

100 heritage

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The NUC at its meeting on December 28 decided that Rajuk would publish the notification immediately. But the Rajuk delayed in doing so thinking that publication of the notification might make the job of its special committee difficult.

Dhaka Metropolitan Building Rules of 2008 requires approval of the special committee to implement any sort of land development and construction within 250-metre radius of a listed heritage site.

The NUC at its January 28 meeting again urged the authorities to publish the notification immediately.

Chief Architect ASM Ismail said, "Rajuk was supposed to publish the notification the next day."

Mubashar Hussain, president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh and a member of NUC said that the committee agreed to review its condition of restricting construction work within the 250-metre radius of the heritage site.

The committee might take into consideration the uniqueness of a particular area rather than imposing the condition in general.

The authorities are thinking of introducing Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to compensate the private owners affected due to his property being enlisted as heritage property, he said.

A certificate by means of the TDR will be issued to the affected private owners enabling him to transfer the development right to a certain area.

A person may still retain the heritage property under his or her ownership but will not be able to develop or alter it.

The Department of Archaeology (DOA) may enlist a historic or archaeological edifice only if it is 100-years-old.

The standing committee of NUC was mandated to enlist a heritage site given its historical, aesthetic, scientific, social and cultural, religious and political significance even if it is not 100-years-old.

Buildings to be included in the gazette notification in old Dhaka are: Binat Bibi Mosque, Bari Katra, Chhoto Katra, Lalbagh Fort Complex, Nimgoli Dewri, Kartalab Khan Mosque, Khan Muhammad Mirdha Mosque, Shaista Khan Mosque, Gol Talab (pond), Buckland Bunder, Christian Cemetery, Hosaini Dalan, Dhakeshwari Temple, Joykali Temple and Ram Sita Temple, Armenian Church, Bari Dayra Sharif, Star Mosque, Bangshah Jame Mosque, North Brooke Hall, Kasaituli Mosque, St. Thomas Church, St. Gregory's Church, Radha Govinda Temple at Mill Barrack, Shashan Temple at Baniaganagar, Radha Govinda Temple (Sutrapur), Ram Sita Temple (Amilgola), Tomb of Daroga Amiruddin, Gouri Moth, Ramkrishna Mission, Nawab Bari Mosque (close to Rajuk Bhaban), Bahadur Shah Park, Water Tank (at Bahadur Shah park), Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Shusila Kuthir, Brahmossamai Temple, Raja Ram Mohan Library, Rupali House, Ahsan Manjil, Mitford Hospital (old three buildings), Weiz House (Weisghat), Rose Garden, Shankhanidi Palace, Iskon Mandir, St. Gregory's School, Pogose School, Manuk House (Banga Bhaban), Balda Garden, Jagannath University Admin Building, Buildings at plots 7-9 (Koilash Ghosh Lane), buildings no. 8, 8/1, 8/2 (Jhulan Bari Lane), Dhaka Medical College (Arts Building, Hospital Building, Gate Houses),

Dhaka University campus; Vice Chancellor's Residence, Madur Canteen, Twin Hindu Math (TSC), Curzon Hall, FH Hall, SM Hall at DU, Jagannath Hall, Mir Jumla Gate (Dhaka Gate, Doel Chottar), Shikh Guru Duara, Greek Memorial, Burdwan House (Banga Academy), Faculty of Fine Arts (Art College), University Central Library and Kendro Shahid Minar.

Other structures: Mughal Eidgah (Dhanmondi), Satgambuj Mosque

Reconstitution

FROM PAGE 1
the procedures for removal of Supreme Court judges.

"The chairman and the commissioners can be removed if the Supreme Judicial Council finds them guilty of gross misconduct or physically or mentally incapable of performing their duties," added Anisul Haque explaining the ACC act.

The present three-member commission led by Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury was formed in February 2007 following the resignation of ACC chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and two commissioners -- Prof Maniruzzaman Miah and Maniruddin Ahmed -- during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

The previous ACC officials stepped down for failing to keep the anti-graft watchdog functional.

Irregularities

FROM PAGE 1
The alleged irregularities including donations from VIP prisoners for construction works at the Dhaka Central Jail, the change in the jail directorate's monogram and misappropriation of command funds.

Ministry sources said the committee led by the additional secretary of home ministry has been asked to complete investigation by February 28.

Jail sources said senior jail high-ups received huge donations from some VIP prisoners and renovated a mosque and built sheds for training purposes inside the Dhaka Central jail.

The high officials took the donations in exchange for giving 'unlawful facilities' to VIP prisoners violating the jail codes, sources said.

Besides, the jail authorities changed the monogram of the jail directorate replacing the picture of boat with that of a pigeon.

