



Dhaka city residents, who had left the capital for Eid-ul-Fitr vacation, trickling back into the city yesterday through Kamalapur Railway Station. The full return rush has not started yet as many extended their vacation from three days to six.

# AL, BNP, JP fail to submit audit reports

## Seek more time from EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party, the three major political parties of the country, have sought more time from the Election Commission for submitting the audit reports of their annual income and expenditure of last year after failing to do so in seven months.

All the registered parties have to submit their annual audit reports certified by a registered chartered accountant firm within July 31 of the following year, according to the Political Parties Registration Rule, 2008.

As the deadline expired yesterday, the ruling AL sought time till September 1, Jatiya Party till August 30, and BNP till August 14.

The AL in a letter signed by its general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said it could not prepare the report by July 31 but it will submit it by September 1, AL assistant secretary ABM Reazul Kabir Kawsar told The Daily Star.

In separate letters, the BNP and JP on July 24 and July 27 applied for extending the deadlines.

Aiming to remind the parties of the registration rules, the EC on June 16 sent letters to all the 40 political parties asking them to submit the audit reports of 2013

by July 31 this year.

Of the 40, around a dozen political parties, including the three, have failed to prepare reports, despite getting seven months from January.

"We've received the audit reports of around 28 political parties. The rest of the parties have sought time," Rowshan Ara, senior assistant secretary to the EC Secretariat, told The Daily Star.

Talking about the parties' application to extend deadlines, EC's Acting Secretary Sirazul Islam said, "No clear explanations are available in existing laws about it. But we have found some precedents of extending timeframes in past."

Now, the election commissioners will take the final decision on this matter, he said.

The registration of a party will be cancelled if it fails to submit the audit report for three consecutive years, according to the Representation of People Order (RPO).

Meanwhile, the EC now does not consider the Jamaat a registered political party because the High Court on August 1 last year declared its registration illegal. An appeal against the verdict remains pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

PHOTO: STAR

## Recalled envoy Gousal reports to foreign ministry

### Nazrul Islam takes over Beirut mission

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Ambassador to Lebanon AFM Gousal Azam Sarkar, who was called back urgently for causing indiscipline in the Beirut mission, reported to the foreign ministry yesterday.

An official source said the ministry in a letter to Gousal on July 17 asked him to return and report to the headquarters by July 20 but he took a six-day grace period and returned to Dhaka on July 27. He could not report immediately due to Eid vacation.

The source said the ministry was likely to take departmental action against him for his

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## Three suspected JMB recruiters arrested

### Police say they were training new militants in CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three suspected activists of banned militant outfit Jama'at-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh, who were arrested on Wednesday night, were recruiting operatives throughout the country and giving them training on arms in Chittagong Hill Tracts, police said yesterday.

Detectives arrested the three—Shamin Mahfuz alias Sumon, Zahidur Rahman and Ismail Hossain—in Sayedabad bus terminal area around 8:00pm on Wednesday and recovered one

laptop and some bomb-making materials from them, said Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, addressing a press conference at the DMP media centre in the capital.

The detectives were examining whether the operatives were trying to carry out any subversive activities following BNP chief Khaleda Zia's call for movement to oust the government, he said.

