

Approve DAP to keep city liveable

BIP urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) yesterday stressed the need for approval of Detailed Area Plan (DAP) immediately to keep the city liveable.

BIP leaders at a press conference at the BIP auditorium said if the approval and implementation of DAP is delayed the city dwellers would have to face a severe consequence, which will be more devastating than the Nimtoli and Begunbari tragedies.

They said the incidents of Nimtoli and Begunbari are not just an accident. Lack of coordination among the different government agencies, lack of control and weakness of the authorities concerned to implement the plan of the city are behind the incidents.

They also condemned the attitude of a section of developers at a meeting on DAP on June 13 with State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan in the chair.

BIP President Sarwar Jahan said there is no scope for compromise on flood flow zone. If it is not possible to keep the provision of flood flow zones in DAP, the city dwellers will be affected by flood, he added.

BIP General Secretary Prof AKM Abul Kalam in

his written speech said reorganisation and appointment of skilled manpower in Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) are needed to implement the master plan of Dhaka city.

Emphasising the need for a planned urbanisation in the country, he said though there is some proposals on housing and infrastructure development in the proposed national budget, but there is no specific proposal on planned urbanisation in the country.

He said it is very important to complete the work of preparing master plans for the municipalities and other small cities immediately to speed up the planned urbanisation.

The BIP leaders at the press conference demanded that the government will not give permission to set up any industry or commercial establishments without the specified areas to save farmland, forest and water bodies.

They also demanded that the government increase the quality of services of the city corporations and municipalities bringing them under a planned development.

Former BIP president Prof Golam Rahman and Vice President Md Shaukat Ali also spoke at the press conference.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holcim Bangladesh yesterday honoured eight innovative, future-focused and sustainable green construction projects.

The awards were given in two categories under the Holcim Green Built Bangladesh contest. The awards recognise innovative solutions that encourage sustainable construction by using low energy, managing waste, and recycling wastewater and used concrete.

The projects that won the prizes were designed mainly by young architects.

In the idea projects category, the first winner was the Symbiotic Living project led by Suvro Sovon Chowdhury, an architect and graduate from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

The second winner was the Vocational Training Centre, a project by Md Shakhawat Hossain, a student of Buet's architecture department.

Reincarnation of Deltaic Pavilion that clinched the third prize was designed by Md Shamsuddoha, a student of the architecture department of Khulna University, and his group-mate Khan Zahidul Islam.

The honorary award went to a project, called Self-Sustaining Pod, by Tanjim Hasan Salim, an architect.

In the built projects category, the first winner was Weekend House, a project by Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Majumder, an assistant professor of the architecture department, Buet.

The Matir Bari project led by architect Nahas Ahmed Khalil ended up with the second award.

The third prize went to Grameenphone Corporate Headquarters, a project made by a group of three.

Nishorgo Visitor Interpretation Centre, a project led by Ehsan Khan, an architect and consultant, won the hon-



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, centre, former vice-chancellor of Brac University Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, third from left, Holcim Bangladesh Chairman Latifur Rahman, second from right, and Holcim Bangladesh Chief Executive Officer Rajnish Kapur, extreme right, pose for photograph with the winners of Holcim Green Built Bangladesh contest at Army Golf Club in the city yesterday. The contest's jury board Chairman Bashirul Haq, second from left, and Holcim Regional Manager Aidan Lynam, third from right, are also seen.

orary award.

In both categories, each first-prize winner received Tk 4 lakh, second-prize winner Tk 2.5 lakh, third-prize winner Tk 1.5 lakh and honorary-prize winner Tk 1 lakh.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed the prizes to the winners at the Army Golf Club in Dhaka and called for thinking of a system of development responsive to environmental sustainability.

"We have to think of protecting the environment. Sustainable development is the only way for Bangladesh," said Muhith.

"It means that you will have to leave as much as resources for the next generation as you enjoy now."

Muhith feared that Dhaka, a densely populated city, might turn into a jungle of concrete if "this trend of development" goes on. "We have to restrict unplanned construction. We have to save agricultural land

and allow rivers to flow."

Chairman of the contest's Advisory Board Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Jury Board Chairman architect Bashirul Haq, Holcim Bangladesh Chairman Latifur Rahman,

took the initiative to organise the contest as part of its "corporate social responsibility and commitment towards sustainable construction".

Green construction involves issues such as design

to the DAP and said they are trying to force the government to review it.

Latifur Rahman, chairman of Holcim Bangladesh, pointed to unplanned growth in Dhaka and Chittagong cities and said there is clearly a need for sustainable development. "Sustainable and green construction is an important element of society."

Holcim global competition "Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction" started in 2002 in partnership with some of the world's leading technical universities including MIT (USA).

Holcim Group, based in Switzerland, is one of the world's leading producers of cement and aggregates and has operations in more than 70 countries employing almost 80,000 people.

Holcim Bangladesh has three plants here with a total capacity of 1.3 million tonnes a year. The third cycle of Holcim awards starts in July.

Sustainable development is the only way for Bangladesh: Muhith

Holcim Group Regional Manager Aidan Lynam and Holcim Bangladesh Chief Executive Officer Rajnish Kapur also spoke.

Launched in August 2009, organisers received 69 projects for the contest and an eight-member jury under the supervision of a six-member advisory panel selected the best projects.

