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Dhaka's detailed area plan grossly flawed

Review body says it would harm environment, encourage housing in restricted zones

TAWFIQUE ALI and HELEMUL ALAM

The draft Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka is full of anomalies and favours private housing businesses at the cost of flood flow zones vital for the sustenance of the capital city and its environment, DAP review committee members said in their report.

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, head of the 17-member committee formed to review the plan, said the draft DAP is not in 'good shape'.

The review committee submitted its report to Rajuk on March 31 with recommendations.

The committee, with a 13-member technical working group (TWG), was set

with the task of examining the plans drawn up in the draft and whether they were in keeping with the standards of the structural and urban area plans of Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP).

The report states, the draft is fundamentally inconsistent with the DMDP and other planning documents including the Strategic Transport Planning. It lacks basic planning standards.

The draft DAP has proposed housing in areas marked as flood flow zones, sub-flood flow zones and wetlands in the DMDP in Dhaka's eastern fringe of Bilbaunia and Savar areas, architect Iqbal Habib, who coordinated the TWG work, said.

Many real estate companies have already embarked on illegal housing projects in those areas without government approval under the private land development rules of 2004.

DAP is the third component of DMDP, popularly known as the master plan of the metropolis, and it must be consistent with the DMDP's two other plans. But experts point out that many proposals have been made in the DAP in blatant deviation from the city's other structural plans and urban area plans.

The TWG report has remarked that changes in the status of the main flood flow zones and high value agricultural land creates scope for private land

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Justice Rashid made Law Commission chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed former High Court judge Md Abdur Rashid as chairman of the Bangladesh Law Commission.

Sources said the prime minister has recently signed the file regarding his appointment as per the Law Commission Act 1996.

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Upazila chairmen demand end of MPs' control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association yesterday alleged that lawmakers have already started creating complexities in the functioning of upazila parishes across the country.

The association leaders at a press briefing demanded removal of the "controversial provisions" regarding lawmakers' authority over the parishes.

They said a "conspiracy" is being hatched to cancel the upazila system.

They also urged all chairmen and vice-chairmen to be alert and requested the government to bring necessary amendments to make the Upazila Parishad Act, 2009 more acceptable.

The government yesterday issued the gazette of the Upazila Parishad Act, 2009. Earlier on April 6, the Upazila Parishad Bill 2009 was passed in parliament keeping some provisions to ensure lawmakers' control over the activities of the parishes.

Referring to the recent threat of some chairmen to declare lawmakers unwanted at the parishion complexes and a comment of LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, the association leaders said such activities of a vested quarter and unexpected comment from a responsible minister made the people frustrated.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

UZ chairmen honoured in new law

Says speaker

A CORRESPONDENT,
Gopalganj

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad advocate Abdul Hamid yesterday said upazila chairmen have been honoured more by the Upazila Parishad Act passed in the current parliament than the earlier act.

He said if both the lawmaker and the upazila chairmen want development in their area there is no reason of conflict between them.

Threat to declare MPs' 'personal non grata' in their respective areas is a very bad culture, he said. "Both the MP and the upazila chairman should participate in local development process," he added.

The speaker said this while

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UP chairman declared winner 6 yrs after polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to declare Azizul Haque chairman of Damodar union parishad of Badarganj upazila in Rangpur to do 'justice' to him after over six years of his election.

As per the EC's decision taken on April 13, its secretariat will publish an official gazette in a couple of days declaring him chairman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Deccan win at a canter

STAR SPORT DESK

A fantastic four-wicket haul from left-arm RP Singh helped Deccan Chargers destroy Kolkata Knight Riders by eight wickets in the Indian Premier League at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.

After bowling out Kolkata for just 101 runs in the 20th over, the Hyderabad side sauntered to the victory in only 13.1 overs with Herschelle Gibbs smashing 43

