# NEWS

## DAP gets nod

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The decision came at a time when a section of powerful real estate developers, some of whom are also widely known as land grabbers, are opposing DAP on the plea that its implementation will mean demolition of many structures in the

At the meeting, Hasina directed the housing ministry and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to save low-lying lands, wetlands, water bodies, canals, rivers, and agricultural lands from land grabbers at any cost.

"No concession will be made to anyone in this regard," the prime minister was quoted as saying, by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, who was briefing the media in Press Information Department's conference room in Bangladesh

Secretariat after the meeting. Meeting sources said the premier strongly emphasised on recovering all parts of rivers, canals, and wetlands grabbed by influential quarters. She directed her cabinet colleagues and others at the meeting not to bow down to pressure from any influential quarter in this

The PM also instructed Rajuk to recover government properties and houses that have been grabbed over the years through forgery or force.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said to ensure smooth implementation of DAP, different ministries should have active participation, and the government should create public opinion for the plan.

One of the prime minister's advisers criticised the role of Rajuk. Echoing what some real estate developers recently told the housing minister at a heated meeting over DAP, the adviser told the cabinet that Rajuk itself violated rules by developing

Md Wazed Ali Khan, president

of Pratyasha Samabay Samity,

issued a letter to the ministry to

show the flood flow zone as

Another letter issued by HT

Imam, adviser to the prime

minister, made a request to

consider the entire project

named Probashi Palli in Pubail,

Khilgaon, Narayankul, Bindan,

Samarsing and Ulukhola

moujas in Gazipur as residential

marked as partly high value

agriculture and partly flood flow

zone in structure plan, says a

member of the review commit-

The DAP is one of the main

components of 20-year-long

(1995-2015) Dhaka

Metropolitan Development

Plan (DMDP), which is now

approved. Other two compo-

nents are Urban Area Plan and

Structure Plan, which were

was scheduled to be completed

within one year of formation of

DMDP, which was initiated in

1992, completed in 1995 and

officially gazetted in 1997, says a

Different locations includ-

ing flood flow, retention area,

roads and open space were

earmarked as indicative ways in

the Structure Plan. But DAP will

specify every location in terms

of Mouja and GIS survey, says an

Mohammad Mejbah Ul

Islam, chairman of Shotabdi

Housing in Uttarkhan,

requested to mark the project

area as residential area in DAP.

The area has been earmarked as

Samabay Samity Ltd, requested

to show the proposed project

area in Uttar Kawndia Mouja as

urban residential area. The area

has been earmarked in draft

DAP and in structure plan as

The ministry forwarded the

requests for all the four projects

and 12 housing projects to the

review committee for its con-

Mohiuddin

However, the six-member

January 11, 2007 changeover,

said a Nagorik Committee

press release yesterday eve-

Nagorik Committee in the

polls, said he would continue

extending support to any

future development work in

the greater interest of the

people. He said he would

always stand by the people in

any movement to press home

their rightful demands.

According to DMDP, DAP

gazetted in 1997.

Rajuk official.

official of Rajuk.

and flood flow zone.

tee sources say.

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The area, however, is ear-

flood free area in DAP.

area in DAP.

Challenges

different housing projects through filling up wetlands. The government should ensure transparency in Rajuk, he said.

The same adviser had recently advocated for marking some low-lying risky areas as "residential", favouring some land developers.

way it was sought for the coun-

try's education policy. The

contents of the plan should be

available on Rajuk's website, so

anyone may see what it con-

tains, and may give his or her

She also emphasised on

Meeting sources said a

finding a quick solution to the

perennial traffic jam in the

minister complained that Rajuk

in the past allowed commercial

enterprises in residential areas,

prompting deterioration of

living environment. The prac-

tice should stop, he said adding

that each area should be

allowed to retain its character

Abdul Mannan Khan, who was

present at the meeting, told the

media later that he is firmly

determined to begin imple-

mentation of DAP within two to

three months. "We will take

public opinion on the issue

not something that was made to

protect any individual's per-

sonal interest. It was prepared to

save Dhaka and its people," he

plan, Dhaka will gradually go

under water," the state minister

including landowners, land

developers, and the developers'

association Rehab, he said,

review committee headed by

Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

rejected all requests and recom-

mended to keep up all the flood

flow zone as untouchable and

unchangeable and suggested

for strictly reserving the area as

flood flow zone in DAP," said

Joint Secretary of Bangladesh

Habib said more requests were

coming from ministers and

lawmakers to earmark flood

free from flood, we must retain

flood flow areas at any cost,

Mouleon brings

worker burnt

The report styled "The Human

Cost of Breaking Ships" pub-

lished last December simulta-

neously from Bangladesh

India and Switzerland says at

least 1,000 workers died in the

last 20 years in Bangladesh's

the deaths from diseases

caused by toxic fumes and

materials workers are exposed

The figures do not include

ship-breaking yards.

to all the time.

