

## 4 satellite towns to be set up to take pressure off capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to set up four satellite towns around the city to offload enormous pressure on it and address the ever-increasing housing demand, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said yesterday.

"I have already talked to the prime minister about the matter," he added.

Khan said this at a discus-

sion on "The situation of housing industry and ways out" organised by the daily Shamakal at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Each of the towns will have one lakh of residential flats with high-rise buildings, he said, adding that the government is thinking of a national housing policy and addressing the housing needs with private-public partnership.

The government intends to build up planned housing

facilities down to the union and upazila levels by 2015.

Khan said the premier has already agreed on the need for a proper zoning of the city for residential, industrial and other designated land uses instead of the mess of mixed uses.

He said private real estate and housing developers themselves have proved them as land grabbers time and again with their own activities.

Mentioning that there are innumerable victims of fraudulence and deception by real estate companies, the minister called on them to address the suffering of the common consumers.

Referring to two global economic recessions, he warned the real estate businessmen against reckless profiteering tendency and greed.

Chief architect of the Department of Architecture of the ministry ASM Ismail said private sector real estate developers serve less than five percent of the population and suggested mass-scale housing scheme, instead of individual land plots, to address the housing needs of general people.

Tanveerul Haq Probal, president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), and a

number of executives of real estate companies demanded that requirements for environmental clearance for a high-rise building be repealed.

Building Construction Rules and Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) are applied to govern building construction and housing, they said.

Kazi Golam Nasir, general secretary of Institute of Architects Bangladesh, said adequate manpower with proper training is needed at Rajuk's building construction committee to address procrastination in design approval process.

The country loses 235 hectares of arable land every day for various purposes, said former Rehab president engineer MA Awal.

"There would be a disaster in agriculture in near future if the loss of arable lands keeps going on in the current rate."

Md Bashir Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Steel Mills Owners Association, Sadat Selim, managing director of Rupayan Real Estate and Housing, Indrajit Lahiri, chief executive of Asian Paints, and Shamsul Alam, director of Confidence Cement Ltd, spoke at the discussion moderated by Golam Sarwar, editor of the Shamakal.



PHOTO: STAR

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, centre, and Managing Director and CEO of AKTEL Jafri Ahmad Tambi, 2nd from left, exchange documents after signing a three-year partnership agreement for their joint programme - English in Schools (EIS) - at a function in the city yesterday. EIS is a joint CSR initiative taken by The Daily Star and the mobile phone operator to make English learning more meaningful, enjoyable and accessible to all. AKTEL's incoming CEO and MD Michael Kuehner, 2nd from right, Chief Commercial Officer Bidyut Kumar Basu, extreme left, and Head of Corporate Affairs of AKTEL Shegufta Yesmin are also seen.

## Govt to form commission soon to probe 2001 post-poll violence

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government will constitute a commission within a very short time to investigate the incidents of violence that took place after the 2001 parliamentary elections, as the copy of a High Court (HC) verdict directing the government to do so has recently become available.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star on Wednesday that the government would take initiatives very soon to form the enquiry commission after receiving the copy of the verdict.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said that his office will receive the copy of the HC verdict soon, and will send it to the authorities concerned so that the government can take steps in this regard.

On May 6, the HC delivered the verdict directing the government to form a commission within two months after the receipt of the copy of the verdict to probe violence and criminal offences against the opposition parties and minority communities across the country in the wake of 2001 polls.

The court also said the enquiry com-

mission would submit the reports to the government within next six months.

The HC gave the directives following a writ petition filed as a public interest litigation by seven lawyers of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

In the petition, they stated that despite hundreds of criminal offences including killing, torture and looting against the opposition men across the country after the 2001 polls, the law enforcement agencies did not take any appropriate action to save lives and properties of the people.

## N'GANJ AL OFFICE BOMB ATTACK CASE Mufti Hannan placed on five-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Harkatul Jihad (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan was placed on a five-day remand for the second time yesterday in connection with the sensational Chasara Awami League (AL) office bomb attack case in Narayanganj.

Narayanganj Swachchhasebak Dal leader Shahadat Ullah Jewel arrested in the case has given his own handwritten confessional statement under section 164 of the criminal procedure code (CrPC).

In the statement, Jewel told the court that due to brain haemorrhage, he cannot speak since 2007. He can see and hear only and is able to write with his hand.

In the bomb attack on June 16, 2001, Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, militant brothers Morsalin and Muttakin, who were arrested by Delhi police, Huji military commander Ahsan Ullah Kajal and some militants and local BNP leaders and workers of Narayanganj were involved.

Jewel told the court that he knew about the bomb attack beforehand and he was directly involved in the incident.

