

Houses of speaker, his deputy almost ready

SULTANA RAHMAN

The construction of the Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's houses at Shere-E-Bangla Nagar is now completed ignoring requests from the global body of architects and local protests.

"The contractors are now busy putting finishing touches to the civil and electrical work," said a senior official of the Public Works Department (PWD), preferring anonymity.

President of UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes) Jaime Lerner's in a letter in August 2003 appealed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to extend her support in protecting the Parliament Complex, which the Paris based organisation said, has become a landmark of modern architecture and a symbol of Bangladesh.

The construction of these two houses, which began on a 1.37 acre of land in July 2002, was approved by the speaker's office in September 1996 ignoring Louis I Kahn's final master plan of 1973.

Kahn who started his project of developing

Shere-E-Bangla Nagar (the then Ayub Nagar) in 1962 submitted the final plan after Independence in 1973.

The construction of the houses drew flak from the civil society, environmentalists, architects, media and others as the PWD started the construction of the houses on the basis of Kahn's incomplete plan of 1968.

A High Court (HC) Division Bench on May 23, 2003 stopped the construction of these two houses at the Parliament Complex following a case filed by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB).

On August 18 last year, the Appellate Division stayed the High Court ruling. Meantime, the construction work continued for three months -- enough time to complete the residential structure on a complex regarded worldwide as an architectural marvel designed by one of the greatest architects of the 20th century.

"It is really frustrating that the public demand has been ignored," Bapa's General Secretary Abu Naser Khan said, adding "the government taking advantage of the court

ruling concentrated on the completion of the construction of the houses."

"We will fight the case till the end, no matter how much time it takes to settle it. We are sure that Louis Kahn's original plan has been distorted and will prove that in the court one day," Khan said.

Bapa's General Secretary also said that they will put forward their demand to the government to declare the Parliament Complex a World Heritage Site to save it from any further distortion.

Some of the members of the IAB expressed their 'grief' at the completion of the construction of the houses and said justice was denied to the people of this country.

"Internationally, this masterly work has been celebrated as one of the most triumphant events of architecture in the last century," said architect Kashif Mahmood Chowdhury. "But the painful irony, the government who is responsible to protect the world heritage, has itself become the major cause for the violation and desecration of the valuable possession," he added.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

TRY POACHERS, SAVE GUEST BIRDS



Activists of the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday protested alleged poaching of about 30,000 guest birds recently at Hakaluki haor in Sylhet region. They also demanded immediate action against the culprits.

Dhanmondi Lake to have another arch bridge

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Plans are underway to build another arch bridge on Dhanmondi Lake connecting east and west Dhanmondi and also to reduce traffic congestion on road no. 2.

The new bridge will ease the traffic jam caused by the indiscriminate

increase of residents, commuters and vehicles along this road, widely used by residents of Jigatola, Rayer Bazar and the western part of the lake area. "It takes almost an hour to reach the other end either way," said a resident of Dhanmondi.

The authorities directed the Local Government Engineering Depart-

ment (LGED) in August 2003 to build the bridge between Dhanmondi Road Nos. 3/A and 4. A cost of Tk 2.20 crore is estimated and work completed within a year.

The LGED had built two similar bridges from road 32 and road 8/A in 2000. These bridges replaced the old narrow ones built in the 1960's.

The bridge will be 35 metres long and 15.80 metres wide. It will have four lanes for vehicles to pass through. A median and footpath will be put up on either side.

The bridge will be propped by 72 piles, each 12.075 metres long and built on a single span.

Mishuks still ignore 'last' deadline

The 'last deadline' expried on August 1 last but there is still no move to install fare-meters in Mishuks for 'unknown reasons'

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The three-wheeler Mishuks continue to demand fares at will even six months after the expiry of the 'last' deadline to install meters.

There are around three thousand Mishuks in the city which is about one-fourth of the CNG-run three wheelers.

The government on January 1, last year made fare-meters mandatory for all types of three-wheelers.

But due to some 'technical problems' with the gears and size of wheels of Mishuks, the meters installed in them did not work. So they were given another month's time to find a 'suitable' meter. But in course of time the deadline was again extended till July 31.

Learning about the problem, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda told the Daily Star that in case the meters did not function, he will have no option but to take Mishuks off the streets. He further said that the CNG three-wheelers will eventually replace the Mishuks in the city.

The Communications ministry later issued a circular making it mandatory for all Mishuks to

install meters from August 1. But the 'last deadline' went unheeded and till now there is no sign of any move from the authorities to implement the deadline.

The ministry is also 'mysteriously' silent about its decision to reduce fare of the CNG three-

wheelers after the last Ramadan. "The government is trying to cut our fare rate but what about the Mishuks?" said Ruhul Amin, a CNG driver.

Terming it an 'undue privilege', Amin said the price of a Mishuk is less than half the price of a CNG three-wheeler. 'But they are

exempted from meters and allowed to demand equal or more fare often at their will', he grumbled.

Meanwhile, the meter importers alleged that they are sitting idle with the meters and 'counting loss' because of the government inaction.



STAR PHOTO

useful telephonenumber numbers

OURIER SERVICES

International

Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Servive- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057

Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service- 9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd- 8826429, 8810223
National
Asian courier Service Ltd-

8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222
Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314

OUTING

Museum and Zoo

National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday
3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday
closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm,
Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm,
Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday:
3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday
Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday
Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.

Route Starts from

1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattar- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattar
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtol	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahat
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12Signboard (Chittagong Road)	Motijheel
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan