

Panam Nagar

FROM PAGE 1
During the British rule, the English rulers built a modern building, the company 'kuthi', there.

From the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th, Hindu landlords and the merchants put up residential quarters on both sides of the road.

Two bridges on the Pankhiraz canal between Dulalpur and Panam add to the archeological riches of the old town and speak of opulent Mughal architecture.

The deputy commissioner of Narayanganj leased out some of the structures in the past, said Dewan Delwar Hossain, director of archaeology department.

"Virtually we are yet to do anything with Panam. We have submitted a Tk 13 crore project to the government and expect to plunge into action after the government approval," the director told The Daily Star yesterday.

Following the government order, some locals have thrown up new houses in the protected area with the intention of making some quick money as compensation from the government during eviction.

At least four newly corrugated iron roofs shone in bright sunlight to announce their existence on Friday.

But all other historic buildings nearby stood in virtual ruin: Images

carved on their pillars and walls were peeling off, doors and windows rotting and rickety cast iron grills falling apart.

Locals occupied some of the buildings as residents or trade centres, adding pace to their destruction by utter neglect.

Saidur Rahman, chairman of Sonargaon Pourasabha, has been living at the Nilkuthi changing its original design and structure. A new veneer of plaster sat incongruously on the wall of the kuthi, a building constructed by British indigo traders.

The chairman said the Nilkuthi was his personal property that he inherited from his father who bought it from the government.

"The chairman will have to leave the Nilkuthi as it sits in the protected area now," said Mohammed Abu Musa, director of the Bangladesh Folk Art and Craft Foundation at Sonargaon.

"It's a really praiseworthy decision of the government to save our heritage," he added.

Archaeological engineer Abdul Hakim said his team would conduct a survey in the Panam area to find out personal property there.

"Compensation would be given to the real property owners," he said.

Hakim said he was aware of new settlers in Panam town and would take necessary steps.

Presence of criminal with ministers draws flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The presence of a top criminal at a ward BNP conference Friday in presence of Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir has sparked strong resentment among the rank and file of the ruling BNP in Chittagong.

Wanted by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police, listed criminal Morshed Khan was seen on the same dais with the two government ministers during the biennial conference of No. 19 South Bakolia Ward of BNP at Charchaktai City Corporation High School ground under Bakolia Police Station.

Wishing anonymity, a leader of Chittagong City BNP, however admitted that Morshed was present at the conference, which was addressed by Noman as chief guest and Mir Nasir as special guest.

He said Morshed came to the meeting venue at the head of a huge procession immediately after the two ministers arrived there at the around 5:15pm. He climbed up the stairs of the dais, positioned himself behind the ministers and stayed there until the end of the conference, the BNP leader told The Daily Star.

He said Morshed was not invited to the function but no action was taken to remove the criminal probably in view of the trouble it might create.

Everest

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October for hone their climbing skills.

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed was present as chief guest at the press conference. Besides, trekkers Enam-ul-Haque, Sirajul Haque Sagor, Mashharul Ameen Milon, Enamul Haque Talukder, Muntasir Mamun Inran, Rifat Hasan and Khaled Sajal were present.

The press conference over, a slide show of the group's trekking experiences on the Annapurna Mountain and base camp of Everest was arranged.

Acid-burnt

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while her husband Yunus Shiekh suffered burns in some parts of the body.

Badal Mircha, Nasima's brother, rushed to his sister's aid on hearing her cry and had his chest, hands and legs burnt in the process, as he embraced her without knowing what was going on.

Yunus chased the criminals in vain, but identified Maftuz, Kalam Mollah, Anwar Hossain Mollah, Sadeq Hossain Mollah, and Pannu Mollah, while they were running away.

The burnt were rushed to Rajair Thana Health Complex. Nasima and Badal were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning as their conditions deteriorated.

"They came to throw acid on my 11-year-old daughter Mousumi. They also abducted her from Madaripur about two months back and kept her confined at Jatrabari in Dhaka for three days," Nasima told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier, Nasima said she had lent Sirajul Haq Tk 1 lakh at the rate of Tk 10,000 interest a month three years back.

"I called local seniors three months back, as Sirajul returned no money even after 32 months. In presence of the seniors he offered me a marriage between Mousumi and his 25-year-old addicted and criminal son Suman and termed the money would be dowry. On my refusal, Sirajul picked her," Nasima said.

