



PHOTO: STAR
 Pile of garbage on the road to Eastern Housing Project at Madartek in the city causes immense suffering to pedestrians as well as passengers, but the authorities remain indifferent. Local people said the garbage is removed every two to three months.

LACK OF PROPER MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION WORK 4 JU halls, 6 bldgs at risk of collapse

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Lack of proper maintenance and renovation work for a long time has put at least 10 buildings, including four dormitories, at the Jahangirnagar University (JU) at risk of collapse.

Risking their life, the students have been staying at the vulnerable dormitories -- Al Beruni, Meer Musharrif Hossain, Nawab Faizunnesa and Fazilatun Nesa halls -- but the authorities remain indifferent.

Several cracks gaped in walls and roofs in most rooms at the halls and chunks of plaster fell very often, sending panic among the students. Water leaks into the room from the top floor and patches of damp appear in the walls during rainy season while sewer water often leaks from pipelines, submerging the toilets as well as nearby rooms.

The hall provosts said Tk 1.25 crore was allocated this year for renovation works but the amount is too inadequate.

Sources said it was decided about 12 years ago to demolish the Fazilatun Nesa Hall when the experts found it unfit for habitation. The Al Beruni, Meer Musharrif Hossain and Nawab Faizunnesa halls were constructed between 1970 and 1976.

In the wake of movement by students, some repair works such as plastering the gaping cracks and spraying coal tar on the roof were carried out at the Al Beruni Hall recently.

But the students are still complaining. "The repair work is a mere eyewash and pushing the students into a grave danger," said Shiplu, a resident of the hall.

The other vulnerable buildings are the engineering office, laboratory, some classrooms of biochemistry and molecular science and zoology departments, auditorium, gymnasium and the TSC.

"Accidents may take place at any time as most of the buildings were built without soil test and pilings," said a teacher of geology department, requesting anonymity.



PHOTO: STAR
 The office of the engineering department at JU.

Only Tk 27.40 lakh was allocated this year for the maintenance work against the required amount of Tk 3 crore, sources said.

When contacted, AKM Nesar Uddin, executive engineer of the

JU, admitted that the buildings are in bad shape.

"But the amount needed for maintenance often go to other sector, especially salary, due to lack of funds," he added.

Dhaka firm to strengthen ties with Male: FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday felicitated Dr Ahmed Shaheed on his assumption of office as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Maldives.

In a message to the newly appointed Maldives Foreign Minister, he said: "Your appointment to this high office is definitely a recognition of your wide experience in international affairs and valuable services to your country."

Morshed Khan said Bangladesh deeply values her relations with the Maldives and is committed to further strengthening and deepening the fraternal ties that exist between the two countries.

He said: "I look forward to working closely with you to further enhance understanding and cooperation between Bangladesh and the Maldives."

Morshed Khan said "We are keenly looking forward to receiving you in Dhaka in November during the 13th Saarc Summit and to your valuable contributions toward the success of the Summit."

1,277 CMP policemen punished in one year

New recruits tend to commit more crimes

BDNEWS, Chittagong

Authorities have taken actions against 1,277 police personnel of different ranks and status in Chittagong from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 on charges of involvement in criminal activities, official sources said yesterday.

Of those subjected to punishment, more than 50 percent, or 644, hold the ranks of sub-inspectors and sergeants, indicating high rate of crimes among these section of police personnel, the sources at the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said.

The rest 633 policemen hold ranks, ranging from assistant sub-inspector (ASI) to constable.

CMP Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir said punishments have been meted out after investigations on the basis of written and oral complaints by the people.

The tendency of committing crimes is more among the young

and newly recruited members of the police than the old ones, he added.

Sources added the number of police personnel punished over the past one year is more than one fourth of the total number of police in CMP. At present, 4,500 policemen are working under CMP.

Almost all SIs and sergeants working under CMP received departmental punishment last year. A highly placed source said the punishments have been given for their involvement in different kinds of crimes and negligence of duties.

Of the punished police personnel, 99 received major punishment while 1178 got away with minor punishments.

The biggest crime committed in the CMP was mugging of Tk 10,00,000 from a businessman by a DB police SI who was sentenced to five years of imprisonment by the speedy trial court apart from his dismissal from job.

US Peace Corps to expand activities in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

A top official of the US Peace Corps said here yesterday that its volunteers are successfully working for youth and community development in Bangladesh and envisaged expansion of their sphere of activities from education to health and IT.

After a five-day visit to Bangladesh, Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vazquez told reporters at the American Centre that he was pleased to see the enthusiasm and English language skill of Bangladeshi young children being taught by the US volunteers.

"I am very pleased to be here in Bangladesh. During my visit, I saw the manifestation of great friendship and hospitality of Bangladesh people that encouraged me to expand our programmes here," he told journalists.

In reply to a question, he said some 60 additional trainers would come to Bangladesh to join the peace-corps service, increasing the total number of volunteers to over 100.

"These visits are important to me to see what is being done and what more could be accomplished with additional resources and people on the ground...Possibilities and prospective of expansion of programme are good," Vazquez, Head of the Peace Corps service, told a questioner.

Since November 1998, each year 68 volunteers have been working on their own with the assistance of the US Peace Corps in 45 districts in Bangladesh.

Currently the Peace Corps works for English language development through TEFL, sports and entertainment, capacity-development assistance on work, and rehabilitation of women and children. Now it has new plans for expansion.

Vazquez said he visited a rehabilitation centre in Chittagong for distressed women and met ministers and officials to discuss the future options of voluntary activities of the organisation.

Cultural exchange accord signed with Japan

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Japan have signed an accord on Cultural Exchange Programme to create conditions for long-term cooperation in the fields of education, culture, sports and journalism.

The deal was signed at the official residence of Japanese Prime Minister in Tokyo on Thursday, the fourth day of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's just-concluded tour. It is a follow-up to the Cultural Agreement signed between the two countries in Dhaka on February 10, 1982.

In presence of the Prime Minister of Japan, Junichiro Koizumi, and Khaleda Zia, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Matsushiro Horiguchi and Ambassador of Bangladesh

to Japan Serajul Islam signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

The programme consists of five chapters: Education and Academic Exchanges; Cultural and Artistic Exchanges, Youth, Sports and Tourism; Press, Radio, Television and Communication, and General Provisions.

This is one of three agreements signed between Bangladesh and Japan during the Prime Minister's visit to Japan that concluded Friday.

The two other accords signed are on training of Bangladeshis in private companies in Japan and Japanese grant assistance for meteorological radar and other equipment for disaster management in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR
 Jute, Cotton and Textile Mill Workers' Sangram Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday during the dawn-to-dusk hartal.