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Cracks around intellectuals' memorial as land caves in

By Staff Correspondent

Land subsidence has caused numerous cracks around the Martyred Intellectuals' Monument at Rayer Bazar in the city.

Footpaths, walls, stairs and structure slabs around the monument have shown large cracks due to land subsidence. The monument was constructed in December last year at a cost of Tk 17.61 crore.

PWD engineers said that the subsidence occurred because the site had to be elevated by 35 feet by earth filling. An engineer of Dhammondi PWD office, who is in-charge of its maintenance, said there has been no damage to the massive crescent shaped monument, built on 450 piles sunk up to 100 feet into the soil.

"Although we consolidated the elevated part with compaction, there are still possibilities of land subsidence. But it will not cause any damage to the structure of the monument," he said.

Workers and PWD officials were seen yesterday trying to repair the huge cracks on the pavements, stairs and walls. At several places, cracks were more than four inches wide.

A PWD source said that engineers and planners had made a mistake by not allowing more time for compaction after the massive earth filling work.

"It was done in a hurry and they are now paying the price for



Cracks in the memorial

Workers cement cracks at the Martyred Intellectuals' Monument at Rayerbazar in the city yesterday.

- Photo credit : Duncan McDonald

it," he said.

The PWD engineer said the entire area was built on small concrete slabs as a precaution against land subsidence. He said they were prepared for land subsidence and are doing the repair work accordingly.

The monument also faces danger from erosion around it.

Huge chunks of earth are falling as the authorities are yet to build any retention wall.

The Martyred Intellectuals Monument was built on the site where the occupation forces and their local collaborators killed hundreds of intellectuals at the end of the War of Liberation in 1971.

Jarina's ordeal Police hunt for four 'thieves'

By Staff Correspondent

Cantonment police yesterday raided several places in the city but failed to nab the four luggage handlers of Bangladesh Biman allegedly involved in pilferage of over 5000 dirhams from the briefcase of Jarina Khatun.

The poor widow from Muradnagar in Comilla returned from Abu Dhabi by an Oman Airlines flight on Saturday.

The OC of Cantonment Thana, Anwar Hossain, said that Biman gave them wrong address of the four persons. "We have asked Biman authorities to hand over the four luggage handlers to us for further investigation into the case."

Four police squads raided several places in Mirpur, Dakkhin Khan, Shantinagar and Gaoair but they failed to trace any of the four persons because of wrong address given to them, a police official said.

But Biman officials said they provided address as per the service book. "Perhaps they (four wanted persons) have changed their address", one official said.

Six employees suspended by the Biman authorities in connection with the incident are supervisor MA Sanat, security assistant Nasir Uddin and the four luggage handlers - Abdul Aziz, Mohammad Selim, Akram and Nurun Nabi.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) said they have no responsibility as regards the loss of Jarina's money. They denied reports that as per rule, their official should be present in the luggage area at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

When contacted yesterday, Chairman of CAAB Iqbal Hossain said, "We are observing the situation."

Meanwhile, Jarina told this correspondent yesterday that none contacted her so far in connection with the incident.

She said that after losing her money, she had to move from one place to another at the airport to lodge a complaint in this regard.

Jarina quoted an official of the Oman Airlines as telling her, "Come on November 26 as we do not have any money with us now."

See page 11 col 4

Tension brews in Ctg over Saidi's mahfil

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: Tension is brewing in the port city over the holding of a Tafsir Mahfil (religious conference) by Delwar Hossain Saidi at the parade ground on November 13 as BCL activists and freedom fighters command unit of Lalkhan Bazar has threatened to resist it.

BCL and freedom fighters command sources said they were ready to resist the conference because of its political nature.

BCL supporters today brought out a procession waving sticks, protesting the tafsir mahfil. They will continue their protest programmes against the mahfil, party sources said.

