City govt needed for proper planning, development

Speakers say at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ensure better coordination Students' Association. among different organisations involved in city planning,

guardians, there is no coordination among the organisations working to develop and paper, Bangladesh Institute of Abdul Mannan Khan said management of the city, said Planners (BIP) President Prof previous governments devel-Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon Sarwar Jahan said, "As there is oped the city in unplanned (Bapa) President Prof a lack of coordination among way, although planning is very

this at the roundtable on management, we often see 'Dhaka mega city without overlapping and duplication ment of the city, we will Muhammad Jahangir moder-

move to bring amendments to the Hindu family law.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Monowara Rahman, a lan-

guage movement veteran and

wife of former Rajshahi dis-

trict governor Ataur Rahman,

passed away due to old-age

complications at her daugh

ter's residence at Bagha in

sons, one daughter and a host

of relatives and admirers to

Kha gravevard in the city after

namaz-e-janaza on Thursday.

Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman

Liton, Fazle Hossain Badsha

MP, Language Movement

veteran Abul Hossain, BNP

leader Azizur Rahman, among

others, attended her janaza.

Mokhlesur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comrade Mokhlesur Rahman,

a Language Movement vet-

eran and one of the organisers

of the Liberation War, passed

away at a city hospital vester-

day at the age of 92, says a

cal parties, organisations and

people paid tribute to

Comrade Mokhlesur before

Siddiqur Rahman Miaji

Siddiqur Rahman Miaji, father

of Jatiya Sramik League Office

Secretary Humayun Kabir,

passed away due to old-age

complications at his residence

yesterday at the age of 76, says

taking his body to Bogra.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different politi-

press release.

Rajshahi City Corporation

She left behind her seven

She was buried at Hetem

Rajshahi on Thursday.

mourn her death.

auditorium on the concluding them. day of the three-day Planning Speakers at a roundtable Week-2009 organised by to bring coordination among yesterday stressed the need for Urban and Regional Planning the organisations, he said, a city government in order to (URP) department and URP

under better coordination, management is very poor. development and its manage- city governance is necessary tion, he added.

The Bapa president said planning, development and ment of a city.

गण्टल काय कद्य श्राज्याम् व

4.2m euro EC grant

To help ensure food and the training and life skill devel-

ries -- destitute women and

their dependants -- through

opment which is a central part

November 2008 provided 3.3

million euro (about Tk 30

crore) that increased the wage

rate of women road crews

EC's contribution to this

project to approximately 27.29

million euro (Tk 242 crore), of

which 19.4 million euro (Tk

agreement for the REOPA

project was signed between

the European Community

(represented by the EC) and

the Bangladesh government

REOPA is to contribute to the

long-term sustainable socio-

economic development of

rural Bangladesh, contribut-

ing to poverty alleviation in

rural areas and to the

mainstreaming of women into

mitment to the government's

Poverty Reduction Strategy

These goals reflect com-

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

34

65

45

58

45

74

Morning

47

74

55

61

75

72

73

development programmes.

"These funds reinforce the Paper (PRSP) and to the

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm toady and rises at

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.5 degree Celsius

was recorded at Khepupara, Patuakhali and Chuadanga and

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity

Min

21.5

24.2

18.8

20.4

21.0

22.0

25.6

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperaturein

Celsius

the lowest of 18.2 degrees at Srimangol.

Max

35.0

33.5

36.4

36.2

35.6

34.0

34.8

gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places

over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of

Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali and Comilla, Met Office said.

long-term food security of Millennium Development

REOPA's primary beneficia- Goals (MDGs).

The overall objective of

in December 2005.

The original financing

172 crore) is for crew wages.

The new funds bring the

The original agreement of

of the project," he added.

from Tk 70 to Tk 100.

for ultra-poor

Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad takes out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the

women

employment security for

ultra-poor women, European

cated an additional 4.2 million

euro (about Tk 38 crore) to a

project that was signed in

taking part in an EC, UNDP

and government-supported

local poverty reduction pro-

ject, will receive an increased

tees this wage for the full 24-

month period of the project

and helps ensure food security

for the women and their

UNDP signed an addendum

to their contribution agree-

ment (CA) on Tuesday for crew

wages for Rural Employment

Opportunities for Public

this further contribution from

the EC which strengthens

their already considerable

commitment to poverty allevi-

ation efforts across the coun-

try," said UNDP Country

Director Stefan Priesner.

country.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

5:40am tomorrow.

