Dhaka Day by Day

Hassle Over a Precarious Building by S.Y. Bakht

deviation from approved designs are rendering many required second exit—to be used as an emergency city buildings unsafe.

The cases of gross and small violations of building to the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha(Rajuk). All of the approved plan was "unfounded and illegal" building designs need to be approved by Rajuk before any construction work can be carried out in High Court against the cancellation of the approved any locality of the capital and its vicinity. Rajuk is plan. The Court, last year, urged both the parties to also the sole enforcer of building code regulations. settle the matter amicably and arrive at a mutually

The city has been witnessing a construction accepted out of court settlement. boom both in the commercial and residential sector

Unauthorised and faulty construction of buildings is also said to be quite common in the metrotimes, totally disregarded.

of approved plans and about the unauthorised dah. constructions in the city. According to Rajuk, about 3250 buildings have been demolished till last year he noted. But that doesn't mean that the building for violating the Building Code Act.

Rajuk is failing to enforce the regulations uniformly in a planned way. It is even alleged that faulty designs have also been approved by Rajuk in the past. In a recent case.

Rajuk cancelled the approved plan of the 13-storied Faridpur Mansion at Kakrail in 1989, citing major deviations from the approved plan.ln a letter to the owners, Rajuk said that deviating from the approved plans of the building, the walls on the eastern side was constructed dangerously leaning outwards from the third floor and above. "This has made the whole building precariously imbalanced and it poses a threat to life and property as the building can collapse at any moment," the letter noted. The owners were, therefore, asked to demolish the building within seven days.

At that time, a tenant at the building filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the cancellation order. Rajuk

issued another letter in June, 1990, asking the building was laid at the time of construction of the owners to vacate the building within three days. three-storied building. This time around, Rajuk said that they would themselves take up the task of demolishing the the building to 13 floors was submitted which was building.

It was reported in a local newspa-per, quoting sources at Rajuk, that the decision to demolish the dation strength of the building itself. Although the building was approved in a cabinet meeting. And owners have claimed that the foundation was for a Rajuk reportedly even consulted with a foreign 14-storied building, but the initial approved plan demolition expert to dismantle the building.

charges, Rajuk also said that the building was built during the last two approvals by Rajuk. incongruously, that it violated safety regulations other than what was originally approved for.

As the area-Kakrail-is designated as a comthe land vacant. Rajuk said that the Faridpur remove the shops from the ground floor and turn it Mansion has also violated this particular regulation into a parking area. and that the extended cantilever verandah on the side-walks.

In the letters sent to the owners of the building. Mr. Qashem informed. Rajuk pointed out that the ground floor was being

35 Regulation 37 Barracuda

39 Walk on

38 Encountered

ACROSS

1.Damp

9 Beer barre

Flagrant violation of building codes and frequent space as originally approved. The absence of a exit— in the building was also noted.

The owners in turn refuted the allegations, and code regulations are rampant in the city, according in a letter to Rajuk said that the cancellation order The owners filed a separate writ petition with the

In an interview with The Daily Star, the managduring the last few years. Construction in the ing owner of the building, M.A. Qashem, said that housing sector, particularly multi-storied condo- the building was constructed strictly according to miniums, has increased tremendously in recent the approved design and that there was no violation or deviation from the original plan.

He said that on the bottom three floors, the approved verandah on the eastern side was 5ft and politan area. Safety measures in high-rise buildings for other floors 5ft and 8in was approved. At the is said to be often dangerously compromised and, at time of construction, the width of the verandah was kept at 3ft and 9in on the first three floors while all There are no accurate data about the violations other floors were given a 5ft wide extended veran-

Thus, the side elevation may look incongruous, is structurally weak, he added, as his engineers Although Rajuk does act to enforce building have assured him that it was not. So, the question regulations from time to time, observers feel that of the building collapsing doesn't arise, he declared.

> He, however, admitted that the ground floor was being used in violation of the approved plan. He said that the requirement of keeping two separate exits can be met by installing an elevator in addition to the existing staircase as stipulated in the original plan.

