

## CDA drive soon against buildings deviating from plans

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Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) will soon launch a drive in the port city against the structures that were built deviating from the approved plans.

Sources said a recent survey prompted the CDA to take preparation for commencing a drive against such structures in the city. During the survey in February, the CDA found that over 600 buildings out of around 900 were constructed in deviation of the approved plan.

In most of the cases, the buildings that deviate approved plans were constructed without leaving required space around them or extended after the ground floor narrowing down the space between neighbouring buildings.

Of the buildings surveyed, 428 are under authorisation zone 1 while 550 are under authorisation zone 2. However, exact number of buildings that deviate plan could not be known as the scrutiny is still going on, said CDA authorisation officer 1 Manzur Hasan.

Around 20 percent of the survey of

buildings under the both authorisation zones is yet to be completed, according to CDA authorisation officer 2 AGM Selim.

Talking to The Daily Star, CDA Chairman Abdus Salam said they will start the drive soon against the buildings constructed in gross violation of the Building Construction (BC) rules, disturbing urban environment, neighbourhood alongside standing in the way of planned growth and beauty of the city.

"The survey is now postponed since the authorisation department also has to do many other work like inspection with a limited manpower of 14 inspectors under the two authorisation officers," said the CDA chairman.

"Survey or eviction that causes losses of national properties can do little unless each and every intended building owner is conscious enough of following the BC rules," said Salam, urging all to come forward to help planned development of the city.

Sources in the CDA hoped that the new BC rules which came into affect in the port city on April 1, 2009 would help check

deviation of plan to a great extent. The new BC rules incorporate the provision of 'floor area ratio' (FAR) to determine the ratio between open space and building space to protect the physical environment of the city.

To provide land use and building construction permits following the new rules, CDA has made functional two authorisation committees--Emarat Nirman Committee (Enik) 1 and 2 for two separate zones. The CDA has another committee--Brihadotaan Project (Bipro)--to provide permits for alternate projects like residential apartments with 7,000 square metres or over 40 units, market buildings with 5,000 square metres or structures beside highways, hills or water-bodies.

CDA has issued some 1,000 plans through Enik 1 & 2 and issued plans for 17 large projects through Bipro under the new BC rules. However, none of these buildings being constructed under the new BC rules is yet to rise up to two floors and apply for occupancy certificate, sources said.



Spanish Ambassador Arturo Perez Martinez confers 'The Cross of Officer of the Order of Queen Isabella' on internationally renowned artist Monirul Islam at the envoy's residence in the city yesterday. Monirul has won the accolade in recognition of his outstanding contribution to promoting cultural ties between Spain and Bangladesh. On their right is Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Jatiya Nadi Rakkha Andolon form a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday to mark International Day of Action for Rivers.

## PM urges int'l community to help fight climate change

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday renewed her call for international community to give priority to catering to the needs of Bangladesh and other most vulnerable countries in adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building to tackle global climate change.

She made the call when British Minister in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Areas Jim Fitzpatrick, accompanied by his wife, paid a courtesy call on the prime minister at her office in the city.

"The need of the most vulnerable countries in adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building should get priority," Hasina said.

On parliamentary affairs, the prime minister reiterated her government's strong commitment to further strengthening parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh.

The British minister praised Hasina for her strong leadership in the international forums regarding establishing global unity to combat the challenges and arranging funds for climate change adaptation, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the meeting.

Hasina mentioned the recently adopted 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009', the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and Climate Change Trust Fund to show the country's preparation for tackling the impacts of climate change.

She also highlighted adaptation plans taken up by Bangladesh in managing disasters, adapting agriculture, ensuring food security, dredging major rivers, building embankments, reclaiming lands, creating green belts, developing

coastal forests and adaptation programmes for infrastructure, water, health and research sectors.

The prime minister also mentioned Bangladesh's desire to host the proposed International Climate Adaptation Centre.

In this regard, she expressed gratitude to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown for his initiatives to arrange funds for the countries falling victim to the climate calamities.

The prime minister also said the Cop15 summit was not the end but the beginning of a combined global effort to protect the civilisation from the catastrophic impacts of the global warming.

She said the government is aware about ensuring farmers' maximum welfare. And to this end, the government has

given proper importance to increasing capacity of food storage facilities.

But climate change and global warming have appeared as the biggest hurdles in the way of attaining food security as these adversities are harming the country's agricultural production and biodiversity severely, the prime minister told the visiting minister.

She also sought more investment from British entrepreneurs in various development sectors in Bangladesh.

Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim, Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present during the meeting.



British Minister in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Areas Jim Fitzpatrick calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

## Body formed to install prepaid electricity meters in city

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday formed a committee to install prepaid meters in different areas of the city to stop misuse of electricity.

The ministry of power formed the committee and asked it to submit the report by April 7.

Abul Kalam Azad, secretary of Power Division, chaired the meeting while officials of distributing agencies were present.

The meeting assigned Prof Lutful Kabir of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology to produce a common specification with common technology meters for the city areas with a device through which power consumption could be reduced from the control room.

"We want to introduce radio frequency system in the meter as we want to distribute power to maximum people at a time," a top official said.

After installation of prepaid metering system at Uttara, the revenue earnings have increased by 13 percent and the system loss at Uttara is less than other Desco areas, officials said.

The Power Development Board (PDB) first introduced prepaid system in Sylhet but it failed to achieve the goal. However, Desco installed 5,000 prepaid meters at Uttara in 2005 under a pilot project.

All meters were designed and manufactured under the supervision of Prof Lutful Kabir, director of the Institute of Information and Communication Technology at Buet.

## Tk 140 cr EU grant to help farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union is going to give a grant of Tk 140 crore to help Bangladesh deal with soaring food prices by providing agricultural inputs and cash to poor farmers and small households.

The EU has recently signed grant contracts with five NGOs--Brac, NETZ, Practical Action, Concern Universal and Care--in this regard. The projects under the NGOs will run until the end of October 2011, says a EU press release.

The assistance is part of the euro 1 billion Food Facility, which the EU parliament and the European council established in response to the worsening global food security situation in 2007-08.

"The projects will address problems and challenges, which extremely poor farmers and small household procurers face in raising their productivity," said EU Ambassador Dr Stefan Frowein.

The assistance will target a total of 131,000 beneficiaries in 15 districts in the north, northeast and southern coastal belts of the country, he said.

Out of the euro 1 billion envelope, the EU has allocated euro 50 million for Bangladesh. Early in 2009, it signed a contribution agreement of euro 20 million with the World Food Programme.

Further agreements of euro 7.5 million each with Food and Agriculture Organisation and United Nations Development Programme are in the pipeline.



A big pothole develops on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Karwan Bazar in the city. Speeding vehicles often fall into the hole, but the authorities appear to be indifferent to the problem. The photo was taken yesterday.

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