Moreover, senior officials allegedly misappropriated several lakh taka of the command funds created with the money of visitors and income from bakeryshops and factories inside the jail.

When contacted, acting Inspector General-Prisons Col Dr Ashraful Islam Khan confirmed the formation of the four-member committee.

EC withholds

FROM PAGE 1
upazila parishes in Noakhali in a day or two.

The EC had earlier suspended results of seven upazila parishes on grounds of irregularities and decided to launch judicial enquiry.

Now elections results of 40 upazila parishes remain suspended on various grounds.

The long overdue election to the upazila parishes were held on January 22. On the eve of the polls and during the polling, election to six upazilas was suspended following violent incidents, capture of polling stations and allegations of intimidating voters. Elections were held in 475 upazilas out of 481.

Upazilas whose election results remain withheld include Jagannathpur in Sunamganj, Madarganj and Islampur in Jamalpur, Daulatpur in Manikganj, Pakundia in Kishoreganj, Muladi in Barisal, Saghata and Sadar upazila in Gaibandha, Choudhram, Daudkandi, Langolok and Chandina in Comilla, Keraniganj in Dhaka, Fatiakhari in Chittagong, Kochua in Chittagong, Moralganj and Sarankhola in Bergerhat, Zianagar (Nesarabad) in Pirojpur, Chouhali and Ulakpara in Sirajganj, Ajmiriganj of Habiganj, Ashuganj and Koshba in Brahmanbaria, Sadar upazila and Atpara in Netrakona, Horinaku in Jhenidah, Madaripur, Nandail and Bhaluka in Mymensingh, Gazaria in Munshiganj, Kishoreganj in Nilphamari, Raipur in Noakhali and Phulgazi in Feni.

Home minister

FROM PAGE 1
at a meeting of the OCs of the city's 35 police stations.

At the meeting the OCs were instructed to carry out their duties professionally and fearlessly above all kinds of controversies and political interests.

"We have directed the OCs to work professionally to improve the law and order maintaining the chain of command," State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj told The Daily Star after the meeting. "We will evaluate those who work professionally," he added.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed were also present at the meeting.

The home ministry executed the special anti-crime drive in the capital February 3 and, if necessary, will start the drive in other divisional headquarters.

The state minister said law and order is in crisis only in Dhaka city and he would give highest priority to curb crimes in the capital.

At the meeting the home ministry asked the OCs to take adequate preparation to ensure foolproof security for the 21 February programmes. They were also directed to conduct a practice session in coordination with other law enforcement agencies in this regard.

Sources said the meeting was convened in a bid to strengthen the relationship between police and the home ministry and to abolish the panic of transferring the OCs from the capital.

At the meeting, the OCs faced a number of problems, including shortage of manpower and logistics, especially vehicles. Both the ministers assured them of providing all possible assistances and demanded good positive feedbacks in return.

Cruel father

FROM PAGE 16
Government Hospital for Autopsies.

In primary interrogation, Abdul Huq said he killed his two children failing to control anger at his father's refusal to give him a share of his property.

He said he drowned the two ignoring their plea for mercy.

"The children of my brothers wear fancy dresses and have rich foods as my father gave them shares of his property. But I could not afford those for my children as my father refused to give me a share of the property. So I decided to kill my children," he said.

Abdul Huq has been suffering from mental illness for the last one year, said his wife Fahima Begum with tears rolling down her cheeks.

"Sometimes he claims himself as a member of the parliament or a police officer," Fahima said, adding, "But I never thought he would do something so cruel."

Mohammad Shahidullah, maternal uncle of the two children, filed a murder case against Abdul Huq, his four brothers and their father Mohammad Kalu Mia.

Sub-inspector Masud Khan, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star that he talked to Abdul Huq's neighbours, who said he has been suffering from mental illness.

"When I reached his house after the murders, I found him taking rest in his room while his wife was weeping," the IO said.

"During the interrogation, he was quiet and gave details about the incident," Masud added.

Sheraton's star at risk

FROM PAGE 1

The hotel made an operating profit of around \$4.79 million in 2008, a 10 percent rise from a year earlier, amid intense competition from its new rivals in the hospitality sector.

Despite such profitability, Sheraton is now leaving the hotel management because of BSL's refusal to renovate the hotel by February 28.

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When contacted, acting Inspector General-Prisons Col Dr Ashraful Islam Khan confirmed the formation of the four-member committee.

The new syllabus would include the country's language, history, geography and culture, among other subjects, the minister said.

If one cannot speak mother tongue and does not know the history and culture of the motherland, the bondage with his or her country becomes weaker, he said. A tendency of neglecting Bangla has developed here for some or other reasons, he added.