It may be mentioned here that the initial plan for the building was approved around 1964. As the area was considered a residential neighbourhood at that time, a plan for a four-storied building was submitted which was approved for only three floors. According to Mr. Qashem, the original threestoried building was built around 1966.

Later, in 1973, a revised plan for a nine-storied commercial building was submitted and was subsequently ap proved, he said. The plan was approved allowing the building to be extended on the original foundation. as the owner had claimed that a foundation for a 14-storied

- Photo: Jalaluddin Haider.

Faridpur Mansion at Kakrail Square

The building goes up as litigation conti-

Again, in 1982, another revised plan extending duly approved by Rajuk, he said.

Surprisingly, Rajuk never questioned the founwas only for a three-storled building. Observers In addition to the violation of approved design suspect that some foul-play may have taken place

Presently seven floors of the building have been and that the building was being used for purposes erected and pillars and roofs of another six-floors have been completed. In order to arrive at a compromise solution, the owners recently submitted a mercial-cum-residential neighbourhood, Rajuk revised plan, Mr. Qashem said. Under this plan contends that approved plans also have to abide by the extended or hanging verandah from the third the existing regulations for residential buildings floor and above will be pulled back to the size of the which requires commercial buildings in these areas bottom three floors. The eastern wing walls have to be constructed in only two-third of the available already been removed and remain dangerously total land space and leave out at least one-third of wide-open now. The owners have also agreed to

Conciliatory talks between Rajuk and the owneastern side of the building is encroaching on the ers of the building have broken down as Rajuk said that there is no scope of reviving the cancelled plan,

Thus, the litigation continues while a stay order used as space for shops instead of using it as office from the honourable High Court is enforced.

City population now 70 lakh

The population of Dhaka metropolis now stands at 70 lakh, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder told the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from Principal M M Nazrul Islam (AL-Bhola), the Minister said the number of slum dwellers are 17 lakh.

He said the number of slum dwellers have been increasing day by day due to socio-economic condition of the country. He said the number of slum dwellers are increasing in Dhaka due to increase of unemployment in the rural areas and river erosion. Besides, the Minister said, the number of slum dwellers were also increasing as the birth rate in the slum areas was higher.

Dhaka-Rajshahi train service resumes Apr 26

The direct train communication between Dhaka and Rajshahi will resume from April 26 with the re-start of Railway Ferry Service between Serajganj Ghat and Jagannathganj Ghat on the same day reports BSS.

The first ferry with the passengers of the Padma Intercity Train coming from Rajshahi will start from the Serajganj Chat.

The Railway Ferry Service between those two ghats had been suspended since December 20 last year for the sharp fall in the water level in the river Jamuna. As a result, the direct train service between Dhaka and Rajshahi has totally been disrupted.

Punishment to attackers of Dr Arefin demanded

The students of Journalism Department of Dhaka University Monday submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor demanding exemplary punishment of those who threatened the life of their teacher, reports UNB.

A group of students on April 11 attacked some teachers of the Mass Communication and Journalism after a disqualified candidate was refused admission into the department.

The attackers also gave life threat to Dr AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, an Assistant Professor of the department and Joint Secretary of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA), saying "a bullet is awaiting you."

The protesters, led by Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury Ripon and Shafigur Rahman. VP and GS of Mass Communication Forum of the department, handed over the memorandum to Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah after a protest procession.

The VC assured them that the authorities in the mean time had set up an enquiry committee, and necessary measures would be taken against the attackers as per the University rules.

PROGRAMME

Rotary Club meet

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka wil be held today (Tuesday) at 5 p.m. for 5:25 p.m. at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Seminar on slums

International Rotary district-328. Bangladesh will a seminar on hold "improvements of slums in municipal areas" at the auditorium of the National Institute of Local Government in city today (Tuesday), says a press release.

Local Government Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder and State Minister Kabir Hossain will attend the seminar as chief and special guest respectively. LGRD Secretary Musfique Rahman will also attend it.