"Families and local influentials met twice and told me that Mousumi cannot be married off to somewhere else 'after she passed three days with males no matter how old she is'," she said.

"But we continued to refuse and filed a case against Sumon and his parents for kidnapping my daughter," Nasima continued. "And they threatened me 15 days ago of dire consequences if we did not withdraw the case within one week."

Morshed leaves for NY to attend UNGA session

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan left Dhaka yesterday for New York to attend the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During his two-week stay in New York, the foreign minister is scheduled to hold 15 bilateral meetings with his counterparts from different countries.

He is also scheduled to meet President of Senegal Abdoulaye Wade, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and the president of the 58th Session of the UNGA.

Tullow slams

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Petrobrangla on Tullow's position on the transfer saying the firm does not endorse such a deal and had no prior knowledge about it.

Earlier on September 16, Chevron and Texaco informed Petrobrangla about the deal that transfers their 60 per cent share in Block 9 to Niko.

The remaining 10 per cent share belongs to Bapex, the government agency responsible for gas field exploration and development.

Industry sources said the share transfer deal was made secretly and the companies implemented the transfer in the stock market to Nico on September 15, the day before they announced the deal.

Talking to the BSS, a Petrobrangla functionary yesterday confirmed the development but avoided commenting on it. He said the agency in charge of looking after the production sharing contracts (PSCs) on gas blocks with international oil companies (IOCs) is now reviewing the legality of the transfer.

"We will see whether the deal was made legally and what our role should be in the matter," he said. "We will not only examine this deal, but the entire legal aspect of the PSCs vis-a-vis such transfers," he added.

Bangladesh

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Success in reaching the MDGs will depend not just on a faster economic growth and the flow of resources but on the ability to translate those resources into basic services, especially in health, education, water and sanitation, the report says.

Too often, the delivery of services falls far short of what could be achieved, especially for the poor.

Some countries have tried to address the problem, especially by involving poor people in service delivery, and showed impressive results, the report revealed.

The World Bank said giving parents voice over their children's education, patients the say over hospital management and making utility agency budgets transparent can contribute to improving outcomes in human development.

It urged the donors to deliver foreign aid in ways that promote, not undercut, better services for the poor.

The new World Bank report warns that broad improvements in human welfare will not occur unless poor people receive wider access to affordable, better-quality services in health, education, water, sanitation and electricity.

However, the report provides powerful examples of where services do work, showing how governments and citizens can do better.

It says there have been spectacular successes and miserable failures in the efforts of developing countries to make services work. The main difference between success and failure is the degree to which poor people themselves are involved in determining the quality and the quantity of the services they receive.

Spending more money -- badly needed in many parts of the world -- will also not be enough, as public funds are often spent on the wrong services and people are sucked away by corruption, the report noted.

Charges framed against four in Sultana Panni murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday framed charges against four accused in the Sultana Khan Panni murder case.

The accused are the cook of the victim's house, Alauddin Munshi, caretaker Mehedi Mamun Rana and their friends, Nasir Uddin and Emdadul Haq. Judge Motiur Rahman fixed October 4 for trial of the case.

Sultana Khan Panni, 70, wife of former deputy speaker Humayun Khan Panni, was strangled at her Dhanmondi residence on May 19.

The victim's daughter, Sonia Khan Panni, filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station the same day.

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police pressed charges against the four on July 16, showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses.

Earlier, the accused had made confessional statements before metropolitan magistrates on different dates.

15 families

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the place but came back with a large group of people armed with lethal weapons and iron rods.

They swooped on the indigenous villagers and damaged the house of one Shasti.

The members of some 15 families left the village and did not return till the filing of this report yesterday evening.

Dulal Murmu told newsmen that he complained to the UNO who asked Mohonpur police and the local UP chairman to take necessary actions in this regard.

The UNO could not be contacted immediately.

But Sub-Inspector Sanaullah of Mohonpur Police Station said they did not know anything about the incident.

Silkways Cargo Services Ltd. has disbursed honorarium and 49 per cent of profit share monies to Mr. Dato Mohd Zin Bin Mohamed every month since the inception of the GSA," said the complaint, a copy of which has been obtained by The Daily Star.

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prototype of Chinese type-58 stake mines and type-59 pressure mines. The mines are produced under a Chinese-aided project near Pye (Prome).

