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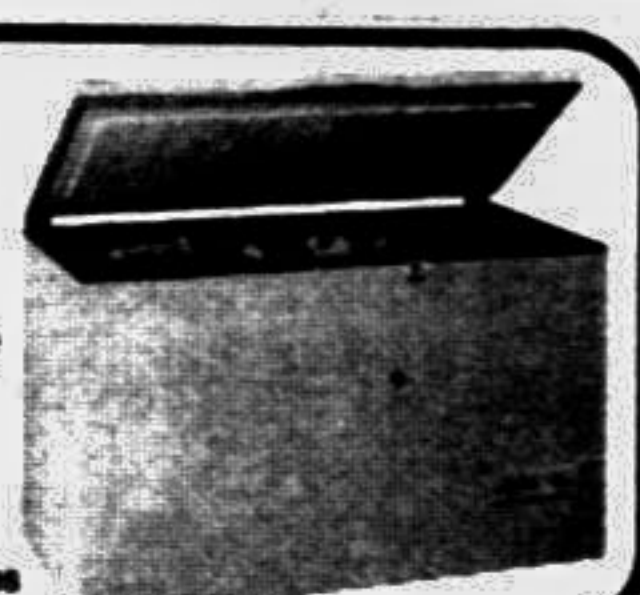
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## National Housing Authority soon New Dhaka city by 2020: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said National Housing Authority would be formed soon to expand residential facilities across the country, particularly for the underprivileged people, report agencies.

Besides, planned townships would be set up in all district headquarters to reduce the population pressure on the capital and big cities besides establishing a 'New Dhaka City' by 2020.

The Prime Minister said following excess population pressure and in the absence of any planned construction of township our cities have become almost unfit for human habitation which may cause national disaster at any moment.

She said, to improve civic amenities and healthy atmosphere her government has taken up a programme to establish 'Semi-urban Infrastructure Development Project' in 22 district headquarters. This would also reduce population pressure on big cities.

The cities of the country have already become inhabitable due to the population pressure, which can be disastrous for the nation," she said while inaugurating the World Habitat Day programmes in the morning.

To mark the World Habitat Day, Housing and Public Works Ministry organised the function at the Osmany Memorial Hall and also arranged a Habitat Fair at the Ramna Park.

This year's theme of the Day is: 'Cities for All'.

Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Housing Secretary Sohail Ahmed and UNDP representative Andre Klab also spoke at the function.

She said under the 'Asrayan' project, government is providing shelter to the homeless people. The government has already approved a proposal for building 3,000 barrack-type houses under the project with an estimated cost of Tk 164 crore.

The number of such houses will be increased in phases, the Prime Minister said adding that 5,000 barracks will be built to provide homes to 50,000 families. Already, she said, 8,130 families have been provided with shelter in 813 barrack-type houses.

Hasina said the government

is implementing the 'Adarsha Gram' (model village) Project to stop migration of people from the rural areas and already some 46,505 families have been rehabilitated in 109 model villages.

She said the government has taken another programme to provide low cost houses to rural peasants and decided to build 10,000 such houses. Under the rural infrastructure development project, these houses will be given to the farmers who will repay the price on easy terms.

The government has entrusted 29 NGOs with the responsibility to build low cost houses under another unique programme and provided Tk 50 crore as loan to these NGOs. These NGOs are constructing houses for the rural poor, she added.

About the city slum dwellers, the Prime Minister said many people are living subhuman life in the city slums and the government has taken a long term plan to rehabilitate them in a better environment providing homes, work and hygiene.

She said a project of constructing 16,000 units for slum dwellers is under implementation at Bhasantek in Mirpur. In Keraniganj, 50 acres of land have been earmarked for constructing 'Core House' and in Savar 100 acres of land has been selected for the rehabilitation of the slum people.

For meeting the rising demand of housing in the city, Sheikh Hasina said the government would build flats for the low-income group and distribute those on hire-purchase system.

She said already 4,360 low cost flats have been distributed in Dhaka and 4,282 flats in Chittagong city. Moreover, 500 flats are being constructed in the city's Lalmatia and another 600 flats in Mirpur. Work on constructing 10,000 flats in Dattapara of Tongi will be started soon, she said.

The Prime Minister said the preliminary work of developing a residential township named 'Purbachal' is going on in the northeastern part of the capital. Rajuk is also developing the Jhilmil housing project near Dhaka-Mawa highway.