"We are very grateful for

Assets (REOPA) project.

To this end, the EC and the

The extra funding guaran-

These women, who are

2008, says a press release.

wage of Tk 100 per day.

dependants.

Commission (EC) has allo-

METRO DESK

adding that although there is a mayor in Dhaka, but his power

and the government has to guest at the concluding cere-As there are multiple take steps for its implementa- mony of the week held after the roundtable, State Minister Presenting a keynote for Housing and Public Works the organisations involved in important for the develop-

"For the better developcustodian' at Buet central of responsibilities among exchange our views with ated the roundtable.

experts and take necessary A single authority is needed steps following their recommendations," he said.

Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda at the roundtable said a long-term planning is needed To bring all organisations to develop the city and its for the development of the city, adding: "The planning Addressing as the chief should not be changed with the change of a government."

Joint Secretary of Bapa Iqbal Habib said political planning is a must for any kind of development plan, adding that it is necessary to ensure participation of both government and opposition parties for a sustainable develop-

CDC Executive Director

14 'Rajakars' sued for killing three freedom fighters

UNB, Natore

Fourteen suspected 'Rajakars' in Gurudaspur have been sued for killing three freedom fighters and looting houses during the War of Liberation in 1971.

MS Rahman Biplab, younger brother of martyred freedom fighter Mujibur Rahman, filed the case with Gurudaspur police station on Thursday night against Abul Qashem, Bajlar Rahman, Sonaullah, Ahsan Master, Nazrul, Mofizuddin and eight others.

According to the complainant, the accused, led by rajakar commander Abul Kashem, attacked the house of one Mansur at Shikarpur village in the upazila, where a group of freedom fighters were staying, on September 1, 1971.

The collaborators of the Pakistani occupation force took freedom fighters Mujibun Rahman Reza, Golam Rabbani Ranju and Shyampada Mani to Chanchkoir rajakar camp. Later, the three freedom

fighters were tortured and killed.

The rajakars also looted other houses in the area and set fire to them.



Premiere

Ekmattra organises the premiere of 'Je Shohor Chorabali'. Venue Shishu Academy. Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

Save the Environment Movement organises a roundtable on 'sever dust pollution' in the city. Venue: National Press Club. Time

11:00am.

Discussion Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association organises a discussion on 'Contemporary Bangladesh and role of teachers community'. Venue: Tejgaor

College auditorium. Time: 3:00pm

Seminar Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies in Homeopathy and WHAO Bangladesh country office jointly organise a seminar on Homeopathy

in the treatment of allergy. Venue

National Press Club. Time: 2:00pm Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an ar exhibition will be held. Venue: Saju Art Gallery. Time: 5:30pm. The exhibition will remain open till May 12 from 10:00am to 8:00pm everyday.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a talk on 'Bangladesh's foreign policy and foreign relations: Priorities, challenges, and opportunities Venue: BEI. Time: 11:00am.

Education fair

The inaugural ceremony of a two day international education fair wi be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable of fire safety

Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) organises a roundtable on 'Fire safety in high rise buildings and provisions of BNBC'. Venue: IEB seminar room. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

The monthly Education Watch organises a seminar on education policy marking its first founding anniversary. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Time: 11:00am.



(Tribunal) Act, 1973 at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Justice Gholam Rabbani and Justice Gour Gopal Saha and on his left are Ambassador Waliur Rahman and Barrister Tania Amir.

War criminals can be tried under Int'l Crimes Act

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes everything required to try the war criminals and they should be tried under this law, speakers at a discussion said yester-

They said those who talk about trying war criminals under other laws are either saying this without knowing anything or they are actually trying to protect the criminals.

They said this at a discussion on "Trial of the War Criminals of 1971 and International Crimes (Tribu-

the 38th Independence Day. The speakers also said

can only assist in the trial into the trial process. said the International Crimes

(Tribunals) Act, 1973 is a selfsufficient law for trying war criminals.

Presiding over the meeting

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul international help. We have to Committee at the Bilia be aware that international (Tribunals) Act, 1973 has Auditorium in the city to mark laws do not conflict with our

nals) Act, 1973" organised by for seeking UN and other

international organisations liberation war forces can get

Justice Gholam Rabbani Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir said the government should now form tribunals without hesitation to try the war criminals.