Habib observed.

"If we want to make Dhaka

flow zone as residential areas.

Responding to a question,

Paribesh Andolan Iqbal Habib.

"We considered the flood

flow zones strictly in DAP.

"Let's not endanger Dhaka."

"If we fail to implement the

Seeking cooperation of all

"The Detailed Area Plan is

State Minister for Housing

opinion on it, she said.

capital.

from now on.

first," he said.

added.

Hasina, at the meeting, "falsely implicating" them. emphasised on seeking public opinion about DAP, the same

The attack on the AL meeting in the city's Gulshan Centre on August 7, 2004 left Sylhet city 25 injured.

Mofizur Rahman alias Muhibullah alias Ovi, Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul, Mufti Main Uddin and Delwar Hossain Ripon were produced before the court yesterday for framing charges against them.

remained at large since the day of attack. The judge then fixed August

prosecution witnesses. The same court yesterday framed charges against the same group of accused in

## In-laws arrested

On their arrival, the law enforcarrested from there.

wife the law enforcers then arrested Kabita from a house in Sephalibagh.

Liton and three other relatives were released around

DC Monir said they are yet to receive the autopsy report and opinion of the CID handwriting experts regarding the chits and writings on Rita's bedroom walls.

Rita, 35, wife of Rashed Kabir, and her son Ishrat Kabir Pabon, 12, and daughter Raisa Rashmi Payel, 10, were found in their Jurain residence on June 11.

That night Rita's mother Mazeda Begum filed a case with Kadomtoli Police Station against Rita's parents-in-law Shafigul Kabir and Noor Banu, her husband Rashedul Kabir, Rashedul's second wife Razia Sultana Smriti, and four other in-laws.

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money from them. Scrutinising the accounts for FY 2003-04, the CAG office raised an objection to the lease of lands of the Army Welfare Trust at a very low price, caus-

that the authorities concerned examine whether the price mentioned in the lease docu ments is consistent with the current market price and asked them to submit a state-

### FROM PAGE 16 The statement also said the

budget does not have a longterm plan for power generation. The government has institu-

tionalised corruption in the country and even took initiatives to make the Anticorruption Commission bow down to it, the statement added.

Though in the last budget retention pond [where rain water stay for a certain time speech, BNP had been blamed before receding] in draft DAP for its failure in all sectors, it was an exception this time not to mention anything against the Principal Md Mofizur party in the first 90 pages, the Rahman Mirdah, president of main opposition noted. Adarsha Shikkhak Bahumukhi

"But finally the finance minister could not keep himself from drawing a conclusion by making some irresponsible, indecent, and false statements against BNP," the statement flood flow zone, review commit-

Commenting on some other matters, BNP said, "Introduction of student councils at the primary level will have a negative impact on the education system of the country."

It said normalcy will not return to educational institutions across the country unless the government stops politicising the sector.

It also said journalists will not have the courage to unveil corruption as the government maintains a tight rein on the Mohiuddin, backed by the media by shutting down newspapers and television channels.

> Former education minister Osman Farruq, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, former FBCCI chief Abdul Awal Mintoo, and BNP Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan were also present.

BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 16 Chowdhury, Habiganj Pourashava chairman GK Gous and some other local leaders masterminded the attack.

He suggested that the investigators should interrogate former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar to go deep into the grenade attack.

Mufti Hannan also held CID ASP Munshi Atiq responsible for

AL publicity secretary Mohammad Ibrahim dead and Mufti Abdul Hannan,

However, the other accused Humayun Kabir Himu

9 for taking deposition of the

another case in connection with a grenade attack on the Sylhet mayor on December 2, 2004.

## FROM PAGE 16

ers picked them up and brought them to the Eskaton house from where they asked to call Shafiqul Kabir to come at the Polwel Market, said Liton, claiming that Shafiqul was Through Shafiqul and his

The bodies of Farzana Kabir

## Anomalies

ing a loss of Tk 22.17 crore. The committee proposed ment within a month.

