

## CAG reports gather dust

Only 18pc reviewed by JS body since independence: TIB

- HIGHLIGHTS**
- 66.4 per cent audit objections worth US\$ 3.8 billion remain untouched.
  - CAG office submitted 770 audit reports with 16085 objections to the parliament till July 16, 2002. Only 18.3 per cent or 141 reports reviewed so far.
  - Some ministries take 16 years to act on audit objections.
  - CAG audits 22,885 government units every year.

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The parliamentary standing committee on public accounts has reviewed only 18 per cent of the reports prepared by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) since independence.

Moreover, the crucial watchdog of government expenditure, popularly known as the public accounts committee (PAC), could not deal with 66.4 per cent of the CAG objections that involve \$3.8 billion, according to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) investigative studies on the CAG and the PAC.

Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, a member of the TIB board of trustees, presented the findings on the opening day of a two-day National Integrity Workshop at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday.

Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, chairman of the TIB board of trustees, chaired the workshop attended by lawmakers, politicians, researchers, senior journalists and high government officials.

The TIB reports put the PAC failure down to its own limitations and the government's negligence.

The reports also claim that members of the audit team at times overlook

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## Shaheed Minar 'sealed off'

Police, BDR keep rallies, demonstrations at bay

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Central Shaheed Minar premises have been virtually sealed off by police and paramilitary BDR forces since September 9 without any explanation for this from the authorities.

Various quarters are viewing this as a government move to prevent holding of any rally, demonstration and such other programmes at the venue.

In the last 12 days, police and BDR personnel prevented at least 10 organisations from holding

rallies on the Shaheed Minar premises. They used force to obstruct leaders and activists of the organisations from gathering at the popular venue for such programmes.

The government action came in the wake of protests against a series of recent incidents. Violent police action at Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University, killing of an innocent female student at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and closure of the ETV are some of the incidents.

Some sources thought that the

incidents and consequent agitations 'embarrassed' the government so much that it is now trying to avert any sort of protest at this venue.

They also noted that vested quarters, who opposed independence of the country and also the historic Language Movement, are backing the government move concerning the Shaheed Minar, built in memory of the martyrs in that moment.

This is for the first time since the independence any government has prevented people from using the Shaheed Minar compound to voice their demands.

When asked, police officials present at the site failed to explain why they were taking such action against people trying to hold various peaceful programmes there. One official said the law enforcers were acting on instruction from the higher authorities. "We have nothing to do but obey orders from the high ups," he added.

The move to prevent protesters seems to have been made in a well

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## Rivals gun down three PBCP men

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Three armed cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were gunned down allegedly by their rivals in the outlawed party at Dumuria upazila of Khulna district yesterday.

The dead were identified as F M Taj Mohammad Raju, 33, Haider Ali Ghazi, 40, of Rudagarha union and Abdul Quddus, 32, of Tolna union.

Taj Mohammad and Haider Ali Ghazi were shot dead at 4:00 am while Abdul Quddus was gunned down at 11:00 am.

According to Dumuria thana OC, a group of PBCP cadres belonging to Mrinal group abducted Taj Mohammad and Haider Ghazi at gunpoint from their houses at about 3:30 am.

They took Taj and Haider near Hasanpur football ground at Rudagarha union and shot them. They died on the spot.

Police recovered the bodies early yesterday. Five used cartridges were also recovered from there.

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An Israeli tank takes position between destroyed buildings in Yasser Arafat's headquarters as the army blows up parts of Arafat's office building with explosives yesterday in the Ramallah. Israeli tanks were just 10 metres from Arafat's office after the army destroyed every other building in his headquarters overnight, detaining 19 of their occupants.

## Arafat's office shelled

Israeli troops raise flag over annex bldg

**REUTERS, Ramallah**

Israeli forces yesterday shelled Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's private offices after demolishing other buildings overnight.

A Palestinian photographer holed up with Arafat in his main building said Arafat was showered with dust when a tank shell hit the floor above him but that he was unhurt.

Israeli tanks were just 10 metres from Arafat's office after the army destroyed every other building in his headquarters.

Thick black smoke shrouded the office, the sole structure left standing in the 3,000 square metre compound that used to be a key symbol of his

Palestinian authority.

Three loud explosions caused some damage to Arafat's office during the morning as Israeli sappers demolished a nearby interior ministry block.

After explosions, an Israeli bulldozer pulled up alongside the office, striking its walls several times with its blade before withdrawing.

During the night, Israeli troops had already destroyed an overhead walkway linking Arafat's office to an adjoining reception room.

A group of 19 Palestinians who were left isolated in the annex surrendered, the army said, adding that some 20 assault rifles, grenades and makeshift bombs were found in

their possession.

Yesterday afternoon, troops raised the Israeli flag over the annex before taking it down later.

