

Green Road blues

FROM PAGE 12 especially in the morning and in the afternoon there is a rush of school-goers. Schools like Vigarunnisa Noon School or YWCA school are situated in the area.

Patients and their attendants who frequent the area that houses scores of hospitals, clinics and pathological laboratories are the worst sufferers. "My mother is suffering a lot from the jerks she has to bear while commuting by a rickshaw to the hospital for check-up," complained Masud Ali whose mother comes for a post-operative medical check-up at the Central Hospital.

The residents say they are sick and tired of complaining. Some do not even think that things will take a turn for the better.

"The Dhaka City Corporation only talks about the difficulties, but does nothing," grumbles Bazlur Rahman who runs a drug store at Green Road. "They can improve the condition within three days if they want."

When asked about the road, city corporation officials did not have much to say except that the carpeting work of the Green Road was going to start soon. But they have no idea when the endless suffering of the residents of this locality will be over.

According to them, WASA is installing a storm sewer from Dhaka College area to Panthapath box culvert through Green Road. They started digging out the road before rainy season. However, as it is a huge, time-consuming task, the Mayor ordered a break in the rainy season as a precautionary mea-

sure. The work resumed afterwards and the city corporation has set a December 5 deadline for WASA to finish the work, the officials added.

Md. Shariful Islam, executive engineer of the DCC's Zone-5, said the re-carpeting of Green Road is going to start under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project soon. The Roads and Highways Department will implement the project financed by the World Bank.

He added that they will start repairs on the road 'sometime after December 15' and once that is done, the DCC will take care of maintenance.

However, Islam could not say anything about the tentative work schedule.

Two to die

FROM PAGE 12 Yusuf, Afzal, Shajahan, Delwar, Mojibur and Mamun.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Aziz had a heated argument with Asgar and Delwar of the same village in connection with rice husking in the locality on June 11, 1995.

At 8:00am the following day, the accused persons equipped with lethal weapons raided the house of Abdul Aziz, dragged him out and lynched him with sharp weapons in front of his house. Neighbour Abdul Gafur who came to rescue Aziz was also brutally murdered by the accused.

The trial of the case dragged on for more than seven years and the verdict was pronounced in a crowded district and sessions judge's court yesterday.

Ishtiaque hospitalised in Bangkok

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former advisor to the caretaker government and eminent lawyer Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed was admitted to the Bangkok Bumrungrang Hospital yesterday for better treatment.

The seventy-year old veteran lawyer fell seriously ill on Friday. However, his condition improved yesterday prior to his departure for Bangkok, family sources said.

Barrister Ishtiaque has been suffering from complications arising out of diabetes and brain and liver ailments, and was admitted to Shikdar Medical College on Friday. Later that night he went into a coma.

On the following day, he was transferred to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Ishtiaque regained consciousness yesterday prior to his departure for Bangkok.

He was taken on board an air ambulance from the Zia International Airport to Bangkok at noon. Foreign Minister Morshed Khan escorted him up to the airport.

At the Bumrungrang Hospital, three specialist doctors are reviewing his health condition. Later on in the day, Ishtiaque talked to his son in Dhaka.

Earlier, former chief justice and former chief of the caretaker government Latifur Rahman, former chief justice Mostafa Kamal, former attorney general Mahmudul Islam, barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud and others visited Ishtiaque at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Bill for reduction in court fees, two other bills introduced in JS

UNB, Dhaka

Three bills, including one reducing the recently increased court fees, were introduced in parliament yesterday.

Law and Justice Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed introduced the Court Fees (Amendment) Bill 2002 seeking to slash court fees from Tk 500 to Tk 200 for cases where the subject matter cannot be determined in terms of money and for the Preemption cases.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman introduced the Depository (Amendment) Bill 2002 seeking to extend the time from 2 years to 5 years for complete conversion of the existing paper certificate system to the depository system in stock trading.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud introduced the Rural Electrification Board (Amendment) Bill 2002 seeking to amend the definition of "Rural Area" to redefine the responsibilities and scope of work between the Power Development Board and the Rural Electrification Board in distribution of electricity.

Our Pabna correspondent says the joint forces led by the army have so far arrested 132 people including 16 listed criminals and recovered 18

firearms along with 850 rounds of ammunition during the anti-crime drive.

The forces also arrested two listed criminals, Shariful Islam and Mohamad Shahin, from Ishwardi on Saturday night.

Our Netrokona correspondent says the joint forces arrested six people from different parts of the town.

Our correspondent in Rangpur writes that the joint forces have undertaken the task of traffic control since yesterday to improve traffic jam.

The joint forces have so far arrested 629 criminals including five listed criminals and recovered 18 firearms along with 120 rounds of ammunition.

Meanwhile, the army arrested 136 people, including 28 listed criminals, across the country during the last 24 hours ending 8:00am yesterday.

They also seized 28 firearms, including two revolvers, five shot-guns, three pipe guns and one AK-47, and 74 rounds of bullet.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued by the police headquarters, the law enforcers arrested 1,544 people, including eight listed criminals, from different parts of the country in 24 hours ending 6:00am yesterday. They also seized four firearms and seven rounds of bullet.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday arrested 304 people including two convicted accused, 29 wanted during the last 24 hours.

