

Rajuk reluctant to fight legal battle

Internal feud among Rajuk and ministry officials suggested

TAWFIQUE ALI
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkhya (Rajuk) appears reluctant in fighting a High Court ruling that made one of its decisions ineffective though it took an unusual hasty stand. Contrary to the hastiness, Rajuk authorities cancelled an approved plan for commercial use of a plot, and have remained silent on the HC ruling that has stayed the cancellation. Rajuk's building construction committee (BC committee-2) approved a plan for the construction of a 15-storey commercial building in Banani on February 2, 2006. But the same committee comprising of an authorised officer, town planner and deputy director of estate department cancelled the approval on March 15, 2006 as the builder "suppressed facts in the proposed construction plan." The land allottee filed a writ petition with the High Court that issued a stay order on Rajuk's decision on March 27, 2006 and called upon the Rajuk chairman and BC committee members to show cause within three weeks why the decision should not be declared unlawful. For reasons unknown, Rajuk has been sitting idle. It has not appealed against the HC rule or attempted to fight the case with an explanation within the stipu-

When asked about Rajuk's silence on the HC ruling, Public Works Secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury said: "Rajuk is absolutely a chairman-oriented organisation and nothing is pursued properly at Rajuk unless the chairman takes the initiative"

lated time to justify its stand. "I cannot give details why Rajuk has not appealed or filed an explanation," said Rajuk Chairman KAM Harun. "Rajuk's law department may have its reasons, but we will submit our explanation," he said. "I can say only this much that the cancellation of approval has not been appropriate," Harun said. When asked how he differed from the BC committee decision, Harun said that he has nothing to do with BC committee's decision, as it is formed by the ministry and is a separate entity. "I have no role in BC committee's approval or cancellation of a plan," he said. "The landowner and developer may have cajoled certain corrupt quarters at Rajuk not proceed with a legal fight," said a top official of the works minis-

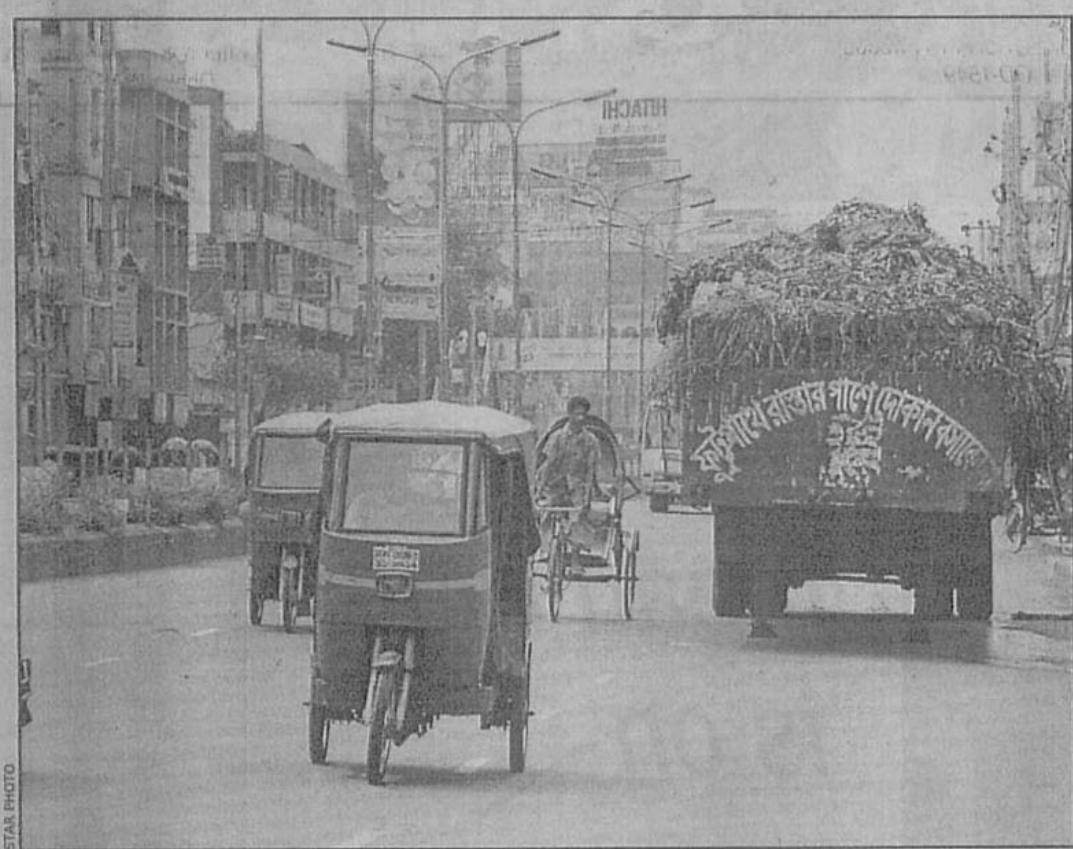
try, seeking anonymity. "A top Rajuk official has advised to get a unilateral verdict in favour of the builder, as it will not fight the case," said the source. When asked about Rajuk's silence on the HC ruling, Public Works Secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury said: "Rajuk is absolutely a chairman-oriented organisation and nothing is pursued properly at Rajuk unless the chairman takes the initiative." Chowdhury is a former Rajuk chairman. "Cancellation of the approved plan was not fair," he said. The said plot no 6, Block-C, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani was leased to one Ahmad Faizur Rahman by public auction by the then Dacca Improvement Trust (DIT) on February 27, 1971 to set up a petrol pump. Obtaining permission for commercial use with a high-

