



DC Park or mangrove forest?

Forest Department, Ctg district admin at odds over control of 194-acre land in Sitakunda

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

The Forest Department and the Chattogram district administration are at odds over the control of a forest land in Sitakunda upazila, where a recreational park has been developed after felling hundreds of trees.

The Forest Department wrote to the chief conservator of forests on January 2, requesting that the land, along with existing structures, be handed over to the Coastal Forest Division of Chattogram.

Records show that the land – about 194 acres under North Salimpur mauza – was officially gazetted as a notified forest by the government under Section 4 of the Forest Act on January 9, 1986. Later, the Coastal Forest Division planted mangrove trees there in the 1990-91 fiscal year.

In its letter, the Forest Department argued that, even though the land has been typically recorded in the name of the deputy commissioner of Chattogram in Khatian 1, this cannot be used as a pretext to treat such notified land as grassland, and hence any such action by the district administration is unlawful and constitutes an overreach of jurisdiction.

District administration officials rejected the claim, saying the land is recorded in its name in the official khatian.

According to Section 5 of the Act, once land is notified under Section 4 and subsequently gazetted as forest land, it cannot be repurposed.

In a verdict on October 6, 2013, the Supreme Court also directed that forest land notified under Section 4 must be preserved.

And yet, the Chattogram district administration constructed what is now known as DC Park in 2023 on the land, allegedly ignoring objections from the Forest Department.

The land of DC Park had not been under our possession for a long time. During that period, a local influential named Kafil Uddin established a recreational centre there called Shuktara Park. However, the area still had many trees, including mangroves. We sent a letter to the deputy commissioner on November 22, 2020, requesting its eviction. The park was removed in January 2023, after which the district administration took control of the land and built DC Park there later on," said Belayet Hossain, divisional forest officer of Chattogram.

"Despite our objections during the construction of DC Park, the district administration went ahead, building numerous facilities for visitors, including seating areas, swings, and restaurants,"

he added.

The Forest Department stated in its letter that the park was built on over 37 acres of land, with at least 5,000 mangrove trees felled during construction.

This claim is supported by satellite imagery analysis from Google Earth. A 2018 image shows the western bank of a pond inside the park was densely forested, while 2025 images show numerous structures now occupy the site. The latest imagery also shows a road cutting through the northern part of the park, extending towards the sea.

"DC Park has been built on land belonging to the Chattogram district administration. We have not constructed the park on any land belonging to the Forest Department, so their claim is not reasonable," Farida Khanam, deputy commissioner of Chattogram, said when contacted in this regard.

Asked why the Forest Department only recently sought to reclaim control of the land, Belayet Hossain said, "We have observed that the district administration is gradually expanding the park, constructing facilities for tourists near another pond, and there are plans to build a road towards the sea. We are concerned about these activities, and so we are now trying to regain control of the gazetted

forest land."

The Forest Department had tried to intervene during construction of the DC Park earlier, but the district administration proceeded, allegedly threatening forest officials in the process, he claimed.

If the land is returned to the Forest Department, a coastal greenbelt could be developed there, serving as an ideal habitat for wildlife, water systems, air quality, and biodiversity, Belayet added.

In a letter, Chief Conservator of Forests Mollah Rezaul Karim wrote that mangrove forests beyond the embankments in Sitakunda and Mirsarai upazilas have played a crucial role in protecting lives and property by mitigating the impact of several major cyclones in the past.

Kamal Hossen, a former professor of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences at Chittagong University, said, "Mangroves are frontline defenders of coastal regions, reducing the force of storm surges, protecting against erosion, and helping maintain biodiversity. When these forests are cleared, they remove a critical natural shield, leaving communities highly vulnerable to cyclones, flooding, and long-term ecological damage."

Finn, Cory and Sam to retire

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"good health" and are "perfectly capable of living comfortably as companion animals".

"Dogs used in law enforcement generally have a fixed service span. As per procedure, we sought approval from the Police Headquarters to put them

up for auction," said Nazmul Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of the CTIC's Dog Disposal Unit. "K-9 unit hopes these animals will spend the rest of their lives in a safe and caring environment with animal lovers." The auction is being conducted in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, he added.

According to the tender notice, businessmen, auction bidders, contractors, and dog lovers have been invited to an open auction, which will begin at 12:00pm on November 25 and continue until all three dogs find new owners.

The rules are simple: interested buyers must deposit Tk 1,000 to participate. Successful bidders will pay the final price along with 10 percent income tax and 7.5 percent VAT.

