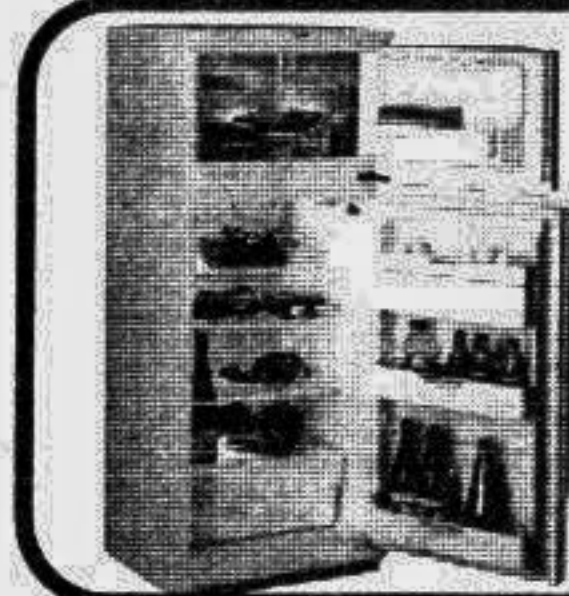


**FedEx**  
Federal Express

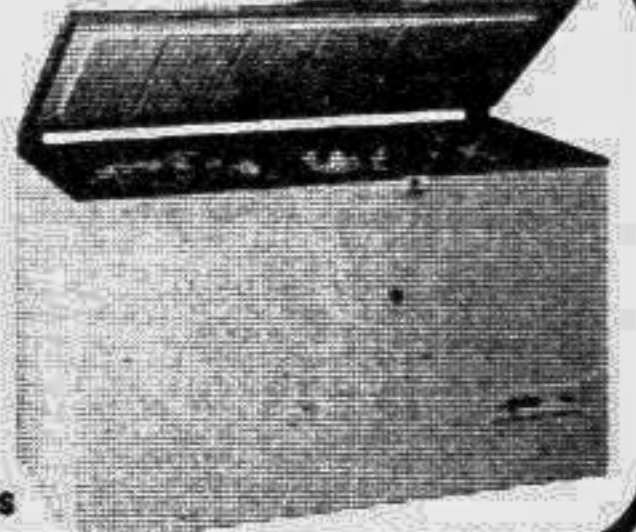
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## Down to Earth

### Tardy Movement of Office Files

By A S M Nurunnabi

There has been a lot of talks about administrative reforms. Yet one thing needs remedial actions without delay. Some years ago, an uncommon graffiti appeared on walls in many areas of the city bearing the slogan, which translated into English somewhat reads like — Extorting money by pointing a pistol and holding back office file to get money are same crime. Normally the walls of city streets bear mostly slogans of political nature, but the above-mentioned graffiti seemed different in character, reflecting in reality a prevailing aspect of deplorable decline in office discipline.

Many observers think the slogan still contains some elements of truth. While a terrorist extorts money threatening to use force, the picture is different with a public functionary who realises money in secret by holding back a file. The slogan seems to convey the message that the later category of persons may also be regarded as mastaans (musclemen) wearing a "white collar".

The prevailing idea which carries some elements of grievance is that if you have any business to get done at any government department or ministry, you need to have a lot of patience and perseverance besides the capacity for cajoling and flattery combined with the unavoidable necessity for paying what is called 'grease money' to oil the wheel of bureaucracy. In the common view, the all-

important factor is greasing the palms of the persons concerned with the disposal of the private party's business.

So far as the Bangladesh Secretariat is concerned, it is gathered that in the Secretariat instructions, there are specific guidelines for keeping a file for examination with definite time limits for the different tiers of the administration. The guidelines also indicate a system for submitting periodic returns of pending files to higher authorities. It is hard to find any department or ministry where any such guidelines are followed with due regularity.

These instructions framed in most cases in earlier times, may appear unrealistic in some cases in view of large increase of workload. In such cases, there is obviously need for revising such instructions. But none can deny that the present state of things seems to give unfettered latitude to the dealing officials at various levels to hold back a file for as long as he chooses, unless pressured by quarters at higher levels to set the file moving, or there is a *quid pro quo* arrangement to facilitate its movement.