rise, Rahman gave contracted Prasaad Nirman Limited a private firm to do the construction. As per rules, any one aggrieved by a Rajuk decision is supposed to go to the Appellate Authority but the plot owner in this case directly resorted to legal redress. "We did not go to the Appellate Authority as we were apprehensive that we might not get justice from Rajuk," said Abu Yusuf Md Abdullah, chairman of Prasaad Nirman. He said that cancellation of a construction plan after approval was not justified. He argued that a similar plot meant for petrol pump on near the Gulshan 1 intersection has been turned into commercial site with high-rise building already in place. "I could have been fair to both parties, had the aggrieved allottee come to Rajuk's

Appellate Authority," said Rajuk chairman. A top Rajuk official seeking anonymity said: "A section of corrupt officials facilitated approval for the construction of a high-rise building although the area is earmarked as an ancillary service zone." The landowner first obtained permission to use the land for commercial and residential purposes, said a Rajuk official, but he later got a plan passed for a fully commercial high-rise building suppressing information in the submitted plan. The city development authority has virtually divided over the issue of whether the plot on the Kemal Ataturk Avenue is in an ancillary service zone or if it can be used commercially with high-rise establishments. A total of 19 senior Rajuk officials residing at Rajuk officers' quarters (Banani Nibash) adjacent to the plot are against commercial high-rise buildings. A Rajuk engineer residing at the quarters said: "A rushed job on the foundation for high rise may cause comprehensive structure failure, as the concrete casting being carried out along with rain water will not be well set." Despite Rajuk's cancellation, the builder is going on with construction by virtue of the HC ruling.



With the starting of World Cup Football, newspapers are not falling behind either. Their special publications on the event have been very popular among the readers. A woman hawker is seen selling such a supplement in front of Rajmoni cinema at Kakrail.



An open garbage truck of DCC collecting rubbish at Karwan Bazar during the day though they are supposed to do their jobs after midnight, choking passers-by and those in vehicles going past the truck on malodorous elements.

Battle over supporting

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The number of supporters of Brazil in Bangladesh is undoubtedly the largest. And due to huge media coverage, the supporters know the names of most Brazilian footballers, especially Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, Roberto Carlos and the latest sensation Robinho. "Ronaldinho alone can beat any team in the world on his day. If Ronaldo does not play selfish football this time no one can beat Brazil," said a supporter. Despite the cold war, one thing is common among the Brazil and Argentina supporters -- they all want a Brazil-Argentina battle in any stage of the tournament. "I want to see Brazil facing Argentina and undoubtedly that match will take the festive mood to a new height," said Titu, a supporter of Argentina. The World Cup has also encouraged business of posters, T-shirts and other souvenirs with photographs of the football stars like Ronaldo,

Ronaldinho, Beckham and even Maradona. These are selling like hot cake in Dhaka's footpaths and other markets. The number of supporters of European teams like England and France is not that big in number. "I wonder why people do not support England. A team with superstars like Beckham, Rooney, Owen deserve the cup," said Rushed Islam, a resident of Gulshan. The reason for supporting Italy and Spain is different. Women fans like the footballers of these teams not because of their performance but for their good looks. "All the Italian players are smart and handsome. I like them watching on television," gushed Munni Rahman, a student of a private university. All the Asian representatives in the World Cup such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan and Korea also get a big support from the people. But poor performances by these teams have frustrated their fans in the first week of the game.

