New master plan in the offing

The first master plan for Dhaka was prepared in 1959, for a city of 320 square miles and a population of less than one million, by the then Dhaka Improvement Trust. The DIT. now known as Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnavan Kartripakkha), was established three years earlier in 1956.

Later. Dhaka became the capital city of an independent country and its jurisdiction has spread to almost 600 square miles. The city's population has increased to somewhere between six and nine million depending on whose statistics you choose to believe!

The plan was prepared. with the collaboration of a reputed British firm, to undertake land development, urban planning and construction programmes, and to control development through zoning. The original master plan was not properly implemented. nor updated in over thirty

But for the first time since 1959, a new revised master plan is now being prepared. and is expected to be com pleted by the end of the year, said Humayan Khadem, Chairman of Rajuk, while speaking at The Daily Star-BUET Roundtable on 'Save Dhaka' held Th-

The new master plan is being prepared with assistance from the UNDP

The main revisions to the original master plan attempt to deal with the changing character of Dhaka city, fast going to be a megacity as the turn of the century approaches. All areas of development are being updated — from urban planning, land use and zoning of the newest outer regions of the city, to sewage and water facilities and road planning. For the first time, environ mental impact of the city's growth is being considered.

Budget

From Page 1

lay of Tk 12.100 crore, pro-

jecting a six per cent growth

rate for 1995-96, has already

been approved by the govern-

ment. Education and other so-

cial sectors will continue to

Tk 21.733 expenditure outlay

with an overall deficit of Tk

8,096 crore. The revenue in-

come target was set at Tk

13,637 crore, revenue expen-

diture at Tk 9.948 crore and

the ADP allocation was set at

Manzur murder

date for hearing the sensa

Official sources here, on

But they said three other

condition of anonymity, told

UNB that Ershad would not be

produced before the court to-

morrow due to security prob-

accused in the case - Major

General (rtd) Abdul Latif, Lt

Col (rtd) Shamsur Rahman

Shams and Major (rtd) Kazi

Emdadul Huq — would be

adds: It could not be known

clearly whether Ershad would

be escorted to Chittagong to-

morrow for being produced in

No information from Dhaka

was received here today about

bringing Ershad though as per

law appearance of an accused

is required on every date of

hearing of a criminal case, offi-

pt police force ready to pro-

vide required security if Er-

shad is escorted to Chittagong

tomorrow, officials further

Indian team

From Page 1

the two countries' protracted

endeavour to hammer out an

acceptable solution to the

apportion the dry-season flow

of the common river during

with Bangladesh half the flow

which works out to be roughly

27,500 cusec. But Dhaka under

no circumstances is reported

to be yielding to anything short

desh water sharing agreement,

Delhi had conceded to Dhaka

34,500 cusec of the Ganges

In the 1976 Indo-Bangla-

of 34,500 cusec, he added.

The two sides will strive to

India is willing to share

problem, the source said.

the talks, he said.

Meanwhile, authorities ke-

Our Staff Correspondent

brought to the dock.

the court.

cials here said.

lem and other complexities.

Tk 11,000 crore.

tional murder case.

The 1994-95 budget had a

get priority in allocation.

By Rashida Ahmad But the main consideration must be the 300,000 new inhabitants a year that the city must house, in addition to the lakhs of already shelterless But, according to many of the experts present at the Roundtable, shelter and hous-

ing for all by the year 2000 is in fact, little more than a slo-With 50,000 new dwelling units a year, at a density of six people per unit, required just to house the incoming poor.

there is little hope of providing even the meanest shelters for those already on the streets by the turn of the century. Khadem listed a number of Rajuk's future development

plans which included housing projects in various areas of the city such as Yusufganj, plans for a residential area in Savar. construction of multi-storey buildings in Zigatola, Mahakhali and Moghbazar, developing ten major roads and widening 1000 lanes and bylanes to deal with traffic congestion.

