

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 28, 2025

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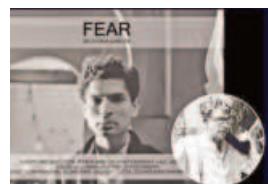
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UP CHAIRMEN'S ABSENCE People suffer amid service disruptions

HELEMUL ALAM and BAHARAM KHAN

Many union parishads across the country are still struggling to provide essential services as the chairmen of the local government bodies either went into hiding or were arrested in the aftermath of the July mass uprising.

Though the government has appointed administrators to fill the leadership void, there have been complaints of delays in getting birth and succession certificates that require approval from UP chairmen.

The situation worsened after the launch of "Operation Devil Hunt" in early February when several UP chairmen were arrested over alleged links to criminal activities, prompting many others to go into hiding.

Out of 4,575 UP chairmen across the country, at least 1,535 remain absent from work. Panel chairmen are handling the responsibilities of UP chairmen in 885 unions, while administrators have been appointed in 650 unions, according to officials at the LGRD ministry.

Moreover, 245 chairmen and 335 members were suspended till January, they said.

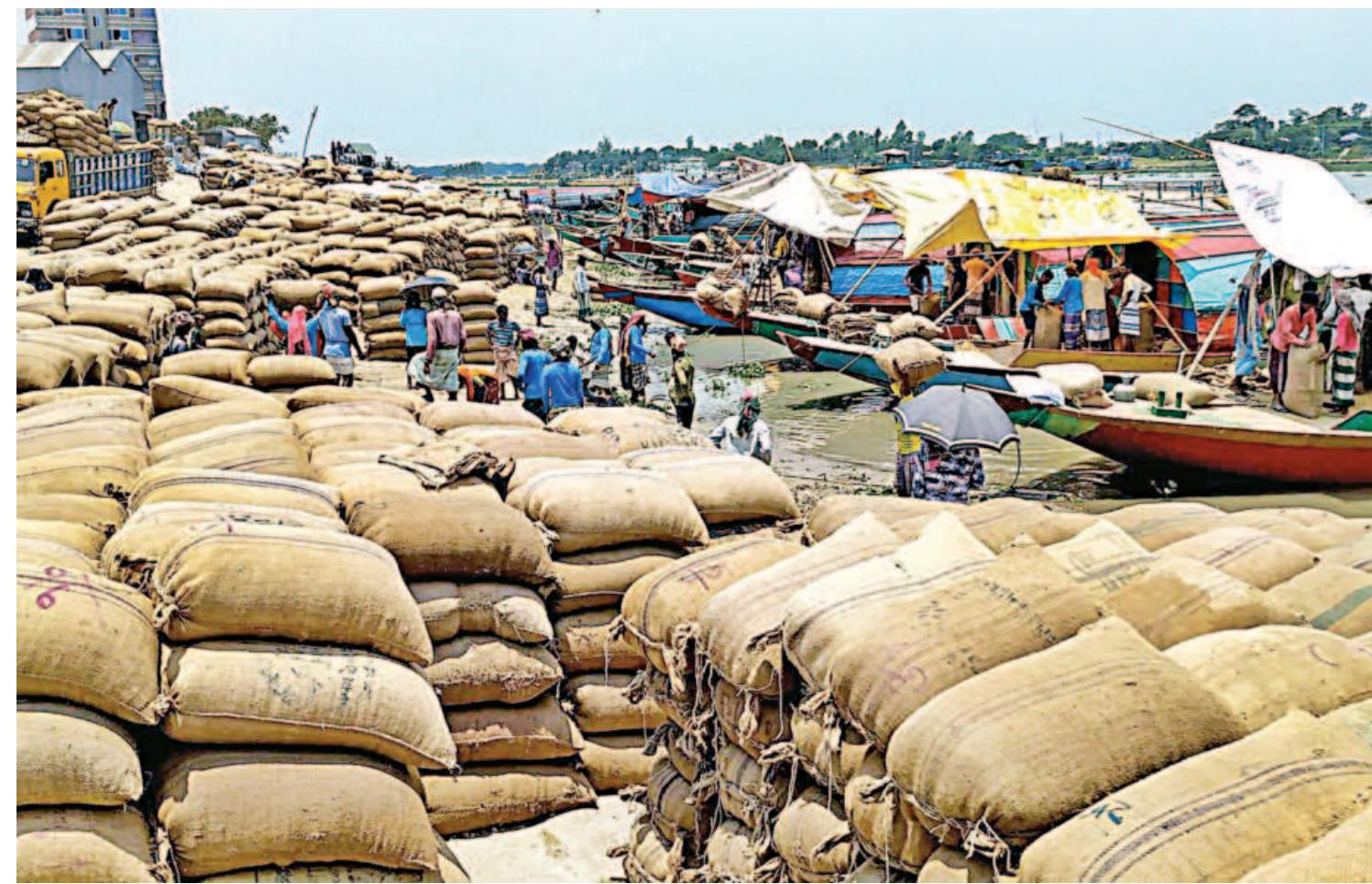
Besides running the government's social safety net programmes and village courts, implementing rural development projects, and ensuring law and order, union parishads issue birth, death, character and citizen certificates, among other services.

Talking to this newspaper, residents, officials and UP members in several districts said the absence of elected representatives caused disruptions to services.

