

City govt needed for proper planning, development

Speakers say at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for a city government in order to ensure better coordination among different organisations involved in city planning, development and its management.

As there are multiple guardians, there is no coordination among the organisations working to develop and management of the city, said Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad.

The Bapa president said this at the roundtable on 'Dhaka mega city without custodian' at Buet central

auditorium on the concluding day of the three-day Planning Week-2009 organised by Urban and Regional Planning (URP) department and URP Students' Association.

To bring all organisations under better coordination, city governance is necessary and the government has to take steps for its implementation, he added.

Presenting a keynote paper, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) President Prof Sarwar Jahan said, "As there is a lack of coordination among the organisations involved in planning, development and management, we often see overlapping and duplication of responsibilities among

them."

A single authority is needed to bring coordination among the organisations, he said, adding that although there is a mayor in Dhaka, but his power to develop the city and its management is very poor.

Addressing as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the week held after the roundtable, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said previous governments developed the city in unplanned way, although planning is very important for the development of the city.

"For the better development of the city, we will exchange our views with

experts and take necessary steps following their recommendations," he said.

Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda at the roundtable said a long-term planning is needed for the development of the city, adding: "The planning 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 development.

CDC Executive Director Muhammad Jahangir moderated the roundtable.



Prof Kabir Chowdhury speaks at a discussion on trial of the war criminals and International Crimes (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 (Tribunals) Act, 1973 has everything required to try the war criminals and they should be tried under this law, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

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 (Tribunals) Act, 1973" organised by Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at the Bilia Auditorium in the city to mark the 38th Independence Day.

The speakers also said United Nations and other international organisations can only assist in the trial process.

Justice Gholam Rabbani said the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 is a self-sufficient law for trying war criminals.

Presiding over the meeting National Professor Kabir Chowdhury said, "The trial process should not be delayed

for seeking UN and other international help. We have to be aware that international laws do not conflict with our laws."

He urged the government to be cautious so that no anti-liberation war forces can get into the trial process.

Acting President of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir said the government should now form tribunals without hesitation to try the war criminals.

Former ambassador Waliur Rahman, barrister Tania Amir and Justice Badrul Haque also spoke at the discussion.

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

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 7.

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.

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 province-chancellor and treasurer while the annual budget of the university is placed before the senate for its approval.



Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad takes out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the move to bring amendments to the Hindu family law.

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 Qasem, Bajlar Rahman, Sonallah, Ahsan Master, Nazrul, Moftuddin 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 Mujibur 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.

Debate over feasibility report

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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.

Construction work in the first phase would include development of required

infrastructure and back-up facilities.

Two more harbours each with the same number and length of berths would be constructed in the second phase of the project to be completed by 2035.

When the third phase is completed with construction of three more harbours by 2055, the deep sea port would have six harbours each with same number and length of berths.

The channel inside each U-shaped harbour would measure 1.5 km by 0.5 km. The draft of the channel would be raised to 16 metres from 10 metres now.

The proposed infrastructures and back-up facilities include a 40 km rail track from Dohazari of Chandanaish upazila in Chittagong to Harbang of Chakoria upazila in Cox's Bazar, roads of the same length, development of waterways and pontoons for

inland water transport, water treatment plant and thermal power plant.

The draft report would be reviewed in the light of suggestions at tomorrow's open discussion, and then finalised, sources said.

Later, an executing agency would be formed with representatives from the ministries of shipping, finance, planning and establishment, and other authorities concerned.

Based on the recommendations and guidelines given by the executing agency, an interim port authority (IPA) would be formed to formulate a PPP model prior to formation of a deep sea port authority (DSPA).

The IPA would also be responsible for choosing financiers from private sector to provide 70 per cent of the fund for setting up the port.

The government would provide the remaining 30 per cent, the sources said.

Namaz-e-janaza

METRO DESK

The namaz-e-janaza of Dr Md Mozharul Islam will be held at Khulna Alia Madrasa 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 kulkhwani 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.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Monowara Rahman, a language movement veteran and wife of former Rajshahi district governor Aatur Rahman, passed away due to old-age complications at her daughter's residence at Bagha in Rajshahi on Thursday.

She left behind her seven sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at Herem Kha graveyard in the city after namaz-e-janaza on Thursday.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Fazle Hossain Badsha MP, Language Movement veteran Abul Hossain, BNP leader Azizur Rahman, among others, attended her janaza.

4.2m euro EC grant for ultra-poor women

METRO DESK

To help ensure food and employment security for ultra-poor women, European Commission (EC) has allocated an additional 4.2 million euro (about Tk 38 crore) to a project that was signed in 2008, says a press release.

These women, who are taking part in an EC, UNDP and government-supported local poverty reduction project, will receive an increased wage of Tk 100 per day.

The extra funding guarantees this wage for the full 24-month period of the project and helps ensure food security for the women and their dependants.

To this end, the EC and the UNDP signed an addendum to their contribution agreement (CA) on Tuesday for crew wages for Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets (REOPA) project.

"We are very grateful for this further contribution from the EC which strengthens their already considerable commitment to poverty alleviation efforts across the country," said UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner.

"These funds reinforce the long-term food security of REOPA's primary beneficia-

ries -- destitute women and their dependants -- through the training and life skill development which is a central part of the project," he added.

The original agreement of November 2008 provided 3.3 million euro (about Tk 30 crore) that increased the wage rate of women road crews from Tk 70 to Tk 100.

The new funds bring the EC's contribution to this project to approximately 27.29 million euro (Tk 242 crore), of which 19.4 million euro (Tk 172 crore) is for crew wages.

The original financing agreement for the REOPA project was signed between the European Community (represented by the EC) and the Bangladesh government in December 2005.

The overall objective of REOPA is to contribute to the long-term sustainable socio-economic development of rural Bangladesh, contributing to poverty alleviation in rural areas and to the mainstreaming of women into development programmes.

These goals reflect commitment to the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

DHAKA TODAY

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

Roundtable
Save the Environment Movement organises a roundtable on 'severe 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: Tejgaon College auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies in Homeopathy and WHO 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 art 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.

Talk
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 will 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.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary 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.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Khepupara, Patuakhali and Chuadanga and the lowest of 18.2 degrees at Srimangol.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	21.5	47	34
Chittagong	33.5	24.2	74	65
Rajshahi	36.4	18.8	55	45
Khulna	36.2	20.4	61	52
Barisal	35.6	21.0	75	58
Sylhet	34.0	22.0	72	45
Cox's Bazar	34.8	25.6	73	74

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

A doa and milad mahfil for late Martuza Majumder, a freedom fighter and managing director of Anupam Publicity Agency, will be held at the Jatiya Press Club after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Martuza, also a member of the press club, passed away on March 28.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad.