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UNOs to get more power

Govt okays proposals for upazila parishad bill; UP chairmen criticise govt decision

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government yesterday gave the go-ahead to a proposal that would make the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) the parishad's principal executive officer vested with the power to look after financial matters.

Chairmen and vice-chairmen of upazilas expressed frustration and UNOs gained satisfaction that they would enjoy more power in the parishads. The UNO now work as a secretary to the parishad but when this proposal becomes a law they would more authority.

The nod was given to the proposal at a cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Briefing newsmen after the meet-

ing Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the proposal would be made a bill and passed in parliament.

Sources said the proposal was placed at the cabinet with a provision to make the UNOs chief executive officers in line with those at city corporations and the secretariat. The cabinet just named the post principal executive officer instead of chief executive officer.

After the bill is made a law, the UNOs would give the parishad secretarial assistance and look after financial matters, sources said, adding that they would also issue cheques like secretaries do at ministries.

Chairmen of different upazilas have

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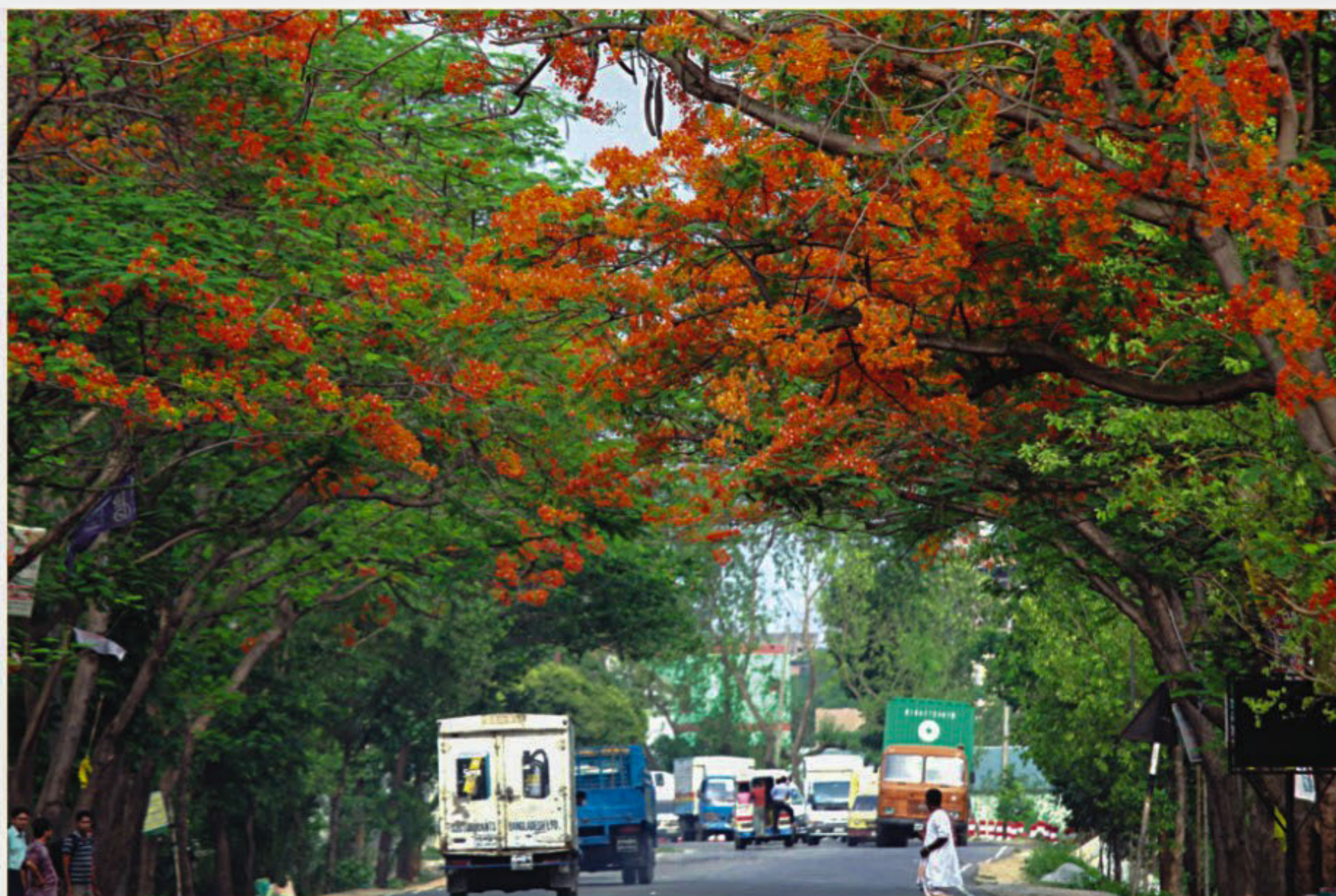


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Krishnachuras are flamboyant over this road in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital as their season reaches its peak.

Allegations not true

Says law minister about 2 newly appointed judges; pro-BNP lawyers demand HC bench recast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday the allegations against two newly appointed High Court judges are false, and he hoped they would be sworn in soon.

"The gazette notification regarding appointments of the High Court judges is still in force. The appointments are legal and valid. I think the allegations brought against the two judges are false," he told journalists after attending the launching ceremony of a book.

"I hope swearing-in of the two judges will be held soon," the minister said.

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Caught in air chaos

Stranded in Brussels for days, 136 Bangladeshi travellers reach London by bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 136 Bangladeshi travellers stranded at Brussels Airport due to volcanic ash cloud from Iceland reached London by bus till Sunday.

Another 81 Bangladeshis were expected to arrive in London yesterday.

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Collaborator held in '72 now joins AL

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

At a time when the Awami League government started the process of trying people accused of crimes against humanity, a Bhola BNP leader who was detained in connection with war crimes in 1972 last week joined the Awami League.

Golam Mowla, former president of Chachra union unit of BNP under Tajumuddin upazila, was detained in 1972 under

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SYLHET POWER PROJECT Delay to cost govt Tk 536cr

Revised proposal to be placed at Ecneec today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will have to count an additional cost of Tk 536 crore for the implementation of a power project due to a delay of about 10 years.

The revised Tk 878 crore project for construction of a 150 MW combined cycle power plant in Sylhet and building up transmission system, will be presented today for approval at the meeting

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80pc of cabinet decisions implemented

Claims govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday said 80 percent of its decisions taken in the cabinet meetings over the last 15 months were implemented.

The cabinet took a total of 405 decisions on different issues of which 325 were implemented and the rest 80 is under way, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the cabinet meeting at the

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MUTINY AT 7 RIFLE BATTALION 56 BDR rebels jailed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Special Court-1 of Bangladesh Rifles yesterday sentenced 56 accused of 7 Rifle Battalion to different terms of rigorous imprisonment for their involvement in mutiny in Nildumur of Shyamnagar.

The court set up at 41 Rifle Battalion also acquitted four accused -- sepoy Zaidul Islam, Golam Masud, Makbul Hossain and Golam Mostafa Sagor -- as the prosecution could not prove the charges against them.

BDR Director General Maj Gen M Mainul Islam, president of the special court, pronounced the verdict at 1:00pm on completion of trial proceedings under the Bangladesh Rifles Act, 1972.

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