Dhaka secures eighth position in Quran contest

Bangladeshi Quari and Quartah both secured eighth position at the 32nd International level Quaranic Reciters Assembly held recently in Kuala Lumpur,

Recently the 32nd International level Quaranic Reciters Assembly was held at Malaysia. In men's section 13 candidates participated and in women's section, nine candidates took part in the recitation contest. Quari Md. Abdullah and Quariah Mrs. Roshan Ara participated in the contest from Bangladesh and both secured 8th position in

27,223 persons affected

Diarrhoea claims 430 lives so far, Parliament told

Health Minister, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Monday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that diarrhoeal diseases has so far claimed 430 lives in the country during the last four months beginning January one. reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice moved Sunday by Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Borguna), the minister said that so far 27.223 persons had been affected by the disease in 15 districts including nine in the

Yusuf said the disease had spread in 265 unions in 73 upazilas of the said districts. He said during the last 24 hours the disease claimed 25

lives while 2,080 were affected in those areas. The Health Minister informed the house that he

had visited the southern districts to see for himself the situation. He said in the meantime, diarrhoea had broken out in Rajshahi. Chandpur, Luxmipur, Bogra, Sylhet, Naogaon, Magura. fected and 60 died while in

Nilphamari and Satkhira districts.

He said the main cause of the spreading of the disease was lack of adequate pure drinking water. He said due to constant draught the water level had gone down and as a result water could not be had from even deep tubewells. The people are using and drinking contaminated water from canals, beels, rivers, ponds and stagnant pools.

The Health Minister further told the House that the disease was also spreading fast due to environment at imbalance during the dry season.

He said the people in the southern parts of the country are habituated with taking stale rice with contaminated

Giving a district-wise breakup, the Health Minister said that 2,694 persons had been attacked by the disease in Barisal district of which 89 died, in Patuakhali district, Netrokona, Mymensingh, 1,666 people had been af-

Jhalakathi 2,296 had been attacked and 33 died, he said.

Yusuf said that in Pirojpur 740 people had been attacked while 13 had died, in Barguna 6,456 attacked and 45 died. Continuing he said the death toll in Bhola was 85 while 4.007 were attacked, in Bagerhat there were 11 victims while 2,080 persons were attacked.

He said in Noakhali 23 people had died and 965 attacked by the disease while in Satkhira four people died and 149 had been attacked.

The Health Minister said in Rajshahi district, some 758 persons were attacked and 14 died while in Bogra 3,448 had been attacked and 20 died. He said 1,043 and 655 persons had been attacked by the disease in Pabna and Jessore districts while 24 persons and 8 persons died respectively in

Yusuf mentioned that in Natore 130 persons had been attacked and none died while one persons died in Kushtia out of 136 attacked.



