

Chairman says Rajuk authority not curtailed

TAWFIQUE ALI

Top officials of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) ruled out the idea of curtailing Rajuk's authority over demolishing illegal structures by the government.

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sends copy of its demolition programmes to housing and public works ministry. And lately it has also been sending a copy to the joint forces as well.

Chairman of Rajuk KAM Haroon said, "Officially, I am not aware of any such decision."

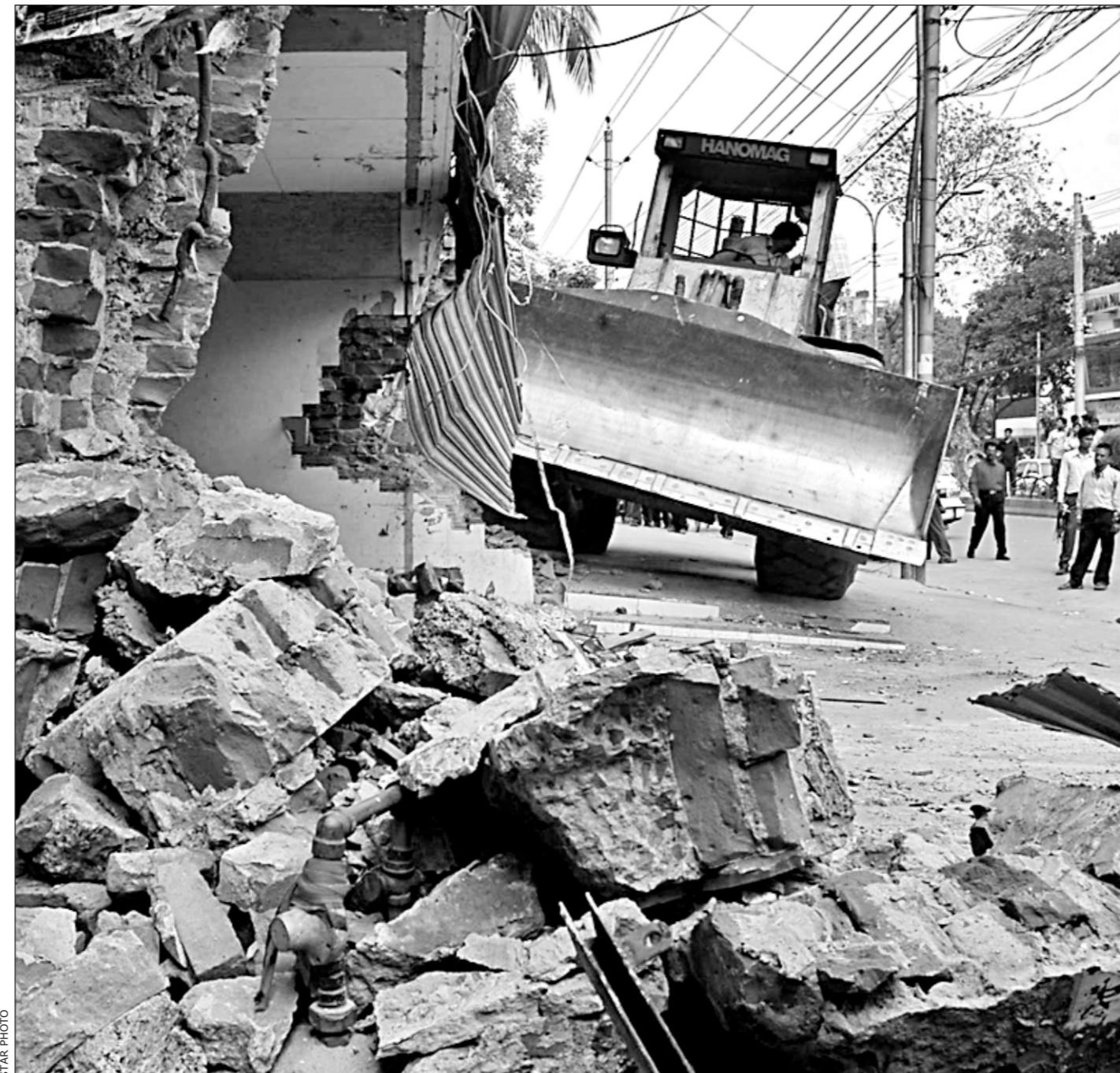
"We inform the ministry of a demolition programme beforehand," Haroon said, adding, "The ministry advises us if there's any sensitive or important issue associated with any particular estab-

lishment. The joint forces too can give their opinion in case of any anomaly in any form."

Officer-in-charge and magistrate of Rajuk ASM Emdadul Dastagir said was not aware of any such decision either.

"It is beyond my knowledge," Dastagir said, "Nevertheless, we send a copy of the demolition programme to the army camp concerned as we take their help in carrying out our tasks."

Chief engineer of Rajuk M Emdadul Islam, who represents



STAR PHOTO

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Swadhinata Stambha

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have already started work to make a fresh project proposal.

But the project proposal preparation, its approval, budget allocation, tender and construction would take several years, the sources said.

The memorial includes murals depicting the history of the Liberation War and the struggle for freedom from 1948 to 1971. The murals were built at a cost of Tk 1.75 crore, sprawling over an area of 67 acres.

It also includes an underground theatre, an under-

ground museum, an amphitheatre, a display gallery and a decorative fountain.

Suhrawardy Udyan, formerly known as Race Course maidan, was selected for the memorial because Pakistan Army surrendered here on December 16, 1971.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered the historical speech of March 7, 1971 at this ground, urging all to prepare for a fight to liberate the country.

Polluted like

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will not take time for the rivers to become silted. Once it is silted the river would become extremely vulnerable to encroachments," said the expert of the WDB.

"We should immediately start the project to link these rivers in the upstream with Jamuna and keep the rivers flowing round the year, only in this way we can ensure a flow," he said.

In August 2004 the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) completed a thorough study, funded by the WDB's Buriganga project, on the possibility of 'augmenting flow' in the river Buriganga.

WDB sources said that following the study report by IWM, the WDB experts prepared Development Project Pro Forma (DPP) and sent it to the Planning Commission. They also prepared Preliminary Development Project Pro Forma, which is now lying with the Economics Relations Division.

The Tk 610 crore project is called 'Augmentation of Buriganga Flow by Restoring Silted up Links with Jamuna'.

Sources in the WDB said that the ERD is now looking for a suitable donor for the project costs.

"WDB has done its works. Now it is up to the government to push for an immediate solution to the problem," an engineer of the WDB said.

According to the IWM studies, the best way to link the capital's river with Jamuna is to open up the New Dhaleshwari off-take through the rivers Pungli, Bangshi and Turag.

"The project envisages opening up the mouth of the New Dhaleshwari and divert the water of Jamuna towards the capital through Pungli, Bangshi and Turag. This will not only augment flow in the rivers but also provide irrigation surface water to hundreds of villages," another expert at the IWM said requesting anonymity.

"But at first we need sincere approach by the government to address the problem," he added.