Holcim Bangladesh, which started its operation under Holcim Switzerland in 2000,

and management of buildings, materials and building performance, energy and resource consumption within the larger orbit of urban development and management, Holcim said.

Referring to Detailed Area Plan (DAP), Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said it should be followed at every stage to ensure environmental sustainability of the capital.

He also pointed to some developers' recent opposition

Shitalakhya clean-up continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Narayanganj district administration and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) jointly demolished a large illegal segment of a factory yesterday as they continue the ongoing eviction drive to save River Shitalakhya.

The team had to spend an entire day tearing down the illegal portions of Alpana Dying in Barakal area in the northern part of Narayanganj river port, said our correspondent.

The structure demolished was 35000-sq-ft encroaching into the river, said Alamgir Kabir Deputy Director of BIWTA.

Zahirul Islam executive magistrate of Narayanganj led the team.

The drive will resume in the last week of this month by demolishing illegal structures around Fatullah launch terminal on the Buriganga at Narayanganj.

Meanwhile, Dhaka district administration and BIWTA have set a date for resuming the eviction drive against encroachment in the River Turag near Mirpur on July 7.

The authorities will oversee eviction drive against the intrusion into the River Buriganga in Lalbagh today and set a programme sometime in the last week this month, said Sharif Afzal, port officer of Dhaka river port.

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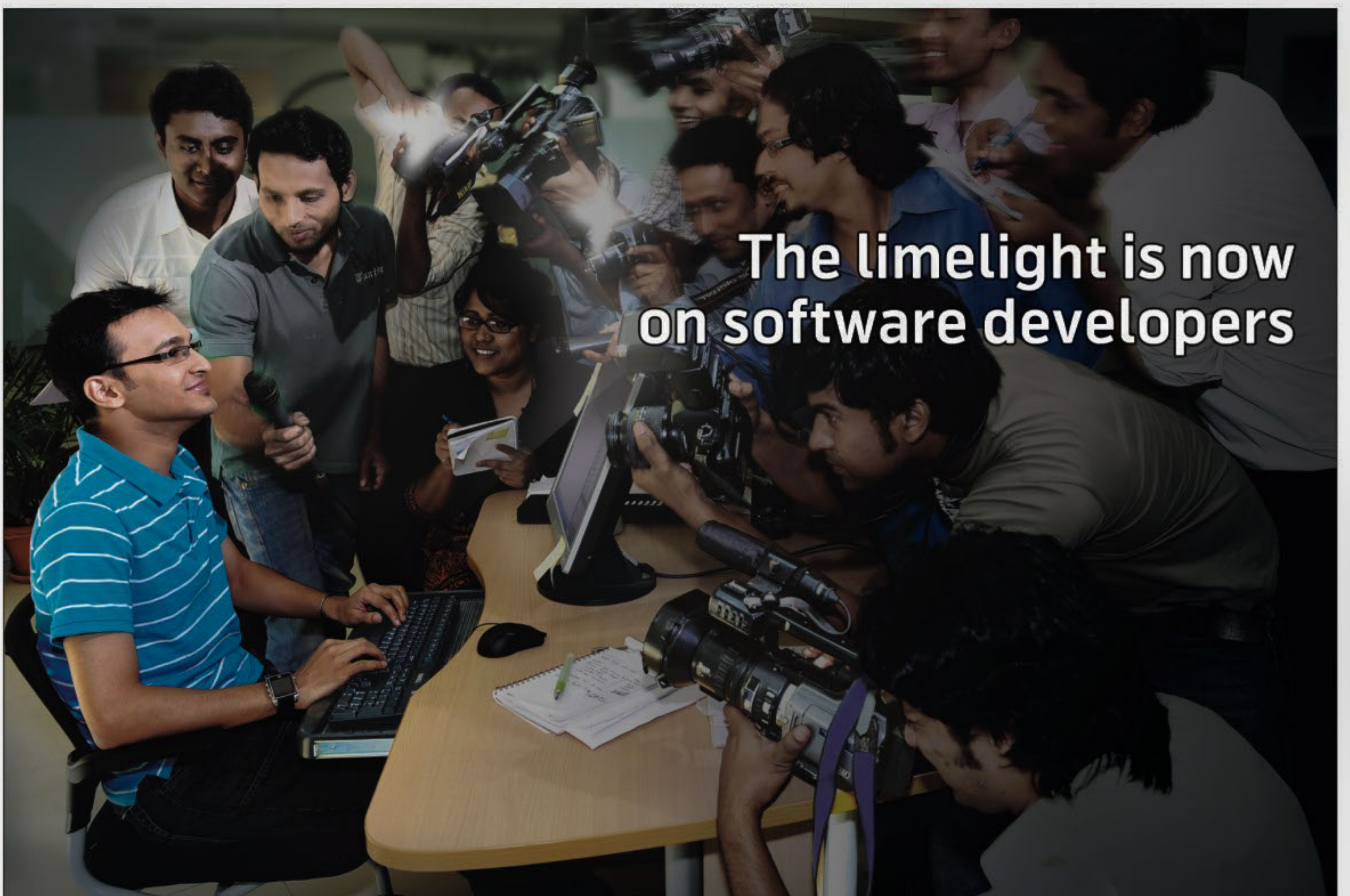
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