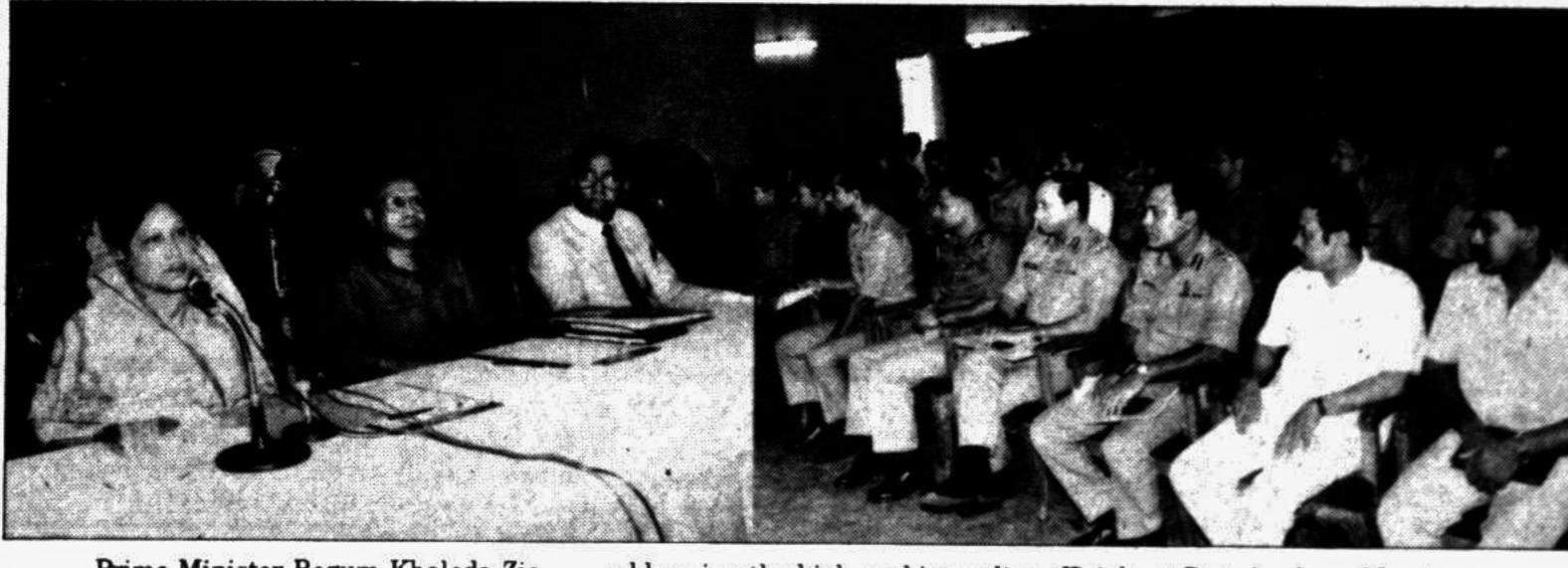
Anniversary of Jabbar Khan's death today

By Staff Correspondent

Seventh death anniversary of former Pakistan National Assembly Speaker Justice Abdul Jabbar Khan will be observed today (Tuesday), a Press release said.

Daughter of Justice Khan Parliament member Selima Rahman will arrange a milad mahfil today at her residence after Asar prayer.

Besides, a prayer will be offered at Gulshan central mosque and his graveyard at Banani and his own village Baherchar Khudrakatht.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

addressing the high ranking police officials at Rajarbagh on Monday.

6 UZ Chairmen charged with corruption, power abuse

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar told the Jatiya Sangsad Monday that punitive measures were taken against six upazila chairmen for corruption and abuse of power. reports BSS.

In a written reply to a question from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna), the Minister informed the House that two of them had been removed from their posts and the services of the other four were suspended during the current temure.

The chairmen who had been removed are :- Golam Sarwar and Hashem Reza Chowdhury of Patharghata and Badalgachi Upazila respectively however. Chowdhury had been reinstated following a stay order from the court, he said.

The suspended upazila

Minister for Local Govern-

ment, Rural Development and

Cooperative Barrister Abdus

Salam Talukder told Parlia-

ment on Monday Dhaka WASA

supplies 50 per cent of the

total daily requirement of

about 24 crore gallons of water

in the metropolis, reports

tion from Independent mem-

tary from Abdur Razzaq of

BAKSAL, the Minister said that

ber Nurul Islam Mont.

He was replying to a ques-

Replying to a supplemen-

chairmen are :- Nazrul Islam of Bhatail Upazila, Yunus Sardar of Kalkini Upazila, Sharfuddin Ahmed of Rangpur Sadar Upazila and Abdus Shahid of Char Fashan Upazila, the first two are also being reinstated following stay orders.

The LGRD Minister further told the House that in the earlier tenure upazila chairmen Sheikh Maniruzzaman of Kalaroa Upazila in Satkhira, Sirajul Islam Mridha of Baliakandi in Rajbari, Tarek al-Hossain Bhuiyan of Belabo in Narsingdi, Abul Hossain of Matiranga in Khagrachari. Manirul Haq of Chandina in Comilla and Moulavi Fahimuddin Ahmed of Atwari in Panchagar were removed.

