

Tilted bldg: Rajuk had cancelled its plan

By Staff Correspondent

Neighbours sighed in relief as the house owner started demolishing the tilted seven-storey building at Moham-madpur in the capital yesterday.

A group of construction workers began hammering and shovelling the building that tilted Wednesday — the third such incident in Dhaka recently.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkhya (RAJUK) officials said they had earlier cancelled the design of the building at 6/21, Tajmahal Road because of its erratic construction and had instructed the owner to tear it down.

The owner, Habibur Rahman, denied allegations of having constructed the building on a faulty plan using sub-standard construction materials.

However, he admitted that the construction of the sixth and seventh floors and a huge water tank on the roof-top was illegal.

The seven-storey building tilted Wednesday afternoon and leaned against a two-storey building, creating panic in the whole neighbourhood.

The families occupying eight units of the building were all evacuated by Wednesday evening.

Neighbours alleged that Habibur Rahman's house was built without a foundation while there were many faults in construction.

They said the owner had constructed the rest of the six floors on a weak ground floor that was built during the Pakistan period.

He kept on making the house higher and higher without ever thinking of the load

the ground floor could take," commented Nurul Akhter Litu, a neighbour.

The owner alleged that the tilt was not his fault, rather it was because of an excavation next to his building.

"They have dug so deep that it had weakened the foundation of my building which was otherwise very strong," a nervous Habibur Rahman told The Daily Star.

People in the locality alleged that they had earlier informed RAJUK and local police of the faulty building but no action was taken until the tilting. Even the minimum safety measures were not taken.

"We submitted an application to the RAJUK back in April," said Syeed Ahmed, whose plot was being excavated.

RAJUK officials admitted that they had approved the plan of Habibur Rahman's building in 1985 but added that monitoring actual construction was not their business.

"There is no legal provision that we can supervise construction of any building or even test the foundation of any building," said a senior RAJUK official.

"There is a building construction code," he said. "However, that is hardly enforced."

"At the moment... tearing down an investment was the only punishment an unauthorised builder could receive," he added.

The owners have to pay for approval of the building design, bear the cost of construction and even the expenses of tearing down their buildings.



SAARC Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking with Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom at the President House in Male yesterday. — PID photo

Corruption case against Khaledur Rahman Titu

The Department of Anti-Corruption has filed a case against former chairman of Jessore municipality Khaledur Rahman Titu for allegedly giving a tender to one of his near relations violating normal rules, a PID handout said last night, reports BSS.

It was alleged in the case that the Jessore municipality invited tender for constructing a two-storey pucca building known as Chandani Hat in the eastern corner of the fish market under the municipal area during 1987-88 fiscal.

Waste dumping

The condition persisting in those areas is too hazardous for human health and environment," the BELA statement said pointing out that children of the locality have become the worst victims.

Served by the BELA Secretary General, Dr Mohiuddin Farooque, the legal notice was issued upon the secretaries of the Environment and Forests Ministry, Industries Ministry and the Ministry of Labour and Manpower, as well as the Director-General of the Environment Department, the Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishments, the DC, Narayanganj, and the Managing Director of Hossain Pulp and Paper Mills and Hossain Board Mills.

The people of those areas have long been protesting against dumping of hazardous waste by the paper and board mills.

They had even formed a 'Population Control and Development Council' and staged a series of protests seeking redress.

Joint communique

From Page 1 Col 7

power from Bangladesh for the economic development of the Maldives.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the signing of the agreement during the visit for the direct exchange of money order between the two countries.

During the summit, the two sides agreed to take further initiatives to encourage export of manpower including professionals from Bangladesh to the Maldives.

Begum Zia, the current Chairperson of the SAARC, and President Gayoom reaffirmed that the SAARC, as a forum of regional cooperation, could contribute significantly towards the strengthening of relations among the member states in the interest of promoting regional peace, progress and the well-being of their peoples.

They also expressed satisfaction at the steady progress in the implementation of the decisions taken in the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka.

The two leaders felt the necessity to continue efforts for developing cooperation between the SAARC and other regional bodies, such as the ASEAN and the European Union. In this connection, they discussed the outcome of Begum Zia's recent visit to Malaysia, a member of the ASEAN, both Bangladesh and the Maldives sides observed that such cooperation between the regional bodies could help in improving the wellbeing of the people of this region.

Both the Bangladesh and Maldivian sides stressed the need for playing much stronger role by the SAARC member states in realisation of the SAARC spirit and the forum's charter.

The two SAARC leaders expressed deep concern at the continuing human tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and Somalia and reaffirmed their support to all peaceful efforts in resolving the problems.