It discussed another audit objection on tax collection from plot owners of Samorik Abason Prokolpo at a lower rate, causing a loss of Tk 65.82 lakh. The committee told the authorities concerned to recover the money and turn in a report in three months.

## Anti-hartal

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who call the hartals, will be sued along with pickets who force people to observe hartals.

"Calling hartals may be a right of a political party but it is also my right not to observe it. If pickets vandalise my vehicle on hartal day on the street, it will be a violation of my constitutional rights," Chunnu told The Daily Star while disclosing the content of the bill.

Participating in the budget discussion yesterday, the J. lawmaker strongly criticised the main opposition BNP for calling hartal for June 27.

Taking part in the discussion on the proposed budget, a number of Awami League lawmakers also strongly criticised the BNP for calling the hartal. They said the opposition called the hartal to hamper development activities of the government and to create obstacles to holding trials of war criminals.

Chunnu said he submitted the bill to the Parliament Secretariat to protect people's interest. Urging all lawmakers to support his bill, he said if the bill is passed, people would be relieved of the sufferings of hartal. He said he would send

Treasury bench lawmakers welcomed Chunnu by thump-

ingtheir desks. Later, talking to The Daily Star yesterday inside the parliament building, Chunnu said he consulted JP chief HM Ershad about the bill and the chief wholeheartedly supported him with the bill.

copies of the bill to all lawmak-

## His dream comes true

FROM PAGE 1

and advanced research in Russia, Germany and USA, and had a knack for growth and developments of various plants even in his childhood days. He was mesmerised to see how big a lady's finger had grown after a flooding in the courtyard of his father's old Dhaka residence.

After successful accomplishment of jute genome sequencing and its field application, Alam said Bangladesh would be able to produce export quality jute products and multiply its jute trade in global market up to several Asked to describe how and

when the jute genome sequencing programme was initiated, he said it all began when he approached Professor Ahmed Shamsul Islam, coordinator of GNOBB (Global Network of Bangladeshi Biotechnologists) in February 2008 regarding the possibility of sequencing the jute genome. Bangladeshi scientists already looking into the possibility of getting the jute genome sequenced jumped up at this offer and this set the ball roll-

The following months saw Alam receiving phone calls from Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, his visits to Bangladesh on several occasions, meeting with local scientists and different government, private, academic stakeholders. Finally, late last year the 'Swapnojaatra' team got the necessary funding from the government and accelerated the jute decoding. He appreciated

Bangladesh government's contribution of Tk 10 crore to fund his latest venture -- jute genome sequencing-- success of which was announced in parliament by the prime minister on Wednesday. Researchers from Dhaka

University, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute and Software Company DataSoft in collaboration with Centre for Chemical Biology, University of Science Malaysia and University of Hawaii, USA decoded the genome with Alam giving the lead.

Genome sequence represents a valuable shortcut, helping scientists find genes much more easily and quickly. A genome sequence allows scientists to identify and understand how genes work together for the plant's different features like growth, development and maintenance as an entire organism. This allows them to manipulate the genes and enhance, reduce or add certain features of the plant. Physical work on genome

sequencing took place in different laboratories at home and abroad, said Alam. He listed the names of the labs -molecular biology, DNA isolation, bioinformatics and 'manual curation' -- at Dhaka University; assembly and annotation, cluster computing, all coding, middleware scripting at Data Soft; manual curation and functional genomics at Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, high-end computational facility, assembly, coordination and intellectual leadership at Centre for Chemical Biology of University Sains, Malaysia and raw data generation assembly and management connecting all the dots and intellectual leadership at the University of Hawaii. Asked about how much

sequencing has been completed as jute genome has got 1.2 billion genetic letters, the renowned scientist said "Draft genome sequencing is completed." He however declined to say when a patent could be obtained. Referring to the inclusion

## Dhaka readies

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh nominated Alan Vaughan Lowe, former professor of international law at the University of Oxford, and India proposed the name of P Sreenivasa Rao, former legal adviser to its external affairs ministry

ITLOS, with its headquarters in Germany, is an independent judicial body established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) to adjudicate disputes arising out of interpretation and application of the convention.

India submitted its claim to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a UN body that also deals with the law of the seas.