However, according to Prof Nazrul Islam of the Centre for Urban Studies of the DU and Kazi Faruque. Executive Director of Proshika, the problem with many such plans of Rajuk. and most existing policies for Dhaka's development, is that they ignore the poor. But it is primarily the poor that have to be taken into account in order to save the city, according to Kazi Faruque.

"Rajuk has taken four years working on its master plan. meanwhile the situation has been deteriorating," said Prof Islam. "Fifty to eighty per cent of Dhaka's population is poor, but it is the rich urban elite planning for themselves how to save the city. The style of planning is wrong.

Md Anwarul Alam. exchairman of Rajuk, agrees that

Shantibahinimen

kill one, kidnap

Rajuk plans for the upper classes. "Most of Rajuk's housing projects have been for the rich residential areas of the city - Gulshan, Uttara, Baridhara. But for those who ur gently need housing. Rajuk has done very little," said Alam in a recent interview. "However. Rajuk or the government are not in a position to solve the housing problem by providing shelter for the homeless. How can they house three million people? It is the people themselves who must solve the problem, he said.

None of the problems facing Dhaka's development can be tackled immediately, least of all housing. "Short term solutions are not enough, what is needed is real and proper planning," according to Dhaka City Mayor Muhamad Hanif. "Rajuk, WASA and DESA must join with Dhaka City Corporation to create a single coordinated body if we are to save

Khadem claimed, "Discipline, law and order are a precondition to development We don't need money from World Bank. If we can create discipline, law and order. development can be achieved on our own.

According to Pierre Landell-Mills, Resident Representative of World Bank, however, discipline, law and order are not the only obstacles to saving Dhaka. Too few people were involved in creating the new master plan, which will cause problems. But it is not too late to save it, if, before completion, over the next six months to a year, workshops are held to analyse and criticise." Many more experts need to become involved in order to revise and

rationalise and create a more comprehensive and coherent development plan, according

Luxury buses yet to resume service

say the normal operation may

From Page 1

and order, political stability.

deregulation, removing bu-

reaucracy and red tapeism,

The mix between revenue

and development expenditure

is justified. Revenue expendi-

ture may be curtailed to a great

extent by reducing unneces-

sary bureaucratic network and

subsidy to government-owned

loss making businesses. These

are not only unproductive ex-

penditures, but also hinder

private sector business activity

through too much regulations.

reduce its burden of develop-

ment expenditure by giving

some of those to the private

DS: What should be the pri-

sector on a commercial basis.

orities in the next budget?

What type of intervention steps

should be initiated to tackle

priority to primary education.

primary health care and family

planning, law and order, judi-

ciary, and infrastructure devel-

opment. In this respect educa-

tion is most important in

which we are far too behind

compared to rest of the world.

ties is the prime requisite for

tackling problems of poverty.

NGOs are doing an excellent

job in this regard and even

World Bank has recognised

their increased role. Our gov-

ernment should follow the

pattern of the NGOs for creat-

ing rural-based job opportuni-

ties, making available small

credit for productive activities.

Projects under 'food for work'

should be promoted. We have

achieved good employment

opportunities in the govern-

ment sector and overseas

manpower employment. Such

Creation of job opportuni-

BA: Next budget should give

poverty?

Similarly, government may

resume today.

2 bank officials By Staff Correspondent

The luxury coaches on the From Staff Correspondent Dhaka-Chittagong route did CHITTAGONG, June 14: not ply for the fourth day yes-Shantibahini shot dead a nonterday as a suitable place for a tribal carpenter and kidnew terminal was yet to be napped two bank officials at gunpoint after looting Taka Despite that, the transport

agencies at Fakirerpool sold 1.05.589 from Rajastoli bazar tickets to resume operation Krishi Bank at Kaptai under from last night. But due to Rangamati district today, posome problems they had to cancel trips to Chittagong late The Shantibahinimen shot last night and the tickets were dead carpenter Shukkur Ali refunded, according to while fleeing. The kidnapped persons were Dibakar Roy sources.