During the same period Upazila Chairmen Abdul Latif of Kaliakoir in Gazipur. Abu Bakr Mallik of Tangibari in

steps were being taken to

meet the total demand of wa-

ter in the city within two or

question from Shawkat Alt of

Awami League, said the total

requirement of water in the 64

cities and towns of the country

including Dhaka and

Chittagong, is 40 crore and 79

are being implemented to

meet the requirements of the

Four water supply projects

Talukder, replying to a

Manikganj, Mohammad Keramat Ali Talukdar of Muktagacha in Mymensingh, Ahmed Hossain Bhuiyan of ishwarganj in Mymensingh. Fakir Abdul Jabbar of Goaland in Rajbari, Mohammad Kazi Mahmud Hossain Mantu of Kotalipara in Gopalganj, Anwar Hossain Majhi of Bhedarganj in Shariatpur, Mohammad Anwar Khan of Kamalganj in Moulavibazar. Abdul Matin of Homna in Comilla, Jahangir Alam Sarkar of Muradnagar in Comilla, Principal M A Awal of Shahrasti in Chandpur. Kaikobad of Haimchar in Chandpur, Wahidur Rahman of Kachua in Chandpur, Shafful Alam of Nandigram in Bogra, Ekramul Haq Khudi of Shibganj in Nawabganj, Emdadul Haq Meah of Mithapukur in Rangpur, Abdur Rab Sardar of Ulipur in Kurigram, Bithindranath Saha of Atrai in Naogaon, Abdul Matin of Bakerganj in Barisal and Kalidas Baral of Chitalmari in Bagerhat, were suspended.

Munshiganj, Sirajul Alam of

Louhajang in Munshiganj, A K

M Nurul Haq of Saturia in

Besides Gopalgani Sadar Upazila Parishad was dissolved. the Minister informed the House.

Replying to a starred question from Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (NDP-Chittagong). the Minister said that charges had been brought against nine union parishad chairmen for partiality during the Jatiya Sangsad elections on February

Plant-nursery programme launched at JU

JU Correspondent

SAVAR, Apr 22: The Centre

for Nature Studies (CNS) of Jahangir Nagar University on Monday launched a plant-nursery programme 'PARIJAT' to mark the 21st Earth Day. William B. Milam, US

Ambassador to Bangladesh declared the programme open planting a 'Nagesshorf' plant at a place adjoining to the Botanical Garden of the univer-

Professor Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Jahangir Nagar University, MS Diana Caroll Wirth, Director of American Centre and Dr. M. Anwarul Islam Chairman, CNS attended the inaugural func-

Earlier on Monday, CNS held a seminar at the American Centre Auditorium in collaboration with the Forum of Environmental Journalist of Bangladesh (FEJB), the Environmental Resource Unit (ESRU) and the American Centre.

The keynote paper was presented by Professor Kazi Zakir Hussain

2 hurt as armed gang attacks residence in Bashundhara

By Staff Correspondent

Two brothers were injured when a gang, armed with lethal weapons, attacked them at their residence in Bashundhara residential area early Monday. in city

Police said that the condition of injured Harunur Rashid (22) was critical and he was under treatment Suhrawardy Hospital

A case has been lodged with Cantonment police against three persons involved in the

According to police, the accused Abdus Sattar, Aka and Shamsu attacked their neighbour Harun and his brother Farhad (20) in the small hours on Monday. No one was arrested till

writing of this report.

Jute Council session begins today

The 15th session of the international Jute Council begins in Dhaka today, reports BSS. This will be first meeting of

the Council following the ratification of the international agreement on jute and jute products, 1989. Over two dozens countries that ratified the agreement, at a meeting in Geneva on April 12 agreed to put the new deal (agreement) into effect. The new agreement re-

places 1982 agreement which gave birth to the International Jute Organization, located in Dhaka.

The four-day session will be formally opened by State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhutyan which will be changed by P. Poetiaray of Indonesia. The Council will consider

the report of the 15th session of the committee on products and recommendations of the committee on projects. The three-day meeting of the committee on projects which concluded Monday recommended a total of four projects for the approval of the Council.

The projects included improvement of existing spinning process, technical survey and the market promotion of jute products in Australia and New Zealand.