They said many of the administrators are unfamiliar

- 1,535 out of 4,575 UP chairmen absent from work
- Panel chairmen working in 885 unions
- Administrators appointed in 650 unions
- 245 chairmen suspended till January

Source: LGRD ministry officials



The BOC Ghat paddy market in Brahmanbaria's Ashuganj is buzzing with activities as farmers from nearby riverside regions bring boatloads of freshly harvested crops for sale. Daily trading volume currently ranges between 80,000 and 100,000 maunds at this major paddy trade hub by the Meghna. Meanwhile, farmers are frustrated, saying an increased supply has caused paddy prices to fall by Tk 500 per maund.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOV

Hasina, 407 others sued over BNP man's killing
36 ex-ministers, 41 former MPs, 24 journos among accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 407 others have been sued over the killing of BNP activist Mahfuz Alam Shrabani in the capital's Mirpur during the mass uprising last year.

The accused individuals include 24 journalists, at least 36 former ministers and state ministers, more than 41 former lawmakers of the Awami League government, and six former advisers to Hasina, including her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

Businessmen of seven groups, five former election commissioners and former Election Commission secretary Muhammed Sadique, three former top officials of Bangladesh SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

with the people and infrastructure in their new places of deployment and are often burdened with additional work.

Besides, some panel chairmen, picked from among UP members to perform the duties of UP chairmen in their absence, are finding it hard to play their new role due to a lack of leadership experience.

In Chattogram, 134 out of 191 UP chairmen remain absent from office. Now, 46 UPs are managed by upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs), 39 by assistant commissioners of land, and 49 by panel chairmen.

Scores of service seekers in these unions said they had faced difficulties in obtaining documents from UP offices.

Recounting her ordeal, Ruma Akter, a resident of Ward-1 in Barahatia Union, said, "I had to visit the parishad office multiple times to get my daughter's birth certificate. I was told that UP Chairman Bijoy Kumar, an Awami League leader, remains absent. It took 15 days and a lot of hassle to get the certificate."

Milton Chowdhury, secretary of Popadia union parishad, said, "Our chairman, SM Jasim Uddin Chowdhury, has not come to office since August 5. For his approval, we have to send documents to the port city where he is staying now. What used to take a day now takes two or three."

Out of the 146 UP chairmen in Mymensingh, 77 are absent, with government officials or panel chairmen filling their positions, said district administration sources.

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CONFLICT-TORN RAKHINE Dhaka agrees to aid corridor, but with conditions: Touhid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka agrees in principle with the UN proposal for a humanitarian corridor to Myanmar's Rakhine State, but certain conditions must be met for its implementation, said Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday.

Talks over the corridor intensified after UN chief Antonio Guterres, during his 4-day Bangladesh visit last month, said that he discussed with authorities the option of sending humanitarian aid into Myanmar via Bangladesh.

Guterres said such a move will help Rohingya repatriation to Rakhine. However, he admitted it would require the "authorisation and the cooperation of the parties to the conflict".

Yesterday, Touhid, while interacting with reporters at the foreign ministry, did not elaborate on the conditions, but a diplomatic source said a major one is to ensure a conducive environment for Rohingya repatriation.

- Foreign adviser urges talks to ease Indo-Pak tensions
- 'Bangladeshi' arrested in India will be repatriated after verification

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DEFAULT LOANS Bank puts 3 S Alam factories up for auction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three firms owned by Chattogram-based S Alam Group are going under the hammer for defaulting on around Tk 2,180 crore loans from the Islami Bank.

They are S Alam Steel Mills, S Alam Power Generation, and S Alam Vegetable Oil Industries, according to a notice published in local newspaper Dainik Purbokone by the bank's Khatunganj Corporate Branch in the port city yesterday.

To recover the dues, the bank has invited bids from interested buyers for the mortgaged properties under section 12(3) of the Money Loan Court Act 2003.

The notice says that the auctioned assets cover approximately 1,149 decimals of land.

It has held 15 individuals, including S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam, responsible for the defaulted loans.

Others include Alam Cold Rolled Steels Ltd's Chairman Abdus Samad, Managing Director Osman Gani,

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ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

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গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন এলাকায় কতিপয় আবাসিক/বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের অভ্যন্তরে রাজউক কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত নকারায় রেস্টুরেন্ট নাথাকলেও বিধি বহির্ভূতভাবে রেস্টুরেন্ট পরিচালনা করা হচ্ছে এবং ভবনের ছাদে অবেদভাবে রুফটপ রেস্টুরেন্ট পরিচালিত হচ্ছে, যা জনজীবনের জন্য ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ। বিধি বহির্ভূতভাবে রেস্টুরেন্ট পরিচালনা করায় ইতোমধ্যেই বিভিন্ন ছানে দূর্ঘটনায় সম্পদ ও প্রাণহানির ঘটনা ঘটেছে। এসব ক্ষেত্রে অনেকে অবেদ ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠান অনৈতিক উপায়ে কর্পোরেশনের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করেছেন।

বর্ণিত অবস্থায় সম্পদ ও জনমালের ক্ষতির ঝুঁকি এড়াতে নয়া বহির্ভূত সকল রেস্টুরেন্ট এবং ভবনের ছাদে ছাপিত রুফটপ রেস্টুরেন্টের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারীর তারিখ হতে বাতিল ঘোষণা করা হলো। বাতিলকৃত লাইসেন্স দ্বারা কোন ব্যবসা পরিচালনা করা হলে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করেছেন।

কর্তৃপক্ষ

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

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