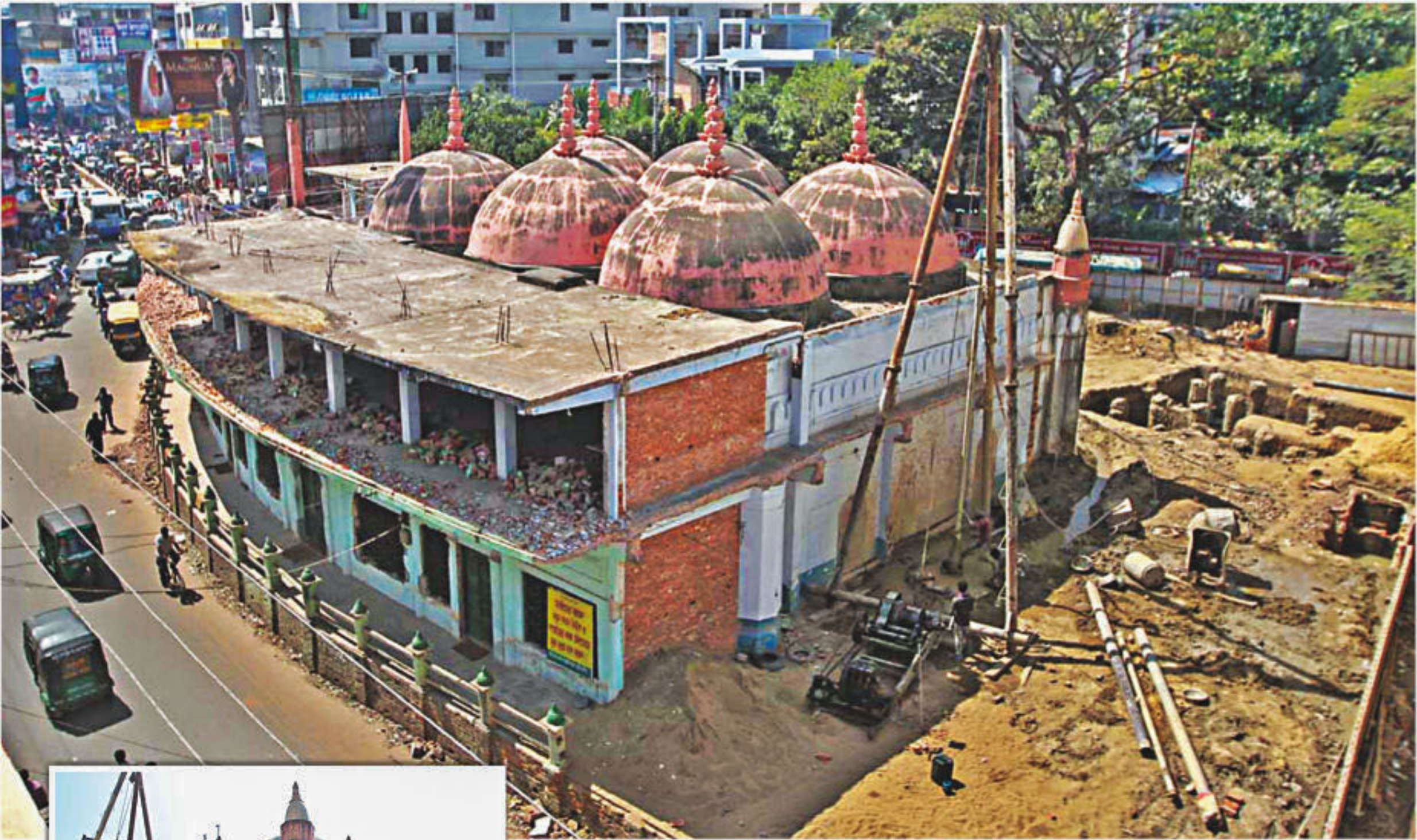
The DMP official said that taking the pseudonym Manring Murang, Sumon used to visit remote hilly

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PHOTOS: STAR

Three suspected operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'at-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in front of the Media Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday. Detectives arrested them with cocktails, inset, and a laptop at the capital's Sayedabad on Wednesday night.



PHOTOS: ANURUP KANTI DAS

The two-century-old Wali Khan Mosque in Chittagong city with an extension on one side, blocking the architectural beauty of the Mughal-era structure. Though the extended part is being demolished, the mosque management committee is planning to build a six-storey structure around it. Inset, the construction work going on right beside the historic mosque. The photos were taken recently.

# Historic Wali Khan Mosque of Ctg city left in neglect

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The two-century-old Wali Khan Mosque in Chittagong city, which is bearing testimony to the Mughal-era architecture, is about to be lost from public view, as the mosque managing committee has started the construction of a six-storey complex shrouding it from three sides in the absence of legal protection of the historic structure as an antiquity.

The committee has recently demolished several structures built on the premises of the 18th century mosque only to pave the way for building another complex, which will put the mosque out of sight and may lead to its gradual destruction, said residents of Chawkbazar where the mosque stands on about 120 decimals of land donated for religious purpose.

The structures, which have been demolished, had barred people from viewing the mosque's aesthetic beauty for decades, they said. Now only the front of the mosque can be seen from the road but it will be covered once the

Dates back two centuries

Bears Mughal architectural traits

Stands on 120 decimals donated land

DoA yet to declare it antiquity

Recommendation for conservation shelved for 2yrs

complex is built, said Hamid Ali, a resident.

The six-storey building will be an extension of the mosque, as the number of worshippers has increased, said Md Jafarullah Khan, general secretary of the mosque management committee. This will cost about Tk 5 crore, which will come from donations, he said.

Originally, the six-dome prayer house is 17.83 metres long and 10.25 metres wide, with walls, made of brick powder and lime mortars, as thick as 1.35 metres, according to the DoA, which is supposed to declare the structure an antiquity.

The mosque has three intricately designed doors on the east and two arched doors on the north and south each. The property is under the name of Wali Begh Khan Mosque Waqf Estate.

According to historians, the mosque was built between 1714 and 1719 by Mughal Foudzar Wali Begh Khan. It is one of the only nine mosques built in Chittagong city during the Mughal period.

The Antiquities Act, 1968, (amended in 1976) states that any ancient (minimum 100 years old) product of human civilisation, illustrative of architecture, warfare, politics, or culture, can be called an article of antiquity. And the government can declare any antiquity as protected.

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