A high official of the Bangladesh foreign ministry told The Daily Star that the UNCLOS wing of the ministry is working relentlessly, and coordinating with legal experts, to put forward the country's claims at ITLOS by July this year in the legal battle with Myanmar

There will be 23 judges (21 from ITLOS and one each nominated by Bangladesh and Myanmar) during the hearing of Bangladesh's objection to

Myanmar's claim. ITLOS finds it necessary to authorise the presentation of the reply and rejoinder.

According to the UN body set schedule, Bangladesh is to reply to Myanmar's statement by March 2011, and Myanmar is to give its rejoinder by July 2011.

Bangladesh official sources said the hearing of their and Myanmar's claims will begin at the end of next year, and it might take two to two and a half years for the final judgment. Arbitration settlement with India might take five years, they added.

The officials said demarcation of maritime boundary is a lengthy battle because of its complicated nature and importance. "We are trying to engage all our resources and best efforts, no matter how many years it takes to establish our legitimate claims in the Bay."

The UNCLOS wing of the Bangladesh foreign ministry already sought a fund of Tk 80 crore for the legal battles, and sent a relevant letter to the finance ministry.

Meantime, Myanmar at the fifth round of technical level talks with Bangladesh, held in January in Chittagong, shifted from its rigid position for following the equidistance method, and agreed to resolve the dispute on the basis of "equity and equidistance of resources". But at the sixth round of the

talks Myanmar brought a new proposal for drawing a line near the "friendship line", which is an imaginary line down to St Martin's Island in the northeast part of the Bay.

The sixth round was held in Myanmar's new capital Nay Pyi Taw on March 17 and 18, where the Bangladesh expert-level delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (UNCLOS) Rear Admiral (retd)

Md Khurshed Alam. Bangladesh officials said the

sixth round of the talks did not progress much as Myanmar made the new proposal which apparently seems just a tactic for buying time, and for delaying a resolution through bilateral means. Though the Bangladesh side agreed to consider Myanmar's

preparations are going on in full swing for the legal battle at ITLOS. Talking to The Daily Star, Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam recently said the talks with

new proposal, the officials said

Myanmar are still at the technicallevel. About bilateral talks with both India and Myanmar, he

said Bangladesh is ready to sit with any of its neighbours to resolve the disputes. Speaking anonymously, another foreign ministry official

said there has been no meeting

with India for a long time, and it

seems India wants to resolve the disputes through arbitration by According to UNCLOS, any coastal country is entitled to

have first 12 nautical miles from its baseline as territorial sea, 24 nautical miles as contiguous zone, and the next adjoining 200 nautical miles as its exclusive economic zone (EEZ)

Generally a state's EEZ extends to a distance of 200 nautical miles out from its coast. But in the cases of Bangladesh India, and Myanmar the situation is difficult, as coasts of these countries follow a curve creat-

ing overlap of territories. In 1974, Bangladesh became the first country in South Asia to have declared its jurisdictions on territorial waters, economic zones, and continental shelf by legislating the Territorial and Maritime Zones Act.

Since then there was a series of meetings with India and Myanmar, but negotiations remained inconclusive as all three countries took different approaches to demarcate their maritime boundaries.

Bangladesh favours a principle based on equity, which actually resulted in an area of overlap, while India and Myanmar favours line-based equidistance system to get bigger maritime areas.

Under a UN charter, the principle of "equity" takes into account a country's population, economic status and needs, GDP growth, and other human issues, while the "equidistance" system marks the boundary through geometric calculations. According to UNCLOS, any

such dispute should be resolved on the basis of equity, and in light of relevant circumstances. And that makes Bangladesh's demand for equity based demarcation the best choice. The convention also says the

states will first try to settle disputes through negotiations, and if the negotiations fail, the principle of equity will apply -implying that justice and fairness must be the hallmark of

of young graduates in the 'Swapnojaatra' team that carried out the jute genome sequencing task, Alam said this type of effort would stop

the threatening brain drain

"If government does not invest, we may forget the rest. The brain drain will continue." Dr Alam added, "The

from the country.

human history, our own history and the science discovery paths have shown without any reservation that if you need a healthy economy and society, short and long-term investment for education (from primary to post graduate) with emphasis on 'curiositydriven' human resources is a must." Asked to rate the research

capabilities of Bangladeshi's scientists in the fields of molecular biology and plant biotechnology, Alam said, "Brilliant, dedicated and passionate researchers with extremely poor and outdated infrastructure. It's very sad and unfortunate that our team at Dhaka University does not have even ultracentrifuge and elementary high throughput technology. Ultracentrifuge is a centri-

fuge optimised for spinning a rotor at very high speed that has important uses in molecular biology, biochemistry and polymer science. High throughput technology is a method to purify, identify and characterise DNA, RNA, proteins and other molecules.