Deserted streets mean

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"England is my favourite team but I missed Beckham's actions in the first half of the match against Paraguay as I couldn't reach home on time. No rickshaw-puller agreed to take me to Monipuripara where I live," she added. Akhter Hussain, a 17-year-old restaurant worker at Karwan Bazar, was beaten up by his employer for watching football match on television on Sunday evening. "He went out for serving tea to customers outside the restaurant and returned 30 minutes later," said restaurant owner Badrul Alam. "I don't want the workers to waste time watching television in the evening. It's the peak hour for business." Badrul said he has beaten up the boy so that other employees could understand it and didn't take similar chance. "I'm also a football fan. My favourite team is Brazil. I won't miss the matches of Brazil starting from Tuesday night," he said. Bus driver Momizar Ali and his helper Ajgar Ali however

expressed frustrations for missing the matches that take place in the evening and at 10:00pm. They said they usually return home at midnight when two matches are over. "Four years ago I was not in this profession and I enjoyed all the World Cup matches. Now I can't do it....It's really frustrating to see people watching football when I have to drive the bus," Momizar Ali said. "The World Cup comes after every four years and leaves thousands of fans in either cheerful or heartbreaking mood with the win or loss of their favourite teams -- no matter Bangladesh is not playing. I don't want to miss it," he said.



Street children also take part in the World Cup festivity as a jovial air is wafting in the city.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Hospitals</p> <p>Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660 BARDEM 8616641-50 Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60 CMH (Dhaka) 9870011 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6 Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5 Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156 Lion Eye Hospital 9129127 Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4 Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444 Milford Hospital 7319002-6 National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399 Orthopedic Hospital 9112150</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581 Aroggaya Niketan 9333730 BAVS Maternity 8016413-4 Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050 Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992 Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513 Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929 Judi Maternity 9113322 Paitan Poly Clinic 9557385 Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566 Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625</p> <p>Blood Bank</p> <p>Red Crescent Centre- 9116563 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9</p> <p>Eye Bank</p> <p>Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040</p> <p>Ambulances For Dead Body</p> <p>Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166, Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,</p>	<p>MARKET CLOSED</p> <p>Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday Elephant Road-Friday Bishal Center-Friday Baluati Mukarram Market-Friday Polwell Market-Friday BCS Computer City-Friday Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday. Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday Stadium Market-Friday Bangabazar Market-Friday National Museum-Thursday Ahsan Manzil-Thursday. New Market-Tuesday Gausia Market-Tuesday Mouchak Market-Sunday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Eastern Plaza-Sunday Farmview Super Market-Sunday MuktiJuddha Jadughar-Sunday Dhaka Zoo-Sunday Shishu Jadughar-Sunday</p>	<p>TAXI CAB</p> <p>Passenger's Complain</p> <p>01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-155144 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627. Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405 Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191, Nitel Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953 JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575 Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731 Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204 Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740 Nilhon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742.</p> <p>8624741 Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 9347277, 9347277, 01711-155144 Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4 RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536 Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740 Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257 Teletex Cab Ltd. 7202201 Aif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948 Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178 United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-</p> <p>348474 Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554 Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644 Cab I Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585 Cab line Ltd. 8321162 Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9 Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415 Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4 Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111</p>	<p>LIBRARY & INFO-</p> <p>Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers</p> <p>Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128 Shilpakala Academy- 8614673 Bangla Academy- 8619550 Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407 Nazrul Institute- 9114602 Ford Foundation- 8116133 Alliance Francaise- 8611557 Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9 British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7 Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604 Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6 Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2 The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314 Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412 Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4</p> <p>TRAIN TIMING</p> <p>Subarna Express Mahanagar Prabhathi Mahanagar Godhull Turna Parabat Express Joyantika Express Upaban Express Tista Express Ekata Express Upakul Express Agnibeena Express</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 am Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm</p> <p>Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15 Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm</p>
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