



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Movement along this road in Bahaddarhat area of Chittagong is next to impossible especially after rains, yet it sees no sign of repair.

## PUBLIC MONEY EXPENDITURE CAG blames errant secys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The secretaries, the government's principal accounting officers, in most cases do not ensure accountability in expending the taxpayers' money, said the auditor general in an interaction with the media at his office yesterday.

As a result, the country's financial anomalies and corruption keep rising consistently, said Ahmed Ataul Hakim, comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of Bangladesh.

He said that though it is the duty of principal accounting officers to ensure financial discipline in their respective organisation, they do not do it let alone rectifying those anomalies and misappropriation reported by the CAG.

Office of the CAG and USAID-funded Prohati, a programme for good governance and transparency, organised the view exchange meeting at Audit Bhaban to highlight the CAG's recently launched Media Cell.

The CAG office, which is a constitutional body, can only make recommendations to rectify an irregularity in public money expenditure, but cannot prosecute anybody, said the auditor general.

He said the CAG submits its reports on expenditure of public money to Public Accounts Committee of the parliament through the country's president, being able only to expose a tip of an iceberg of financial corruption.

Farid Hossain, bureau chief of news agency AP, said that as the CAG and mass media pursue common goals of ensuring transparency and accountability, there should exist a professionally friendly relationship between the two.

## Draft contempt of court act okayed

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved three draft bills including the draft of Dhaka Elevated Expressway Project (Land Acquisition) Bill 2011.

The approval came from the cabinet's weekly meeting held at the Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The cabinet has directed the authorities concerned to evict the illegal occupiers of land falling on the path of the proposed Dhaka Elevated Expressway within the earliest possible time.

The cabinet assured those in legal possession of land in the expressway areas would be given "satisfactory" compensation in case of acquisition of their land.

Also approved at the meeting are the drafts of the Contempt of Court Bill 2011 and the Science and Technology Development Trust Bill 2011 and a proposal to ratify the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement with Belarus.

## POST-QUAKE PREPAREDNESS

# Govt to buy Tk 164cr equipment more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More search and rescue equipment worth Tk 164 crore would be procured to face post-earthquake situation, said Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque.

Search and rescue equipment worth Tk 65 crore have been procured and handed over to fire service and civil defence, armed forces division and city corporation while another Tk 164 crore worth equipment would be procured, the minister said.

He was speaking at the inaugural of a four-day "Regional Earthquake Response Seminar," jointly organised by Bangladesh Army and Embassy of the United States of America at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla in the city.

Indian sub-continent is tectonically active where around 50 million people, many residing in densely populated cities like Dhaka, are exposed to high risk of potential Himalayan quakes, said Abdur Razzaque, food and disaster management

minister.

Razzaque said the workshop would bring some recommendations for earthquake risk management from national, regional and international viewpoint.

"I will pay my highest efforts to support the implementation of the applicable recommendations," he said.

Speakers at the seminar stressed the need for proper preparation to face post-earthquake situation as Bangladesh is under high risk of earthquake.

US Ambassador in Dhaka James F Moriarty said the US remains committed to disaster management and humanitarian assistance in Bangladesh and in all of South Asia.

Around 50 participants from foreign countries and around 150 participants from Bangladesh are taking part in the seminar.

Lieutenant General Md Mainul Islam, chief of general staff of Bangladesh Army, and Lt Gen John F Goodman, director of Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, also spoke.

## TARIQUE'S PETITION SC order on June 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed June 2 for passing an order on a review petition filed by BNP leader Tarique Rahman against its verdict saying the money laundering case against Tarique can be run under Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed the date for order after concluding hearing on the petition.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on October 26, 2009 against Tarique and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun under Money Laundering Prevention Act 2009. They were charged for illegally sending Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a cabinet meeting at the Secretariat in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

Wasa has been digging Agargaon Taltola Road in the city for the last two months in the name of development and the residents bear with the nuisance.

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