Former ambassador Waliur National Professor Kabir Rahman, barrister Tania Amir Chowdhury said, "The trial and Justice Badrul Haque also

He urged the government United Nations and other to be cautious so that no anti-

Acting President of

process should not be delayed spoke at the discussion.

Debate over feasibility report

FROM PAGE 1

If one break-water can serve the purpose, the cost can be slashed by around Tk 1,000 crore. And there is scope for avoiding acquisition of 300 acres of land if rail tracks can be laid along the road to be constructed they said

There are also scopes to revise the estimated cost of dredging the channel, and consider construction of RCC pile-supported jetties instead of the proposed Caission Type Quaywall for those. And this might bring down the cost of the project work significantly (even below Tk 10,000 crore).

said the sources. According to the study report, a harbour with nine 300-metre jetties would be constructed to allow berthing of nine mother vessels, four containers and five general cargo vessels, in the first phase.

first phase would include development of required waterways and pontoons for cent, the sources said.

infrastructure and back-up inland water transport, water

with the same number and completed by 2035. When the third phase is

same number and length of authorities concerned.

shaped harbour would mea-

The proposed infrastruc- ity (DSPA). tures and back-up facilities Harbang of Chakoria upazila fund for setting up the port. Construction work in the in Cox's Bazar, roads of the

treatment plant and thermal Two more harbours each powerplant. The draft report would be

length of berths would be reviewed in the light of suggesconstructed in the second tions at tomorrow's open phase of the project to be discussion, and then finalised, sources said.

Later, an executing agency completed with construction would be formed with repreof three more harbours by sentatives from the ministries 2055, the deep sea port would of shipping, finance, planning have six harbours each with and establishment, and other

Based on the recommen-The channel inside each U- dations and guidelines given by the executing agency, an sure 1.5 km by 0.5 km. The interim port authority (IPA) draft of the channel would be would be formed to formulate raised to 16 metres from 10 a PPP model prior to formation of a deep sea port author-

The IPA would also be include a 40 km rail track from responsible for choosing Dohazari of Chandanaish financiers from private sector upazila in Chittagong to to provide 70 per cent of the

The government would same length, development of provide the remaining 30 per

DU senate polls from May 23

DU CORRESPONDENT

Initiatives have been taken to hold elections to Dhaka University (DU) senate.

The body, which elects a three-member panel for a fulltime vice-chancellor, is currently running without 25-member registered graduate representatives, 35-member teacher representatives and some other representatives who are selected by the government and parliament.

The body also elects provice-chancellor and treasurer while the annual budget of the university is placed before the senate for its approval.

The university authorities have decided to hold elections to 35-member teacher representatives and 25-member registered graduate representatives by June

The schedule for elections to 25-member registered graduate representatives has already been announced.

According to the schedule, elections to registered graduate representatives will be held in 39 centres on May 23 and 30 outside Dhaka and in two centres in the city on June

A total of 26,077 registered graduates of the university would vote to elect their 25 representatives.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star that the schedule for elections to teacher representatives will also be held within June. Besides, the process of

giving selections to other posts is also going on, he added. The tenure of registered

graduate representatives was over in 2006 while the tenure of teacher representatives ended last year.

Namaz-e-janaza METRO DESK



e-janaza of Dr Md Mozharul Islam will be held at Khulna Alia Madrasha

The namaz-

Mosque after Zohr prayers today, says a press release. Dr Mozharul passed away

due to heart attack on the Cambridge University campus in London on April 3.

He will be buried at Totpara graveyard today.

His qulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at House-53, Road-5, Nirala Residential Area, Khulna.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

HR activist terms it human trafficking

The Daily Star: What is the

FROM PAGE 16

overall scenario of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia? Irene: Since lifting of the

ban on hiring Bangladeshis in 2006 after ten years, Malaysia allowed 3 lakh Bangladeshis to come to this country. That is a massive recruitment. Being massive, it comes with a lot of problems. The Malaysian government

also changed the recruitment process. We saw the emergence of outsourcing companies that did not exist before. Before, it was the recruiting agencies in Bangladesh that arranged recruitment of workers with employers in Malaysia. With that, there were fewer problems. With outsourcing, it created another level for the migrant workers to go through. The outsourcing companies have contracts that each worker will get paid a minimum of 400 Malaysian ringgit (RM), no matter whether he has a job or not. And then when he gets a job, he must get overtime. In total, he is supposed to get 700 ringgit or more a month. The migrant workers come to Malaysia with that

conception in mind. But, shockingly many workers did not find jobs, as a surplus number of workers were brought in. The outsourcing companies were not committed to ensure employment, rather they were interested only in collecting as much money as possible from the migrant workers through Bangladeshi job brokers in Malaysia, who ransom for their return. sold and re-sold workers.

