

Rajuk serves second notice Sonargaon Hotel authorities

TAWFIQUE ALI

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakhya (Rajuk) served a second notice on August 17, to the general manager and director (technical) of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel authorities asking them to show cause within seven days why the unauthorised construction of the hotel's extension should not be demolished.

According to the Rajuk, the five-star hotel authorities have no approved plan for the hotel's under-construction extension

project in the Begunbari canal area to the southeast of the main hotel building.

The project includes a multi-storied car park, convention hall, tower block, boundary and retaining walls and peripheral road network.

"The hotel authorities will now have to pay approval fees at penalty rate (10 times than the regular) to get the construction design passed and an additional fine for construction without obtaining an approved plan," said Muzaffar Uddin, authorised officer, Rajuk's Building

Construction (BC) committee-4.

Above all, the design has to be drawn in compliance with building construction rules.

Rajuk served the first notice on August 6 requesting the hotel authorities to produce an approved construction plan, if any, but Sonargaon authorities failed to respond within the stipulated time.

The second notice also states that the hotel authorities have continued with the construction violating section three of the Building Construction Act of 1952.

As to why the authorities have not responded to Rajuk's notice, project engineer of the extension, Ershadul Haq said: "We are going to submit a construction plan on retaining wall, boundary wall and peripheral road network."

When asked why they started construction without an approved design, Haq said: "I think retaining wall (to retain land), fencing wall and peripheral road do not require approval of construction design."

When asked why he is preparing such a plan now to submit to Rajuk, Haq said "We are preparing the plan on the kind of wall and peripheral road we hope to build."

"Any kind of construction requires approval," said a Rajuk high official. "There is provision of even temporary approval for a temporary construction," he added.

About construction designs for multi-storied car parking, convention hall and tower block of the project, Ershadul Haq said: "We have not yet made a design for the construction of these establishments."

On the contrary he had earlier claimed that the extension project had an approved construction plan and land use clearance for the project.

When asked again after Rajuk had issued the notice, the project engineer said: "I am not sure whether we have land use clearance."

Regarding the groundwork for the multi-storied car park and high-rise tower block without any approved construction plan, Haq said that the foundation work was not for the main construction, but for the retaining wall.

If the construction, whatever done so far, is found in compliance with the building construction (setback) rules, Sonargaon will get approval of the design, said Muzaffar Uddin, and in case the construction does not comply with the rules, they will have to rectify the plan to get approval.

"Whatever the case maybe, Sonargaon, will have to pay approval fees at penalty rate and a fine for construction without approval," he said.

Sources said that Sonargaon Hotel authorities have not submitted any construction plan to Rajuk's BC section though construction has commenced.

Rajuk instructed the Hotel Sonargaon to submit construction plan in consultation with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

On a visit to the site, this correspondent found that a large portion of the canal had been earth-filled for construction of the extension.

In case Sonargaon authorities disregard the second notice too, Rajuk will demolish the unauthorised construction serving a third (final) notice with a seven-day deadline.

But in scores of examples, Rajuk's success in penalising the errant builders has been limited to serving mere notices. It has hardly been able to exert its authority in rectifying unauthorised buildings and bringing the violators to book. It has consistently lost in most court cases it has filed against non-compliant builders who are invariably powerful.



Children playing with the electric cables unaware of the risk of being electrocuted. In spite of the danger posed by these errant cables, there is no initiative on the administrative side to tidy these up.

Dhaka: Yesterday, today and tomorrow

FROM PAGE 21

a growing economy witnessed another phenomenal influx of population.

Rajuk has all along been a weak, inefficient and corrupt agency. It miserably failed to manage and guide the growth of Dhaka. Though Bangladesh had its constitution and a five-year development plan within one year of independence, successive governments failed to have a dynamic and visionary management for development of Dhaka. None of the governments paid due attention to the plan of the capital city of an independent country.

liveable, well functioned, economically productive, socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and culturally and aesthetically attractive.

We badly need an efficient and visionary leadership in the government, civil society and the general public to achieve this.

We must get rid of the accumulation and exhibitionism of wealth by a handful of affluent people of the society and overriding influence of a few commercial companies to turn the city into a liveable one.

There is no alternative but to uphold good governance for a planned Dhaka City.

TDS: What future do you see for Dhaka?

NI: I am not sure whether there is any future of Dhaka. In any case, Dhaka must be made

Prof Nazrul Islam, honorary chairman of Centre of Urban Studies spoke to Tawfique Ali of Star City.

PRESS CLUB 25-STOREY MEDIA COMPLEX

An architectural landmark in the city

CITY CORRESPONDENT

National Press Club authorities have initiated the building of a 25-storey media complex on its own premises that could be recognised as an architectural landmark, with a monumental dimension and stand as a symbol of local heritage.

Club members, at an extraordinary general meeting on August 3, unanimously approved the design of the complex that was presented through multimedia.

The project is estimated at a cost of about Tk 120 crore for completion.

