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Hillary loves Bangladesh, waits to visit

BSS, New York

US foreign secretary nominee Hillary Clinton has said she loves Bangladesh and is looking forward to visit the country.

"The upcoming election in Bangladesh should be free and fair," she said while speaking at a function at Manhattan Centre Ballroom here on Monday.

Talking to America-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ABCCI) President Gias Ahmed and Secretary Hasanuzzaman Hasan at the function, Hillary said: "I love Bangladesh and will visit the country in near future."

Hillary hopes to recover the

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Flawed city area plan set to get govt nod

Serious impact likely on urban life, environment

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HELEMUL ALAM

The government is set to approve the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka metropolitan city soon despite strong objections by experts and environmentalists due to its serious flaws that are likely to have terrible impact on urban life and environment.

Sources in the Ministry of Housing and Public Works said the plan, which reclassified the city land use categories and designed Dhaka's flood flow areas as urban residential zones, might get approval on December 24.

Experts alleged that the ministry and

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) are in a hurry to approve the plan which would bring fortune to land grabbers and real estate developers at the expense of open space, wetland and food production.

"If the plan is approved without careful review and corrections, the environment and the environment for city dwellers will be jeopardised," fears Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon.

Director (programmes) of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) Syeda Rizwana Hasan said one of the four consultants of DAP is involved in real estate business and thus emphasised

land developers' interests, not city dwellers'.

She said DAP violates the letters and spirit of the Wet land and Open Space Protection Conservation Act, 2000, Bangladesh Environmental Protection Act, 1995, Building Construction Rules, 2007, and Private Housing Project Land Development Rules, 2004.

Denying all the allegations, Housing and Public Works Secretary ASM Rashedul Hai told The Daily Star that they had finalised the DAP considering all the aspects.

"Rajuk did its best to formulate DAP rightly. We also held public hearings on it

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Nizami sings old Jinnah song

Draws flak from historians, intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the country's Victory Day yesterday, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami repeatedly expressed his support for Pakistani leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah's two-nation theory based on which Pakistan was created in 1947.

Noted historians, educationists and intellectuals of the country termed Nizami's remark an "audacious" and "tendentiously wrong reading of history" because

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Serajul Islam Chy

Anwar Hossain

BK Jahangir

Imtiaz Ahmed

'Negligence' causes death of 65-yr-old at city hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 65-year old man died at the Holy Family Hospital in the city on Monday night due to negligence by doctors on duty, his family has alleged.

The relatives of the patient, Jalil Khan, 65, later assaulted a doctor at the hospital when he arrived in Jalil's cabin, almost 40 minutes after he passed away.

Dr Jubayer, 30, sustained injuries to his eye in the incident.

Jalil was a resident of Shwamibagh area in the city.

Sources said Jalil Khan was admitted to cabin SC-7 on the second floor on November 13 after he suffered a brain stroke. On Monday night, when his condition deteriorated, attending relatives could not find a specialist on the second floor of the hospital to attend to him.

On the advice of medicine specialist Dr Kudrat, who was on duty on the second floor at the time, Jalil's relatives went to the ICU unit of the hospital and requested neurology specialist Dr Jubayer on duty

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Heavy fighting kills 145 in Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

Intense fighting in northern Sri Lanka yesterday left at least 25 government troops and 120 Tamil Tigers dead in the ongoing battle for the rebels' political capital, a military spokesman said.

Security forces carried out simultaneous attacks against Tamil Tiger strong points near the town of Kilinochchi and also on the Jaffna peninsula, military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said.

In a rare statement announcing casualty

figures, he said that another 160 government soldiers and an estimated 250 rebels were wounded.

The defence ministry decided in October not to reveal daily casualty figures, saying they would affect military operations.

Nanayakkara said troops were consolidating positions they had captured from the Tigers, who have offered stiff resistance to government forces advancing on Kilinochchi, 330 kilometres (210 miles) north of Colombo.

There was no immediate comment from the

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Vehicles move slowly as visibility became very poor on Kushtia-Jessore highway due to dense fog disrupting communications in parts of the country during the last few days. Inset: Poor visibility halted ferry service between Daulatdia and Paturia early yesterday, resulting in a long queue of buses at Daulatdia.

Indo-Pak peace process on hold

Delhi says India not planning to attack Pakistan

AFP, AP, Srinagar/ New Delhi

India's foreign minister said yesterday the peace process with Pakistan had been put on hold in the wake of last month's Islamic militant attacks on Mumbai.

"I do admit there is a pause in the composite dialogue process because of the attacks on Mumbai," Pranab Mukherjee told reporters in Srinagar, the main city in Indian Kashmir.

"What we expect, and what we have pointed out to (Pakistani Foreign Minister) Shah Mahmood Qureshi, is that Pakistan should fulfil its commitment of not allowing its territory for terrorist attacks against India," he added.

"Words must be followed up with action," Mukherjee said, calling for militant "infrastructural facilities" in Pakistan to be dismantled.

"We expect that good sense will prevail and we expect that the assurances that are coming will translate into action," he said.

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, the official Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported that the Indian government was considering suspending the peace process.

The dialogue, which began in 2004, had already been under serious strain following the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul in July -- which New Delhi blamed on Islamabad.

Earlier India's defence minister said Tuesday that his country was not readying for military action against Pakistan in retaliation for last month's militant attacks in Mumbai.

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6 burnt alive in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire burnt alive six people including four children yesterday in the Roads and Highways Department's staff quarters of Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district.

Khagrachhari fire service and Dighinala police sources said the fire originated at about 1:00 am from an electric short-circuit in the colony and rapidly engulfed the houses of two night guards--Solaiman Alam and Joynal Abedin.

On information, a fire brigade team from Khagrachhari Headquarters, some 23 kilometres away from the spot, rushed to the scene at about 2:00 am and controlled the fire.

The deceased were identified as Solaiman's mother Harechha Begum, 102, his son Saidul Islam, 12, and daughter Salma Akter, 10 and Joynal's three daughters-- Sonia Akter, 15, Tania Akter, 13, Monira Akter, 4.

Deputy Commissioner A K M Khairul Alam, Police Superintendent Mohammad Qaimuzzaman Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Masud Ahmed, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Moniruzzaman Mia visited the spot.

The firefighters recovered the dead bodies, sources said.

Kuril flyover work to start in March '09

CA lays foundation stone today

HELEMUL ALAM

The capital is going to have its third flyover at Kuril intersection on Airport Road and Pragati Sarani to be built by Rajuk at a cost of Tk 303 crore.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will lay foundation stone of the 3.05 km long flyover today.

Construction of it is scheduled to start in March next year and end in December 2010.

Rajuk sources said the process of land acquisition for the flyover is going on. Of the 12.68 acres of land to be acquired, around 10 acres belong to Bangladesh Railway and about two acres are private land.

The flyover would reduce traffic congestion in part of the capital and provide easy link with Rajuk's proposed Purbachal

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