

# Rajuk weak against corrupt forces



PHOTO STAR

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Authorities of the Rajdhani Unnayan Katnipakkha (Rajuk) are claiming that they are unable to take action against buildings that have been constructed without its approval because of the corruption of a section of Rajuk and government officials.

Rajuk had submitted complaints against 86 buildings in the city to the recently abolished Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for investigation as they were not erected with the approval from Rajuk. But the ACB did not take any action against the owners of those building. The files have now been transferred to the newly formed Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

"We could not take any measures against the unapproved buildings because of a corrupt circle which includes Rajuk officials and law enforcement officers," said Emdadul Islam, chief engineer of Rajuk.

Recently Rajuk suspended five of its officials following an investigation into how those buildings in question could be raised without approval.

"We are trying to identify the corrupt officials of Rajuk and five have already been suspended.

**Gross violation of the Wetland Protection Act 2000 shows that real-estate owners or companies are not concerned about the adverse environmental impacts on the city.**

But this is not enough as law enforcing authorities are also involved in wholesale corruption," said Islam.

"We had filed cases against two high rise buildings near the Bangla Motor intersection but nothing happened as the owners managed to 'negotiate' with the law enforcers. Recently we filed a case with the Gulshan police station against a group who has filled a portion of the Gulshan Lake illegally in complete violation of the Wetland Protection Act 2000 but no action was taken," said Islam.

The chief engineer also said that many developers including those who are members of the Real Estate Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) violate Rajuk's plans.

"Nowhere in the world buildings are constructed in such an unplanned manner as in this country. Rajuk has certain regulations and provisions which the building owners do not follow," said Islam.

"One of the reasons for traffic congestion in the city is due to buildings without adequate car parking space," added Islam.

Rehab president Tawfiq M Seraj said that they were ready to take action against members who violate Rajuk's rules. But gross violation of the Wetland Protection Act 2000 shows that real-estate owners or companies are not concerned about the adverse environmental impacts on the city. The filling of low-lying areas and wetland was believed to have aggravated this year's flood in the city but earth

filling goes unabated.

The Rehab president said that there were no specific rules for land development in the past. The gazette of the Private Land Development Rules was done this year. "We hope that from now on developers will take environmental issues in consideration more," he said.

Islam questioned how the real-estate companies could offer discounts of up to 40 percent and offer gifts like television for booking when price of rod had almost doubled.

Rehab's president did not want to comment on the prices but said that discounts were possible because of cheaper sources of steel.

Islam said that the buildings raised without approval were a threat to life during natural calamities like earthquakes. "We need to have a national building code and a cell should be formed to monitor the low quality buildings," said Islam.

"We are trying to institutionalise this sector with professional architects and engineers. The Rehab members are using modern techniques and also constructing buildings after measuring possible impact from earthquakes," said Tawfiq.

## PM declares 2005 'Year of Science Books'

Dhaka Book Fair inaugurated

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurating the 11th Dhaka Book Fair on the Shilpakala Academy premises on the New Year's day declared 2005 as the 'year of science books', with a call for writers and publishers to bring out books on science and technology to cater the needs of the new age.

She said the previous yearlong campaigns for the promotion of books of different categories proved a success.

The enthusiasm created by "Literature Year 2002", "Library Year 2003", and "Child Literature Year 2004" continuity of the advance has to be maintained she said announcing 2005 as a new book year for promoting science and technology.

The prime minister appreciated the theme of this year's Book Fair, 'Family Library Enlightens the Home', stating it was well timed. She called upon all to set up home libraries and encourage family members to read books to taste the joy of knowledge.

"The crisis of inner souls can be embellished by way of creating a thirst for book reading," she told

the elite audience at the book fair, where publishers from home and abroad participated.

Citing the age of renaissance before the Industrial Revolution in Europe, the prime minister said scholars, pundits, writers and intellectuals, philosophers and litterateurs -- all enlightened with knowledge -- had led the renaissance from the forefront.