Observers feel that in view of the large-scale public complaints of excessive delay in disposal of files at different levels, a revised time frame in the light of present-day realities should be drawn up specifying the time-limit for dealing with a file at each level of hierarchy. Once that time-table is adopted,

the supervising officials should make it a point to strictly enforce it.

If under any exceptional circumstances, a departure from the prescribed time-limit becomes necessary, a periodic list of such pending cases should be regularly placed before the head of the office so that it may be possible to keep track of them for their expeditious disposal at a later stage. If any government organisation, on account of its special nature of functions, needs extended time-limits for disposal of business at different levels, such provisions may be made in the written instructions, which should not be violated in the interest of proper discipline of that organisation.

Observers believe that only in this way the present ominous trend of delay either intentionally caused or otherwise in the disposal of government business can be suitably checked.

The chaotic situation has raised a vital issue. The accumulation of such large volumes of office files is not only inconsistent with our need for fast pace in technological advancement in the present age, but also detrimental to the cause of economic progress of our country. When the present ethos of slow processing and disposal of official business joins with forces of chaos and confusion created in the wilderness of accumulated office files, there is cause for anxiety that development of the country in many sectors may suffer.



Abahani's Ghanaian recruit Charles Ghansha Benin (second from left) is exultant after grabbing the equaliser for his team against the Mohammedans during the Premier Division football league showdown at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Benin lets Abahani breathe

Sports Reporter

Ghanaian defender Charles Ghansha Benin scored his maiden goal in the Keya Premier Division Football League last night as title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra came from behind to hold leaders Mohammedan Sporting 1-1 in their first 'super six' meet at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In front of a capacity crowd, Benin, one of the two Ghanaian recruits of Abahani, who were trailing by a brilliant Rezaul Karim first-half goal, came from nowhere to level the match with a magnificent left-foot placing from close range nine minutes into the second half.

A free kick prompted the Ghanaian defender to take position up front. Substitute forward Shahidul Alam Ranjan made the free kick drop at Benin's feet and he took no time in sending the ball home, much to the delight of the large band of Abahani supporters.

Abahani, who lost to their arch rivals 1-2 in the first leg, began with a positive attitude against the popular Motijheel-based club. The sky blues launched a series of forays early in the first half but failed to break the Mohammedan defence due to their blunt forwards.

Credit should also go to Mohammedan custodian Ponir, who saved his side with a brilliant reflex action in the 23rd minute when midfielder Iqbal shot a power-packed 25-yard

grounded.

Indian forward Sabir Pasha, the third Abahani foreign recruit but a 'super flop' so far, had a clear chance in the next minute when Mintu centred the ball from the right flank. But the Calcutta striker failed to head home the opportunity as he jumped a bit too early.

After surviving the initial Abahani thrust, the black and whites gradually took control of the match and went ahead with their very first offensive in the 42nd minute through a right-side attack.

Defender Rezaul, who also scored the decisive goal against Abahani in the first leg, once again proved his natural scoring ability. The stout rear-guard, after receiving a short pass from Anwar, took a U-turn before unleashing a left-foot rainbow shot that deflected off the far post before making the sizeable Mohammedan supporters jubilant.

The margin could have increased two minutes later had Abahani keeper Aminul not blocked a Rakib shot by diving to his right.

After the lemon break, Abahani went all-out against Mohammedan and kept their counterparts almost cornered in their own half until the match was levelled.

After Benin's goal, the match turned into a boring affair as both teams remained content in the midfield.

The outcome of yesterday's match still separated the two

teams by 10 points in the table. Mohammedan remained atop the standings with 29 points while Abahani raised their tally to 19 points from 11 matches.

### EFFIANI JOINS KHOKON

Earlier, in the first match, holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra registered a comprehensive 3-1 win over Arambagh Krira Sangha.

After a barren first half, Nigerian forward Effiani struck twice in the 55th and 64th minutes while Nakib made it 3-0 16 minutes later.

On the other hand, Ritu pulled one back for Arambagh in the 78th minute.

With yesterday's two, Effiani has scored seven goals in the league, placing himself the top goal-scorer along with Badda Jagarani's Khokon.

Muktiyoddha, with their seventh win in the league in 11 matches, remained second in the table having raised their tally to 23 points, six points adrift of Mohammedan Sporting.