Other coveted items in the Myanmar weaponry are a Special Combat Vehicle (SCV) which is roof-mounted with 12.7mm Herstal machinegun, a bonnet-mounted 7.62mm light machinegun, bonnet-mounted 84mm Carl Gustav M2 rocket launcher and 81 and 60 mm mortars.

The military tie-up move follows the strengthening of bilateral ties in economic fields and Dhaka's assurance to Myanmar of not allowing use of Bangladesh's land, air or sea spaces by any power hostile to Myanmar.

Both Bangladesh and Myanmar maintain close military ties with China and Dhaka thinks the 444,000 strong Myanmar armed forces are capable of increasing military deterrence along the Bay of Bengal if a strategic partnership is forged.

Sources said collaboration will also include understanding of the structures of the armed forces of the two countries and likely missions to facilitate joint operations in future.

On top of the agenda is naval cooperation at the Bay of Bengal. Capt Aung Thu, deputy commander of Myanmar's Danyawadya naval base, will lead the Myanmar delegation to discuss naval issues when the delegate meets Navy Chief Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba.

Col Aung Ngwe, a senior officer of Myanmar's office of naval intelligence, is also aiding the delegation on discussion of naval intelligence matters.

Col Pin Naing Tun, acting commander of Myanmar's aircraft maintenance base, will aid the chief of Myanmar delegation during discussions on technical air collaborations.

Col Han Pint, defence attache of Myanmar embassy in Dhaka, was not available for comments on the significance of the high-level military delegation's visit to Bangladesh.

Iraq council

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missed her car, then opened fire with Kalashnikov assault rifles.

A neighbour, Khola Ibrahim, said she was in her kitchen when she "heard shooting, very heavy shooting."

Another neighbour, Saba Adel, said al-Hashimi's brother - who acted as one of her bodyguards - knocked on her door crying out "My sister, my sister!"

Saba Adel said she saw another bodyguard lying on the sidewalk wounded in the arm and leg.

An Iraqi security official said al-Hashimi was brought to the hospital at about 10:30 a.m. and immediately was taken to surgery for a bullet wound in the left side of her abdomen.

She was then taken to an unknown location in a US military ambulance while still unconscious, said the official, who would not give his name.

Al-Hashimi is one of three women on the 25-member council. She was preparing to leave for New York as part of an Iraqi delegation that will attempt to assume Iraq's seat at the UN General Assembly.

Al-Hashimi is a Shiite Muslim and a career diplomat who led the Iraqi delegation to a donors' conference in New York this summer. She holds a degree in law and a doctorate in modern literature.

CPA joining

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conference in Dhaka because her past government offered to host the conference.

"But unfortunately, this government did not take us into cognizance and discuss anything with us," the UNB quoted her as saying.

Citing the inclusion of only two deputies from her party in the 25-member CPA steering committee, she said the attitude of the government showed that it did not expect the AL members in the conference.

The deputy speaker yesterday talked to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid and urged the AL legislators to join the meet. He told The Daily Star that all the demands of the opposition were met. "Now they should join the conference," he said.

He said, "The prime minister wanted to know preparations for the conference and was satisfied with the activities."

"The prime minister also wanted to know about the main opposition's participation in the conference and asked the speaker and me to communicate with the opposition," said the deputy speaker.

"She also wanted to know about the inclusion of her two political secretaries in the steering committee."

Some senior AL leaders met Friday to review the overall situation following a direction of Hasina.

"The ruling party has made parliament ineffective... the CPA is a minor issue. If we join the conference and make it successful, will the ruling party allow us to speak in parliament?" asked Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, presidium member of the AL.

Selim further said the party's participation in the CPA conference, law and order and the ongoing parliamentary stalemate with the Commonwealth high commissioners

Malaysian Airline GSA

FROM PAGE 1
Cargo Services Ltd., as his name has not been registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock in Dhaka.

"Silkways Cargo Services Ltd. has disbursed honorarium and 49 per cent of profit share monies to Mr. Dato Mohd Zin Bin Mohamed every month since the inception of the GSA," said the complaint, a copy of which has been obtained by The Daily Star.

It has been alleged in the complaint that the original GSA agreement with MAS was signed by Zin as the chairman of Silkways on September 21, 2000. The company, however, obtained clearance from the BB by allegedly hiding the foreign national's presence on the board as Silkways is incorporated in Bangladesh with the Registrar of Joint Stock as a fully Bangladeshi-owned company.