IEB team leaves for Malaysia A six-member delegation

from the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) headed by its President Professor Md. Anwar Hossain left for Malaysia Monday to attend the 2nd general assembly of the Federation of Engineering Institution of the Islamic Countries (FEIIC) scheduled to be held in Kuala Lampur, Malaysia during April 24-27.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

48 Resting

50 Land

53 Myself

SAD ARETE COP TWO RAGES OWE 41 Printer's 12 Flightiess YELLINGCHANT 42 Planet 13 Take as 43 Attempts NAHASPELLING one's own 45 Dick — Dyke ELIDE REED OE WON SCORNETE 14 Period of 46 Names 48 Cake mix 15 Ancient 51 Poem EN STAN TREES chariots 52 Domesticates RETAINEDERSE 17 Be presen 54 Game at 19 Crafty ALME ANTI 20 Strict MALTAPRESENT 55 Armed 21 Serene 23 French 56 Tanned skin article 24 Shanna and 57 Goal 6 Conjunction 1 Tiny 30 Great Lake 7 Quarrel 2 River in 16 Shade tree 8 Aquatic 18 Cornered mamma 3 Scuffle 20 Mexican 9 Sharper 4 - Bird 10 Sea eagle 21 Map 11 Wander 5 Paid notices 22 Prognos-25 Kevin Bacon 26 Chairs article 29 Paradise 33 "Cleopatra" 36 Piece of 38 Mickey of 40 Food 44 Brother of 45 Urn 46 Haul 47 Mountain on

Unification of humanity urged

By Staff Correspondent

The political and religious problems of the world could be solved by the unification of humanity, said Dr. Mahanam Brata Brahmachari of Bangladesh Santa Mahamandal on the Bengali new year's day.

He said, conflicts amongst different religious and political factions had turned the excellent would into a poisonus spot. Men, the maker of civilisation are now heading to words annihilation.

He said now men must try to bring peace, satisfaction and happiness in the planet called



Tuesday

5.00:	Opening and recita-
5.15:	from Al-Quran. Recitation from the Geeta.
5.20:	News in Bangla.
5.30:	Film show.
5.55:	TV debate.
7.05:	Nazrul songs.
8.00:	News in Bangla.
8.45:	Drama-Kon-ek-

	irom Al-Quran.
5.15:	Recitation from the
	Geeta.
5.20:	News in Bangla.
5.30:	Film show.
5.55:	TV debate.
7.05:	Nazrul songs.
3.00:	News in Bangla.
3.45:	Drama-Kon-ek-
	Kulsum'.

News in English.

Khabar/the News.

Film show.

Close down.

10.40:

11.40:

Parliamentary round-

Malaysia, reports BSS.

the contest.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

WASA meets only half

of water needs

three years.

lakh gallons.

country, he said.

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm (Tuesday) says rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Bogra, Rajshahi, Pabna, Noakhali Comilia, and Sylhet. It is likely to remain dry elsewhere. Day temperature likely to remain unchanged throughout the coun-

Weather remained dry over the country except Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet where rain and thundershower occurred. Temperature in Dhaka, Faridpur and Rajshahi fell by two to four degree Celsius. The highest temperature of 39.8 degree Celsius was reported from Ishardi. Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activity may in-

Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. Temperature and humidity of some cities recorded on Monday are:

Temperature in Celsius

		Permedie in Comitia			Humidity		
		Max	Min	6	am	9 pm	
Dhaka		35	26.4	a T	69	78	
Chittagong		34.4	25.9		76	71	
Rangpur		32.9	21.8		80	62	
Sylhet		32.8	21		78	66	
Dinajpur		34.5	21		83	50	
ishurdi		39.8	23.5		75	49	
Bartsal		34.8	25		78	66	
Highest ten	nperati	are of son	ne internationa	l cittes:		00	
Delht	:	35		alcutta	121	20	
Karacht	1	34		olombo	2.5	38	
Singapore		32				32	
Betjing		25	125	langkok	1	28	
	%	20		long Kong		23	