

Steps soon to hand over Baridhara J-Block plots to allottees

By Staff Correspondent

The government may soon take steps to evict the occupiers at Baridhara J-Block and hand over the plots to the original Rajuk allottees, Rajuk sources said.

With nearly 400 plots, the J-Block, which came under a Rajuk development project along with Banani, Gulshan and Baridhara, could never be handed over to the allottees although most had paid for them in full. The allottees have been waiting to get their plots since 1985.

Works Minister Mohammad Nasim, in a recent public hearing

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ADB chief due in city today

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mitsuo Sato arrives in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The ADB chief will be accompanied by his wife.

During his first visit to Dhaka, Sato will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and discuss with her issues relating to the Bank's operations in Bangladesh.

He will also meet Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, and State Minister for Planning Dr Muhiddin Khan Alamgir.

Sato's itinerary includes a meeting with the members of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex trade body of the country.

The ADB chief will visit the under-construction Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge of which the Bank is a co-financer, and an ADB-funded poverty alleviation project in the capital.

Sato will also address a press conference on Tuesday at a city hotel.

Mostafiz to take over as Foreign Secy Sept 17

New Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman will take over on September 17, said a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday, reports UNB.

Present Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan will go on retirement from September 16 after completing a 33-year diplomatic career. He joined the then Pakistan foreign service in 1964.

Mostafizur Rahman, now Bangladesh Ambassador to China, joined the Pakistan foreign service the same year (1964).

Prof Nazrul new KU VC

The President and Chancellor of Khulna University Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has appointed Prof SM Nazrul Islam Vice-Chancellor of the university for a four-year tenure, a press release of the university said yesterday, reports BSS.

Born in Kotalipara of Gopalganj district in 1948, Prof Islam graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1968.

He joined BUET as a member of faculty in 1969 and obtained PhD from Windsor University of Canada in 1979.

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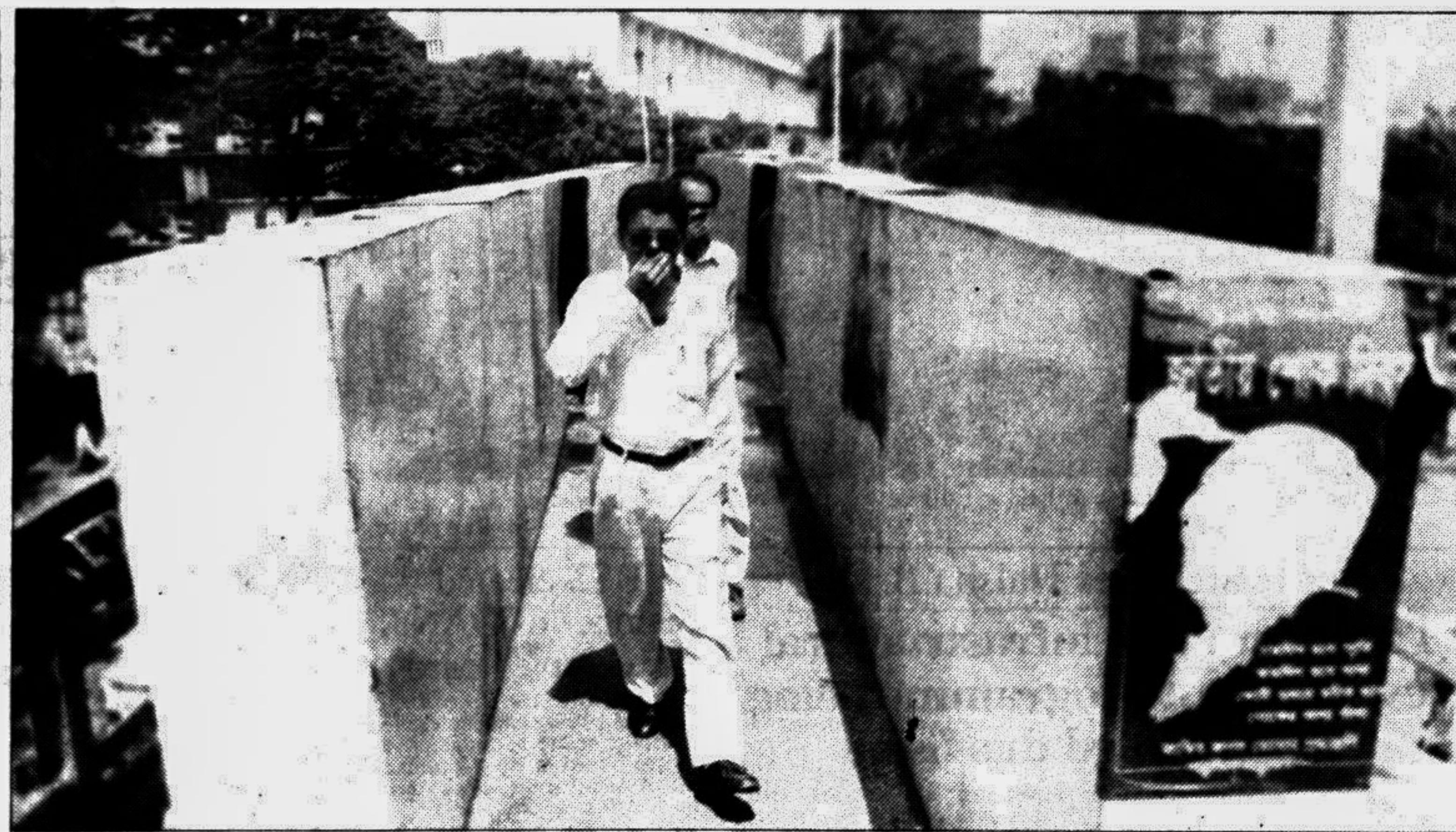
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AN OPEN AIR TOILET IN CENTRAL DHAKA: When the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) erected the pre-fabricated footbridge over the road between GPO and the Secretariat at the Zero Point, it was hoped that people would safely cross the busy road. But it virtually turned into a toilet for the *tokai's* and other floating people when the DCC rented the space for advertisement bill boards. Hardly any one can pass through the narrow space between the bill boards littered with human excreta. The stench is so overbearing that even beggars who normally occupy footbridges in the city do not show any interest in using this one.