#### Spain FROM PAGE 1

Villa should have completed his hat-trick on 62 minutes when Izaguirre brought down Jesus Navas on the edge of the area and referee Yuichi Nishmura awarded the penalty, but the Spaniard fired the spot-kick wide of the right post. On a rare Honduran attack,

David Suazo fired wide on 66

minutes, but the biggest cheer of the night from the 54,386strong crowd came soon after for the introduction of Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas. Torres made way for

Valencia's Juan Manuel Mata as the Spanish went off the boil in the final 20 minutes.

Spain must now beat Chile - who defeated Switzerland 1-0 earlier Monday - on Friday in Pretoria to be sure of making the knockout phase, while Honduras will play for pride against the Swiss in Bloemfontein.

## Two Huji

FROM PAGE 16

A large cache of firearms and ammunition were seized in the joint drive.

In 1998, the arrestees were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by a special tribunal But they all were released

soon after the BNP-Jamaat alliance assumed power in 2001. The two arrestees during interrogation said they are not directly involved with the

banned outfit, the Rab official

on bail from the High Court

said. The government banned the organisation on October 17, 2005 a decade after it began its activities in the

### Wite, 5 others FROM PAGE 1

country.

verdict in presence of the con-

Meanwhile, parents and relatives of the victims who were present at the court yesterday expressed their satisfaction over the judgment and expected speedy execution of the order.

The court acquitted Ismail Hossain, also a fugitive, as the charge brought against him was not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and statements of 37 prosecution witnesses were recorded.

According to the prosecution, Jahangir Alam, an iron trader of Shyampur at the old part of the capital, was hacked to death by a group of miscreants, led by his wife Sagorika at about 4:00am on November 4, 2008 as he (victim) prohibited his wife to be involved with other people. Victim's father Firoz Alam,

along with his son-in-law Imamul Hassan, went to his son's residence after hearing the news and found his son dead. Though they asked Sagorika about the cause of the death, she kept mum. Later, a murder case was

filed with Shyampur Police Station against Sagorika and six others for committing the offence.

## BCL attack at DU

FROM PAGE 16

The injured JCD leaders and activists include DU unit convener Abdul Motin, joint conveners Obaidul Haque Nasir, Mofidul Haq Hiru, Mahfuzur Rahman, Moniruzzaman Rigon, Abdul Wahab and central leader Minhaz Ahmed.

Witnesses said, Siddique Najmul Alam, BCL central assistant secretary, Mamunur-Rashid, DU unit joint secretary, Rifat Hossain Ziku, unit president of Ziaur Rahman Hall, Saveed Majumder, unit president of Surjosen Hall, and Jagannath Hall unit leaders Utpal Saha, Joydeb Nandi led the attack. A group of law enforcers

were seen only 30 yards from the spot while an assistant proctor of the university was present in the canteen premises minutes before the incident. DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam said, "The clash was

groups left the spot before police reached the canteen." An injured JCD leader Mahfuzur Rahman said BCL men attacked them without

over in a minute and both

any kind of instigation. He said, BCL was forcing them for last couple of days to withdraw a case filed against 14 Chhatra League leaders for assaulting leaders of Chhatra Dal at DU on January 18 this year.

to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where 14 injured JCD men were undergoing treatment till last evening. The rest left the hospital after receiving primary medical attention. JCD leaders Nasir and

Hospital with head injuries.

The victims were rushed

Rasel Mia, Najmul Sakib, Rafiqul Islam Royal, Rasin, Habibur Rahman Sumon, Shahabuddin Shihab.

Badsha said.

DU Proctor said a onemember probe committee with Assistant Proctor as possible.

their three-point demand which include --resignation of the VC and proctor, punishment to the BCL attackers and co-existence at DU are not met within this month they will observe the strike.

members of active student bodies on June 29. Some senior BNP leaders

visited the injured at DMCH Monday afternoon. Earlier on Sunday, some

BCL activists drove out JCD activists from the canteen Minhaz were admitted to the telling them not to enter the capital's Islami Bank Central canteen until they withdrew the case.

