

Sacked Rajuk officials approve designs!

PINAKI ROY

Three authorised officers of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), who had been terminated for unlawful acts, reportedly still arrange approval for faulty building designs on backdates for money, Rajuk sources said.

These unauthorised approvals by people outside the Rajuk contribute to confusion as to which designs are actually approved by Rajuk, added the sources.

The Rajuk authorities could not yet take further actions against the three. In January this year, they sent

the three officers' files to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) requesting them to take necessary steps, the sources added.

Rajuk, the city planners, had sacked the three -- ASM Asaduzzaman, ATM Quamruz-zaman and Md Ziaul Haq -- for illegally approving designs and plans of buildings in the capital.

According to the Rajuk sources, those authorised officers used to pass the faulty designs of different buildings in exchange of money. Original copies of the designs they passed do not exist in the Rajuk office. So far as many as 200 such

cases, some of which involve a number of reputed high-rise buildings, have been detected. The real figure however would be much higher, added the sources.

Those files were either stolen from the office or the officers did not maintain the files because they had to do with unauthorised approval of building designs, said the sources.

Engineer Shahid Alam, chairman of Rajuk, told The Daily Star recently that they have heard about those terminated officials signing faulty plans.

"When our inquiry officers go to

BNP lawmaker Ishaq passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP lawmaker Shamsuddin Ahmed Ishaq died at Comfort Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 64.

The lawmaker had long been suffering from diabetes and liver and kidney complications. He is survived by his wife, six sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Ishaq was elected from the Narsingdi-1 constituency as BNP lawmaker for four consecutive times since 1991.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 10:00am today and the second one in front of the

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GOVT'S PRE-CLOSURE NOTICE

6 pvt universities to fight it out in court

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Six private universities, served with show cause notice by the education ministry prior to closing them down, are preparing for legal battles in a desperate bid to stay in business, according to sources.

"We don't know on what basis the show cause notices have been served upon us," Prof Alauddin Ahmed, advisor to Queens University, told The Daily Star.

"We came to know from media reports that the notices were served on the basis of two reports that we did not see. So we have to see the

reports before we explain our position," he added.

Ahmed said his university is preparing to issue a demand for justice before filing a writ petition.

The education ministry on February 26 served show cause notices on six 'sub-standard' private universities on the recommendation of a one-man judicial probe committee.

Eight private universities were blacklisted a few months ago by a high-powered committee formed by the education ministry to evaluate the performance of the private universities. The universities rec-

ommended for closure are Green University of Bangladesh, Queens University, America Bangladesh University, Central Women's University, Pundra University of Science and Technology, Southern University and Comilla University.

The education ministry however has mysteriously dropped Southern University from the show cause list. Earlier, BGC Trust University Bangladesh, which was recommended for closure by the high-powered committee, was crossed off the list.

"We have replied to the show

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Hasina returns April 6

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will return to Dhaka from the USA on April 6.

The Awami League (AL) president left Dhaka on March 7 for Spain to attend an international seminar. Thereafter she flew to the USA for treatment of her ear.

She will return to Dhaka via Manila, where she will attend a two-day international conference.

Hasina's left ear was affected following August 21 deadly grenade attack on her at the Bangabandhu Avenue in which 23 people, including AL leader Ivy Rahman, were killed.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST NASIM

SC rejects govt appeal against dismissal order

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected a government appeal against a High Court order dismissing a corruption case on purchasing passports filed against former home minister Mohammad Nasim and former home secretary Shafiqur Rahman.

The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) had filed the case against Nasim and Shafiqur. The Bac accused them in the case of causing

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BSF pushes in 11 to Naogaon

BDNEWS, Naogaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) pushed in 11 Bangla speaking Indian men, women and children through Khandanpur border of Sapahar upazila in the district early Saturday.

The pushed-in are Milon, 45, Shukur Ali, 40, Harun, 40, Delwara Begum, 32, Yousuf, 12, Liton, 10, Lipon, 7, Bayezid, 6, Rahima, 5, Baker, 4, and Sahabuddin, 3.

After Indian police arrested and handed them over to BSF, they were pushed in to Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Naogaon 28 Battalion Commander Bangladesh Rifles Lt Colonel Zahid Hassan denied the incident of push-in and said the situation on the Naogaon border was calm.



PHOTO: STAR

Ironing Out an Existence

Two women sort out iron from the refuse of a steel mill at Shyampur in Dhaka yesterday. Stricken by poverty, they have managed to eke out a living by selling iron as the prices of iron products are on the rise in the market.

HABIGANJ BY-POLLS

BNP to pick candidate today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The ruling BNP today finalises its party nomination for contesting the Habiganj-3 by-polls.

The interview of two BNP aspirants who have collected nomination papers to get party ticket will be held at Prime Minister's Office (PMO), party sources said.

The party's selection board will finalise the nomination after interviewing Abu Lais Mubin Chowdhury, a former lawmaker from Jatiya party, and Chowdhury Ashraful Bari Noman, former Habiganj district BNP general secretary.

The parliamentary seat fell vacant following the assassination of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in a deadly grenade attack on January 27. The by-polls is scheduled for April 25.

Prayer Timing		
March 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

