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Taltala Park belongs to Rajuk but DCC sweepers occupy it

By Staff Correspondent

The Gulshan Taltala park and its adjacent area belongs to Rajuk but it could not be recovered from DCC sweepers and a group of people who have illegally set up a mosque, an orphanage and a darbar sharif, Rajuk officials claimed.

They said about three acres of land, designated for a public park, were handed over to DCC (Dhaka City Corporation) for maintenance few years ago. But soon after, a slum sprang up along with a mosque, an orphanage and a darbar sharif.

Now, the whole area resembles a slum with mushrooming structures of different party offices and other establishments which are officially classified as "too sensitive to touch", a Rajuk source said.

"If you grab a land and build a mosque, a temple, a shrine or an orphanage, it is not always

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2 former outlaws gunned down in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, June 18: Two former outlaws were gunned down while another received bullet injuries in an attack today on the Kushtia-Jhenidah road, 13 miles off the town, reports UNB.

Police said the victims, former members of outlawed parties, surrendered at the call of the Home Minister on June 28, 1999 to avail an amnesty and were released recently.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Hashem, 25, and Abdul Rahman, 30. Seriously injured Apple was rushed to local hospital.

"The gunmen shot them pointblank at 9 am at Laximpur Bus Stand on the road," says a witness.

Police handed over the bodies to their relatives after post-mortem examinations at Sadar Hospital.

Police held three persons for interrogation but did not disclose their identity "for sake of investigation".

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Minister's 'no' to budgetary allocation for parties

Speakers at a dialogue propose one per cent of budget for transparency

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a dialogue in the city yesterday proposed making provisions for budgetary allocation for political parties for the sake of transparency but State Minister for Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said it would not be possible due to financial constraints.

"It won't be a proper step at this stage of development. The very essence of budget making is to change the lot of the poor and it won't be possible to allocate money for the political

parties ignoring those projects," Alamgir said.

However, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said everybody has to think about developing a transparent system for financing the political parties.

Earlier, Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof. Rehman Sobhan proposed that one per cent of the total budget should be allocated for financing the political parties for their activities and the proposal was supported

by most of the participants in the dialogue

Prof. Sobhan was the keynote speaker at the dialogue on 'State of Governance and Budget Responses 2000' organised by CPD and held at CIRDAP auditorium.

The participants felt that source of funds of the political parties is one of the major reasons for degradation of politics in the country.

When some speakers pointed

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Non-government school teachers staged a sit-in in front of the Shikha Bhaban in the city yesterday to press their demands. — Star photo

Private container port Try bureaucrats who have underhand deals, TUs demand

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 18: Leaders of the alliance of 22 trade union bodies at Chittagong port today demanded trial and punishment of the "bureaucrats who have clandestine links" with the US company, Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) for installation of a proposed private container port here.

The demand was made at a meeting of the leaders on the premises of Chittagong port office to protest the reported negotiations between the government and SSA to sign an accord for setting up of the container port near Chittagong

port. As the meeting, the leaders threatened to halt activities at the port if their demand is not fulfilled.

They, however, decided to keep an eye on the government move before announcing a final movement programme to resist installation of the proposed container port.

Convenor of the alliance Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, Nurullah Bahar, Abu Jafor Azad and Habibur Rahman addressed the meeting, chaired by Abdul Rahim Pathan.

The leaders decided to meet

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Kader Siddique's party to field candidates for all seats

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSL) President Kader Siddique yesterday said his party would field candidates for all the 300 seats in the next parliamentary election.

"If needed, we will consider forming an alliance with like-minded political organisations," Siddique told newsmen while addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, BKSL General Secretary Fazlur Rahman was also present.

He accused the Sheikh Hasina government of totally failing to maintain law and order, and peace and stability in the country. He predicted that the ruling party will not be able to get more than 36 seats in the

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2 top extremists of southern region held in city

Police arrested two top extremists of southern region from city's Uttara area early yesterday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the Special Branch, raided a government quarter and arrested Saidur Rahman Thandu and Jahidul Kabir.

The swoop was made on information that some leaders and workers of an underground extremist organisation of Jhenidah-Shailakupa area were in a meeting in a hideout at Uttara.

"Police investigation revealed that some leaders and workers of the extremist party took shelter in the hideout to carry out subversive activity in Dhaka," says a news release.

A number of accomplices of the arrested two are hiding in different parts of the capital, the City Special Branch said.

Arrested Thandu is an accused in Dilip and Eshwar murder cases and had been hiding in the capital for a long time.

Police remanded them for interrogating.

Saifur came but went back from door

By Staff Correspondent

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman did not attend a dialogue yesterday as State Minister for Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was present there.

BNP leader Saifur Rahman MP came to the venue but, went back from the door when he heard that Alamgir was attending the dialogue.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a think-tank, organised the dialogue on 'State of the Economy and Governance: Budget Responses 2000' at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

CPD Chairman Prof. Rehman Sobhan raised the issue in the middle of the programme, pointing to the non-cooperative attitude of the two major political parties

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Top positions 177 appointed on contract basis in last 4 yrs

By Staff Correspondent

The government appointed 177 people including 60 from outside the civil service in top positions on contract basis under various ministries and departments in the past four years.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique, who is also in charge of the Establishment Ministry, said this in parliament yesterday.