They also focussed on current global economic situation and noted with concern that ever widening gap between the rich North and poor South remained the major challenge facing the international community and hoped that the developed countries would immediately adopt the special measures, promised to the least developed countries, under the Uruguay Round Agreement.

The two leaders expressed concern at the degradation of the global environment.

Begum Zia extended an invitation to the President of the Maldives to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

During the 90-minute talks, both the leaders felt that efforts may also continue to develop cooperation between the SAARC and other regional bodies such as ASEAN and the European Union.

Discussing the outcome of the SAARC Chairperson's recent visit to Malaysia, a member of the ASEAN, both Bangladesh and the Maldives sides observed that such cooperation between the regional bodies could help in improving the wellbeing of the people of this region.

Both the Bangladesh and Maldivian sides stressed the need for playing much stronger role by the SAARC member states in realisation of the SAARC spirit and the forum's charter.

The two SAARC leaders expressed deep concern at the continuing human tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and Somalia and reaffirmed their support to all peaceful efforts in resolving the problems.

They also focussed on current global economic situation and noted with concern that ever widening gap between the rich North and poor South remained the major challenge facing the international community and hoped that the developed countries would immediately adopt the special measures, promised to the least developed countries, under the Uruguay Round Agreement.

The two leaders expressed concern at the degradation of the global environment.

Begum Zia extended an invitation to the President of the Maldives to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

During the 90-minute talks, both the leaders felt that efforts may also continue to develop cooperation between the SAARC and other regional bodies such as ASEAN and the European Union.

Discussing the outcome of the SAARC Chairperson's recent visit to Malaysia, a member of the ASEAN, both Bangladesh and the Maldives sides observed that such cooperation between the regional bodies could help in improving the wellbeing of the people of this region.

Both the Bangladesh and Maldivian sides stressed the need for playing much stronger role by the SAARC member states in realisation of the SAARC spirit and the forum's charter.

The two SAARC leaders expressed deep concern at the continuing human tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and Somalia and reaffirmed their support to all peaceful efforts in resolving the problems.

They also focussed on current global economic situation and noted with concern that ever widening gap between the rich North and poor South remained the major challenge facing the international community and hoped that the developed countries would immediately adopt the special measures, promised to the least developed countries, under the Uruguay Round Agreement.

The two leaders expressed concern at the degradation of the global environment.

Begum Zia extended an invitation to the President of the Maldives to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

During the 90-minute talks, both the leaders felt that efforts may also continue to develop cooperation between the SAARC and other regional bodies such as ASEAN and the European Union.

Bank money loot Four held on suspicion

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested four persons on suspicion of being involved in Wednesday's looting of bank money in the city. Police also recovered Tk 10,000, believed to be part of the loot.

The double-barrelled gun snatched from a bank security guard during the heist Wednesday afternoon was also recovered.

The criminals had attacked two staff of the Farm Gate branch of Pubali Bank with knives and looted Tk 18 lakh from them just outside the bank premises around 3:30 pm Wednesday. The two employees — cashier Wahidullah and security guard Abu Taher — had just brought the cash from the nearby Film Development Corporation (FDC).

All four suspects — Ayub Ali, 26, Sekandar Ali, 26, Kalam, 27, and Mostafizur Rahman alias Mamun, 22 — were detained for interrogation by the Detective Branch (DB).

They were arrested from different areas of Mohammadpur.

Police said, one Abul Hashem recovered ten thousand taka — a bundle of hundred-taka bills — from a lake at Mohammadpur yesterday afternoon and handed over the amount to police. The gun was recovered from a slum in the same area, police added.

Bihac

From Page 1 Col 4

this had been accepted by the Bosnian Government, Stajdzic said.

"But it is obvious now they (the Serbs) have only used this to gain time because the situation in Bihac is now dramatic. They are attacking from all sides and the houses are burning," the premier said.

"They are attacking by artillery fire, by tank fire. They have taken the hill of Debeljaca, which is above Bihac, and it is dramatic now."

Stajdzic said the fighting had flared again after stabilising overnight. He added: "There are a lot of dead people there and it's time for NATO and the UN to act immediately."

Opposition

From Page 1 Col 4

According to sources, the central leaders of the opposition parties earlier left the city to participate in the programme at their respective districts. AL chief Sheikh Hasina is now at her home town of Gopalganj where she participated in her party's programmes.

In the face of geared-up Opposition agitation, the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has also planned counter programmes like public rallies all over the country in its bid to defend the party position on the issue of the caretaker government.

Staging of 'Return of the Son' cancelled in Philippines

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladeshis in the Philippines had to abandon a planned play on the 1971 War of Independence when authorities of an international organisation cancelled the show following protests by the Pakistani nationals there, according to a message from Manila received in Dhaka last night.