Mufti Hannan and Jewel were produced before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Ashrafuzzaman Jilani's court.

Investigating Officer of the case CID Narayanganj camp office in-charge Assistant Police Super Yusuf Ali Mollah

appealed for a fresh seven-day remand for Hannan for further grilling, but the court granted five days' remand.

The court ordered to send Jewel to jail.

Court Sub-Inspector Abdus Salam, General Secretary of district bar association and AL leader Anisur Rahman Dipu, plaintiff of the case and town AL General Secretary advocate Khokan Saha also appealed for remand prayer for Hannan in the court.

## Worker dies in fall from building in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A construction worker died after falling from an under-construction building in the city's College Road area here yesterday.

The dead was identified as Asgar Ali, 26, son of one Amzad Ali of Rangpur district.

Asgar fell from the seventh floor of the under-construction building while working at around 10:00pm on Friday. He was immediately rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 3:00am yesterday, sources said.

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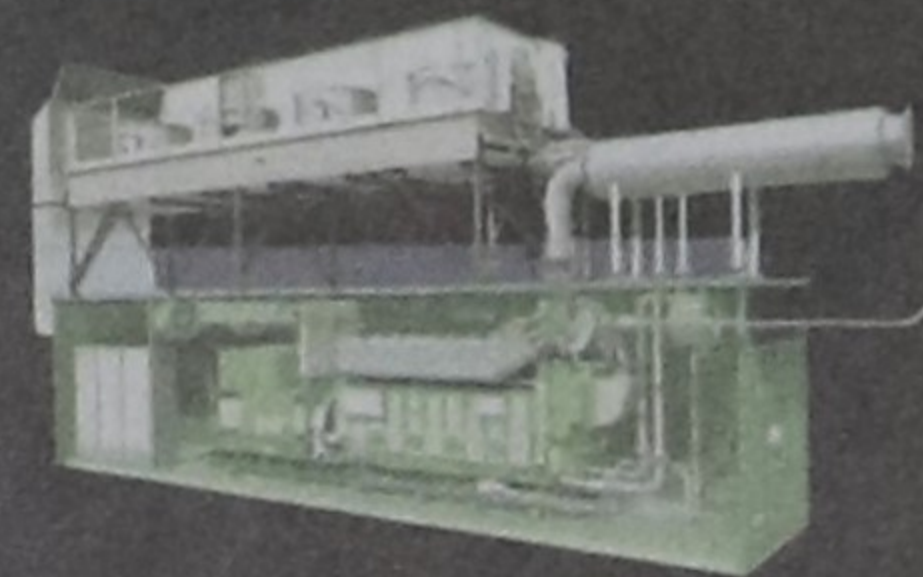
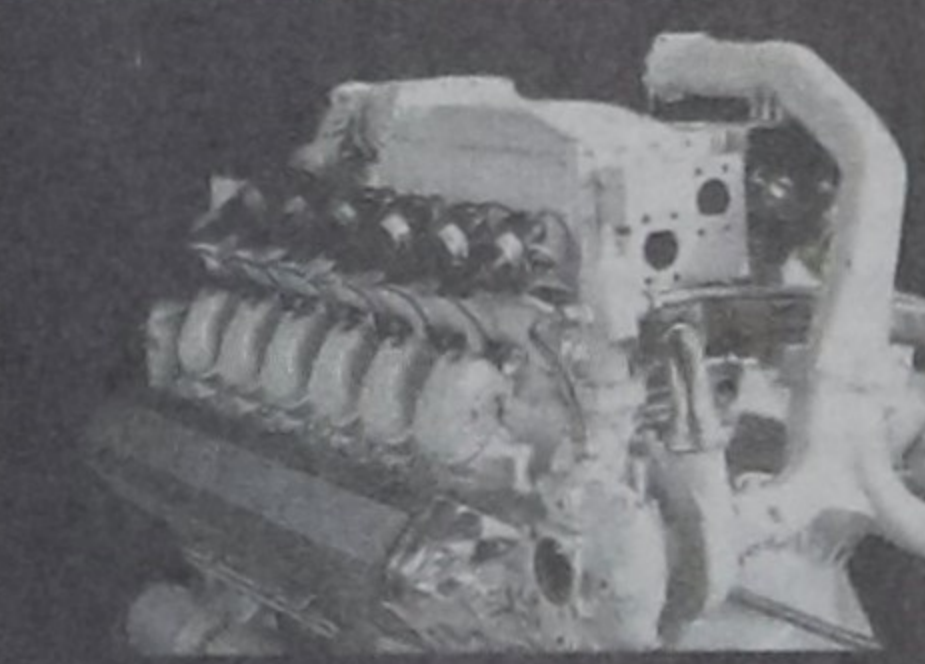
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