— Star photo: Sheikh Enamul Huq

Killers of Zia will be tried: FM

Though BNP did not arrange the trial of Zia murder, this government will stage the trial because Awami League does not believe in the politics of murder, coup and conspiracy," he said.

The Foreign Minister strongly criticised Begum Zia for celebrating her birthday on August 15, the national mourning day.

He said papers and documents clearly say that August 15 is not her birthday, but she deliberately arranged the birthday celebration to undermine the mourning day.

The AL Presidium member said the day is not far off when people will see Begum Zia celebrating her birthday on May 30, the day that marks death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman.

"Her birthday should be on May 30, because she could not be the Prime Minister if Zia was not killed," Samad Azad said.

He said the red passport issued for Begum Zia in 1978 when Zia was the President clearly showed that her birthday was in September, 1946. "So her birthday cannot be in August."

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Make tomorrow's hartal a success: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the people of all strata to join the movement against government's undemocratic and anti-people acts and make tomorrow's hartal against price-hike of gasoline a complete success, reports UNB.

The government has proved to be a complete failure in running the state affairs and resolving people's problems in last 14 months," she said in a statement.

During this period, she said, it was proved that independence, sovereignty, economy, culture, and people's fundamental rights are not safe in the hands of this government.

The Leader of the Opposition said that although the government speaks of making parliament a centre of all activities, it failed to constitute parliamentary committee in last 14 months.

As a result, transparency and accountability of the government is totally absent, she said.

Begum Zia said normal life has been paralysed following the sudden price hike of petroleum products. A spontaneous protest has started across the country against the government's anti-people decision, she observed.

The BNP leader said all sec-

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Bodies of 2 more BUET students recovered

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 22: Two more bodies of the students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), who were missing in the Bay on Wednesday, were recovered today, reports UNB.

Four BUET students were washed away by ebb-tide in the Bay here on Wednesday. The body of one identified as Maruf Hossain was recovered the same day.

Police recovered the body of Mohammad Shahajalal from Bakkhali river in Majher Ghat area in the morning and sent it to Dhaka.

A rescue ship of the Naval Force found another body floating.

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IOJ announces action plan, supports BNP hartal

By Staff Correspondent

The Islamic Oikya Jote has announced a five-point action programme to press for its 10-point demand.

The IOJ also announced its support for the hartal called by BNP tomorrow demanding withdrawal of the price enhancement of petroleum products.

The announcements were made at the IOJ rally at Manik Miah Avenue in the city yesterday.

The Jote will gherao the BTV station in the city on September 18 as part of its action pro-

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IOJ, Shanghai supporters clash : 10 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people including a press photographer were hurt when supporters of Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad (MSP) exchanged brickbats near Sonargaon crossing yesterday evening, witnesses reported.