"Jamaat-e-Islami is trying to hold an assembly of its supporters, activists and other anti-liberation forces under the garb of tafsir mahfil. So it will be opposed by pro-liberation forces", said Khorshed Alam Sujon, a leader of Awami League.

"Jamaat is going to hold such a conference with Delwar Hossain Saidi only to serve its political mission but not religious purpose", Sujon added.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened in the port city from today fearing any outbreak of violence centering the tafsir mahfil, police said.

Talking to this correspondent, commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) A.T.M. Ahmedul Huq said that permission for using microphone was not given as it might create a chaotic situation.

"As political matters are involved in this tafsir mahfil organised by Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Saidi, we can not allow it here in order to avoid confrontation", CMP commissioner said, adding that the situation here has already become heated and is heading towards violence.

"We will take all possible steps to foil any attempt of violence and confrontation and we can not allow Jamaat to hold such a controversial meeting here" the commissioner said. On the other hand Samaj Kalyan parishad expressed its determination to hold the tafsir mahfil.

Two Khulna barge mounted plants to be shifted

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Nov 8: The decision to shift the two Barge Mounted Power Plants (BMPP) of the Khulna Power Station (KPS) to Siddhirganj has been finalised.

The proposal to shift these two BMPPs was made by a former Chief Engineer of PDB and it is awaiting final approval of the Member (Generation) of PDB. The approval is expected shortly, said a reliable source of KPS.

These two BMPPs are among the six units of Khulna Power Station at Goalpara. Of these, only one unit is in operation, while five others including one BMPP are out of order at present. The lone BMPP now in operation helps supply electricity to local consumers when the national

grid trips during peak hours, the source further said.

The former chief engineer preferred use of gas to electricity in keeping the BMPPs running for power generation so far as expenses were concerned.

The source said that at least four districts of the western zone are greatly benefited by one of these two BMPPs. These two BMPPs could act as auxiliary force in meeting the need of the hour.

When shifted from the KPS, people of Khulna and Barisal divisions would be the worst sufferers as they would have to be fully dependent on Bheramara power plant for electricity, said an engineer of KPS.

Major Noor first shot in the chest of Bangabandhu: SPP

The Prosecution yesterday termed Farook as the "operation director," Dalim the "organising secretary" and Noor Chowdhury the "executor" in the assassination plot as it began to review the personal involvement of the convicts in the Bangabandhu Murder Case, report agencies.

Farook, Rashid and Khondaker Mushtaq as architects of the plot had sown the seed of the conspiracy, but many others enjoyed the fruit," Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Huq told the High Court as the death reference and appeal hearing of the case continued for the 51st day yesterday.

He added that although several of the 15 convicts including Farook and Dalim in the case were not seen in Bangabandhu's 32 Dhanmondi residence, the evidences proved their involvement in the incident.

Serajul Huq said despite being a dismissed officer, a disgruntled Dalim moved around at different places including Bangabandhu's residence for some time to prepare the ground for executing the plot and even joined the army's night parade without uniform where troops were briefed of the operation.

"He was not an innocent vagabond. He was the organising secretary of the massacre, Farook and Rashid themselves proved his role as found in the evidences," the chief prosecutor said.

He said even Maj Dalim was very much active, being aggrieved losing his job in the army following the incident at the residence of Gazi Golam Mostafa, in the conspiracy of killing Bangabandhu and his family members.

Maj (dismissed) Noor Chowdhury at first shot in the chest of the father of the nation. While DL Bashir (prosecution witness 11) was whispering as stains of blood were on his forehead, Noor Chowdhury

proudly pronounced 'go and see I have killed Bangabandhu.'

The special PP depicted the vivid scene of the August tragedy before the High Court quoting from prosecution depositions made in the trial court.

Advocate Serajul Huq submitted in March 1975 Col Rashid and Farook met with Khondaker Mushtaq at a seminar on Family Planning held at Comilla BARD and spent 40 minutes there.