The defeat kept Arambagh at the bottom of the four-team 'super six' with their previous collection of 15 points.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
(Bangabandhu National Stadium)  
Farashganj SC vs Rahmatganj MFS (3:30 pm)  
Badda Jagarani vs YMC Fakirerpool (5:30 pm)

### Seismic observatory

## Modernisation plan shelved for a decade

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: The plan for modernisation of the country's lone seismic observatory here remained shelved for a decade though Bangladesh, situated in the earthquake prone zone, is rocked by tremors almost every year.

Even the plan for setting up two more sophisticated seismic observatories in Sylhet and Rangpur is yet to see day light, sources in the Meteorological Department here said.

The seismic observatory at Ambagan in the port city is running with obsolete equipment including a visual

recorder. On most occasions it fails to locate the epicentre of the tremor and record the intensity on the Richter Scale, the sources said.

Like many others in the past, the tremor that rocked Moheshkhali Island three days ago was also not recorded in the old equipment of the observatory, they said.

The earthquake left five children dead, over 200 people injured and at least 100 mud houses damaged.

Three seismic observatories are required to read the intensity on the Richter Scale and to locate the epicentre of tremors, the sources said.

The government is reportedly trying to arrange foreign assistance for modernisation of the observatory. A Japanese team surveyed the observatory in March but did not say anything yet whether they would provide funds, the sources said.

### Tea shop owner stabbed to death by extortionists

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 6: A tea shop owner was stabbed to death by a gang of extortionists at Durgabari road in Mymensingh town Thursday night.

Kotwali thana police and hospital sources said, a gang of extortionists numbering four stabbed Sankar Das, 45, after he refused to pay toll at around 11:40 pm. Sankar was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

A case was filed with Kotwali thana in this connection. None has so far been arrested till writing of this report.

### School teacher murdered in Mymensingh

JAMALPUR, Aug 6: A secondary school teacher was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants at Ghorakanda in sadar thana Thursday night, reports UNB.

Police said Wahiduzzaman alias Tota, 50, a teacher of Jawala Gopalpur High School, was called out of his house and left seriously injured beside a pond.

He died on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

### 2 murdered

From Page 1

death allegedly by his nephew, Manik, at Khulna Railway Station at around 4-30 pm on Thursday.

Police immediately arrested two persons — Moti, 24, and Hira, 29, in connection with the murder, but they could not arrest the main culprit till writing of this report this evening. No case was filed with Khulna Kotwali thana.

## Move to reexcavate Chaktai canal

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: After three years of silence, the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has at long last started preparing a project proposal for re-excavation and renovation of Chaktai Khal (Chaktai canal) — the backbone of the port city's drainage system.

The project plan aimed at renovation of the canal at a cost of Tk 16 crore is likely to be submitted to the relevant ministry for approval within a week or two, said a high official of CCC.

Under the project, the 4935-metre long Chaktai Khal is to be re-excavated and brick-soled with slit-traps at regular intervals while around four kilometre of the canal are to be renovated with retaining walls (protective walls) on both sides.

A highly placed source at the CCC told this correspondent that around Tk 30 lakh is required every year for maintenance of the drainage. "If the canal is renovated... it will save at least 15 lakh taka from the expenditure needed for maintenance of drainage system every year."

Chaktai Khal along with its four main attached canals — Jamal Khan Khal, Mirza Khal, Hira Khal and Chatteshwari Khal — drains out all the water and sewage of the city. But in the recent years it has been dubbed 'the sorrow of Chittagong'. The canal has been filled up in such a proportion that the resultant clogging causes severe waterlogging in the city, even after a moderate downpour.

### Arrest those who attacked house of Jahanara: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned 'bomb attack' on the residence of party Vice Chairman Jahanara Begum in the city on Thursday and demanded immediate arrest of those involved.

In a statement yesterday, he said miscreants made bomb attacks twice and also set fire to the residence of the BNP leader but police were yet to arrest them.

Bhuiyan alleged that the motive behind the attack was to kill Jahanara and said the incident clearly proved that there was no security of life of any individual in the country.

An 'anarchic situation' has been prevailing in the country since the Awami League came to power. BNP leaders and activists are frequently becoming victims of repression, torture, killing and false cases during the misrule of this government, he added.