Chowdhury, manager and Ma-The transport agencies. sud Aktar, accountant, of the mostly operating the luxury coach service on the Dhaka-The Shantibahinimen num-Chittagong route, stopped plying their vehicles following the bering 11, reached the bazar at removal of their 'unauthorised' around 11 am in plain cloth with firearms hidden in bags bus stand at Fakirerpool in the city Sunday morning.

and stormed into the bank firing shots. They created panic The owners of these transport agencies continued negoin the bazar and people ran to tiations with the authorities to salety. solve the problem. While fleeing to nearby jun-Transport agency sources

gles, they also attacked a police outpost and hurled two grenades when police attempted to challenge them. None was hurt.

Later. law enforcing agency personnel launched a search operation in the hilly forest

Ershad's directive From Page 1

and prime minister under Ershad, Moudud is likely to face serious charges for casting aspersions on the character of the party Chairman and is likely to be asked to explain his conduct. Moudud himself is a member of the presidium.

The observations in Moudud's controversial book about the deposed president have generated widespread resentment in the rank and file of the JP.

Demands for disciplinary action against Moudud have also been raised from different levels of the party. A number of leaders of the Dhaka city JP. at a meeting Monday, de-

manded expulsion of Moudud. Sources in the JP said that the party's central leadership has already been conveyed Ershad's own reactions about the

book. However, acting JP chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury is waiting for specific instructions from Ershad regarding any disciplinary action

against Moudud. The JP constitution empowers the chairman to take any measure against a partyman for violating organisational

discipline. Ershad is learnt to have been very annoyed by Moudud's uncharitable comments about him and his policies.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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The Paily Star

Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeque exchanging views with representatives of some political parties at his office yesterday. - Star photo

Zillur protests

From Page 1

not accepting the resignation of the MPs has acted not only against the constitution but also against the fundamental rights of the MPs. The Speaker's amazing and unilateral ruling has further deepened the present political crisis in the country. Ruling given by the Speaker is outside his jurisdiction and being unlawful has not only created political problems for the country but have also has led to many problems and complications for the resigning MPs.

"Since the Speaker has not accepted their resignations. the telephones, rooms and passports issued to them con tinue to remain officially in their names. For this situation are the resigning MPs responsible or is not the Speaker and his ruling? instead of blaming those responsible for this problem (the Speaker and the government) the victims of the situation are being blamed to divert the attention of the pub-

"He (Zillur Rahman) asked the people to remain alert against such diversionary tac-

"He also said that after the resignation of the MPs by keeping the ineffective parliament in existence crores of taka are being wasted. The Prime Minister is also spending crores of taka from public exchequer in making party propaganda and benefiting ruling party MPs by allocating crores of taka and sanctioning thousands of tons of wheat.

"For all this the ruling party will have to answer to the peo-

We note that AL Secretary General's protest statement does in no way question the authenticity and factual basis of our news report. The points he makes were not subject of our

However, we would like to add that this paper, through its reports and editorials has persistently protested, and will continue to do so, against the use of the official facilities by the Prime Minister and other BNP leaders for promoting party work, and using state-owned radio and TV for party propaganda.

sectors should be explored and

the ongoing economic reform

programmes? Do you think the

thrust of the reforms are in

the right direction? Is the

pace of the reforms appropri-

reforms are moving in the

right direction as is evident

from recent improvements

although not to our total satis-

faction. Deregulation in various

areas are successful, such as in

foreign exchange, import and

export, private sector bank

and insurance, interest rate

deregulation, abolition of sub-

sidies on food and others, re-

forms on import tariff, intro-

duction of VAT, abolition of

permission for setting up in-

dustries, privatisation of gov-

ernment-owned enterprises

on the right direction although

many of the programmes have

suffered a set-back due to po-

litical and trade union prob-

lems. Without stability we can

never achieve the desired

goals. Pace of reform, so far as

those already implemented are

concerned, gave us the results.

In some cases, like deregula-

hardship to our industries.