"We are taking long-term plans to develop cities free from traffic jams and with all civic facilities,"

## Hartal observed 5-day protest programme in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Oct 4: The liaison committee of four-party alliance here today announced a five-day programme to protest the killing of BNP's front organisation leader Biddut Talukder, reports UNB.

The alliance will hold protest meetings tomorrow and on Saturday.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address the Saturday's meeting at New Market.

The alliance enforced a day-long hartal in the district today.

BNP claimed that Biddut, a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Shechchha Sebak Dal, was killed in police firing during a fierce clash between police and pro-hartal activists.

Meanwhile, Biddut was buried at Chapatoli graveyard in the town after namaj-e-janaza in front of BNP office in Raghunath area.

## UP chairman shot dead in Satkania

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: A union parishad chairman was gunned down by unidentified assailants at Satkania here at midnight last night, police said.

Amjad Hossain, 45, chairman of Sonakania union under Satkania, also a local Awami League leader, died on the spot when the gunmen sprayed bullet on him at around 1 am, police said.

Amjad was shot in front of a tea shop while attending an Urs at Sonakania, police informed. A villager sitting beside him was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Amjad was killed likely for helping police arrest the local terrorists. He was always vocal against terrorists, police said.

But other sources said Amjad was killed as a sequel to intra-party rivalry.

None was arrested in this regard till filing of this report tonight.

Serniabat murder:

Charges framed

against 16

By Court Correspondent

Charges were framed in the Abdur Rob Serniabat murder case against 16 accused at the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Judge Anwar Kumar Roy fixed October 19, 21, 24 and 26 for cross examination of the witnesses.

Some unruly army officers killed Abdur Rob Serniabat, along with seven members of his family, on August 15, 1975.

Six of the 16 charge-sheeted accused, including Taheruddin Thakur were produced before the court yesterday. The remaining 10, including Lt. Col. Shahabuddin Huq Dalim are absconding.

Special public prosecutor Serajul Huq and Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while T.M. Akbar, Sharafuddin Mukul and Mahbubur Rahman for the accused.

"This is my greatest achievement and I think it is time to say goodbye to international football," said the experienced campaigner after the 8th SAF Games football final.

"It was my last match," he added.

Reliable defender Rana said he earlier announced his retirement but when his services were needed in the national side, he changed his mind.

"I played in three SAF Games finals, but on all occasions we were disappointed. The win gave me immense pleasure," he said. "This happened because the players gave their hundred per cent."

Rana believed the victory would help Bangladesh regain its earlier glory. "I hope the organisers will take more care of the nation's football," he said.

The dead was identified as Laimuddin, 38.

Police and witnesses said Laimuddin was sitting in a shop when the armed gang numbering 12 on board two auto-rickshaws arrived there and fired at him indiscriminately.

Fatally injured Laimuddin was rushed to the Narayanganj Hospital where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Police said the victim was involved in dacoity and hijacking in the area. Several cases were lodged against the victim with Siddirganj Thana.

A case was lodged in connection with the murder. Police arrested five people — Raju, Rajib, Santa, Khokon and Shanzay — for their alleged involvement with the murder.

Pirates attack

Panamanian ship

at Ctg port

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: Armed pirates attacked a foreign ship at outer anchorage of Chittagong Port early today and took away some anchoring materials, reports UNB.

Police said pirates came in an engine boat and attacked the Panamanian flag-carrier, MB Ritze, and took away rope, hook and some other materials.

The ship arrived at Chittagong Port two months back, carrying rice for a private firm. It was sent to the outer anchorage after the importer refused to take the consignment saying the rice was substandard.

A case was filed with Bandar police in this connection.



A BNP procession in the city yesterday to mourn Biddut Talukdar, a Sherpur activist killed during Sunday's hartal. — Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

## Plan to build 10,000 low-cost houses at Duttapara

By Staff Correspondent

With urban housing shortage

currently running into five million, the government is planning to construct about 10,000 low cost houses at Duttapara on the outskirts of the city by 2005.

Public Works Department (PWD) engineers said apart from the planned 10,000 units, some other government projects are at 'conceptual stage'. These include proposed satellite towns at Keraniganj and Savar.

The Duttapara project on 70 acres of land on the northern side of the Open University campus has been approved by the ECNEC.