## Labour unrest

FROM PAGE 1

Group, said the 'outside workers' assaulted one of his line chiefs, as the officer tried to keep them from rampaging into the apparel unit.

the agitators did not let him go to hospital for hours, Hossain said. Police said Ha-Meem officials held a meeting with the agitators to settle the matter, but the effort fell

apart. This prompted the company to shut its factories to avoid further trouble. However, the agitation spread further when the angry workers came back out on the road and vandalised at least 50 vehicles and

witnesses said. The workers locked in clashes with the police as the law enforcers tried to obstruct them from blockading the road by firing rubber bullets, teargas canisters and spraying hot water. The clashes continued until

around 30 adjacent factories,

7:00pm. Police said some unidentified people set fire to three vehicles of Skyline Garments

Traffic on Dhaka-Tangai and Nabinagar-Kaliakoir highways came to a standstill at the time.

The injured workers and police personnel were given first-aid. Savar Assistant

Superintendent of Police

(ASP) Monwar Hossain said police used more than 90 rubber bullets and at least 150 teargas canisters to calm the situation. Five people were arrested in this connection. Police

was a worker. Additional 200 policemen had been deployed in the area to quell the agitation. WORRIED GARMENT

said none of the arrestees

LEADERS Garment makers expressed concern over the current spell of labour unrest that has been taking a heavy toll

on the country's prime

export earning apparel

The exporters fear that orders from international buyers may shift to alternative destinations, following continued labour unrest, BGMEA said in an earlier statement.

The statement added that the unrest took place when stakeholders are reviewing the minimum wage structure for garment workers. BGMEA leaders said

production in the factories at

Ashulia, Savar and Rupganj

Mainul Islam, Shawkat Hossain, Shapon Kumar Mandol, Khairul Alam Shisir,

The victims also include -

Sabid Hossain, Zakaria and BCL General Secretary of DU unit Sajjad Sakib Badsha denied his men's involvement in the incident. "It was JCD's internal conflict and we strongly protest such violence on campus,"

Amzad Hossain has been formed to investigate the incident and has been asked to submit its report as soon Speaking at an emergency press conference, held at the organisation's central office in the city, JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku said if

To press home the demands, JCD men will stage demonstration at the educational institutions across the country today, hold rally at Muktangaon in the capital on June 24 and exchange views with teachers and

#### realise some illogical demands, ahead of the announcement of a fresh minimum wage structure. The government is likely

to announce the new wage "The line chief was structure for the garment severely injured. Worse still, workers before Eid-ul-Fitr. The unrest is taking place even though owners are now paying the workers according to the rules of the mini-

mum wage structure, the statement added. The BGMEA leaders also said they cannot produce at full capacity due to the ongoing shortage of gas and power. As a result, they are failing to maintain the lead-

time set by international buyers. Failing on-time production, the owners had to air ship 45,882 tonnes of apparel items from December 9 to

April 10 at a cost of Tk 1,311 crore, the statement said. "If such unrest prevails in the industrial sector, it will erode the confidence level of

the entrepreneurs," the statement said. BGMEA sought cooperation from all to save the garments industry, which

directly employs 3.5 million

### workers, the statement said. Law enforcers

FROM PAGE 16

recommended fully-fledged National Human Rights Commission, amendment to the HR Commission Act appointment of necessary manpower and cooperation from other rights organisation.

The Commission was

formed on December 1, 2008 with three members, and the Commission Act was framed on July 14, 2009. The chairman has been working alone from July 14, 2009 as the two other members resigned. A manpower structure of 62

posts was sent to the govern-

ment on December 22, 2008 for

rights violation since its forma-

for reports on the cases upon

Investigation into five such

approval. The aim was to expand the commission's activities but the approval is still overdue. Kabir mentioned that the commission has received a total of 147 complaints of human

The complaints of crossfire and deaths in custody of law enforcers were sent to the director general of Rab and inspector general of police with a request

allegations has so far been taken, he continued. He stressed the need for increasing the power of the

investigation.

commission to establish human rights in the country. He said the commission couldn't work on many issues

due to legal bar. Therefore, the commission has sent a recommendation to the government in regard to an amendment to the commission act.

#### has been hampered badly During the investigation, over the last 15 days. Sagorika, Khalil Sheikh, Ibrahim They said the workers are and Al Amin had given confesnot showing up at work and sional statements before magisare involved in the unrest to trates on different dates. settlement.