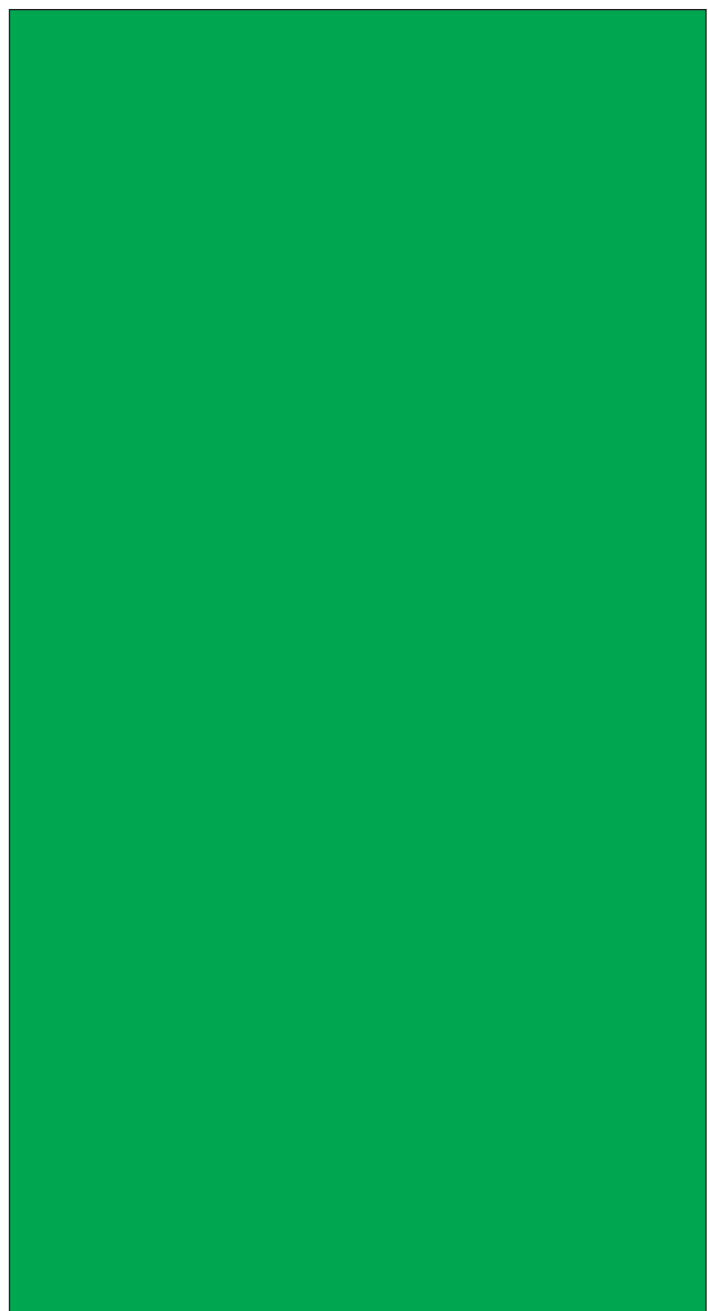
Aides of the veteran 73-year-old leader described the situation inside his headquarters as 'very serious' with food and water in short supply and the 250 aides and security officials estimated to remain with Arafat

after an overnight attack.

"The bulldozers never cease to operate, they are clearing up the whole lot around us, except for the building where we are," said former finance minister Salam Fayad.

The 250 aides and security officials estimated to remain with Arafat

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Pakistan batsman Shahid Afridi (L) hoists one for six during his quick-fire half-century against Holland in yesterday's ICC Champions Trophy match at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo.



## Fabrication of plc statement ICAB slaps 3-yr ban on a CA firm

**M SHAMSUR RAHMAN**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) has suspended its member Ahmed Khan & Co for three years on charges of fabricating financial statements of a publicly traded company.

The suspension was made at a meeting of the ICAB Council on Monday on the basis of findings of an investigation by the disciplinary committee of the institute.

ICAB officials said proprietor of Ahmed Khan & Co. Haider Ahmed Khan FCA has been found guilty of "professional misconduct."

The disciplinary committee of the ICAB observed that the auditor failed to disclose facts known to him in the financial statements, but disclosure of those was necessary to make the statements factual.

The committee came to the conclusion that the member failed to report "material misstatements" which was known to him and "committed gross negligence in the conduct of his professional duties."

The ICAB Council suspended the member till September 15, 2005 and ordered him to submit his certificate of practice to the ICAB Secretary for retention by the institute.

The ICAB launched the investigation against its member following a complaint from the capital market regulators. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) alleged that the member while auditing balance sheets of the publicly traded company, Mark Bangladesh Shilpa & Engineering, "failed to detect irregularities or willingly concealed facts without reporting to the shareholders."

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## BCL leaders Liaquat, Babu freed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Liaquat Shikdar and Nazrul Islam Babu, president and general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of main opposition Awami League, were released yesterday evening.

They were freed nearly seven months after being arrested without any specific charge.

However, the government later implicated them in six criminal cases filed in different times although none of them was accused in those cases. The Dhaka Central Jail authorities released the BCL

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## Charges framed against five

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

The Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday framed charges against five people in the Bappi abduction and murder case.

The accused are Bappi's cousin Shahidul Alam Shipon, Ripon Kumer Roy, Sanjit Sarker, Sankar Rajbanshi and Shariful Islam alias

**Bappi murder case**

Badal. Badal has been absconding since the incident. Charges were framed against him in absentia.

The accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court.

Judge Sarker Abul Mansur fixed September 25 for trial of the case.

Rubayet Ahmed Bappi, 8, a

student of class III of Armentola Government High School was abducted by Shipon from their Becharam Dewri residence in the old city on August 5 for ransom.

Later, Shipon and his four accomplices took Bappi to Demra. They strangled Bappi the same day and dumped the body in the river Shitalakhya.

Bappi's decomposed body was

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