Police dispersed the confronting groups quickly before the trouble could flare up into a full-scale battle. Samaul Huq, a staff photographer of the Independent was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was given first aid.

The trouble began when a group of IOJ supporters were returning from their rally at

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80 ambulances of govt hospitals out of order

From Staff Correspondent

As many as 80 ambulances out of the total 424 allotted for district hospitals and thana health complexes throughout the country are out of order, according to records available from the Directorate of Health at Mohakhali in the city.

Twenty-six ambulances out of 116 are out of order in Dhaka Division, 14 out of 74 in Chittagong division, 6 out of 32 in Sylhet Division, 20 out of 125 in Rajshahi Division and 14 out of 52 are out of order in Khulna Division.

But all the 25 ambulances in Barisal Division are in "running condition," the records showed.

Most of these 'unfit' vehicles need replacement. Some of these 'unfit' vehicles will have to be towed to workshops with cranes.

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— Star photo

Half of DCC garbage carriers out of order

By Morshed Ali Khan

Garbage collection in the city has been severely disrupted as nearly half of the Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC's) garbage carriers are out of order and awaiting repair at its workshop for over six months, an on-the-spot visit has revealed.

Out of DCC's 214 garbage collecting trucks, 104 are out of order. With the remaining 110 trucks on road, the collection and dumping of garbage is difficult, a DCC official told this correspondent.

There were many areas in the city where DCC's garbage collection operation could not be conducted at all. Conser-

Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away cash, gold ornaments and valuable worth about Tk 1.40 lakh from a house on Elephanta Road under Dhamondi thana in the city early yesterday.

A gang of about five dacoits entered the house of one Ahsanul Haque at about 3:30 am by cutting the iron grill of a window.

The dacoits aged between 25 and 30 tied up all the inmates of the house and took away Tk 50,000 and gold ornaments worth about Tk 90,000, said Dhamondi police quoting the FIR.

The dacoits left the house at about 5 am.

A case was filed with Dhamondi thana in this regard.

No emergency treatment for poor Joynals in pvt clinics

By Naimul Haq

A patient with serious head injury arrived at a private clinic at Uttara in the city in a tempo, helped by four youths. The patient was profusely bleeding while his frightened five year old daughter cried helplessly.

"Where is the stretcher, doctor?" shouted one of the four youths. "Is you attending doctor in?" asked another youth. "Let me see if he is here," came the reply from a man at the small counter at the clinic entrance.

The patient, accompanied by his anxious mother, was then fighting for his life in a small congested room. A nurse

cleaned the blood from the patient's ruptured skull.

The doctor arrived after a few precious minutes from a room where he was busy with other official matters. He looked at the patient and instantly gave a prescription.

"I cannot treat this patient.

It is a very risky case. I suspect he has a fatal head injury which may cause other complications. He must be taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)," the doctor said helplessly.

The patient, accompanied by his mother and daughter. They came to visit a

"I am providing the patient with all necessary first aid but I

cannot take risk. Besides there is no other doctor here with me who can help," he told this correspondent who happened to be present at the clinic at the time on Saturday.

The patient, in the meantime, moaned while his old mother looked on. They had met with a road accident about half an hour ago.

A minibus, at its top speed on the Tongi-Mahakali road, hit Joynal while he was crossing it near the airport. He was accompanied by his mother and daughter. They came to visit a

Transport owners and workers also observed a strike in the district during the rule of the previous BNP government on the same issue.

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Commissioner of KCC shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 22: Iktiaruddin Bablu, 44, a Commissioner of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and local leader of opposition BNP was killed by unidentified assailants near his residence in city's Banorgati area this morning.

Police said the assailants stopped his private car exploding hand bombs, about 100 yards of his residence and shot him from a close range. He died on the spot.

The killers left the place firing blank shots and exploding bombs.

An accused in JP leader Abul Kashem Murad Case, Bablu was granted bail by the High Court recently.

A shrimp cultivator, Bablu was also a Deputy Mayor of Cox's Bazar during Ershad regime. He joined BNP quitting the Jatiya Party Youth Front, Juba Sanghati, before the June 1996 general election.

The tragic death of BNP leader triggered high tension in the city. Security measures have been beefed up to avert any unwanted incident.

Of them, two persons with bullet wounds were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while others were rushed to private clinics.

According to sources the clash erupted at 6:30 pm inside port jetty No. 11 when a truck driver, suspected for pilferage of wheat from shed, was confined at Ansars barrack.