PAGE 4 COL 8