Plans for construction of six storied housing complexes with 400 and 600 square feet flats have been finalised with an Australian construction firm, Libra Properties Ltd. PWD engineers said.

Prices of the flats are now being finalised with the developer. The developer has offered the flats at 40 per cent discount if it is given tax rebate on import of construction materials, they said.

But the finance ministry brushed aside such a proposal fearing 'irregularities' in the process, sources said.

The housing ministry is now trying to find out ways to finalise a deal whereby the flats could be offered at 40 per cent discount to local buyers, PWD engineers said.

Price of a 400 square feet flat has been calculated at Tk 2,48,900 and that of a 600 square feet flat at Tk 3,68,900 with 40 per cent discount.

But if payment is made in ten years, the prices will be Tk 2,75,875 and Tk 4,600,177 respectively.

The PWD engineers said once the Duttapara project is completed, NGOs would have a role to play in rehabilitating the city's slum dwellers there.

"Most of the slum dwellers pay rent. They will be able to buy flats through payment on easy terms," said an official.

Jewel Rana

calls it quits

KATHMANDU, Oct 4: After etching the country's name in the history of South Asian football winning the first gold today, Bangladesh captain Jewel Rana formally announced his retirement from the international scene, reports UNB.

"This is my greatest achievement and I think it is time to say goodbye to international football," said the experienced campaigner after the 8th SAF Games football final.

"It was my last match," he added.

Reliable defender Rana said he earlier announced his retirement but when his services were needed in the national side, he changed his mind.

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## SAF Football

### Bronze goes to India

From Sports Reporter

KATHMANDU Oct 4: India got the bronze of the 8th SAF Games football when they came from behind to beat the Maldives 3-1 in the third place decider at the Dasharath Rangashala here this afternoon.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first half.

Maldives striker Mausom Abdul Ghafoor put his side ahead in the 9 minute while ace Indian forward IM Vijayan levelled the score after eight minutes.

After the drawn first half, India played all-out in the second session but never got the lead until substitute Sahr Pasha struck in the 86th minute. Another substitute Raman Vijayan put the match beyond doubt with India's third goal at the stroke of the final whistle.

In a letter to the business leaders recently, Minto said that the main objective of the move was to forge an understanding between the government and the opposition parties for removing the barriers to development.

The letter was sent in connection with the recent FBCCI move to form a nine-member action plan committee to help end the volatile political situation.

Minto said there is poverty, lack of education, healthcare and employment opportunities in the country. On the other hand, social disorder is on the rise and especially values are eroding alarmingly. If this situation continues, we shall be pushed into an anarchic situation, he added.

"The current political instability has complicated the situation. It is sad but true that the political parties could not sustain the good results achieved through movement. Some current political activities are having a far-reaching impact on the life of the people. This calls for a radical change in the outlook of the political parties," he said in the letter.

The BMA, in its press release, has blamed the KDA chairman for dealing a heavy to the prime minister's initiative to root out terrorism.

Meanwhile, Khulna Sarak Paribahan, Malik-Sramik Oikyo Parishad has placed a 10-point charter of demands to the government which includes immediate death penalty to Ershad Shikdar.

Leaders of the Oikyo Parishad have threatened transport strike on October 23 and a daylong hartal in the city on October 24 in case the government fails to fully comply to the demands.

Sherpur College

closed sine die

SHERPUR, Oct 4: Sherpur Government College was closed for an indefinite period following an arson attack on college student union office during Sunday's hartal, reports UNB.

The college authorities, at a meeting today, took the decision to avert further violence on the college campus.

Students of Jahangirnagar University submitted a memorandum to the Education Minister yesterday demanding, among other things, reopening of the university and withdrawal of the enhanced admission fees for first year honours classes.

JU students under the banner of Admission Fee Hike Resistance Committee (AFHRC) brought out a procession from Dhaka University campus yesterday morning and marched towards Shikha Bhawan to lay a siege to it.

Police intercepted the procession near the High Court intersection and allowed five representatives of the students to go to the Secretariat to submit memorandum to the Education Minister.

The memorandum contained a six-point demand. The demands include withdrawal of increased admission fees, reopening of the university, punishment of those involved in the recent 'police action' on students on JU campus, steps to end 'irregularities' of JU administration and resignation of the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Treasurer and Proctor.

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## JU students submit memo Open JU, withdraw enhanced fees

By JU Correspondent

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