Meanwhile, Pabna district BNP organising secretary and district Jubadal convenor Kamrul Hasan Milton and local leaders Rashidul Islam Babu and Wahiduzzaman Dulal, who were released on bail recently, met the BNP secretary general at 29 Mitto Road in the city yesterday.

Bhuiyan appreciated their role in the current anti-government agitation and advised them to organise the party and its front organisations down to village level.

### Coastal areas of Midnapore flooded

MIDNAPORE, Aug 6: A large part of the coastal area of Midnapore district was submerged following torrential rains since Wednesday affecting about 7000 people, district officials said here yesterday, reports PTL.

Egra, Paniparul and Patashpur were the most-affected areas while Ramnagar, Digha and Contal were also water-logged, the sources said quoting preliminary reports arriving from the areas.

Many mud-houses also collapsed. Classes of several schools and colleges had to be suspended due to the rain.

### Protein that guards body against skin cancer

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: Sun-damaged skin cells that could become cancerous are killed by a special protein produced in sunburned tissue, according to a new US study, reports AP.

Researchers at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center report in the Journal Science that sunburned skin cells make a cell-killing protein called Fas that guards the body against skin cancer by killing genetically-flawed skin cells.

"Our finding is the first to identify a protein that is a natural defense against skin cancer development," said Lauri Owen-Schaub, an associate professor at M.D. Anderson. She said the discovery could lead to new therapies to treat skin cancer.

### Using IAF planes No coercive steps now to recover dues from 4 Indian PMs

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: The centre today told the Delhi High Court that as elections have been announced it would not use any coercive measures at this stage to recover over Rs 13.57 crore due from four former prime ministers for using Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft for their personal use, reports PTL.

At this stage when the elections have been announced, the government does not propose to take any coercive measures as it will be construed in different manner at different quarter by different people, Solicitor General S B Jaisinghani told a division bench comprising Justice Arun Kumar and Justice D K Jain while seeking more time to furnish details on steps taken so far to collect the dues.

Jaisinghani said if government initiated action at this point of time when the election process was on, it would give a wrong impression that this was being done under political consideration.

The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking recovery of the dues from late premier Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, P V Narasimha Rao and H D Deve Gowda for using the IAF planes for personal purposes.

The petition filed by Advocate B L Wadhwa alleged that Rs 5.92 crore were due on Chandra Shekhar, Rs 5.52 crore on Rao, Rs 1.86 crore on Rajiv Gandhi and Rs 26.46 lakh on Deve Gowda.

### Transport strike

From Page 1

problems.

Rahman said the Federation wants to sit with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to find a solution to their demands.

Transport union sources said there are about 165 registered transport unions in the country. Of them, 93 bus unions and 11 truck unions are affiliated with the Federation.

### Half-day hartal called on Aug 12 in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 6: Rajshahi Committee for Resistance to Transfer of O&M Division (RCRTO&MD) has called a half-day hartal in the city on Aug 12 to protest shifting of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division-2 of BPWD from Rajshahi.

The committee also threw a five-day agitation programme. It will lay siege to the office of the Chief Engineer of BPWD Rajshahi Division for the whole day on Aug 8 and 9, observe 30 minutes' hartal in the city everyday on Aug 8, 9 and 10, barricade the stadium railway road crossing and finally observe half-day hartal in the city on Aug 12.

The decision was taken at a general meeting organised by the RCRTO&MD and attended by the leaders of the political, social, cultural and business community yesterday.

The meeting was addressed by the City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Jatiya Party city unit general secretary Mushtaque Ahmed Labu, CPB district unit general secretary Enamul Haque, Ward Commissioner Sajjad Hossain, Jubo Dal district unit convenor Mosaddeque Hossain Bulbul and PWD Contractors' Association general secretary Jamal Khan.

RCRTO&MD president Shaiful Islam Bulu presided the meeting.

### Admission of 150 RMC students cancelled

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 6: Rajshahi Medical College authorities cancelled admission of about 150 students of first year MBBS (40th batch).

The students had been absenting from classes without prior permission from the authorities.

The Academic Council of the college in an emergency meeting last night observed their 'autocancellation' as a violation of academic rule.