These cases should be

favourably considered. How-

ever, we should set-up those

industries that have compara-

tive advantage and can survive

forms have on the perfor-

mance of overall economy? Do

you have any alternative sug-

that took place should have

brought about a greater pace of

DS: What impact did the re-

BA: Although the reform

in competitions.

gestions?

tion of import, caused terrible

The thrust of reform is also

BA: The ongoing economic

DS: What are your views on

patronised.

-Editor

HC issues rule on Rouf

From Page 1

take cognizance of the matter because the Supreme Court interprets the constitutional disputes, he told the court.

Islam said that the office of judges is in the service of the Republic and a component of the State. If the service of a judge were not contemplated with the service of the Republic then the judge's office will be ousted from the State component

He said the constitutions of other democratic countries need to be consulted along with the Constitution of Bangladesh to resolve the dis-

Defining the meaning of government'. Barrister Islam cited six judgements of the US Supreme Court.

Quoting from a book "The American Constitution and the Judicial Process," written by Wallace Mendelson, Islam said government has three distinct functions. The legislative department has been commit ted to the duty of making laws and the judiciary has been en trusted with the duty of interpreting and applying them.

He said the role of the Supreme Court in an age of positive government must be an active participation in government, assisting in further ing the democratic idea

Legal notice on EC

Lawyer of a detained political leader yesterday served a notice upon the Election Commission demanding that he (leader) be enrolled as a voter, reports UNB.

Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan served the notice on behalf of Mostafa Farook, a central leader of the Smajtantrik Sramik Front and member of the Dhaka City Bangladesher Smajtantrik Dal (BSD).

BNP standing body meets

A meeting of the BNP Standing Committee was held last night with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed organisational matters including recent conflicts in the party's Narsingdi district committee.

Party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder was given the responsibility of resolving the problem there, the source

development at an accelerated

speed, it brought little results.

Economy failed to achieve the

expected level; macro eco-

nomic policies did not show

results it should have. We can

take the latest example of

Vietnam, a war ravaged and

destroyed socialistic economy,

which presently is attracting

more investment than a re-

sourceful country like India.

Disciplined workforce, politi-

cal stability, law and order,

adaptation to modern technol-

ogy and skill has to come

alongwith liberal macro eco-

nomic policies to play as a

catalyst to economic develop-

ment. Reform measures alone

cannot achieve everything. In

fact, it can do very little on its

opinion, are the specific prob-

lems in the agriculture, indus-

sector not affected by political

instability. In agriculture we

are already using modern

methods in fertiliser, irriga-

tion, seeds, etc. We have to put

more emphasis on preserva

tion techniques, transport and

marketing. For these we can

advantage of our cheap produc-

tion base. Both local and for-

eign investors need to be en-

couraged. This again depends

on investment environment

prevailing in the country. The

present unstable political envi-

ronment, lack of law and order

will deter even a local en-

has been a great deal of

In the finance sector, there

trepreneur

In industry, we should take

go for foreign investments.

trial and financial sectors?

DS: In brief, what, in your

BA: Agriculture is the only

Justice Rouf, which is now being questioned.

services of the Republic

dent should be removed.

The court also fixed the hearing of two other writ petitions against Justice Rouf of June 20.

Space confee

ICC and reconstitute itself into a new inter-governmental consultative mechanism on regional space applications programme for sustainable devel-

Begum Zia said Bangladesh is striving hard to devise national action plans and coordinated programmes in the light of the Beijing Declaration made in September last year.

The Beijing Ministerial Conference, attended by 31 member countries and 20 in ternational organisations. launched the regional space applications programme for sustainable development and adopted environmentally sound policies.

ted that Bangladesh would do everything possible to implement the recommendations adopted at the Beijing con-

The inaugural function was Technology Prof M A Mannan.

the conference.

tention. Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker said the Constitution of Bangladesh is good enough to interpret the appointment of

Differing with Islam's con-

He said the service of judges are not a service of the Republic. Judges' services are distinctly different from other

Khandaker yesterday submitted the appointment letter of Justice Rouf to the court and said now all doubts and misunderstanding regarding his appointment by the Presi

From Page 1

The Prime Minister asser

also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Science and Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP Seiko Takahashi, UNDP Resident Representative in Dhaka Eimi Watanabe and ICC Chairman Dr A A Z Ahmed who is also the Chairman of the Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO).