Three people were electrocuted in separate incidents in the district, police and hospital sources said yesterday.

Sources said Pavel Chandra Dhar, 18, of Kachiara village in Faridganj upazila, was electrocuted on Saturday while repairing an electric line of a temple. He was rushed to the upazila health complex where the attending doctors declared him dead.

Another youth named Swapan Patwari was electrocuted at Ashafpur village in Kochua upazila on Wednesday.

The sources said the victim came into contact with a live wire while going to a nearby pond for ablution for Fajr prayers.

In yet another incident, shopkeeper Abdur Rahim, 40, died instantly and his wife sustained serious injuries at Hajiganj sadar headquarters last week when they came into contact with a live wire while bringing down their outdoor TV antenna.

Police said exportable apparels worth Tk 15 lakh of Ratin Textile and Friends Works in Dhaka were recovered from the residence in the afternoon.

According to police, the arrested looted the apparels on Wednesday after killing two people, including the driver of a covered van carrying the goods at Baro Darogahat in Sitakunda upazila.

The arrested were identified as Brajendra Shah of Nepal, his wife Setara Begum, a Bangladeshi woman, Habibullah, Nuru, Abdullah Al Mamun and Anwar Hossain. Brajendra.

Officials at the CAG's office also expressed frustration at the non-formation of the PAC in the parliament. They said even if the PAC was formed, it would take a long time to discuss the audit reports.

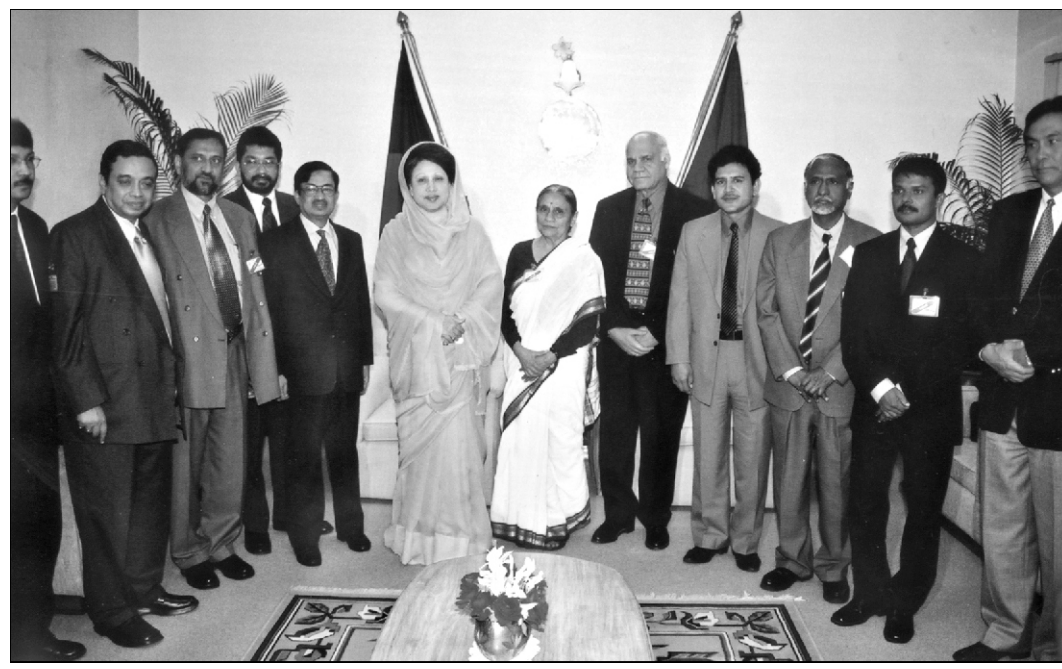
During the period between 1996 and 2002, the government's budget for the audit department was Tk 180 crore.

The CAG's Office already finished auditing of the accounts of different government offices during 2001-2002 financial year.

According to sources, there will be 42 audit reports for the year. "So far, we have completed 34 reports and the rest are at various stages. Of the 34 completed reports, 14 have already been submitted to the president for sending those to the parliament," a high official at the CAG's Office said.

The CAG's Office can cover only 22 per cent government offices and the rest remain out of its audit network.

Recently for the first time it started performance audit and four such audit were conducted on the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia poses for photographs with members of a delegation of the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation (ISACPA) at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

AK-47 seized

FROM PAGE 1 accomplices. Mesbah, Mansur and Nizam were nabbed last Monday.

Our Bogra correspondent says troops arrested a JCD activist and seized three firearms from him.

Atiquzzaman Sajib, an accused in (Islamic Chhatra Shibir leader) Anisar Rahman Pasha murder case, was arrested in his Partekur village yesterday.

Our correspondent in Khulna reports joint forces arrested two listed criminals linked to the outlawed Purb Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at Paikgacha upzila.

One of the arrested, Sheikh Tarik Hosain, 30, is the son of ruling party leader and freedom fighter Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Bacchu of Godaipur union of Paikgacha upzila. A sawed-off gun, a pipe-gun and black mask from his possession. He was later handed to police, produced before court and placed on a three-day remand.

