

DU gets money wise, plan foolish

SHAMEEM MAHMUD and MORSHED ALI KHAN

A university is meant to impart education. When it plunges into moneymaking schemes, the result is a mess as in the case of the Dhaka University (DU).

The university has illegally extended the Kataban Market with 182 shops more on its first floor without any approval of Rajuk.

Acting Chief Engineer of the Department of Engineering, the DU, Mohammad Amir Hossain told The Daily Star that it is 'customary' of the institution not to seek any permission for the planning of any construction on the campus.

The DU has a big chunk of land at the back of the market where they may think of building a parking lot. The market has not any designated parking space and the engineer's claim to build a parking lot behind the market looks vague because there is no access to the area.

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PHOTO: STAR

A view of the Kataban Market built by the Dhaka University. The market, built without Rajuk approval, poses threat of traffic snarl-up on the important link road. PHOTO: STAR 28-04-2002

Armed attacks Traders of 22 city markets keep shutters down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders of 22 markets in the Sadarghat area shut down their shops yesterday, protesting armed attacks on them.

On Saturday night, some extortionists demanded money from the shopkeepers and attacked them on their refusal.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Apr 29		6-26 pm
Apr 30	5-25 am	

Prayer Timings		
Apr 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-33	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Industrial pollution Govt to snap water, power connections, if found guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industrial units polluting the environment will soon find their power and water connections snapped.

Besides, the government will also crack down on other polluters to check environmental pollution in the country.

Encouraged by the recent success in banning use of polythene, Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj yesterday announced a series of programmes to check environmental pollution.

"Within next one or two months, we will start issuing notices to all industrial units found guilty of polluting the environment. If they fail to take corrective measures, their power and water supply connections will be snapped", he said.

He was speaking as chief guest

at a function marking publication of a book, 'People's Report on Bangladesh Environment, 2001', held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

Unnayan Shamannay, a local research body, organised the function in cooperation with the University Press Limited (UPL).

The report was prepared under the Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forest with UNDP assistance.

With renowned economist Prof Rehman Sobhan in the chair, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Sabihuddin Ahmed and UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner addressed the function as special guests while The

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Passport crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All 15 passport offices in the country have run out of passport books causing immense public suffering.

According to sources, the headquarters in Agargaon in the city and its 14 regional offices (RPO) have run out of stocks since early March.

People who need international passport urgently have been kept waiting till fresh consignment arrives which, according to the passport office, is not expected before late July.

The yearly requirement of passports in the country is about 10 lakh.

Two foreign printers were learnt to have so far printed and supplied the passport books, but the government recently cancelled the contract with them and signed a fresh agreement with another foreign contractor for a fresh supply.

"This has created serious problem. Neither the supplier's delivery is being shipped nor the government is able to take delivery of books from another party due to legal bindings," said one source in the

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7 extortionists chargesheeted in first case under new law in city

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Chargesheet in the first case filed under the recently enacted Law and Order Disruption Crimes (Speedy Trial) Act in the city was submitted yesterday.

Seven extortionists have been chargesheeted in the case filed with Mohammadpur thana.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mohammad Monirul Islam, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, submitted the chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

The chargesheeted accused are Mohammad Rana, AKM Mahmud Hossain alias Mamun, Mohammad Sajjad alias Rubel alias Nata Rubel, Jewel, Sohel, Mohammad Farook and Mohammad Jainal. Of them, Rana was arrested from the spot while the rest six have been absconding since the incident.

Two FIR-named accused Bhutto and Khokan have been dropped from the chargesheet as charges

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Case against 20 lawyers for ransacking court rooms withdrawn

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The case filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA) against 20 lawyers was withdrawn yesterday.

Mohammad Shah Newaz, Judge of the first special tribunal for prevention of public safety disturbances and crimes, Dhaka, granted the petition, seeking withdrawal of the case.

The court passed the order following a petition submitted by the public prosecutor, Dhaka.

Earlier, the government had sent a letter to the public prosecutor asking him to take necessary steps regarding withdrawal of the case.

Sub-Inspector Siddiqur Rahman filed the case with Kotwali thana on August 22, 2000 accusing the lawyers of ransacking court rooms of

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US plans big invasion next year to topple Saddam

STAR DESK, Washington

The Bush administration's military strategy for toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein includes a major air campaign and ground invasion early next year, using between 70,000 and 250,000 troops, the New York Times reported yesterday.

The administration is focusing on military action against Iraq, the Times reported, after determining that a coup would be unlikely to succeed, and a proxy battle there using local forces insufficient to bring a change in power.

"There have been at least six coup attempts in the 1990s, and they consistently fail," an administration official told the newspaper.

In each instance, this official said, dissident Iraqi military officers "sent signals to us, 'We're ready for a coup,' and the next thing you know these guys are murdered or it fails or people have cold feet at the end and leave the country."

"It's a horrific police state," the official added. "Nobody trusts anyone, so how can you pull off a coup?"

However, senior US officials told the daily that any offensive would probably be delayed until early next

year, allowing time to create the right military, economic and diplomatic conditions.

These include avoiding summer combat in bulky chemical suits, preparing for a global oil price shock, and waiting until there is progress toward ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Times reports.

The Times reported that planning for the campaign included possible extensive use of bases for American forces in Turkey and Kuwait, with Qatar as the replacement for the sophisticated air operations centre in Saudi Arabia, and with Oman and Bahrain playing important roles.

The military is planning a more traditional campaign than the one waged in Afghanistan, according to the newspaper, with an approach resembling the Persian Gulf war in style, and which would be fought with even more modern weapons and more dynamic tactics.

"The president has not made any decisions," a senior Defence Department official told the daily. "But any efforts against Iraq will not look like what we did in Afghanistan."

Vice President Dick Cheney, Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and their senior aides contend that

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Ghorashal plants 1&2 rehabilitation PDB sets condition to take uncertified equipment

SHARIER KHAN

The Power Development Board (PDB) is likely to conditionally agree to accept 1400 tonnes of non-guaranteed and uncertified power plant equipment from a Russian company, the TPE, under pressure from the energy ministry.

These equipment have been lying at the Mongla port for over a year.

The PDB has proposed some amendments to the suppliers' credit contract with the TPE (Technopromexport) for the rehabilitation of the 30-year-old Ghorashal 1 and 2 power plants. The power division of the energy ministry will meet later this week to decide on the amendments.

The TPE brought the equipment in an unsolicited manner to Bangladesh early last year. But the PDB refused to accept them as the contract with the Russian company was not made effective and also because the TPE did not seek the PDB's prior permission for import.

To make such a contract effective,

the contractor needed to pay 10 per cent of the total project cost within 45 days of the contract signing. Only then the finance ministry would have issued a letter of guarantee to the contractor and finally, the contractor should have produced a local bank guarantee. But these procedures have not been completed even after a year of signing the contract.

Sources said although there

was no legal binding to accept the equipment, the PDB has now attached some terms and conditions for doing so.

The PDB proposes that the TPE will have to provide a list of the equipment now lying at the Mongla port along with the manufacturers' certificates, date of delivery and other related information.

It further proposes to inspect the

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