Citing that education is being downgraded by serious lack of quality teachers and absence of a consistent education policy, the minister said the present government has initiated steps to upgrade the education policy based on the Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission report.

The minister said the education policy formulated by the Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission after independence was upgraded in 2000, but the next government postponed it.

"It has become a tradition in our country that one government formulates a policy and another cancels it. This time we want to change that practice," he said.

"We want to upgrade it with opinions of education experts. This is not a party matter. We are serious about it," he added.

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At the same time, the government has refused to even renovate the hotel in the next 5-7 years. Then the hotel won't be able to generate such a growing revenue and make profit without refurbishment," he added.

According to the job contract, the employees are part of BSL, which will have to take responsibility for all employees.

In 1982, when InterContinental left, BSL paid salaries and other facilities to all the staff for five months until Sheraton started its operation in 1984.

Finally, early this month BSL ran an advertisement seeking a franchise company, which was supposed to submit a technical proposal and a financial offer.

Four companies turned in proposals by January 31.

"We have failed to find a company to operate the hotel, which forced us to look for an alternative option, such as appointing a company to manage the hotel under a franchise arrangement," said Zubair, also chairman of the state-owned hotel's Board of Directors.

Franchise, an authorisation to sell a company's goods or services in a particular place, is a new idea in the country's hospitality sector.

Asked if the names of top 20 corrupt people each year will be made public, she said each corrupt person's name needs to be disclosed.

Talking about the root of corruption, Hasina said, "Those who came to power wearing uniform and using arms patronised corruption. If anybody compares corruption index before and after 1975, he will understand when corruption started spreading...Corruption spread in the society due to irregularities in assuming state power and violation of the constitution."

Replies to queries on making public offices free of malpractices, the prime minister said, "With the assistance of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the government has already taken various measures to stop corruption and bribery in government offices and courts."

Meanwhile, several BSL officials hinted that the government has reached an understanding with the franchisee to manage the hotel under a franchise arrangement.

They also said the government has almost selected a company, American Property Management International (APMI), to get the franchise contract.

A BSL official requesting anonymity said a group of BSL staff is working in favour of Ramada, which lacks experience.

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The same leopard also injured another five people at Basnahar village of Ranishankoil upazila on Sunday evening.

Boi Mela

FROM PAGE 16

One corner of the fair to another with a toddler in hand to locate a stall," she said yesterday evening.

"Besides, the prices of children's books are higher at the fair than at shops outside," she complained.

This year the Boi Mela has no dedicated corner for children's stalls.

Bangla Academy Syed Mohammad Shahid said, "The publishers argue against a fixed corner for children's books as such stalls usually sell other books as well."

Foreign books and not local ones seemed abundant at the children's stalls. Stall owners say that books on foreign cartoon characters as Superman, Spiderman and Tom & Jerry are selling the most.

Traditional Bengali books for children, reflecting local culture and history, are not selling well, salesmen said.

"Most of the books are on characters from foreign cartoons, TV serials and computer games. I could not find enough books on nursery rhymes or stories which we used to read during my childhood," said Sushmita, a service holder and mother of a six years old girl.

"It's quite a disappointment," she said.

Meanwhile, readers saw a total of 87 new books released on the fourth day of the fair yesterday.

These include 23 novels, three essay collections, 14 poetry collections, 11 story collections, two children's books, nine autobiographies, one on history and three on politics.

New books from popular writers that arrived at the fair yesterday include -- Plumed Peacock and Gomkhet Kak O Connally Lekha by Kabir Chowdhury, The Blue Sting by Syed Shamshul Haq, Sonar Apel Gola, Ghor by Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Dinbadol Onggik by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deyaler Shahor Dhaka by Muntasir Mamun, Rangabbara Bangladeshi and Baundule by Sumanto Aslam.

Like other days, the largest crowds gathered in front of the stalls selling the latest from the popular writers of the country.

Publishers said that they are now eagerly waiting for the weekend, when they expect should see larger crowds thronging the annual event.

He also said the government should have an 'opportunity cost analysis' which is an integral part of any company's decision-making process.

The quest for hiring an international hotel chain started in May 2008 after Starwood, the parent company of Sheraton, sent a letter to BSL saying that it will renew the contract if the government immediately goes for renovation.

Starwood's 25-year deal with BSL expired on December 31, 2008 and the company later extended its contract with the government up to March 31.

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Reshuffle

FROM PAGE 16

Ministry, Mizanur Rahman to the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, AMB Khorsheed Alam to the Industries Ministry and Dr Mohammad Sadique to the Establishment Ministry as additional secretaries.