Uttara Apartment Project

Rajuk cancels tender

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Helemul Alam

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha has finally decided to cancel the bid of Dungah-ASCON-Sikdar for constructing 144 buildings of Uttara Apartment Project in the capital's suburb. The decision was made yesterday at a board meeting of Rajuk, chaired by its Chairman Nurul Huda, three weeks after the Tender Evaluation Committee recommended cancelling the proposal of the joint venture company, said Rajuk sources. Dungah Construction Ltd, of South Korea, ASCON, of Dubai, and local Sikdar Real State Company had formed the joint venture and it was the lone bidder. On December 24, 2012, the evaluation committee told Rajuk that the company failed to meet the criteria of the bidding. However, Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda tendered his resignation on Sunday following allegedly a row with State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan over cancelling the company's bid. His resignation was not accepted and he joined work Monday following requests of officials of the housing and pubic works ministry. The state minister in a meeting at the ministry on Sunday had allegedly mounted pressure on Nurul Huda to award the job to Dungah-ASCON-Sikdar. Ruling party lawmaker and Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh President Nasrul Hamid Bipu, who allegedly influenced Minister Mannan to favour Dungah-ASCON-Sikdar, was present at the meeting, sources claimed. Nasrul, however, denied any involvement in the joint-venture company and even his presence in the meeting. Minister Mannan yesterday told The Daily Star that he did not interfere in the matter before, nor would he do that in future. "Rajuk will make the final decision on it," he said. In the last two days, Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda refused to talk to The Daily Star on the excuse that he was not well. M Mahbul Ul Alam, head of evaluation committee and a member (development) of Rajuk, declined to make any comment yesterday and advised that The Daily Star talk to the Rajuk chairman. In September, 2012, Dungah-ASCON-Sikdar became the lone bidder for the job of constructing 144 buildings of two types in Uttara Apartment Project. The estimated cost of the job is around Tk 5,500 crore while the cost of the entire project is estimated to be about Tk 10,000 crore. Under the project, a total of 223 16-storey buildings would be built

with around 21,000 flats of three types, A, B and C. Dungah-ASCON-Sikdar sought to construct B- and C-type flat buildings. The tender evaluation committee detected that Dungah-ASCON-Sikdar did not submit sufficient designs for the buildings and many among those submitted were not of the quality the committee could be satisfied with, sources said. The committee also found that the annual turnover of Sikdar Real Estate was beneath the amount the tender criterion had mentioned as required. Construction work for type-A buildings in the project was inaugurated on March 28, 2012, source said, adding that their construction was going on.



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Naimur Rahman



The administration of Chittagong University yesterday claimed to have identified two persons who sexually assaulted a female student on the campus on Sunday night.



"We have identified two of them. We verified their images with the victim and her friend. They confirmed that the people in the images were involved," said CU Assistant Proctor Shahidul Islam.



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He also said that the university administration was fully cooperating with police to identify all the accused in the case filed over the assault.

Contacted, Ruhul Amin, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station, said they could not disclose the names or identities of the identified accused for the sake of investigation.

"We identified a few people already," he said.

Meanwhile, CU Chhatra League President Rejaul Haque Rubel claimed that he identified five people who were involved in the crime.

"One of the five is Azim Hossain, a follower of BCL sub-group 'CFC'. Azim knows about the rest of the culprits. I got five names from him," Rubel told this correspondent.



Asked about the findings, Assistant Proctor Shahidul Islam said, "He [Rubel] is not a part of the probe body. He cannot claim this."

Besides, a friend of the victim who went to the proctor's office to lodge complaint that night had a peek at the CCTV footage of the incident and confirmed Azim's involvement.

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Rohingya genocide case to proceed

Say world court judges rejecting Myanmar's objections; Bangladesh welcomes the ruling

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Reuters, The Hague



A general view of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands. File Photo: Reuters/ Eva Plevier

The World Court yesterday rejected Myanmar's objections to a genocide case over its treatment of the Muslim Rohingya minority, paving the way for the case to be heard in full.



Myanmar, now ruled by a military junta that seized power in 2021, had argued that Gambia, which brought the suit, had no standing to do so at the top UN court, formally known as the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

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But presiding Judge Joan Donoghue said the 13 judge panel found that all members of the 1948 Genocide Convention can and are obliged to act to prevent genocide, and the court has jurisdiction in the case.

"Gambia, as a state party to the Genocide convention, has standing," she said, reading a summary of the ruling. The court will now proceed to hearing the merits of the case, a process that will take years.

Bangladesh has welcomed the judgment.

"Bangladesh maintains that the question of international justice and accountability will be critical in finding a durable solution to the Rohingya crisis, and would also prove to be a confidence building measure for the sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas to their homes in Myanmar with their legitimate rights restored," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka said in a statement.

Gambia, which took up the cause after its then-attorney general visited a refugee camp in Bangladesh, argues that all countries have a duty to uphold the 1948 Genocide Convention. It is backed by the 57-nation Organisation for Islamic Cooperation in a suit aiming to hold Myanmar accountable and prevent further bloodshed.



A separate UN fact-finding mission concluded that a 2017 military campaign by Myanmar that drove 730,000 Rohingyas into neighbouring Bangladesh had included "genocidal acts".

While the court's decisions are binding and countries generally follow them, it has no way of enforcing them.

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In a 2020 provisional decision it ordered Myanmar to protect the Rohingya from genocide, a legal victory that established their right under international law as a protected minority.

However, Rohingya groups and rights activists say there has been no meaningful attempt to end their systemic persecution and what Amnesty International has called a system of apartheid.

Rohingyas are still denied citizenship and freedom of movement in Myanmar. Tens of thousands have now been confined to squalid displacement camps for a decade, reports Reuters.

The junta has imprisoned democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who defended Myanmar personally in 2019 hearings in The Hague.

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