It said, Bangladeshis at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) at Los Banos, the Philippines, could not stage their play 'Return of the Son' Monday at an international cultural night after the authorities cancelled it two hours before the show was scheduled to start.

The Association for Fellows, Scholars, Trainees and Residents of IRRI (AFSTRIR) informed the audience that the show was cancelled by the IRRI authorities after some Pakistani nationals had protested.

AFSTRIR officials said, the Director General of the IRRI, Dr Klaus J. Lampe, had reportedly ordered the cancellation.

The Association organises the international cultural night every year in which nationals from different countries present their cultural shows.

The nine-minute play on the liberation of Bangladesh, which was staged at another international cultural night at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos, was widely acclaimed by the people.

When the programme was cancelled, Bangladeshis performers of the play condemned the decision on stage and later walked out in protest along with other Bangladeshi nationals.

Meanwhile, Voyagers of '71, an organisation for promoting and preserving the spirit of the Liberation War, yesterday condemned the "attitude of some Pakistani researchers at a far away land and the authorities who bowed to this sort of undemocratic pressure."

The Midnight File

Arafat, Rabin in Madrid

MADRID, Nov 24 Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived separately in the Spanish capital today for talks with government members before they receive a joint award later in the day. The two men were to head later in the day to the northwestern city of Oviedo to receive one of Spain's highest awards, the Prince of Asturias Award for international cooperation, reports AFP.

Peace move with Tigers

From Page 1 Col 4

Premier. The peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are fighting for separate state in the north and east of the island for the minority Tamils were suspended following an assassination of opposition leader and presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake on October 23.

The suicide attack which also killed 53 others including senior opposition leaders took place on the eve of second round of peace talks between the government and the Tamil rebels.

The rebels have been blamed for the attack in Colombo but President Kumaratunga is adamant to continue the peace talks. It is also a clear mandate for the peace process started by our government. This was significant as it was done in the face of a strong and inflammatory campaign undertaken by major opposition parties to face racial violence in the hope it would get more votes. The government will go for a negotiated peace to build a society in which all the people can live with equal rights. Mrs. Kumaratunga said in her first address to the nation after being elected. "The challenge is to go ahead with the peace process while overcoming the concerns that so far the gov-

ernment has approached the peace issue in an amateurish fashion," says Rohan Edirisinha, law professor at the Colombo University.

However, President Kumaratunga has been less firm footed on the economy. Shedding her and her Peoples Alliance (PA) party's history as socialists, President Kumaratunga promised to continue the open market economy introduced in 1977 by the main opposition United National Party. "We will bring about truly open economy, not the crony capitalism that was practiced" by the opposition when they were in the government," she told in a recent interview. However industrialists are still waiting for a clear policy from the government on a number of major areas such as privatisation, foreign investment and taxation policies of the new regime. The government has yet to give the country some economic direction which does not alienate various diverse interests within the PA," says Rohan Edirisinha.

The PA is dominated by Mrs. Kumaratunga's Sri Lanka Freedom Party but also contains three small leftist parties whose support is essential for the government's survival in parliament.

"The government has to demonstrate its ability to manage the economy efficiently. This is the area in which the opposition will launch its fiercest attack and if the government does not move decisively beyond soothing noises the economy will turn out to be its Achilles heel," says Saravanamuttu.

JS quorum

From Page 1 Col 5

After recitation from the Quran, the Chair could not take up the day's business because he found the House to be short of quorum. The Deputy Speaker ordered ringing the bell again.

It was only at 6:52 pm that the Chair could enter into the day's business with just the number of MPs required for a quorum.

However, the sitting which began almost an hour late continued for only a little over an hour with the usual sixty minutes' spent on questions and answers.

Most of the scheduled items could not be taken up yesterday, the Private Members' Day, because of the absence of the MPs concerned including Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury and Farida Rahman.

Before adjournment till 6 pm Sunday, the House could dispose of only a resolution moved by a Treasury Bench MP.

The opposition members have been boycotting the Sangsad since last March.

TOURISM MONTH '94

"DRESS AS YOU LIKE" COMPETITION

In observance of Tourism Month an attractive "Dress you like" competition will be held at Abahani Playground, Dhanmondi on 09-12-94 at 10.00 a.m.

Winners will be awarded attractive 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Interested participants are requested to contact the undersigned by 5th December '94 during office hours for registration and further information.

(Syed Arshad Hossain Chowdhury)

Manager

Estate Affairs Division

Phone : 817855-9/315



BPC BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motihel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. ABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.