



On the banks of the Buriganga stands the pink majestic Ahsan Manzil, an example of the nation's rich cultural heritage. The home of Dhaka's Nawab and a silent spectator to many events, it has 31 rooms with a huge dome atop which can be seen from afar. Renovated and turned into a museum recently, it has 23 galleries displaying portraits, furniture and utensils used by the Nawab.

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THIRD BURIGANGA BRIDGE

R&HD to seek financial assistance for approach road

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Authorities of the under construction third Buriganga bridge in Basila are planning to seek further financial assistance from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for construction of the approach road, linking Satmasjid Road to the bridge, sources said.

Although the KFAED authority had, at the start of the project, rejected the request for funding the approach road, Roads and Highways Department (R&HD) officials said the bridge would lose its meaning without the approach road. Currently a twenty-foot wide road winds its way to link up with the Beri Bandh and Basila.

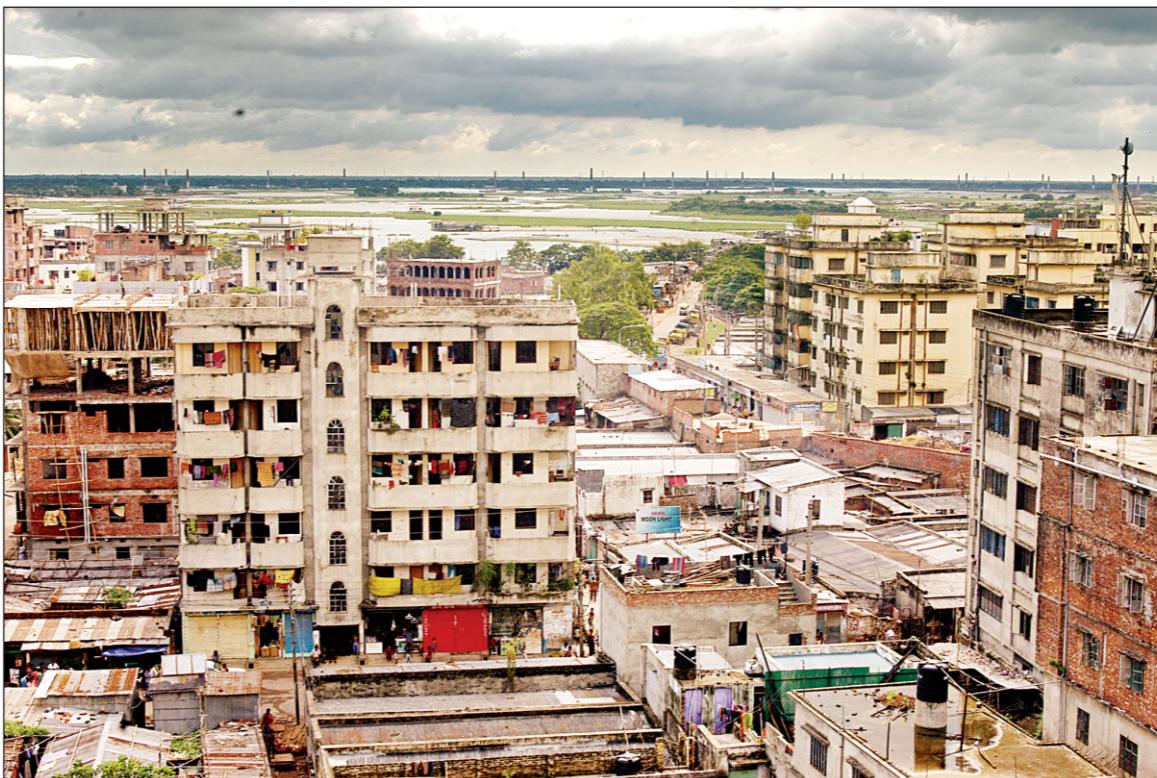
"We are again writing to the KFAED authority through the ERD seeking financial assistance for the approach road," said a senior engineer of the R&HD requesting anonymity. He added that they only needed to acquire a small area to extend the Satmasjid Road up to Beri Bandh and thus create easy access to the Basila bridge.

"The original master plan shows Satmasjid Road continuing up to Beri Bandh but it was never possible because a powerful politically backed syndicate of land grabbers illegally occupied the area and built a tin-shed market," said an official of the project. Recently



the syndicate put up a huge signboard announcing imminent launching of a construction work of a multi-storied commercial-cum-housing project.

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Top: The land for approach road to third Buriganga bridge remains to be acquired. Left: The under construction third Buriganga bridge.

city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

"I have some proposals too, which I will place in the council"

-- Khaleda Zia
BNP Chairperson

Told reporters, on Saturday. Source: The Daily Star

"Why will someone be given scope to do politics and at the same time some others deprived?"