When they brought workers being blackmailed in any form in surplus numbers to Malaysia, they were only interested in making fast cash. The Malaysian government is not outsourcing companies told doing anything against the

Bangladeshi job brokers 'you outsourcing companies. We thing is wrong in the deal, pay me 500 ringgit per worker have a special passport act that otherwise things would not be and find jobs for them and do stipulates that no person is as aggravated as they are now. whatever'. So, Bangladeshi job allowed to hold any other brokers then bought the work- person's passport. ers from the outsourcing companies, and literally made role of the Bangladesh High them slaves. The brokers then Commission in addressing the told the workers 'you go and problems? work, I will give you food and lodging'. And the workers were ernment-to-government cated upon how much money put to work for two, three, or recruitment. There is no neces- we can make. And persons four months. So, the contract sity for arrangements where with political clout are being that had been signed between brokers exist. The Bangladesh able to exploit the system. the workers and recruiting government has to be more agencies in Bangladesh, which proactive through its mission tered employer companies

the Malaysian outsourcing department here to look for How do they work? accountable, and Bangladesh allowed Bangladeshis, they nies in Malaysia that have only agencies accountable. Because selves in danger. All the middle 2,000 workers, and making the passports of the workers layers of labour recruitment money by selling them to other are being held and the workers must be abolished because companies or job brokers. who don't have any job are they are eating up the money being locked up by the job of the poor people. brokers or the outsourcing companies, it constitutes Philippines. They have many nothing but human trafficking. And, with the global economic recession, the situation is going to worsen, because many of the companies, particularly in the

alleged that employers held their passports and demanded

Irene: Yes, the workers are Bangladeshi government. possible. And the most ridiculous situation for me is that the

was attested by the Bangladesh in Malaysia, and ensure that who are supposed to have jobs government, had no meaning once the workers are for workers but don't, are The question is now, why no of. The high commission outsourcing companies for action is being taken against needs to have its own research other companies illegally. companies for the fact that opportunities, and see how they violated the contracts. those could benefit the work- outsourcing agencies can Again, the governments of both ers best. Now, the government make money by bringing in countries have not been able to has no clue of what the labour workers, they also started enforce the rules. Malaysia has market is all about here. Once acting like the outsourcing to make its companies the Malaysian government companies. There are compahas to make its recruiting flooded here putting them- desks, but are bringing say

Look into the case of the technicians working here with perfect, but they have a frame- to offer? work and monitoring system. They know how to exercise their rights if they are deprived. manufacturing sector, are The Daily Star: Workers seem to be exploiting and to offer. Verifications have because they have a certain only. So, anybody can have a

politics and recruitment if any company looking for

business? Irene: Of course, some- jobs to offer.

We experienced similar serious problems regarding The Daily Star: What is the migrant workers in 2007 and 2008, which continue till now. The objective of the whole process of labour recruitment Irene: There must be gov- through outsourcing is predi-

The Daily Star: The regisrecruited, they are taken care allegedly acting like Irene: As they see that

The Daily Star: The Malaysian home ministry gives approvals for bringing in workers. Doesn't the ministry have responsibility to verify if good salaries. The system is not the companies really have jobs

Irene: The ministry has been completely avoiding the issue of verifying whether a Bangladeshi recruiting agents company genuinely has jobs cheating the workers more been largely on documents level of support from the company with a letterhead and can get approvals for brining in The Daily Star: Do you Bangladeshi workers. Now think there is any link between there is no system of verifying migrant workers really have

attend the milad.

for late Martuza Majumder, a freedom fighter and

the press club, passed away on March 28. Relatives, friends and well-

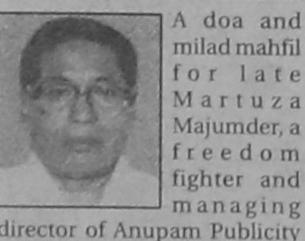
Martuza, also a member of



family members. Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

a press release.



managing director of Anupam Publicity Agency, will be held at the Jatiya Press Club after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

wishers are requested to