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Monsoon rains throughout the day yesterday disrupted normal life in the city.

—Star photo

PAC report placed in JS

Formation of audit cell in each ministry suggested

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) placed its first report before the House yesterday suggesting formation of audit cell with adequate manpower headed by a joint secretary in each ministry to ensure accountability, reports UNB.

In the 196-page report, placed by its Chairman S M Akram, the committee recommended that the audit cells be created reorganising the existing manpower and functions in the ministries or by hiring additional manpower.

The committee heard audit objections, audit remarks and related issues from the Principal Accounting Officers, who are also the secretaries, and senior executives of different agencies and made a nine-point recommendation.

The committee in its report noted that audit objections and remarks on those had piled up in every ministry since 1971, and in many cases, some ministries are not aware about the existence of old audit reports. It initially reviewed 128 audit objections and audit remarks in its first 10 sittings and observed delays in taking necessary and effective measures by the ministries regarding audit objections.

The committee, in this context, reported delay by 77.54 months by the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, 75.23 months by Water Resources Ministry, 72.79 months by Post and Telecommunications Ministry, 67.04 months by Housing and Public Works Ministry, 54.13 months by Communications Ministry and 35 months by Cabinet Division.

"This is unthinkable in an environment of accountability," it commented and directed

all ministries, divisions and agencies to put in their all possible strength for a breakthrough. The committee expected that a significant improvement would take place in giving timely reply to audit objections by the ministries within the next six months. The report found the existence of a huge number of unresolved audit objections which were not accommodated in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) against each ministry. The number is increasing in every audit department, it said, noting that almost no ministry preserves necessary information to resolve these audit objections and audit remarks.

Boy dies

From page 1

Police said, a rivalry between two groups in the camp was the cause of the incident.

Police arrested two persons identified as Gulzar Hossain, 40, and Montaz Alam, 25, in connection with the killing. Sabir's father filed a murder case.

Leader dies

From page 1

rushed to the PG Hospital in Dhaka where he breathed his last this morning. As the news of his death reached the town, the angry supporters of the Jubo League ransacked the TNO's office.

The TNO was reportedly injured during the attack. The angry supporters also ransacked two shops and a house, police said. The TNO was not available for comments.

Private train service

From page 1

train compartments. They are neater and I think the company is trying to maintain quality service."

Rezaul Karim, who has travelled in the route for the past five years, agreed. "The private service seems much better in terms of comfort as they are taking special care for the passengers on board," he said.

Bangladesh Railway has provided two trains, each having five compartments, for plying in the route. But one is fairly old while the other is new and well-equipped.

But all the passengers were not satisfied with the service. "The service is satisfactory but the timing has not improved," said passenger.

Yesterday the two scheduled trains arrived 20 and 15 minutes late. "The main goal of the private service is providing faster, comfortable service for the commuters who want to avoid traffic congestion, especially at Jatrabari on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway," said the passenger.

A ticket booth manager at the Kamapur Railway Station said there was a rush of passengers during the evening departure hours from Dhaka at 5:30 pm while similar rush is observed at Narayanganj station during the day's first schedule at 6:40 am.

Mamunur Rashid, a supervisor of the train service, said the passengers are mostly office and garment workers who tend to catch the early morning service.

The poor condition of the rail track poses a danger, complained Mozammel Hossain, chairman of the company. "The

dilapidated rail line and slippers pose a great threat for the passengers. "I fear accidents may occur any time, notably at Gandaria point where drivers slow down the locomotives to avoid mishaps."

He also said the signaling system was in a better shape and the telephone line arrangement to communicate between the stations has been out of order since last two months.

Gazi Nurul Kabir, Divisional Transportation Officer of Bangladesh Railway (BR), said he has already received a number of complaints about late departures and unless the signalling system works in perfect order, the commuters would continue to face occasional delays.

Clash at DU JCD, BCL reach settlement

By DU Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League (BCL) have reached a peaceful settlement following a clash between the two sides on the Dhaka University campus on Tuesday.

The Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury invited the leaders of both the student organisations at his office yesterday morning for a peaceful settlement of their dispute.

The leaders of the Gano-tantrik Chhatra Oikya were also invited to the meeting but they did not attend.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Withdraw false case against Alamgir Kabir MP: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has protested the filing of a 'false' case and issuing warrant of arrest against Alamgir Kabir, MP, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, he alleged that police are also harassing the family members of Kabir, the Education Affairs Secretary of BNP. Bhuiyan said the filing of case and issuing warrant of arrest against a parliament member during its session is a rare incident and "it's tantamount to dishonouring the parliament."

The BNP Secretary General said Alamgir Kabir has raised his voice against irregularities in appointment of fertiliser dealers in Naogaon district and brought corruption charges.

Following this protest, he said, the government has filed the false case and issued warrant of arrest.

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ment of the fertiliser dealers and replacement of trial of the corrupt people, or else. He warned the government will have to shoulder the responsibility.

In a separate statement, Mannan Bhuiyan condemned the filing of 'false' cases against 31 BNP leaders and workers, including Moreshpur thana BNP general secretary and UP chairman Rafiqul Islam of Jhenidah.

He said the murder which took place at Moreshpur was the outcome of long-running conflict between two factions of ruling Awami League over the possession of a 'baor'.

The visit will provide impetus to the Japanese assistance for the economic development of the country," said Sheikh Hasina, adding that she received positive response from the Japanese investors.

The Prime Minister told the President that her objectives to attract private investment from Japan and get official assistance for important development projects in Bangladesh had been achieved.

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Hasina calls on Shahabuddin

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban and briefed him about her recent visit to Japan, reports UNB.

Hasina also apprised him of her forthcoming visit to Germany, beginning July 13, and said she would attend a seminar on 'Adult Education' there.

The Prime Minister told the President that her objectives to attract private investment from Japan and get official assistance for important development projects in Bangladesh had been achieved.

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