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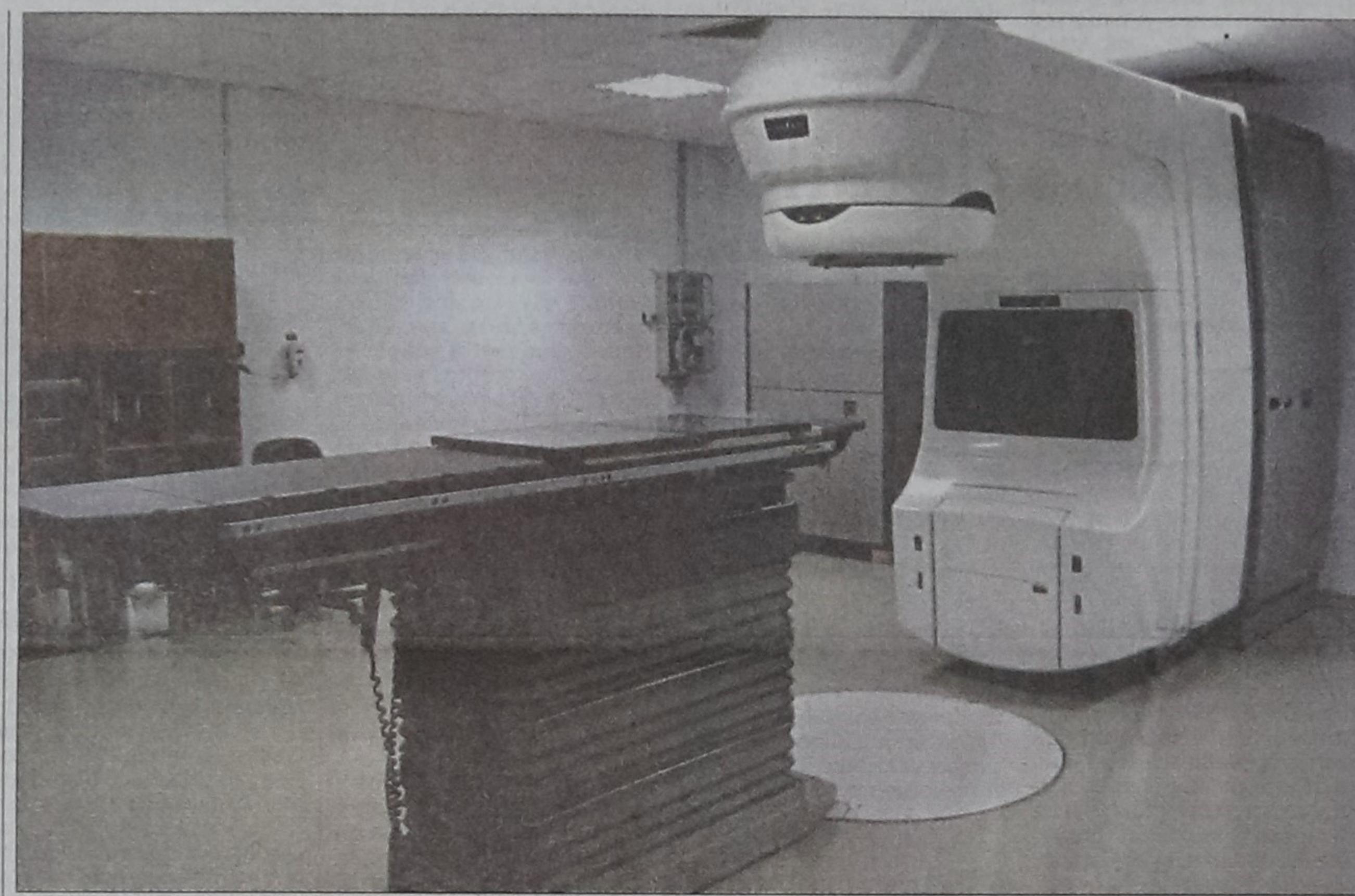
50 hurt, 10 shops looted in Cox's Bazar clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A group of armed miscreants yesterday looted and ransacked eight dwellings and 10 shops and injured 50 people including women and children at Konarpara in Khurshukul union in Cox's Bazar.

Police and witnesses said more than 200 criminals led by Altaf Hossain, younger brother of Khurshukul union parishad chairman and local

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



This linear accelerator (Linac), bought at a cost of Tk 19.68 crore, is maintained in an air-conditioned room round the clock at a huge expense at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra. It has been lying idle for two years now for lack of radiation-proof condition at the radiotherapy unit of the hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

ZIA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL Costly equipment lying idle for lack of radiation-proof condition

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Radiation-proofing work requiring less than Tk 36 lakh at the Radiotherapy Unit of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra has stood in the way of functioning of the unit's Tk 25 crore equipment for the last two years.

Brig Gen Md Shafiqul Islam, director of the hospital, said the Public Works Department (PWD) prepared a work proposal about six months ago to start the radiation-proofing work of the radiotherapy room.

The job is yet to get funding.

"Pieces of equipment have been lying on the hospital floor in packed condition for a long time," said Shafiqul. The hospital authorities sent several letters to the ministry concerned to complete the radiation-proofing work so that the unit becomes operational.

The unit has several costly equipment including a liner accelerator that alone costs Tk 19.68 crore.

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Experts for giving free textbooks up to secondary level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national textbook expert committee recommended giving free textbooks to secondary-level students and suggested that the curricula, texts and syllabuses be made available online so that anybody can collect or print them.

It also recommended strengthening National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) to get rid of the perennial textbook crisis in the country, sources say.

The expert body submitted its reports to the education minister yesterday.

On March 9, the government formed the 15-member national textbook expert committee, led by former general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

MUMBAI ATTACKS

FBI agents to testify at trial

AP, Mumbai

More than 100 witnesses, including US FBI agents, will testify at the trial of the man police say is the only surviving gunman in the bloody Mumbai siege, Indian prosecutors said Saturday.

Five foreign experts will present evidence against Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam told the court Saturday on the second day of the trial.

Kasab is accused of being one of 10 gunmen who killed 166 people, including several Americans, in a three-day rampage through the city that targeted a train station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre.

Nikam said the FBI had analysed four global positioning devices found on the dead gunmen after the attacks and these would be instrumental in proving the men had come from Pakistan.

Opening the trial Friday, Nikam said Kasab had a direct hand in the deaths of 72 people and was part of "a criminal conspiracy hatched in Pakistan" which could not have been undertaken without training from "intelligence professionals" in Pakistan.

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Prayer Timing		
April 20		
Azan	Jamaat	
4-25	5-00	
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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