Each dog will be auctioned separately. They can be inspected by contacting the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Action Group), DMP, and buyers must complete payment and collect their dogs within three days. For more details, interested persons may dial 01320-046356.

He also expressed concern over the exit clearance complications in Saudi Arabia.

Withdraw 'unrealistic conditions'

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The ten conditions include requirements such as a 10,000 square foot office, remaining at the same address for three years, proof of sending at least 3,000 workers, and having a training centre, he noted.

"These requirements are impossible for most agencies to meet," he said, warning that this could allow only a few companies to control the entire labour market.

Selim urged the government to take professional diplomatic steps to address the issue regarding the ten conditions placed by the Malaysian government.

He also expressed concern over the exit clearance complications in Saudi Arabia.

If the old exit clearance

rule for visa numbers 1 to 24 is not restarted without verification, the number of workers going to Saudi Arabia may decrease further, he added.

At the press conference, they described the case against Fakhrul Islam as "false, intentional and meant to harass him".

Speakers said ahead of the upcoming Baira election, a syndicate-backed group is filing such cases to keep rivals out of the contest.

They accused Rubel Hossain, owner of Rule International and the complainant, of helping the syndicate.

According to BMET data, the workers named in the

case actually travelled to Malaysia through different agencies, which clearly shows inconsistencies in the case, the speakers said.

They also alleged that Fakhrul Islam was targeted because he opposes the syndicate and that preparations are being made to file even more fabricated cases before the election.

Baira Sammilito Sammoyon Front strongly protested these incidents and demanded immediate legal action against those who filed the "false case".

They also urged the administration to properly verify any future cases against Baira members before accepting them.

The birth registration

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On October 19, 2023, then Registrar General Rashedul Hasan formally notified the Local Government Division secretary.

In January 2024, current Registrar General Md Zahid Hossain repeatedly wrote letters declaring DSCC's "own server" unlawful.

On August 3, 2024, amid the anti-discrimination student movement, Taposh left the country. Afterwards, certificate distribution through the national server resumed.

According to DSCC's IT department, under Taposh's directive, 78,956 birth and 1,471 death registrations were issued in about 10 and a half months, generating nearly Tk 40 lakh in revenue.

DSCC currently provides services through 10 zonal offices in 75 wards. Regulations require applications to be submitted via the Registrar General's website and deposited at regional offices.

Certificates issued through DSCC's own server

could not be used for school and college admissions, national ID, passports, or driving licences, as verification was impossible without interconnection to the national server. This led to increasing suffering, forcing residents to reapply.

By law, a birth certificate is required for accessing government services, including the issuance of a national ID, passport, and driving licence.

The Registrar General's office has MOUs with 22 government institutions under two acts, granting the Registrar General sole authority over software development, maintenance, and the preservation of registration data – leaving DSCC's initiative without a legal basis.

Contacted, Registrar General Md Zahid Hossain said, "So far, problems have been resolved for 40,000 registrations in DSCC. Those are now available online. Work is ongoing to resolve the remaining issues."

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 2005 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

Wahida Sharmin, Managing Director of FIT ELEGANCE Ltd, of Reg. Office: A-131, Lane-05, New DOHS,Mohakhali, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.

...Petitioner

FIT ELEGANCE Ltd, of Reg. Office: A-131, Lane-05, New DOHS,Mohakhali, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh, and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies & Firms (RSC), TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 and having its Chittagong Office at CDA Annex Building (5th Floor), Kotowali, Chittagong.

...Respondents.

Notice is hereby given that an application under sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the petitioner for condoning the delay of holding the Annual General Meeting of FIT ELEGANCE Ltd for the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Upon hearing the application The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 06.11.2025. If any person interested in the said application may appear on the date of hearing or before the Hon'ble Court either himself or through an Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

Jobair Ahmed, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, 14 Purana Paltan, Darus Salam Arcade, 11th floor, S/1208, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: +88-01725656984.

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH, HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 2025 OF 2025

An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

GP CAPT. SK M SHAFIQUEL ISLAM (p/c Retd.)

...Petitioner

IFDC Solar Power (BD) Ltd, and Others

Notice is hereby given that an Application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for debt in holding AGMs of shareholder of IFDC Solar Power (BD) Ltd was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Petitioner.

Upon hearing the Application on 12.11.2025, Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the said Application and directed publication of this notice and fixed date of compliance of this notice on or before 15.12.2025.

Any person interested to oppose the said Application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate on the date fixed for hearing.

Copy of the said Application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Masuma Akter

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Chamber Al-Amin Center (Grand Floor), 25/A Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000, Mobile No. 01712077877.

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