

WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY Plan on rural areas first for sustainable urban dev

Urge speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for preparing plan from rural areas to ensure sustainable urban development.

The planning should be done from union level for which local government has to be empowered, said AKM Moazzam Hoque, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on land ministry.

"No plan was taken at union level due to weak local government," he said, adding that local government has to be self-governed.

Rajuk distributed plots to the powerful communities like ministers, lawmakers, justices, rich people and black money holders through different projects but poor people are not getting land, he said.

To keep Dhaka livable it is a must to decentralise governance, while ensuring healthcare, education facilities and other civic facilities, Moazzam added.

The roundtable held at the planners tower in the city was jointly organised by

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), UNDP and GTZ Bangladesh marking the World Town Planning Day-2010 with a theme "Planning for Inclusive Urban Development: An Integrated Approach to Poverty Reduction."

Prof Golam Rahman of Buet said if rural areas are not brought under proper planning, integrated development will not be possible.

Dr KZ Hossain Taufique, deputy director of Urban Development Directorate (UDD), said the development in urban areas would not be sustained if there were no proper development in rural areas.

Underscoring the need on proper land distribution, Associate Prof of Buet Dr Ishrat Islam, said land ownership is being given to a small number of people and new housing projects are being prepared excluding people who are living in the area.

Urban Planner and Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof Nazrul Islam chaired the roundtable. Three papers were presented at the programme.

Dipu Moni's Tripura visit tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Tripura state government will arrange foolproof security for Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's two-day visit beginning tomorrow.

Official sources said Dipu Moni, accompanied by her husband Tawfik Rashid Nawaz and son Tawfiqur Rashed Nawaz and a big delegation, would reach Akhaura railway junction in Bangladesh, 10 kilometres from Agartala, tomorrow at about 11:00am.

Five officials, 11 eminent personalities and eight men from the media will accompany her along with a 30-member business delegation, which would also visit Tripura with her.

During her visit, Dipu Moni will address a business seminar in the government-run Prajna Bhawan auditorium of Agartala.

She will also hold official talks with Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, senior officials and cabinet colleagues to boost bilateral trade and commerce, which is already in favour of Bangladesh in the Tripura sector.

The foreign minister will also attend a cultural programme at the government-run Nazrul Kalakshetra auditorium.

Dipu Moni will then fly by helicopter to Chittakhola area in Belonia subdivision of South Tripura to inaugurate a park associated with the memory of the War of Liberation in 1971.

Anisul Huq to conduct jail killing case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Anisul Huq, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court (SC), was appointed the state counsel for conducting the jail killing case at the SC.

The ministry of law yesterday made the appointment, saying that Huq will get the facilities like those of an attorney general of the republic.

Huq had conducted the jail killing case in the High Court as chief state counsel in 2008.

He was also the principal state counsel during hearing at the SC on the appeals in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case last year.

The apex court on Sunday started hearing on the appeal filed by the government against the HC verdict in jail killing case. The court will resume hearing on the appeal today morning.

Oregon governor arrives

BSS, Dhaka

Oregon Governor Theodore Kulongoski, accompanied by the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program team, arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit.

Governor Kulongoski and leaders from the Port of Portland and the Oregon National Guard, are scheduled to meet with Bangladeshi officials to discuss mutual best practices for natural disaster response and medical mass casualty training exercises, said a press release.

RIGHTS CAMPAIGN 'One Day One Struggle' being observed today

METRO DESK

The 2nd International Campaign "One Day One Struggle" to promote sexual and bodily rights in Muslim societies will be observed today in twelve countries, including Bangladesh, to assert that sexual and reproductive rights are universal human rights based on the inherent freedom, dignity and equality of all human beings.

Hundreds will gather to discuss the issues of Right to Information, Sexuality Education, Sexual Health, Bodily Autonomy and Sexual Rights of Individuals, LGBTIQ Rights, Sexual Diversity and Islam, Sexuality, Sharia etc, said a press release.

In Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation is coordinating this year's campaign programme and will organise events jointly with Bandhu Social Welfare Society, The Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS, School of Public Health-Brac University, Shomporko Naya Shetu and Socheton Shilpi Sangha.

Today is the 5th death anniversary of Prof Mobasher Ali, a litterateur, says a press release.

He participated in the Bengali language movement actively. He wrote books on World Literature, Rabin-dranath Tagore, Nazrul, Madhusudan.

He won Bangla Academy prize, Ekushey Padak, Madhusudan Academy Prize.

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"Shadow Climate Tribunal" was staged at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

BDR TRIAL AT PILKHANA

Mutineers planned to destroy all evidence: Prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BDR mutineers had planned to destroy all evidence of murders in the carnage at their Pilkhana headquarters in February last year by burning the bodies of slain army officers in an oxidation plant that generates intense heat, revealed the prosecutor of a mutiny case yesterday.

But they turned back from their earlier plan and buried the bodies in mass graves, he said. "Possibly, they did not know how to operate the plant used to dye arms to protect those from rust... There could be other reasons too."

The prosecutor, Lt Col Jayed Hossain, was talking to newsmen following trial proceedings of 622 accused BDR jawans of 13 Rifle Battalion and Signal Sector at the Special Court-8 housed in the Darbar Hall at Pilkhana.

He said as the plant is situated near 13 Rifle Battalion, they dug the mass grave near it and majority of those involved in

burying the bodies were from this battalion.

Meanwhile, all the 622 accused from this battalion yesterday termed the killing of army officials a "dastardly act". They raised their hands when the court asked them to do so if they believe it was a gruesome incident.

Of the accused, 138 are charge-sheeted in the case filed for murder, arson, loot and dumping of bodies in sewerage lines.

The Special Court -8 headed by BDR Deputy Director General Brig Gen Obaidul Haque asked for a pause as a touching video footage was screened in the court showing retrieval of mutilated bodies of army officers from mass graves.

The court then asked prime accused in the case Subedar Major Zubayer, a bearded man, what type of sin it (the carnage) was in the eye of Islam. He replied it was "Kabira Gonah" (the worst sin).

Then the court told the accused in the

dock, "How many of you agree with him, raise your hands." In no time, all of them raised their hands. It then said if any one disagreed with him, but none responded.

Complainant of the mutiny case, also the first prosecution witness, Subedar Fariduddin Ahmed screened the heart rending video footage at the court as he was placing evidence against 63 accused. Earlier on Sunday, he had submitted partial evidence against them.

After his submission, 14 of the accused cross-examined the complainant.

The court was adjourned till 10:00 am today.

The charges against all the accused include leaving the Darbar Hall during a Darbar on February 25 last year ignoring the directive of the then BDR director general when a chaotic situation was created there, not informing the higher authorities about the mutiny in time, disobeying the lawful authorities and taking arms and ammunition illegally from different armouries.



Fire fighters participate in an exercise organised on the occasion of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week 2010 at its training complex at Mirpur-10 in the city yesterday.

Firemen wear new uniform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) yesterday started wearing their new uniform with the launching of 'FSCD Week-2010'.

The FSCD has left its old uniform, which the Pakistani forces wore during the Liberation War in 1971, said Home Minister Sahara Khatun while inaugurating the FSCD Training Complex in Mirpur.

"As the present government believes in the spirit of the Liberation War, it has changed the uniform once worn by the Pakistani forces. The FSCD members are now more inspired having this orange coloured dress with ashmarksonit."

Sahara said the government has changed the uniform after a long demand, hoping that the firemen now will perform their duties with more courage and enthusiasm.

She rejected an allegation of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the present government is changing uniforms of different forces as well as using them as the 'Rakkhi Bahini'.

The government is trying to equip the FSCD with modern technologies so that it can fight any kind of disaster including earthquake, said the minister.