The AC with the acting-principal Prof. A B Siddique in the chair decided that the students would have to take readmission by depositing a fee of Tk 50.00 by Aug 10.

Besides, each student will have to pay a fine of Tk 1000 in addition to the readmission fee after Aug 10, the AC decided.

## East Asia counts dead, braces for more floods

HONG KONG, Aug 6: East Asia today braced for more devastating floods, while still counting the dead from a week of ferocious storms which killed hundreds as they brought landslides and blanketed the region with water, reports AFP.

South Korea was also on alert for stray landmines and artillery shells washed away by floods, with the military warning vacationers to beware as a new typhoon bears down on the country.

Meanwhile, victims of this week's floods in South Korea have threatened to sue the government for failing to prevent the disaster which killed up to 64.

Some 40 people were killed and a further 24 were feared dead following five days of torrential rain this week which sparked devastating floods and

landslides across the area near the North Korean border.

North Korea appeared even harder hit by the terrible damage wrought by the flooding and by Typhoon Olga which ripped across the Korean peninsula on Tuesday.

At least 42 North Koreans died and more than 39,000 were left homeless by floods and the typhoon, calamities which risk worsening the plight of the starving communist country, aid officials said.

Areas around the southern city of Kaesong appeared particularly hard-hit. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said from Pyongyang.

In China, where officials late Thursday put the toll in this summer's flooding at 725, water on the swollen Yangtze river had begun to drop from

the "dangerously high" levels where they had remained for more than one month, state media said.

The floods have also caused damage estimated at eight billion dollars, according to the country's civil affairs minister, adding more than 5.53 million people had been relocated and an estimated 1.67 million homes had been destroyed.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen Friday put his government on high alert amid warnings more areas could be struck by floods that have so far drowned up to eight children and left thousands homeless.

In the Philippines, the death toll from flood and landslides spawned by days of torrential rain rose to 90, with another 36 listed as missing, reports and officials said today.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Science and Technology

 Bangladesh Secretariat, Room-903  
Floor-9, Building-6, Dhaka-1000

## R&D Proposals for Financial Support Under Special Allocation for Science and Technology

Research proposals in prescribed form are invited from researchers/scientists/technologists of established R&D Organisations/Universities/Institutions of Bangladesh for financial support under special allocation from the Ministry of Science and Technology for the financial year 1999-2000. The Programmes (detail of which described in the Guidelines) are:

1. Capacity Utilisation Programmes
  - 1.1 Research Contract
  - 1.2 Coordinated Research
2. Capacity Build-up/Capacity Institutionalisation Programmes
3. Study Contract Programmes
4. Supplementary Support Programmes
5. **Area of Research:** Agriculture/Medical Science/Environment Science/Marine Science/Microbial and Industrial/Basic Sciences/Others (to mention).
6. **Guidelines for Different Programmes Under Special Allocation for Science and Technology** will be available at the office of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission/Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research/BANDOC/Bangladesh Computer Council/National Museum of Science and Technology/Dhaka University/Rajshahi University/Chittagong University/Jahangirnagar University/Khulna University/Shajalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet/BUET/Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh/Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (Ex-IPGMR)/Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (IPSA).
7. Researchers/Scientists/Technologists of those (para 3 above) and other institutions may obtain, on request, copies of **Guidelines/Terms & Conditions/Prescribed Form** (Annexure-A/B/C/D/E) from the above institutions.
8. Researchers under the special allocation for the financial year 1997-98 who have not submitted project completion report should not apply.
9. Researchers under the special allocation for the financial year 1998-99 who have just started their programmes should not apply (if the programme/project continuation is a necessary in which case a progress report through prescribed form must be submitted).
10. Pursuant to Clause 25 of Terms and Conditions of the Special Allocation for Science and Technology of the Guidelines, any (previous/this etc) invitation for proposals and subsequent (if any) relevant advertisement/letter in this regard must be integral part of the Guidelines.
11. **The last date for submission of proposal** [(a) Annexure-A/B/C/D/E duly filled in & signed 10 (ten) set and (b) pages 1 through 7 of the Guidelines signed by the Project Director (Chief Scientific Investigator) 1(one) set] for different programmes/projects, at the above address, is **31 August 1999**.

DFP-16926-4/8

G-1457

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