The alleged money-flight scam, considered to be politically sensational for both Bangladesh and Malaysia, took a new twist on September 11 when a shareholder of MAS sued the chairman of Silkways Cargo Services Ltd. of Bangladesh, Zin Mohamed, and MAS in the Malaysian High Court for alleged wrongdoing in under-declaring weight of goods carried by the airlines.

According to the Malaysian national news agency Bernama, Jayepalan Maheesan, a shareholder of MAS, alleged in his lawsuit that Zin had knowingly represented himself as chairman and owner of Silkways Cargo Services Ltd. But Zin is not a registered member of Silkways board.

Jayepalan also told the court that Zin has been receiving funds from Bangladesh without informing the relevant authorities in Bangladesh.

BB officials, who are investigating the scam, told The Daily Star that a foreign national could in no way hold the office of chairman in a fully Bangladesh-owned company registered with the joint stock company.

Another official of the bank's foreign exchange policy department said Malaysian opposition law-

3 killed in city

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Station, which failed to arrest anyone till last evening.

At Kafrul, Osman Ghani died on the spot when a bullet fired by a gang of 6-7 hit his head at around 11:30am. Doctors at the DMCH declared the 35-year-old dead when his body was taken there at around 1:00pm.

The attackers positioned themselves at the Kachukhet area and two others went to call Osman, a member of Lalasarai unit of ruling BNP, out of his residence at 5/1, Dalmakto to go to Savar.

Osman got in a black taxicab with the two conspirators -- Sharif and Liton, Kafrul police said.

Sharif and Liton stopped the cab when it reached the Bikkampur Mistanna Bhandar at Kachukhet and got out to buy cigarettes, allowing their associates to ambush Osman.

Family members said Osman worked for formation of a Lathi-Banshi committee (a citizen committee against crime and extortion) a year back and drove away local criminals and extortionists. Angry at his role, the criminals might have killed him, they alleged.

Kafrul police conducted a block raid in the area immediately after the incident and arrested Uzzal, Fakka Rana, Abdul Hekim and Emon on suspicion. They were being interrogated till filing of this report last evening.

However, Osman has also two assault cases filed against him with

today.

Earlier, Speaker Sircar, head of the steering committee, and Deputy Speaker Hamid, head of the coordination committee, refused to exclude the two non-MPs from the steering committee.

After Denis Marshall, secretary general of the CPA, invited the opposition leader to join the conference and address the inaugural ceremony, the situation started taking a dramatic turn.

The high commissioners from Britain and Australia met the deputy speaker last week and expressed concern over the main opposition's decision to boycott the conference.

The CPA has so far held 48 conferences with the presence of the government and the opposition of the host country.

Not happy with the ruling party's attitude towards the opposition, the AL is not participating in the preparatory activities of the conference.

The fifth meeting of the steering committee was held yesterday in the absence of the AL. Much of the preparatory work, however, is complete.

Proteas tour

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Africa is unable to tour Pakistan at this time due to yesterday's bomb blast in Karachi and the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan," UCB media officer Gerald de Kock said by telephone from Johannesburg.

De Kock said there was still hope the two teams could meet at an alternative venue.

"The UCB has offered the Pakistan Cricket Board the option of playing the series in South Africa or at a neutral venue," he said.

Family planning

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Minister M Saifur Rahman also told donors at the Paris Aid Consortium meeting in 1995 that Dhaka would go for a unified healthcare delivery system.

Based on this concept, the government in 1998 launched a \$2.9 billion Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP).

Under the HPSP, over 13,000 community clinics were constructed in the last five years to deliver unified healthcare services. Millions of taka were spent to train doctors, nurses and paramedics and health and family planning field workers.

BMA President M A Hadi told The Daily Star yesterday, "At a meeting of the newly-elected BMA executive committee and central council members last year, the prime minister reiterated her commitment to the unification process in the light of the 1995 ICPD agreement."

"I have no idea why the government is suddenly reversing its decision."

"We will continue to persuade the government to go in line with the ICPD agreement and adopt even more efficient healthcare system," Hadi added.

However, Health Secretary A F M Sarwar Kamal said yesterday the decision against unification of the two wings of the health ministry was already discussed and approved at the cabinet meeting on September 1. "This is being done to avoid clash of interests of health and family planning personnel," he said in reply to a question.