"Following this example we can also be successful in building up a knowledgeable society," she added.

Chaired by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, the inaugural function of the fortnight-long book fair was also addressed by Education Secretary Kazi Abu Kashem, Director of the National Book Centre Ahmed Musa and publishers' representative Sayeed Bari.

A total of 146 stalls have been set up at the book bazaar being with 115 publishing houses participating.

The fair will be open from 3 to 9pm with an entry fee of Tk 2. School and college students will have free access to the fair where books will sell at a 20 percent discount.

## New-look Gulshan still to improve further

FAIZUL KHAN TANIM

The Gulshan main streets now wear a new look with carpeting done and the islands and road dividers beautified. Sculptures have been added to the two intersections, thanks to the upcoming 13th Saarc Summit.

Bright new traffic lights have given a metropolitan look to the Gulshan Avenue and the two points. From Gulshan Section 2 all the way to Section 1, the main streets are now clean and green.

While the Avenue between the two points is very picturesque, the lanes and bylanes remain shabby, with open manholes and potholes. The roads are dug at various places by utility service providers. The footpaths, however, have improved.

Matching the dilapidated roads, telephone, and electrical wires dangle precariously overhead. Broadband cables make the scene even more confusing.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials said due to the messy wiring system, the electrical, telephone and now the Internet broadband cables are all tangled up creating a mess.

Asking not to be named, one DCC official said: "If the internet service providers do not start putting their cables in order, we will

pull them down very soon."

A top official of the DCC, Gulshan Zonal Office, said four road improvement projects were proposed long ago, but the work order for only one of them have been issued and the rest are awaiting clearance from the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD).

As citizens anxiously wait for better roads, they also hope that the implementation of these projects will not add to the noise pollution already being created by real estate workers.

"I can't get a decent night's sleep because of all the construction workers unloading their trucks in the middle of the night, creating an awful din. Not only do they spoil our sleep but also destroy the roads by leaving construction materials by the road," said Sabrina Ahmed, a university student living on Road No. 123.

Another student said the Banani streets would look a lot better as soon as the carpeting is complete. According to him, the footpaths on the Banani-Kakoli intersection would be a welcome sight for pedestrians who were used to the footpaths sloshing with urine and piled with garbage.

Shopkeepers and restaurateurs agreed that after a long complain, the streetlights have been installed properly and so security guards find it easier to patrol the streets.



PHOTO STAR

The Gulshan streets now wear a new look given to them ahead of the proposed Saarc Summit, which has been postponed.

## healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

### HEALTH

#### Hospitals

##### Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

##### Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit- 8626812-6

##### Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

##### Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

##### Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62  
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

##### Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315  
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

##### Dental

Dental College -9002035

##### Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

##### General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6  
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819  
Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9  
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69

Salimullah Medical College

Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital

(ICDDR)- 8811751-60

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-9

##### Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

##### Ambulances For

##### Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,  
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

### MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday

Elephant Road-Friday

Bishal Center-Friday

Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday

Polwell Market-Friday

BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.

Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Stadium Market-Friday

Bangabazar Market-Friday

National Museum-Thursday

Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.

New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Sunday

Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

### TAXI CAB

#### Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 9344477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

#### Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

### TRAIN TIMING

#### Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabat Express

Joyantika Express

Upaban Express

Tista Express

Ekata Express

Apakul Express

Agniheena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am

Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am

Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am

Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGK 8620011

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am

Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am

Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm

Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15

Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am

Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

### 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

Information Resource Center, The

American Center - 8813440-4,

9886395-9

British Council- 8618867-8,

8618905-7

Community Development Library-

8113769, 8113604

Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-

9126525-6

Indian Information Centre &

Cultural Library- 8850141-2

The Russian Cultural Centre-

9116314, 9118531, 9118314

Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,

8112954, 8123412

Press Institute of Bangladesh

(PIB) 9330081-4