Press Club members said that they want to start work on the complex within four months. "We have already submitted

the papers seeking government permission and have requested various banks and financial organisation for funds for the project," said Shawkat Mahmud, general secretary, National Press Club.

According to the project proposal, the complex will comprise an open stage, plaza, theatre hall, large spacious auditorium, banquet hall, two swimming pools, a number of seminar rooms, mosque, floor space for newspaper and other media institutions, one floor for different national and international establishments including banks, restaurants, and other facilities.

Kazi Arif Ahmed, architect, Dexterous Consultants Limited (Dicon), the leading architectural firm in the country,

explained the media complex design in detail.

"The media complex, after construction will be the greatest

as a conference room for the general public as well as the president or other government institutions for meetings and

president Reazuddin Ahmed said: "As this monumental building will be constructed at the very pivot of the city, it will

cause traffic congestions, the complex has been designed in a manner that such chaos will not be created," the president said.

The complex can also be used for various activities that will bring about greater interaction among people.

The tower and entrance will be attractive and the entrance especially will be unique giving it the touch of architectural flavour.

"The outer walls will be constructed of glass panes as the main element of the complex, making it transparent and more attractive to the public," Ahmed further said.

"The entrance will consist of a lobby that will coordinate the functions taking place in the plaza," he added.

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architectural design in the country," Ahmed said.

"The open plaza with a monumental dimension will act

other gatherings -- a facility prominent in the western world," said Ahmed.

stand as an architectural landmark."

"As we are well aware that public gatherings and functions

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HOSPITALS & CLINICS

- Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital**
9008919, 8051618
- Holy Family Hospital**
8311721-25
- Apollo Hospitals Network**
9891680-4, 01713046684/85
Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000
- Islami Bank Hospital**
9333739
- Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital**
9118202, 8115843
- Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital**
8828855, 8827575
- Central Hospital**
9660015-19,
- Labaid Cardiac Hospital**
8610793-8
- China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd**
8913674
- Marie Stopes Clinic**
8821874
- Dhaka Medical College Hospital**
8626812-16
- Medinova Medical Services Ltd**
8620353,
- Gana Shasthya Kendra**
8617208, 8617383, 8620178,
- Monowara Hospital**
8318135, 8319802
- Greenland Hospital**
8912663
- Pangu Hospital**
9112150, 9113041
- Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic**
8822738, 8812992
- PG Hospital (BSMMU)**
9614545-9, 9612550-4

BUS SERVICES

- Rashmono General Hospital**
8317606, 9557354, 8317819
- Ratan's Dental Clinic**
9111090
- Salimullah Medical College Hospital**
7319002-6
- Samorita Hospital Ltd**
9131901
- Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital**
9122560-78
- Shishu Hospital**
8116061-2, 9119119
- Drooti**
8014563
- Eagle Paribahan**
7101504
- Green Line Paribahan**
9339623, 9342580, 8353005
- Hanif Enterprise**
9120116
- Keya Paribahan**
7101894, 7101250, 9121280
- Modern Enterprise**
9123743
- Neptune A/C Coach Service**
7101945, 7101951, 9123092
- Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd**
9334152, 8316766, 8126293
- Shoukhin Paribahan**
8014397, 9001796
- Silk Line**
7102461
- Shyamoli Paribahan**
9333803

BLOOD BANK

Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank
9116563

Modern Clinic & Blood Center
9883948

Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College
9668690

AIRLINES

- lines**
Aeroflot
9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787
- Air India**
8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591
- Biman Bangladesh Airlines**
8917400-19 9560151, 9559610
Airport Office: 8917400, Fax:8913005
- British Airways**
8815111, Fax: 8815346,
- Cathay Pacific**
9557117, Fax: 9562667
- Druk Air**
9862243, 9892862,
Emirates
9892801, 9885574-75
- GMG Airlines**
8825845-9, Airport Office:
8960404,8915699, Fax: 8826115
- Gulf Air**
9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
- Indian Airlines Ltd**
9555915, 9557813,
- Kuwait Airways**
9115182, 9118829
- Malaysia Airlines**
9888211-20
Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478
- PIA**
9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
- Singapore Airlines**
8811504-7, 9883259
Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503
- Thai Airways**
8314711-18, 8914343
- Virgin Atlantic Airways**
8816324-5, Fax: 9896481
- Subarna Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
- Mahanagar Prabhathi**
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
- Mahanagar Godhuli**
Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
- Turna**
Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
- Parabat Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
- Joyantika Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
- Upaban Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
- Tista Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
- Ekata Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
- Agakul Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
- Agni Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm
- 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 Sylhet at 6-40 am**
- Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm**
- Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15**
- Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am**
- Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm**

TRAIN TIMING

LIBRARY & INFO-

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
- Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,
- Shishu Academy-** 9564128
- Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673
- Bangla Academy-** 8619550
- Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 9556407
- Nazul Institute-** 9114602
- Ford Foundation-** 8116133
- Alliance Francaise-** 8611557
- Information Resource Centre, 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