

City planners must consider all sections of society

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Speakers at a seminar called for a planned city sustainable for all sections of society and also stressed the need for including their opinions in the proposed '2004 Dhaka Detail Area Plan'.

The Dhanmondi Paribesh Unnayan Jote (DPUJ) organised the seminar titled 'City Planning and Human Rights', which was held at the Jatiya Press Club on May 13.

The seminar observed that many residential areas of the capital had been radically transformed. Citing Dhanmondi, as an example, they said that the area had lost its appeal of being known as a friendly neighbourhood and

became instead a 'mixed use' zone in 1995. The definition of a mixed use zone is it provides some commercial usage of residential neighbourhoods.

The commercial users are intended to support daily and weekly commercial service needs of the neighbourhood, conserve energy by reducing automobile dependency and enable more diverse neighbourhoods that optimise the use of both land and available urban services and facilities.

Speakers also said that there were regulations, which protected citizens from arbitrary and top-down development. The 1953 Town Improvement Act requires that whenever any improvement scheme or re-housing scheme has been framed, Rajuk is obligated to

publish its details.

The boundaries of the area under such scheme should be published periodically for at least three weeks in the official gazette and in the local newspapers, with a statement of the period within which objections will be received.

Dr Nazrul Islam, chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies presided over the seminar which was addressed by architect Firozeuddin Ahmed of Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB), Hamida Hossain of Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK), Salma Shafi of Sheltech Consultants, Mobasshar Ali of IAB, Rajuk Town planner Zahurul Haq, Shawkat Ali Khan, the planner of Dhaka Master

Plan, Sultana Alam the convener of DPUJ, and Mihir Biswas of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA).

Firozeuddin said that community planning was essential if Dhaka was going to be properly developed into a modern metropolis.

Salma Shafi in her paper argued that Dhaka's detail plan ought to incorporate integrated planning for all classes of citizens.

Hamida Hossain believed that the government was evicting slum dwellers without rehabilitating them. "We need to depend on them for street cleaning, household chores," she said.



National Debate Festival opens tomorrow

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Debating Society is going to host the third National Debate Festival from May 20-22 at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC).

Organisers hope this year's debates demonstrate certain key elements in the course of the three-day festival.

"I hope that rationality, clear ideas and merit will be reflected in the debate festival," said DU pro vice chancellor professor AFM Yusuf Haider, who is also the event's chief adviser.

The theme of the debate festival is 'Muktir michhile juktir slogan, ghuche jaak manchitrer obhiman.' It

is expected to attract more than one thousand participants made up of different schools, colleges and universities in the country.

Eight model debates will be presented by renowned speakers who also will teach the art of debating. They include parliamentary, traditional, fun, United Nations, English and locality based ones.

Besides, there will be motivational speeches that focus on a whole of social issues like anti-drug awareness, role of family, education and the need to eliminate adoption of unfair means in exams for building a meritorious generation.

The programme kicks off with a mock rally demanding 'electoral debate before general elections'. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman is expected to

lead the procession. The following day Information Minister M Shamsul Islam formally declares the festival open. Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar will preside over the closing session.

The other highlights of the debate festival include 'meet the personalities', talk shows on the role of debates in parliamentary democracy, cultural programmes, film shows and a campfire.

Speaking to Star City Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of the festival, said: "We hope to set up a fund whereby we can promote such programmes at the Dhaka University in future."

This is the first time that a diverse range of debating styles and topics will be showcased under one roof.

Sex workers roam DU campus at night

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) and its adjacent areas have become a haven for floating sex workers like most other parts of the capital.

Rickshawpullers and sex workers gather in areas around the Suhrawardy Udyan, Mausoleum of Three National Leaders, Central Shaheed Minar, Shamsunnahar Hall and roads beside Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) and Fuller Road under the cover of dark.

With the closure of the two main brothels, Kandupatti and Tanbazar, in (when) sex workers were left with no choice but to find a way to continue their occupation and the big and widespread DU campus area seemed the safest place to work.

"I had no choice after the closure of Tanbazar brothel. I came here and went back to my old profession along with some of my friends," Najma said. "Police and local vagabonds loot the major portion of our income here," she added.

Mohammad Akter, owner of a makeshift teashop in the TSC area, said:

"Rickshawpullers are the main customers. Police take a fair amount as bribes. The patrol police usually overlook these incidents."

"I live in this city without my family, and this is the only way I can fulfill my desires," Jahangir Mia, a rickshawpuller, said rather shyly.

"We are doing our very best to protect the area. We have requested the police to clean the area from such activities, said Proctor of DU, Prof. AK Firoz.

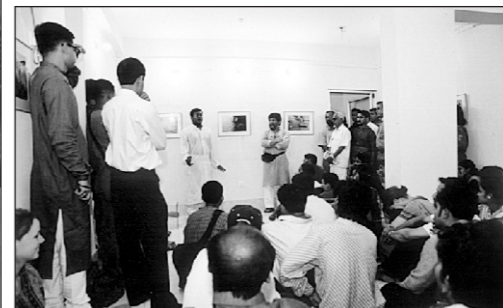
Students sometimes take the law unto their own hands and beat up the

people involved, trying to drive them away from the university area.

"We expect a solution to this problem quickly," said Devashish Saha, a student of Soil, Water and Environmental Science.

"These activities take place from one spot to another. We oust them from one place, they settle down in another," said Alam, a night guard of the DU Arts Building. "It is tough to ensure security of this vast area from such antisocial activities."

IKON PHOTO STARTS JOURNEY



Ikon Photo began its journey last week with a band of six young professional photographers. To mark the occasion they organised a photography exhibition at their Dhanmondi office which was opened by Dr Shahidul Alam and Shafiq Rehman, noted photographer and journalist. The week-long show ended Monday.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
Heart
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital
 Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

- Eye**
 Istamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
 Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, Shamaria Hospital- 9131901
 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

- 9122560-69
 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
 Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
 Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyuddha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
 Navana 9558065
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
 Cab One 7113282-3
 Nihon 9347277
 Orion 9347277
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
 Capital 9352847
- Union** 8130485
 Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
 Cab Ex 9358401
 Cabline 8321162
 JBS Cab 019364575
 Sajon 018126036
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
 Cab One 7113282-3
- Subarna Express**
 Mahanagar Prabhati
 Mahanagar Godhuli
 Turna
Parabat Express
 Joyantika Express
 Upabun Express
Tista Express
 Ekata Express
Upakul Express
 Padma Express
- Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Palki** 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011
- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

TRAIN TIMING

- Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55
 Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm
 Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm