

DAP now official

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be considered only in greater public interest, said Nurul Huda.

Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, who was also a member of the review committee, however said if the government tries to accommodate projects which already have structures built, more people might be encouraged to take similar opportunities.

DAP covers 1,528 square kilometres of Dhaka Metropolitan City.

The recommendations of the review committee include abandoning seventeen housing and other development projects initiated by both the government and private entrepreneurs, and relocation of 883 toxic and hazardous industries from flood flow zones and undesignated locations.

The government projects recommended for abandonment include Jhilnil Housing Project's extension, Pangaon Container Terminal, BSCIC industrial area in Sonakanda of Keraniganj, waste dumping site of Dhaka City Corporation at Baliarpur in Savar, and Central Jail in Karaniganj.

The committee also recommended stopping creation of a proposed military training ground for 14 Shatantra Engineering Brigade in Keraniganj, as the site is in a flood flow zone.

The private housing projects in flood flow zones recommended for abandonment are Modhumoti Model Town, Eastern Mayakanon, Advanced Angel City, Ashulia Model Town, Dhaka Udyan, Bashundhara Riverview in Keraniganj, New Uttara Model Town, BDDL Natundhara, Neptune housing project, Swarnali housing project, Swadesh housing project, Probashi Polli housing project in Gazipur, Protasha housing project in Tongi municipality area, Shatabdi housing project, and Adarsha Shikhhok Abashik project in Uttarkawndiya. Some of these projects are not even approved.

The projects which were taken up after Dhaka's master plan had been approved, but do not affect flood flow zones, the environment, and the livelihoods of local people will be allowed to remain untouched under a category titled 'overlay'.

But projects marked as non-conforming developments, have to move out over a period.

Chevron's gas

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Company Ltd. Sources said Titas is financially very healthy and it would be able to finance a good part of such a project.

Officials of the ministry, Petrobranga, GTCL, Titas and others were present at the meeting.

This would be the first such joint venture of two national companies, a competent source present at the meeting said. In one month's time, they would analyse data and consult Chevron to frame a pragmatic pipeline project along with an implementation time line. The ministry would sit again with these companies. It would organise an inter-ministerial meeting soon to ensure speedy implementation of this pipeline project.

Steve Wilson in his presentation showed that gas production from its Mouvibazar field can be increased by 300 million cubic feet per day by 2012.

Chevron's Jalalabad field can produce 90 million cubic feet per day more than what it produces now. But there is no additional

pipeline capacity to support this increased flow. It can increase yet another 200 million cubic feet per day by 2013.

Chevron can increase Bibiyana field's production by 360 million cubic feet per day between 2012 and 2013. Wilson noted that a part of this increased production can be consumed by the upcoming Bibiyana power project near the gas field, and through other means. But most of it needs to be transmitted by constructing a pipeline between Bibiyana to Dhanua or from Mchui to Monohordi by 2012-13.

Such a pipeline would need around \$100-150 million to construct.

Chevron chief said the company expected to tap yet another 100 million cubic feet per day gas if its exploratory well in Block 7 (Patuakhali) proves to be successful next year.

Chevron is presently producing almost half the country's gas supplies under two production sharing contracts.

The managing committee of Jatiya Press Club in a statement demanded immediate release of Mahmudur Rahman, and deplored "unwarranted intervention in the print and electronic media across the country".

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, the lawyers claimed unidentified persons in plain clothes took Mahmudur Rahman to an unknown destination from the Mintoo Road DB office yesterday morning.

Reading out a statement, advocate Sanaullah Mian said some relatives of Mahmudur Rahman including his mother, lawmaker Nilufar Chowdhury Moni, and lawyers and journalists were present at the gate of the DB office when Mahmudur was taken away.

He said journalists tried to follow the vehicle in which he Mahmudur was being taken from the DB office but they failed to trace it after it entered cantonment area.

Lawyers present at the press conference noted that as per Supreme Court directives, no one other than the investigation officer of a case can interrogate an accused person on remand. But DB police, as alleged by them, handed over Mahmudur Rahman to unidentified persons, which is unlawful.

Mahmudur Rahman was arrested from the Amar Desh office on June 2. The government cancelled declaration of the newspaper on June 1.

4 killed

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The fire broke out when one of them thrown a matchstick on the floor after burning cigarettes.

The fire first caught Mokbul and soon engulfed the entire room, leaving all of them dead on the spot, witnesses said.

Sources say the dead were close relatives. Mokbul had been an expatriate in Saudi Arabia for 11 years and took the three from Safibad village three years ago.

Preparations to bring the bodies, preserved in the mortuary of Nazran Hospital, are underway.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni expressed her condolences over the deaths and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members, said a ministry press release.

BCL men

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assistant general secretary Md Tuhiin chased the Irai-group and fought with each other that left 20 students injured.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Upazila Health Complex.

Dilip Kumar Pal, principal of the college, said they suspended the admission process after the clash.

In Bogra, BCL activists of Azizul Haq College chased the college principal and vandalised the offices of several departments demanding stopping of admission process on merit basis and enrolling the students of their choice.

Prof AKM Salamat Ullah, principal of the college, said there were more admission seekers than the number of seats available in the college and that's why the college authority obtained a tally of total marks of admission seekers from the education board, reports out Bogra correspondent.

But the BCL men did not agree with the process and demanded admission of students of their choice, he said.

To control the situation, the college authority suspended the admission process, he added.

Contacted, the college unit BCL joint convener Kamrul Huda Dalim denied the allegation.

Earlier on Tuesday, the admission of higher-secondary students at Pabna Govt Bulbul College was suspended as a section of BCL activists assaulted the college principal following their demand of admission quota, reports our Pabna correspondent.

Following the incident, the college teachers called for an indefinite strike including class boycott programme from yesterday.

Mahmudur

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branch (DB) of police.

They also feared for his life.

And Rights body Odhikar in a statement yesterday said journalists of the Amar Desh informed it they believe their acting editor has been taken to the office of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) at Dhaka Cantonment for interrogation.

Apprehension of torture on Mahmudur Rahman was also expressed by the family, lawyers and the rights body.

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The PM said some 75 lakh

Metro rail

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conducting the study, she said. Replying to lawmakers' queries, the premier said, "The project for construction of metro rail from Uttara to Sayedabad has been selected as a priority project in the study."

JICA started feasibility study for construction of the metro rail in May, she mentioned.

On the need for more roads in the capital because of the growing number of vehicles, Hasina said LGRD and communications ministries, and Dhaka City Corporation have taken steps for construction of new roads.

She mentioned that 25 percent of the city area is required for roads to ensure proper management of traffic but now there is only 7 to 8 percent for roads.

A parking policy is being formulated to resolve parking problems in the city.

The premier further said Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) will shortly begin feasibility study and designing of rapid transit system under a project titled 'Clean Air and Sustainable Environment--DTCB Component' funded by

Young scientists

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for science in Bangladesh. They knew that if they failed others would get the intellectual property right, said Sharmin Jahan, a molecular biologist of Dhaka University.

Sharmin said they all took it as a challenge as no other developing country has decoded the jute genome. "When we started the project, an inspiring force worked behind it," she said in a bold voice.

The scientists shared their experience of decoding the jute genome at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. It was the decoding of the plant's blueprint that has opened up a new era. This achievement would help develop high-quality, saline soil- and pest-tolerant jute varieties through genetic engineering, the scientists said.

The genetically-engineered jute seeds could take five years to arrive.

Researchers from Dhaka University, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) and Software Company DataSoft in collaboration with Centre for Chemical Biology, University of Science, Malaysia and University of Hawaii, USA decoded the genome under the project Swapno Jatra with funding from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thirty-five researchers were engaged in the project led by Bangladeshi scientist Prof Maqsoodul Alam of the University of Hawaii, who earlier decoded the genome of papaya in the US and rubber in Malaysia.

However, the main strength of the project was the young boffins of Bangladesh, Maqsoodul said.

The molecular biologists, fresh graduates from Dhaka University, had limited hands-on training on genome sequencing, assembly, and annotation, but they were passionate and they jumped into this exciting endeavour, says Swapno Jatra in its statement.

"This project is the answer to

PM warns

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even after that, the government will have to think of alternative steps," she said.

Hasina was addressing the inaugural function of laying the foundation stone of the Civil Aviation Authority Headquarters Complex at the VVIP terminal auditorium of Hazrat Shahajalal International Airport.

The premier laid the foundation stone of the Civil Aviation Authority Headquarters Complex at the present HQs premises in the morning.

Hasina told the Civil Aviation Authority, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Customs and the law enforcing agencies to make their best efforts to ensure security and comfort of all passengers coming into and going out of Bangladesh.

On terrorism, she said terrorism and militancy have become an international threat. "Bangladesh has already become the victim of militancy threat."

Hasina reiterated her government's strong stand to keep Bangladesh free from threats of terrorism and militancy.

"We'll never allow the land of Bangladesh to be used for militancy and terrorism," she added.

It is very unfortunate that expatriates who give hard labour abroad to earn foreign currency for the country have to face lot of sufferings in their homeland, she said.

Since the present government assumed office, passenger services at the airports, including at Hazrat Shahajalal Airport, have been upgraded to great extent, she added.

The PM said some 75 lakh

Failure to cost

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with waterlogging, flood, and consequent health hazards," said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, head of the DAP review committee.

The plan identifies in detail every structure, lake, canal, wetland, retention pond, road, open space, place of worship, and all other topographical features of the city, and disproves unauthorised land use.

Mubashshar Hussein, president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh, said Dhaka City will face an inevitable planning disaster if the flood flow zones are developed for housing projects.

DAP provides town planners with ready reference for development and planning of the city's 1,528 square kilometres or 590 square miles of area.

Prof Sarwar Jahan, an urban planner who was the head of technical working group for DAP's revision, said failure to implement the plan will cause environmental disasters, severely hinder economic and urban growth, and affect food security with destruction of agricultural lands.

Flood flow zones, retention ponds, canals, and water connectivity are vital elements of the city, said architect Iqbal Habib, another member of the review committee.

If implemented properly, DAP will prevent unauthorised move by land developers to occupy open space and flood plains for real estate, the experts said.

The long delay in finalising DAP already resulted in destruction of the city's vast low-lying areas, topographic landscape, natural environment, wetlands, flood retention basins, and many open spaces, they added.

JS body

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gone now. But he could not give any reply." Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, member of the committee, told reporters after the meeting.

Badal observed that only for the ministry's whimsical decision, hundreds of Biman passengers had to face immense sufferings in Dhaka and other international airports. The passengers were stranded there. Biman had to lose crores of taka for arranging the passengers' accommodation and other necessities.

"We are very much disappointed and embarrassed at the ministry officials' behaviour. They want to put the government in danger over flying of a Boeing aircraft. We smell a rat in it," he added.

"It was totally unacceptable the way the ministry top officials handled the issue. They even could not give any reply to this end," Badal, also executive president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, told reporters emerging from the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

He said the leased aircraft has been flown for about 2,200 block hours without any disruption. But intriguingly, the ministry did not give its nod to fly the aircraft on the pretext of security, which is not acceptable, he observed.

Biman officials at the meeting said the ministry had earlier given a six-month permission to operate flights with the Boeing without having it registered to ensure hassle-free hajj flights last year.

That permission expired on May 2, but Biman, without receiving official consent of the ministry, extended the lease of the aircraft from the Nigeria-based Kabo Air for another two months and used it until June 13.

Quoting Biman officials, Badal said Biman has asked for extension of the permission for three to four times after signing the lease agreement, but the ministry remained unresponsive.

Biman officials also told the meeting they have clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority Bangladesh to use the plane until July 2, but the management halted the flights with the Boeing as the ministry refused to give its consent.

Tk 6.32 cr

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country, he said. Initially the survey will begin at Dhaka and will be carried out in phases throughout the country, he added.

The process for their rehabilitation will begin after finding out their problems, the minister said. A bigger sum will be allocated for the programme in future, he added.

The selection process of NGOs for conducting the survey is on. The Bureau of Statistics will also be involved in carrying out the survey, he stated.

"The country will be free from the curse of begging if the measures taken by the government to rehabilitate beggars are implemented," he said.

The social welfare ministry formed a core committee for the beggar rehabilitation programme in March, this year. The committee is now working out a strategy for implementation of the programme.

Germany set up

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Serbia in the other Group D match was academic.

For the first time in World Cup history, two brothers lined up against each other as Manchester City's new signing Jerome Boateng came it at left-back for Germany to face elder half-brother Kevin-Prince Boateng of Ghana.

Brazilian-born striker Cacau, who started for the suspended Miroslav Klose, had the game's first chance when he was freed on the right wing, but fired straight at Ghana goalkeeper Richard Kingston.

Ghana had a chance after 15 minutes when Kwadwo Asamoah played the ball into the box for Asamoah Gyan, but Bastian Schweinsteiger stepped in to snuff out the attack.

Both teams had clear chances around the 25-minute mark in a frantic period in front of a 83,391-strong crowd at Soccer City.

First Ghana's Andre Ayew broke free into penalty area, but took one touch too many, then Germany's Ozil went one-on-one with Kingston only for the Ghana goalkeeper to make the save.

Germany captain Philipp Lahm then saved a Gyan header off the line.

Ayew picked up the first booking on 39 minutes for a tackle from behind on Cacau, while Germany's Thomas Mueller was also booked on 43 minutes for a clumsy tackle on 43 minutes.

Germany spent the first five minutes after the break in the Ghana half, but Asamoah squandered a golden chance to take the lead when he fired at German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer who managed to get a glove to the shot on 52 minutes.

With an hour gone, Ozil calmed Germany's nerves with a left-footed goal from the edge of the penalty area which finally beat Kingston to give his side the lead.

Ghana then poured forward and a shot by John Pantisil was blocked by Jerome Boateng less than a minute later, while Lahm pulled off a

Longest ever tennis match to continue

AFP, London

Play was suspended Wednesday in the longest tennis match ever played as France's Nicolas Mahut and John Isner of the United States came off court at 59-59 in the final set at Wimbledon.

"Nothing like this will ever happen again, ever," said an exhausted Isner.

"I don't know what to say." Isner had match point at 59-58, but Mahut fired down an ace to take it back to deuce, before going on to win the game.

At 59-59 and 9:10pm (1910 GMT) with the light fading fast, match officials tried to suspend play, though Isner wanted to carry on.

Spectators yelled "We want more" on Court 18.

"Ladies and gentlemen, due to darkness, play is suspended," the umpire announced.

A drained Mahut said: "We played for too long, I don't know how many hours we played."

Father denied

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friends and husband of Farzana's sister Kazi Arif were asked to come there. Rashedul denied his paternity of the children in their presence, she added.

In the wall writings the children too mentioned about Rashedul's denial.

Widow Sukhon told the interrogators that she and her daughter Meghna used to live on the ground floor, which Farzana and her children could not take well. This developed a bitter relationship with them.

Earlier, Shafiqul confessed that in presence of Kadamtoli police and Farzana's relatives they forced her to sign an agreement on her leaving the house by June 30.

Detective police on June 13 arrested Farzana's driver Al Amin and an employee of a drug store Abdul Gaffer. Al Amin is being interrogated on a five-day remand while Abdul Gaffer was sent to jail on completion of his two-day remand.

The Detective Branch yet to receive the autopsy report and the opinion from the CID handwriting experts.

DC Monirul Islam said they would be able to ascertain whether the incident was a suicide or murder after they get the autopsy report.

goal-saving block on an Ayew shot which was headed goal bound moments later.

The last 20 minutes were a tense affair as Ghana constantly tested the German defence, but Joachim Loew's team held firm to maintain their country's record of having never failed to qualify from the group stages at a World Cup.

A futile win

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and shredding their highly rated defence in their best performance of the tournament.

It was to prove in vain, though, as Ghana, despite their 1-0 loss to Germany in Johannesburg, went through to the second round on goal difference.

Everton midfielder Tim Cahill started it off for the Australians by outjumping Manchester United central defender Nemanja Vidic and heading home in the 69th minute before substitute Brett Holman thumped in a long-range shot four minutes later.

Substitute Marko Pantelic pulled one back with six minutes left, had another chalked off for offside and then put another one over the bar with the goal -- and a place in the last 16 -- at his mercy.

Serbia had been favourites to advance after beating Germany 1-0, while Australia ended their ill-fated campaign on a winning note after being routed 4-0 by the Germans and drawing 1-1 with 10 men against Ghana.

Serbia looked the better team in a scoreless opening half, dominating possession and territory.

Right-winger Milos Krasic looked particularly dangerous and had two scoring chances but Australia saw off the threat.

Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer made a great close-range block of Branislav Ivanovic's shot on 23 minutes after a David Carney error inside the area.

Australia's attack was well corralled by Vidic, with the Serb back four winning virtually all the aerial duels.

Krasic had the ball in the net on 38 minutes but was flagged offside.

Australia picked up two yellow cards with defenders Michael Beauchamp and Luke Wilkshire going into the referee's book early in the second half.

Coach Antic took off Krasic just after the hour and brought on Zoran Tosic as Australia began to have more of the play.

Australia coach Pim Verbeek made a double substitution by throwing on attackers Scott Chipperfield and Brett Holman on 66 minutes and it was to pay swift dividends.

Brett Emerton became the third Australian booked for a 50-50 challenge on Milos Ninkovic as Antic took off giant striker Nikola Zigic and brought on Pantelic.

Australia's persistence finally paid off on 69 minutes when Cahill outjumped Vidic from Wilkshire's cross and headed home past the despairing Vladimir Stojkovic.

Holman let fly with a low, long-range strike four minutes later to put Australia 2-0 ahead to a roar from the huge Australian support.

But Pantelic grabbed one back after Schwarzer could not cleanly claim Tosic's volley, before fluffing his lines by shooting over in injury time with the goal gaping.

1 killed

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Sidhu, 28, was the killer of Cantonment Thana BCL president Mohammad Faruque who was shot dead on last December in city's Manikdi, Flight Lt Khairul Mamun of Rab-4 said.

He added Sidhu was accused in seven cases including three murder cases with Cantonment, Pallabi and Kaflur police stations.

Khairul Mamun said a group of around seven armed criminals opened fire on Rab personnel when a patrol team of Rab-4 reached behind Chowdhury Kunja at 'Balurmath' in Manikdi at around 12:45am.

The Rab personnel retaliated with gun shots that ensued a gunfight between them.

Following the fight, bullet hit body of Sidhu was found left lying on the spot while his cohorts managed to escape the scene, he added.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Sidhu's mother Momtaj Begum said Rab personnel picked Sidhu up from his house Kamarpata in city's Uttara at 4:45pm on Sunday. They contacted with Rab following the arrest but the Rab personnel denied of occurrence of any such event.

She said they went to file a general diary with Cantonment police station in this regard but the police station did not record it.