The joint forces handed them over to police. They arrested were produced before the court with remand prayer and the court granted three-day remand starting from yesterday.

Our Magura correspondent says the army arrested four suspected criminals. The arrested are as Ujjal Mollah, Sultan Khan, Abdul Hakim, and Nurul Islam Sikder. They were later handed to police, produced before court and sent to jail.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports the army arrested four people including a local ruling party activist. Azizul Malitha, the BNP activist, is an accused in two murder cases.

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Students, workers clash in Sylhet: 15 hurt, 5 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Fifteen students of the Sylhet Polytechnic Institute were injured in a clash with labourers engaged in construction work at the Sylhet railway station yesterday evening, sources said.

The trouble erupted at about 3:30pm when some students were moving back and forth through the construction area prompting some labourers to try to prevent them from doing so. This led to a heated exchange of words between the two groups. Afterwards, the students left the area but returned after some time along with other fellow students and clashed with the labourers.

Some 15 students were injured in the clash. Among them, three were admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and three others to a private clinic while the rest were released after first aid.

Police arrested three students and two labourers from the area.

Later at about 5:00pm, the students again came to the area in a protest procession. But police baton-charged, lobbed teargas shells and opened blank fire to disperse them.

Cases have been lodged with the Sylhet Kotwali Police in connection with the incident.

Aggrieved, the Awami League (AL) then flayed the Speaker for not allowing its lawmakers to speak in the House.

AL Chief Whip Abdus Shahid speaking on a point of order at the parliament yesterday said Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar did not entertain any of the notices filed by the AL MPs under privilege and adjournment motions.

"We are not allowed to speak at the Business Advisory Committee, or under any notices. So, how can we express our views and grievances on different matters of public importance?" he said.

Shahid recalled that before the start of the current session of the parliament, the AL had proposed for holding general discussions on seven important issues in the parliament. But all the proposals were turned down by the ruling party representatives at the Business Advisory Committee meeting and the AL lawmakers walked out of the meeting.

The proposed issues were the arrest of opposition MPs during the ongoing anti-crime drive, law and order, price hike of essentials, increased gas and electricity tariffs, seed crisis, corruption in administration and alleged irregularities in the open market sale (OMS) of rice.

After rejection of the issues at the meeting, the government ministers

however gave statements on at least two of them -- army deployment and seed crisis -- but the opposition did not get any chance to speak on those occasions.

Prior to the beginning of the current session, the AL lawmakers met the Speaker twice and submitted memorandums on issues including the arrests of three MPs.

The Speaker also told reporters on October 23 that "as the Speaker, it's my duty to protect the rights of the members of parliament. And, I will entertain any privilege motion if moved in the House on the arrests of the AL lawmakers."

Police Super (SP) of Bagerhat and the DIG of Khulna Range of police to show cause why Fakir Tariqul Islam is being harassed without any specific charge. The Home Secretary has also been served with such a show cause notice by the High Court.

The writ petition was moved by advocates Mohammad Jainul Abedin and Aminul Islam.

When contacted, the DC and the SP said they are yet to receive copies of the High Court order.

The Jubo Dal leader has been absconding since launch of the OCH.

Upon hearing both sides, Magistrate Ishaq Hasan rejected the bail petition and placed Piyal on a day's remand.

Piyal surrendered to Keraniganj police Saturday night after identifying his wife. After his surrender, he was shown arrested by the Keraniganj police.

Body of an unidentified young woman was found near the Buriganga Bridge on Monday. Keraniganj police recovered the body and took it to the station.

As nobody came to claim the body, they handed it to the Anjuman Mafulul Islam. The charity later buried her.

Eventually, the body was identified as Tinni's.

The uncle and the father-in-law went of the model and access to the Keraniganj police station and made positive identification.

Police are now interrogating Piyal to find out whether he was involved in the killing.

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FM: Propaganda

FROM PAGE 1 active in projecting the country's real image as a country of religious harmony."

The foreign minister was replying to a notice by Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Abdus Subhan who alleged that an Indian website was engaged in a "heinous campaign against Bangladesh".

Without naming the website, Subhan said that the site was projecting Bangladesh as one of the fundamentalist and terrorist states in the world.

"The website contains 30 photographs most of which are not of Bangladesh. Photographs of oppression in various countries are being claimed to be from Bangladesh," the Jamaat lawmaker said.

The website claimed that religious minorities were being repressed in the country, he added.

He alleged that some Bangladeshi intellectuals, now staying in India, were responsible for such propaganda.

In reply, the foreign minister told the House that no official website of India has such contents. But, he hastened to add, an official Indian website contains recent remarks by Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani about reported activities of al-Qaeda and the ISI in Bangladesh.

"What Advani had stated is just an echo of the comment by a certain leader of Bangladesh."

The foreign minister informed the House that Bangladesh had requested India and some other countries to deport alleged criminals who have fled the country, especially after the anti-crime army crackdown was launched over a month ago.

Khan, however, did not name the countries where the "criminals" have taken refuge.

"We've also asked the home ministry and different intelligence agencies to gather names of the criminals so that the Indian authorities can take action," he said.

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