Meanwhile, a World Bank official said, "As long as the reform action plans are in place, we are happy. The decision that has not yet been formally communicated to the bank does not add any new element to our partnership with the government."

'Donation/Zakat' and 'Business Development' heads. Another minister, also from Chittagong, received Tk 1 lakh under 'Business Development' head while a third one received a free ticket.

The Silkways MD again admitted giving free tickets and Zakat to 'a few ministers' but strongly objected to terminating those as bribes.

"We might have given some tickets as gifts and Zakat to some honourable people in the government. Zakat was meant for distribution among the poor in their constituencies. That again, we didn't give it in cash, but in saree and lungi," said Farid, the MD.

He said the costs of 'gift tickets' and Zakat clothes were shown under the 'Business Development' head in the GSA's ledger.

The MD suspected that by launching a campaign against Silkways, the Malaysian opposition MP, Teresa Kok, was trying to politically defame and harass Zin Mohamed, who is the chairman of the Backbenchers' Club in Malaysian parliament.

In April this year, Teresa alleged in Malaysian parliament that Silkways cheated in cargo weight and paid money to MAS officials. She also held a news conference to air her allegations.

Later, a \$60 million suit was filed against Teresa, according to Bernama, the Malaysian national news agency. Farid told The Daily Star that the defamation suit has not been settled as yet.

Security up at Khagrachhari to quell tension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Authorities yesterday tightened security in Khagrachhari fearing another spell of violence in the form of a showdown by Bangali settlers.

Four platoons of police mostly in riot gear were deployed at district headquarters to thwart attempts of violence during a scheduled programme today, officials said.

The programme is allegedly organised by Bangali settlers under the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) banner to protest chairman of Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity Shantu Larma's recent comments, officials added.

"We have taken all out measures to keep the situation under control," Superintendent of Khagrachhari police Matiur Rahman Sheikh told The Daily Star yesterday.

The BNP activists launched a heavy campaign to draw massive crowd during the programme, locals said.

During a recent visit to Khagrachhari, Larma blamed local ruling party lawmaker for the August 26 incidents at Mahalchhari.

About 400 ethnic people of nine villages became homeless as Bangali settlers reportedly torched their houses at Mahalchhari and left one killed and 20 others injured.

Ayodhya

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had political overtones and BJP would face legally as well as politically, he said.

Referring to the Rae Bareilly court's order to frame charges against BJP leaders, Naidu said: "Let the law take its own course" but added: "We shall fight the legal battle and will certainly not give up."

The BJP president said it was the erstwhile Congress government which had filed the case but BJP-led NDA government had decided to fight the legal battle rather than choosing to withdraw the chargesheet.

CHT refugees

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received their wages since the four-party alliance government took office in October 2001.

A high official at the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs said, "As none has been appointed to the top post of the taskforce after the former chairman quit two years ago, the office has not been functioning effectively."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Dipankar expressed his dissatisfaction and concern about the future of the office. He blamed the government for neglecting the issue of rehabilitating the refugees.

He demanded reorganisation of the taskforce with public representatives. "Abandoning the relief programme, before the refugees could be rehabilitated, has been a big blow to the local people," he said.

"There is none here to look after us, though we have requested the four-party alliance government to look into our problems," vice-prafulla Kumar Chakma, president of the Returnee Tribal Refugee Welfare Association (RTRWA).

"We have long been expecting benefits on the basis of the 26-point charter that we reached with the government in late 1996. It inspired 66,600 indigenous people of 12,000 families to return from neighbouring Tripura state of India," Prafulla told The Daily Star.

"The decision to stop monthly distribution of relief materials to feed the returnee refugees has created great frustration among them and most of the refuge families are now facing extreme hardship," Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya alias Shantu Larma observed.

The matter was included in the 1997 peace accord, he said. Prior to the signing of the peace agreement on December 2, 1997, the refugees returned home in six batches with the support of the government.

According to the peace agreement, the then AL government formed a nine-member taskforce headed by Dipankar Talukder for rehabilitation of the refugees and set up its office at Khagrachhari district headquarters in late 1998.

In August 2001, Talukder resigned before taking part in the October 1 parliamentary election. The post has since been lying vacant.

Meanwhile, 10 TCHTRRA staff members have not been paid their wages in the last two years, said an employee seeking anonymity.

"The government has not taken