Some 80 representative from ESCAP member countries, Canada, the USA, Russia France, UN bodies and host Bangladesh are participating in

Social sectors should get priority in budget

public funds, their monitoring has to be very rigorous and must be strengthened further. Stock Exchange listed companies should be given concession in tax and other regulatory issues. In the developed countries, stock exchange works as provider of investment in manufacturing and service sectors.

DS: What is the short-term economic outlook?

BA: There is no likely short term change in our economic situation. Overall economy is likely to remain stable at its present position. Any drastic improvement or deterioration seems unlikely.

DS: What is your opinion about the current political scenario? What impact did it have on the economy? Any suggestions to improve the political climate?

BA: The current political scenario is the most damaging aspect of our economy. Unless the political parties agree upon the policies that are good for the economy, decide to bring political stability and free the university from student politics, no effort for economic development can work perfectly.

From pre-liberation period till date, political problems are having the most damaging impact on our economy. All the newly developed economies had political stability, law and order when they developed. African countries, in spite of huge natural resources, are languishing due to indiscipline and fighting among tribes. Our subcontinent's situation is similar to theirs.

progress in recent times. Our Nothing can improve the private sector banks and insurpolitical climate except the ance companies are doing regood sense of our leaders. ally well. Since they deal in

The Midnight File

Imran flays Benazir

NEW DELHI, June 14: Pakistan's Test cricket hero Imran Khan has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling party of orchestrating a campaign against his marriage to a British woman. 'The concerted attack... is to ensure that I am not a threat politically." Imran told The Telegraph newspaper of Calcutta, reports AP.

CEC on ID card issue

From Page 1

made to him by various political parties and organisations at different times for making the election procedures more smooth, the CEC said, "We are taking all possible steps from our side to accommodate maximum number of suggestions and demands raised by the political parties.

The power of the EC has already been enhanced to a great extent and now "we need the power to take action against any sort of contempt of the EC power to void polls, if necessary, within 30 days of election results and simplification of the time-consuming procedure in disposing the cases relating to elections," said Justice Sad-

If the independent position of the EC can be established. then a government of whatever party comes to power in future, things will move in a better way, he added.

About voters' ID card, the CEC said though 25 computer companies have expressed their confidence in completing, the task within six months. experts expressed the view that it would be quite difficult to complete the database and introduce ID cards for all voters before the next general elections.

He said different parties have suggested various measures for holding free and fair elections. These include hold-

HC orders govt to reinstate Huq as Babu's counse

The High Court vesterday directed the government to restore Advocate Sirajul Huq as the state defence of Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, an absconding accused in a murder case, reports UNB.

The rule was made absolute on a petition by Nurunnahar Zaman, the wife of Babu, challenging the legality of the withdrawal of her husband's state defence Sirajul Hug and the appointment of an Assistant Public Prosecutor in place of Advocate Huq.

Babu, an Awami League MP. is an accused in the Humayun Zahir murder case. Jumping bail, he fled the country two

A High Court Division bench comprising Justice M M Hug and Justice Nurul Islam had earlier issued rule upon the State and staved all further proceedings of the Humayun Zahir murder trial, fixing yesterday for hearing.

fluence of money, arms and muscle power, limiting the ceiling of a candidates' electioneering expenditure to Taka two lakh, more empowerment of the EC, barring defaulters and black-money holders from taking part in the race, allowing each candidates to compete from as many constituencies as one wishes, barring people, who retired from government service or were fired from jobs within five years. from taking part in elections providing equal publicity to all parties in the state-run electronic media and making it mandatory for all candidates to submit estimates of property he or she possessed before fil

In reply to a question, the CEC said. "I was expecting Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat in this meeting but, they did not come."

ing the nominations.