"For what purpose two army men met with Mushtaq in a family planning meeting? Was there any necessity of tanks? We cannot mention the subject of discussion, but prelude and consequences prove that 40 minutes' parley was the root of conspiracy of August 15 incident," the prosecution counsel submitted.

Referring to the individual role of Dalim, Noor and Farook in the Bangabandhu killing, the lawyer questioned why in every place like radio station, Bangabhaban and so they were present. "What was their purpose?"

Performances of Dalim and Farook in pre-and post-killing times were not meaningless, he said.

Col Farook reached the residence of Bangabandhu at about 7 am after the gruesome killing of the father of the nation. While Farook returning from the premises of the house, the killers informed 'all finished'.

During their submissions the defence lawyers claimed that Farook went to Bangabandhu house to save him.

But referring to the depositions by several of them, the prosecution counsel submitted that Farook was one of the architects of the killing conspiracy.

Returning to cantonment, some army men fired

See page 11 col 7



Indian captain Saurav Ganguly (extreme right) watches an army paratrooper make a landing at Bangabandhu National Stadium during a practice session yesterday. Eleven army paratroopers carrying flags of 10 Test-playing countries and the Bangladesh Cricket Board will land at BNS at lunch break during the second day of Bangladesh's maiden Test match against India to celebrate yet another milestone in the country's sporting history.

-Star photo

BNP seeks permission to hold rally at Paltan Nov 23

City BNP has sought permission to use the Paltan Maidan for holding a joint rally of the opposition on November 23, reports UNB.

A city leader submitted an application to the National Sports Council in this regard yesterday.

Earlier, NSC did not allow the 4-party alliance to hold rally at Paltan Maidan on November 7 in view of Bangladesh's maiden cricket test match with India beginning November 10.

Attack on police van: Two BNP leaders sued under PSA

By Staff Correspondent
Police filed a case under Public Safety Act (PSA) against two leaders of opposition BNP for their alleged involvement in attacking police vehicle on Tuesday.

They are former Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Fazlul Haq Milon, sources said.

However, the duty officer of Ramna Thana denied filing of any such case.

Police said that a van of Special Branch was damaged near Kakrail Mosque on Tuesday.

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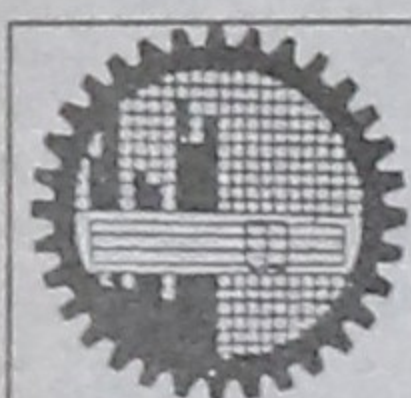
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BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA
6th Convocation, BUET
January, 2001

NOTIFICATION

The 6th Convocation of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka will be held on 20th January (Saturday), 2001.

Those who obtained degree(s) from this University within the period of December, 1997 to November, 2000 and would like to attend the Convocation are requested to apply in the prescribed form available in the office of the Controller of Examinations by 30th November, 2000. The Convocation fee for each degree is Tk. 700/= (Taka seven hundred only) for those staying in Bangladesh and US \$50 (Fifty US dollars) for those staying abroad. A Pay Order/Bank Draft for the Convocation fee in favour of BUET CONVOCATION, 2001 should be enclosed with each application.

Students may also apply in the enclosed Proforma in 8.5"x11" size plain paper/offset paper (not newspaper).

Students who have already received original certificates may also apply for participation in the Convocation on payment of usual Convocation fee in the Bank.

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Mock fire at ZIA

The Civil Aviation Authority Of Bangladesh (CAAB) held a fire drill at Zia International Airport yesterday. A dummy Boeing-707 was set on fire while landing in the airport. The two-yearly exercise involved personnel from Civil Aviation Fire Services, Fire Service and Civil Defence.

-Star photo