She added the government is training 62,000 volunteers in community level with 1,500 already trained. At present, 218 fire stations are in the country, and construction of 151 more is going on under three projects.

After long 20 years, eight personnel of fire service and civil defence were given awards in four categories this year for their outstanding contributions, added Sahara.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Huq Tuku, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, FSCD Director General Brig Gen Abu Naim Mohammad Shahidullah, Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Ashrafur Islam Khan, among others, were present at the programme.

3 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Three people were killed as a bus ramed into their motor-cycle on Faridpur-Barisal highway at Mostafapur in sadar upazila yesterday.

They are Palash Shah, 30, of Amgram village in Rajoir, Aku Ali Matabbar, 50, of Telekandi village of the same upazila, and Mamun, 30, of Chamugria village in sadar upazila.

A Khulna-bound bus hit the motorbike in front of Ghatakchar Textile Mill, killing the three on the spot. Locals vandalised the bus of Rupali Paribahan protesting the accident.

List government officials deprived of promotion

JS body asks establishment ministry

RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary standing committee on the establishment ministry yesterday asked the ministry officials to explain why policy on promotion in civil administration has not been followed.

Dissatisfied over the issue, the parliamentary body also asked the ministry officials to bring transparency in promoting civil administration officials in future.

The ministry's senior officials were directed to prepare a list of officials deprived of promotion at different government organisations and submit it before the committee in the next meeting.

The committee discussed in detail about the policy that says how to promote government officials, said a member of the committee after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The JS body member quoted the ministry's assistant secretary, who was present at the meeting, as saying, "There is a superior service selection board (SSSB) led by the cabinet secretary who looks into the matter (promotion)."

Khandaker Asaduzzaman, chief of JS body and an Awami League MP himself raised the issue and the committee members echoed with him. They said there are allegations that policy to promote civil service officials is hardly followed.

"We want a list of the deprived officials along with their service records in detail," said Asaduzzaman.

Following an allegation by Abu Talha, a member of the committee, the ministry was also asked to send notice to the government officials about how to behave with an MP.

Mugger caught while abducting varsity student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals last night caught a criminal when he and his cohorts were trying to take away a female student of a private university after snatching valuables from her and her mother at the city's Banani area.

Kamal Uddin, OC of Gulshan Police Station, told The Daily Star that they also seized a private car used in the hijacking and recovered one pistol, three bullets, five machetes and ten mobile phone sets from the vehicle.

Yakub Hawlader, a driver of a private car who saw the crime on Road No 15 of Banani Block D told this correspondent that while the girl and her mother were entering their residence from outside around 10:30pm four hijackers in a private car snatched valuables from them and took the girl into their car and tried to flee.

Hearing cry for help, locals chased the car, which rammed into a roadside tree and got stopped, he said.

Three of them managed to flee but locals caught another and handed over him to police, said Yakub.

Husband of the female student said that his wife sustained some minor injuries and the snatchers took away their bags.

OC Kamal Uddin said they got allegation of few other incidents of hijacking in the Gulshan area on Road no 113 and 114 just before 15 to 20 minutes ago of the incident.

DHAKA TODAY

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| <p>Seminar Unicef and MRDI will organise a seminar. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 11:00am.</p> <p>Discussion International Organization for Migration will hold a discussion. Venue: Reporter's Unity VIP Lounge, Time: 3:30pm.</p> <p>Workshop ICDDR,B will organise a workshop. Venue: ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Time: 9:30am.</p> <p>Seminar PKSF will organise a seminar. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 10:30am.</p> | <p>Discussion The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will hold a discussion. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Time: 1:30pm.</p> <p>Roundtable The Energy and Power magazine will hold a roundtable. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Time: 10:00am.</p> <p>Demonstration The Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance will hold a demonstration. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.</p> <p>Discussion Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal will hold a discussion. Venue: Mukhtangon, Time: 4:00pm.</p> |
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