

# DAP gets nod

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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 city.

At the meeting, Hasina directed the housing ministry and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartarpakkha (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 regard.

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 Ashraf 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

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.

Hasina, at the meeting, emphasised on seeking public opinion about DAP, the same way it was sought for the country's education policy. The contents of the plan should be available on Rajuk's website, so anyone may see what it contains, and may give his or her opinion on it, she said.

She also emphasised on finding a quick solution to the perennial traffic jam in the capital.

Meeting sources said a minister complained that Rajuk in the past allowed commercial enterprises in residential areas, prompting deterioration of living environment. The practice should stop, he said adding that each area should be allowed to retain its character from now on.

State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan, who was present at the meeting, told the media later that he is firmly determined to begin implementation of DAP within two to three months. "We will take public opinion on the issue first," he said.

"The Detailed Area Plan is not something that was made to protect any individual's personal interest. It was prepared to save Dhaka and its people," he added.

"If we fail to implement the plan, Dhaka will gradually go under water," the state minister warned.

Seeking cooperation of all including landowners, land developers, and the developers' association Rehab, he said, "Let's not endanger Dhaka."

# Challenges

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Md Wazed Ali Khan, president of Pratyasha Samabay Samity, issued a letter to the ministry to show the flood flow zone as flood free area in DAP.

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 area in DAP.

The area, however, is earmarked as partly high value agriculture and partly flood flow zone in structure plan, says a member of the review committee.

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 components are Urban Area Plan and Structure Plan, which were gazetted in 1997.

According to DMDP, DAP 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 Rajuk official.

Different locations including 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 official of Rajuk.

Mohammad Mejbat 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 retention pond [where rain water stay for a certain time before receding] in draft DAP and flood flow zone.

Principal Md Mofizur Rahman Mirhad, president of Adarsha Shikhhak Bahumukhi Samabay Samity Ltd, requested to show the proposed project area in Uttarkhan Mouja as urban residential area. The area has been earmarked in draft DAP and in structure plan as flood flow zone, review committee sources say.

The ministry forwarded the requests for all the four projects and 12 housing projects to the review committee for its consent.

However, the six-member

# Mohiuddin

**FROM PAGE 16**  
January 11, 2007 changeover, said a Nagorik Committee press release yesterday evening.

Mohiuddin, backed by the 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.

# BNP leaders

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

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

Mufti Hannan also held CID ASP Munshi Atiq responsible for "falsely implicating" them.

The attack on the AL meeting in the city's Gulshan Centre on August 7, 2007 led Sylhet city AL publicity secretary Mohammad Ibrahim dead and 25 injured.

Mufti Abdul Hannan, 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.

However, the other accused Humayun Kabir Himu remained at large since the day of attack.

The judge then fixed August 9 for taking deposition of the prosecution witnesses.

The same court yesterday framed charges against the same group of accused in another case in connection with a grenade attack on the Sylhet mayor on December 2, 2004.

# In-laws arrested

**FROM PAGE 16**  
On their arrival, the law enforcers picked them up and brought them to the Eskaton house from where they asked to call Shafiqul Kabir to come at the Polvel Market, said Liton, claiming that Shafiqul was arrested from there.

Through Shafiqul and his wife the law enforcers then arrested Kabita from a house in Sephalbagh.

Liton and three other relatives were released around noon.

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.

The bodies of Farzana Kabir 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 Shafiqul Kabir and Noor Banu, her husband Rashedul Kabir, Rashedul's second wife Razia Sultana Smriti, and four other in-laws.

# Anomalies

**FROM PAGE 16**  
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, causing a loss of Tk 22.17 crore.

The committee proposed that the authorities concerned examine whether the price mentioned in the lease documents is consistent with the current market price and asked them to submit a statement 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

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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," Chunnun told The Daily Star while disclosing the content of the bill.

Participating in the budget discussion yesterday, the JP 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.

Chunnun 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 copies of the bill to all lawmakers.

Treasury bench lawmakers welcomed Chunnun by thumping their desks.

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

# 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 folds.

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 Bangladesh Biotechnologists) in February 2008 regarding the possibility of sequencing the jute genome. Bangladesh scientists already looking into the possibility of getting the jute genome sequenced jumped up at this offer and this set the ball rolling.

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

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 from the country.

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

Dr Alam added, "The 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 'curiosity-driven' human resources is a must."

Asked to rate the research capabilities of Bangladeshi 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 centrifuge 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 Nishimura 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 54,386-strong 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 on bail from the High Court 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 said.

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

# Wife, 5 others

**FROM PAGE 1**  
verdict in presence of the convicts.

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.

During the investigation, Sagorika, Khalil Sheikh, Ibrahim and Al Amin had given confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

# BCL attack at DU

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The injured JCD leaders and activists include DU unit convener Abdul Motin, joint convener 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, Sayeed 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 over in a minute and both groups left the spot before police reached the canteen."

An injured JCD leader Mahfuzur Rahman said BCL men attacked them without 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.

The victims were rushed 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 Minhaz were admitted to the capital's Islami Bank Central Hospital with head injuries.

The victims also include - Mainul Islam, Shawkat Hossain, Shapon Kumar Mandol, Khairul Alam Shisir, Rassel Mia, Najmul Sakib, Rafiqul Islam Royal, Rasin, Habibur Rahman Sumon, Sabid Hossain, Zakaria and Shahabuddin Shihab.

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," Badsha said.

DU Proctor said a one member probe committee with Assistant Proctor Amzad Hossain has been formed to investigate the incident and has been asked to submit its report as soon as possible.

Speaking at an emergency press conference, held at the organisation's central office in the city, JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku said if 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.

To press home the demands, JCD men will stage demonstration at the educational institutions across the country today, hold rally at Muktangan in the capital on June 24 and exchange views with teachers and 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 telling them not to enter the 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 line chief was severely injured. Worse still, 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 around 30 adjacent factories, 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 7:00pm.

Police said some unidentified people set fire to three vehicles of Skyline Garments Ltd.

Traffic on Dhaka-Tangail 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 said none of the arrestees was a worker.

Additional 200 policemen had been deployed in the area to quell the agitation.

**WORRIED GARMENT 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 industry.

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 Rugganj has been hampered badly over the last 15 days.

They said the workers are not showing up at work and are involved in the unrest to

realise some illogical demands, ahead of the announcement of a fresh minimum wage structure.

The government is likely to announce the new wage structure for the garment workers before Eid-ul-Fitr. The unrest is taking place even though owners are now paying the workers according to the rules of the minimum 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.

Falling 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 government on December 22, 2008 for 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 rights violation since its formation.

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 for reports on the cases upon investigation.

He stressed the need for increasing the power of the 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.