-- Sheikh Hasina
Awami League (AL) President

Told reporters after visiting some ailing AL leaders at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, on Tuesday. Source: The Daily Star

"Write whatever you think you should"

-- Rawshan Ershad
Senior Presidium Member, Jatiya Party (JP)

Said at a press conference at her Gulshan residence replying to a query about the status of the present committee of JP, on Tuesday. Source: The Daily Star

"I am in jail because of them [journalists]"

-- Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu
Former BNP deputy minister

Told reporters on his way to the court of additional district magistrate in Natore that charged him for arson and looting in three villages under Nalanda upazila in 2004, on Wednesday. Source: The Daily Star

"If anyone makes a mistake while writing his father's name his father does not change"

-- Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed
Executive President, Liberal Democratic Party

Told reporters after naming the party as 'Liberal Democratic Party instead of Liberal Democratic Party at the Election Commission, on Wednesday. Source: The Daily Star

"They have initiated reforms under pressure of the current situation not for our pressure"

-- Barrister Mainul Hosein
Law Adviser

Told reporters hailing BNP's reform proposals, on Tuesday. Source: The Daily Star

"We want to save the trees but what we can do?"

-- AFM Yusuf Haider
Pro-vice chancellor

Told a reporter after age-old trees were chopped down on the eastern side of Madhur Canteen to build a 10-storey building, on Tuesday. Source: The Daily Star

Compiled by Durdana Ghias

T&T PLAYGROUND

Police arrest youngster for demanding right to play



T&T playground. A young cricketer was arrested yesterday as he prepared with an artificial turf to play cricket.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Tejgaon police yesterday arrested a young cricketer when he protested organising yet another fair on the T&T playground on Manik Mia Avenue, depriving hundreds of local children of sporting activities.

The T&T ground is the only playground in the densely populated Indira Road, Farmgate and Rajabazar areas.

Abdul Majid, the local youngster, was held after he along with his friends protested the move by Bangladesh National Weavers Association (BNWA) to organise the fair on the playground.

Public Works Department (PWD) uses the playground for holding several fairs throughout the year. This time PWD has leased the playground to BNWA for an unspecified

period to hold the fair. BNWA official would not give any specific information on the validity period of the lease. The officials concerned at the Ministry of Housing and Public Works could not be reached despite repeated attempts.

To the dismay of locals, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works rented out the playground to BNWA in May to promote traditional weavers of the country through display of their products in the month-long fair. According to local residents, the

previous BNWA fair left hundreds of holes in the ground with piles of bricks and other construction materials littered around the whole place, making it unusable for the children to play.

While the BNWA officials were busy preparing the ground for yet another fair yesterday, some local youngsters including Majid protested the move. Police officials came to the spot on receiving complaints from BNWA officials, and picked up Majid from there.

DESA tangled in short circuit over illegal connections

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) is facing problems in its ongoing drive to disconnect illegal power connections in the capital city to reduce system loss of electricity.

Illegal use of electricity remains as the key reason for the system's loss while the authorities are struggling to meet the huge shortage of electricity amid ever-increasing demand against limited generation.

"The scale of unauthorised use of electricity in the city is quite mind-boggling. But once we cut off an illegal connection, we see it is reconnected again in a day or two," said an official from the monitoring department of Desa.

A section of dishonest Desa staff are allegedly involved with providing the illegal connections and maintaining them in exchange for bribe.

A large number of residential and commercial establishments, slums and small factories in the city are using electricity illegally.

"The slum dwellers tend to go to any extent to have access to

electricity and they can easily restore the removed connections due to the nature of their makeshift houses," the official said.

Hundreds of shops in several hawkers' markets in Nekheta, Azimpur, Sayedabad, Shyampur and Sadarghat areas are also using electricity

without meter. These establishments are defying the tariff policies of Power Development Board (PDB) by paying a fixed amount of money to the market authorities regardless of the usage of electricity.

Currently 13 magistrates are conducting the drives against power pilferages. Of

them, three are Desa's own magistrates.

Desa officials claimed that the system's loss in the capital city has gone down from 24 percent to around 18 percent over the past few months due to the frequent disconnection drives.

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A DESA worker disconnects illegal connection.

Rajuk, BGMEA both guilty of unauthorised construction

TAWFIQUE ALI

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) are equally responsible for the 'illegal' construction of 15-storey BGMEA building in the city's Begunbari canal area, said sources.

Rajuk issued the land use clearance to construct the building in the middle of the canal while the Department of Environment, Dhaka Wasa and Civil Aviation Authorities too issued clearance certificates for the building's plan.

Asked how Rajuk could issue the clearance for the building, Rajuk Chairman KAM Haroon said, "Ask the town planner." When asked, Town Planner Jahurul Hoque said, "I do not know how the clearance was issued, I have to see the relevant file."

The BGMEA completed construction of the building before Rajuk approved the plan, though construction of any building without approved design is punishable under the Building Construction Act of 1952 (amended in 2006).

When the case of the proposed building was placed at the Rajuk board meeting on July 14, 2003, a senior engineer objected to it on the ground that Rajuk itself had a 13-acre development project in the area and Buet was carrying out a study in the canal area.

As per a board meeting decision, BGMEA was asked to consult the Buet expert team and obtain clearance to construct the building, which BGMEA did not do.

Rajuk in a letter on August 20, 2006 asked BGMEA to comply with certain preconditions with a view to rectify unauthorised construction of the building.



BGMEA building: A building without authorisation.