Baul festival From Page 1

of humanity, peace and wis-

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by joint convenor of the Baul Mela '95 Lt Col (retd) S I M Nurunnabi Khan Bir Bikram. He said that the bauls were above the earthly greed and they were "living wisdom" of hundreds of

The festival began with a seminar on "Traditional Bauls of Bengal and Modern Poetry' which was presided over by eminent poet and folk literature expert Dr Ashraf Siddiqui. Mohammad Abdul Hai, Mostafa Jaman Abbasi, Rafiq Azad, and Ali Ahmed participated in the

Presenting the key-note paper in the seminar Mohammad Abdul Hai said that baul song was first recognised in the later part of the middle age. Earlier literatures of the 15th and 16th centuries ridiculed bauls but writers and poets of the 19th century began respecting the lyrics and wisdom of bauls. Baul songs influenced Rabindra Nath Tagore, Nazrul Islam, D L Roy and other poets. Writings by Shamsur Rahman, Al Mahmud. Syed Shamsul Haq. Nirmalendu Gun and others are also influenced by baul philosophy.

he said. The festival will continue from 4pm to midnight till Friday. The programmes include discussions and performances by traditional singers. The music sessions begin at 7 pm.

From Page 1

with the above contention and said that only a political consensus among the different political parties could resolve the

They said, if all parties agreed, then the consensus decision would be ratified by the next Parliament. A referendum may also be needed for such an amendment.

Some of the legal experts, however, leared that any sort of extra-constitutional arrangement might be challenged in the highest court and no one could assure that the court would reject such a prayer from any aggrieved citi-

If the seats of the opposition MPs fall vacant due to 90 days of consecutive absence. two options would be left — to hold by-elections in the vacant seats or to announce dates for fresh polls by dissolving Par-

According to ruling party insiders. BNP is likely to opt for by-elections as per Article 123 (4) of the Constitution. The by elections must be held within 90 days of vacation of the seats.

BNP insiders hinted that announcement for a fresh election may come just before the holding of the by-elections. permitting the ruling party to get additional 90 days' time.

According to the present constitutional provisions, the Prime Minister will have to continue in office until his/her successor takes over following the general elections. But ruling party sources said that the Prime Minister was still ready to resign 30 days before the general elections.

Both the ruling party and the opposition leaders expressed their hope that they would be able to reach a consensus before the next general elections but none of them could specify what would be the solution and how they would work it out. The tenure of the Fifth Par-

liament will be completed on April 4, 1996, Its first session began on April 5, 1991

Article 72 (3) of the Consti-

tution says: "Unless sooner dissolved by the President, Parliament shall stand dissolved on the expiration of the period of five years from the date of its first meeting."

Before expiry of the term. the President can dissolve Parliament if the Prime Minister advises him to do so in writing.

Article 123 (3) (a) of the Constitution states that in the case of dissolution by reason of expiry, the general elections should be held within 90 days before the date of expiry. In such a case, there is no need to dissolve the existing Parliament. The Constitution does not necessitate dissolution of the present Parliament for holding the next general elections. Under this provision, the MPs would be able to contest the elections, retaining

When Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali's attention was drawn to this particular clause, he said: "The Constitution does not call for dissolution of Par-

their membership.

liament to hold the elections. "Polls could be held to elect the next Parliament and there is no constitutional necessity to dissolve this Parliament," he

The Speaker said there is a confusion among the leaders about this article. He said that some of the opposition leaders drew his attention to it for a clarification.

Legal experts and political leaders, however, failed to give any concrete answer to the question what would be the next constitutional steps if the political parties failed to reach an agreement before the next

style election. This will obviously generate political unrest in the country.

Ruling party sources said that so far they did not have any plan to hold an election which might be boycotted by

the major opposition parties

elections. Opposition sources said if the ruling party goes for a strict adherence to the constitutional provisions, then it would have to hold a 1988

ing elections free from the in-