In response to a written question, he placed in the House a list of these officials.

The list included 34 retired officials of the administration cadre and 33 from the education cadre. Their contract period varied from one year to five, mostly for 2-3 years.

Contracts with 39 officials have expired and three contracts were cancelled before their expiry.

Six contracts were renewed for the third time and another six for the second time. Two contracts were made for indefinite period -- one with Begum Hazera Khatun and the other with Dr Jaynab Begum. Both of them were appointed joint secretaries in February 1998.

The highest number of contract appointments--52-- were made in 1998, followed by 49 in 1999 and 25 in 1997. Sixteen such appointments were made in the second half of 1996 and 35 this year (till May).

The minister told another questioner that 36 posts of joint secretary and 74 posts of deputy secretary were now lying vacant.

Aggrieved party MPs told Khaleda took new office to work privately

Star Report

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia explained to her party lawmakers yesterday why she took the new party office at Banani.

Replying to queries from party MPs, she said she needs to do some party work privately, which is not possible at her 29 Minto Road official residence or at the BNP central office in Naya Paltan.

Sources said some BNP MPs during a meeting of its Parliamentary Party at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday wanted to know

from Khaleda why she rented a new office and why the entry into the office was so restricted.

The MPs also drew her attention to the criticism and controversy in the newspaper and also in the party regarding the new office.

Meeting sources said even a Standing Committee member wanted to know whether he would be allowed to enter the office if he goes there.

They said the opposition

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Decision to return to House Opposition plans surprise entry

By Rezaul Karim

BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers, who have been boycotting the Jatiya Sangsad sessions for about a year, are likely to attend its session for a short time today apparently to sign the attendance register to save their membership.

The decision to attend the JS session was taken at a meeting of chiefs of the four parties comprising the opposition alliance on Saturday and the BNP Parliamentary Party endorsed the decision yesterday.

The BNPPP meeting was adjourned till 10 am today. The JP Parliamentary Party is yet to endorse the decision. It will meet at 10 this morning. Eight MPs including JP Chair-

man H M Ershad went to the Sangsad Bhaban to hold its meeting yesterday but, according to them, 10 MPs could not reach Dhaka till yesterday morning and the meeting could not be held.

BNP sources said if there is time after their parliamentary party meetings, the opposition lawmakers will enter the House all of a sudden, sit for a while and sign the attendance register. The JS session resumes at 9:30 am today.

"We will try our best to maintain secrecy about attending session because the government is still conspiring to trap us," said a senior BNP leader who attended the BNPPP

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Biman looks for more cadet pilots Failed candidates can appear afresh

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman is again on hunt for cadet pilots barely a week after it conducted a test to recruit the same amidst allegations of irregularities in the recruitment and examination process.

The advertisement seeking

applications from fresh candidates for the tests on July 16, however, permits those who did not qualify for the written tests on June 14 to retake the examination without fresh applications. Only 10 out of the 62

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Farmers and consumers pay for it

By Morshed Ali Khan

Farmers at a Jessore village yesterday sold *potol* (palwal) at Tk 6 per kg. When a trader hired a truck and brought those to Karwan Bazar wholesale market in the city, another Tk 2 was added to its price. By the time the vegetable reaches your kitchen, you have paid about Tk 14 for one kilogram.

Whatever vegetables you buy from the city's kitchen markets, you pay more than double the price the farmers get for their produce. The farmers are miserably deprived of a fair price and the consumers are silently subjected to a penalty because, in between, stand masters, police, extortionists.

There are exorbitant transport and labour costs also. A truck charges up to Tk 8,000 for a trip to Dhaka from Jessore.

Abdul Hai, who brought a truck-load of *potol* yesterday from a Jessore village to Karwan Bazar said extortion begins right from the moment a farmer comes to the local market to sell his produce.

"When I buy vegetables, I have to pay toll at the local market, then all along the road up to Dhaka. I have labour and

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Arrest of newsman Calcutta police yet to confirm identity

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian police in Calcutta could not confirm till yesterday identity of the Bangladeshi journalist who was arrested there on Thursday on suspicion instead of Shafiq, one of the three accused in the sensational Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu murder case. Detective Branch officials in Dhaka said.

The DB is yet to ascertain whereabouts of the three FIR-listed accused in the case. They are Shafiqul Alam, son of Ahmad Hossain; Naimuzzaman Jubair, son of Asaduzzaman; Director of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh CAAB and Jewel son of ruling party MP Kamal Majumder.

Asked why a journalist who had gone there for treatment was arrested instead of the accused, a police source in Dhaka said, "It was probably due to confusion over names". He, however, would not speak further.

Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner of in Calcutta told The Daily Star over tele-

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Almighty Allah for eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul.

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