

# Plan for a livable city

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Headed by LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, the committee sat for the first time in August last year to discuss DAP's implementation, but the meeting ended without any decision.

Any compromise in carrying out the plan will result in environmental disaster and affect the economic and urban growth of Dhaka, said Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of Institute of Planners Bangladesh, who was also on the DAP review committee.

The DAP details every structure, lake, canal, wetland, retention pond, road, open space and all other topographical features of the city, and disapproves of unauthorised use of land.

A 17-member expert committee, headed by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, reviewed the plan twice before submitting it for gazette notification.

It recommended reclamation of more than 2,500 acres of flood flow zone and arable land from the grip of unauthorised housing projects, relocation of 2,724 industries and scrapping of 16 projects that are non-conforming with the plan.

Of the 1,528 square kilometre area under the DAP, 32 percent has been earmarked for flood flow zones, water retention and water bodies.

However, Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for Housing and Public Works, said execution of all its recommendations will cause a huge economic damage.

"We've to be practical," he said, "We can't overturn all the establishments even though they are on the wetlands and flood flow

zones in breach of law. Such a move will create social unrest," said Mannan, also a member of the cabinet committee.

That apart, he said, different powerful quarters are active to retain their proposed projects and industrial establishments on those lands.

"We'll instead negotiate with the project owners and industrial entrepreneurs to save the city's environment as much as possible," he added.

On July 24 last year, the state minister told a roundtable in the capital that the government will not bow down to any force while implementing the DAP. "No arable land will be allowed to be turned into housing projects," he added.

Contacted, Jamilur Reza Chowdhury told The Daily Star recently that the DAP review committee had already accepted many projects in violation of the Dhaka master plan. He recommended that the government should reject the totally unacceptable ones.

"Businessmen with political connections persuaded the prime minister into forming such a committee and go soft on its enforcement," he said.

The Nimtoli blaze, which killed at least 123 people and injured more than 200 in last June, is the result of the non-implementation of the Dhaka master plan, he added.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) prepared the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP), popularly known as master plan, in

1995 and published the gazette two years later.

DAP the third component, was due by 2000 for implementation of the DMDP's structure plan and Urban Area Plan.

But it was delayed by a decade thanks to the resistance from the developers and bureaucratic tanglers.

This delay resulted in filling up of vast wetlands, flood retention ponds and open spaces in and around the city exposing it to environmental hazards, flooding and water logging, environmentalists said.

The term of DMDP and DAP officially ends in 2015.

Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda said they need the cabinet committee's directions to implement the DAP.

At present, Rajuk is approving projects in full compliance with the plan, he added.

In a meeting with relevant agencies on May 22, he requested all to comply with the DAP that recommended disapproving 16 projects, six of them government ones.

The government projects are expansion of Jheelmil Housing, Pangaon Container Port, Sonakanda BSIC Industrial Area, Amin Bazar waste dumping ground, Keraniganj Jail and Keraniganj army training ground.

The private projects are Modhumoti Model Town, Eastern Mayakanan, Advanced Angel City, Ashulia Model Town, Bashundhara Riverview Housing, Probashi Polli Housing, Prottyasha Housing, Shatabdi Housing, Adarsha Shikkhak Housing and Dhaka Udyan.

# No hartal

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Gonosanghati Andolan has decided to for a hartal on June 23 or June 28. The party will announce the date through a press conference today, said Zonayed Saki, coordinator of the party.

The guardians and students now feel nervous whenever they hear there could be more hartal this month.

They pointed out that since the examinations are held simultaneously worldwide, it becomes difficult for the students to sit for the examinations if any change happens to the examination schedules.

They also keep an eye on the possible dates of demonstration with anxiety as the students may lose a year if they are unable to take the examinations on scheduled time.

They hope that the political parties will consider the fact and will not take up any programme that may hamper the students' taking part in the examinations.

"We have nothing to say about politics, we just want our children to give their examinations on scheduled time smoothly," said an anxious father of a student of A Level who will take English Literature examination on June 21.

The O and A Level examinations for May-June session began on May 11.

# Five more

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Angor village under Shahjadpur upazila have been infected with anthrax, confirmed Upazila Health Officer Dr Abdul Awal.

A team of upazila health officials led by Abdul Awal yesterday diagnosed the infected people and took them under treatment.

The infected people slaughtered a sick goat of Abdul Momin at the village about 10 days ago and shared the meat among them, they said.

With the number, a total of 64 people in different upazilas of the district have been infected with anthrax in the last few days.

Our Pabna correspondent reports: Shahida Khatun, 45, wife of Abdul Gafur of village Kenai of Faridpur upazila has been infected with anthrax, said the Faridpur upazila health and family planning officer Dr Khalilur Rahman yesterday.

Upazila health department sources said a total of 32 persons have been diagnosed to be anthrax patients.

Meanwhile, the local livestock department sources said three cows are infected with anthrax.

# Depression

**FROM PAGE 20**  
authority restricted movement of motorised water craft on 29 routes of Barisal region until further orders.

Moreover, all fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay have been advised to remain in shelter.

Other means of water transport including triple deck Barisal-Dhaka bound launches have also been asked to move with caution, the authority added.

The step was taken from yesterday morning following the low, which was turning into deep convection over the coastal region.

According to a special bulletin of Dhaka Met office, the depression was centring about 290 kilometres south-west of Chittagong port, 290 km west-southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 100 kms south of Mongla port at about 3:00pm.

Maximum sustained wind within 44 km of the depression centre was about 40 kph rising to 50 kph in gusts and squalls.

Under the influence of the monsoon depression, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Feni, Laxmipur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Borgona, Chandpur, Pirozpur, Jhalokathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars remained inundated by a wind driven surge 2-4 feet higher than normal tide.

JSD general secretary Nurul Sharif Ambia, CEC Dr ATM Shamsul Huda and other officials of the commission, among others, attended the dialogue.

Also yesterday a citizen rights group came up with a new idea for a caretaker government system at a press conference in the city.

The Shangbidhanik Adhikar Forum proposed that the president appoints the chief election commissioner the chief advisor of the caretaker government along with 10 advisers five each from the ruling party and the opposition.

# Caretaker illegal right after verdict

**FROM PAGE 1**  
of 1996) is prospectively declared void and ultra vires the constitution".

The system had been introduced through the thirteenth amendment in 1996.

The jurists said the word

## Mustafa Kamal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
A bill has to be placed in the House to amend the constitution, he said.

Mustafa Kamal said the elections will not be illegal or unconstitutional, as the SC verdict permits holding of the next two elections under caretaker government.

There will be no need to amend the constitution, if parliament keeps in force the existing caretaker system headed by the last retired chief justice, he said.

The former chief justice said the word "prospectively" in the SC verdict means the judgement had come into effect the moment the apex court announced it.

Seeking anonymity, another former chief justice said the sentence "the thirteenth Amendment to the constitution is prospectively declared void and ultra vires the constitution" implies that the caretaker government system became illegal from the date of the verdict's announcement.

If the SC had declared the thirteenth amendment to the constitution void ab initio, it would mean that it was illegal from the beginning, the justice said.

## Mahmudul Islam

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the day the apex court announced the judgement.

Parliament has enough time to decide on future elections, said the former attorney general.

He said no definitive comment can be made, as the full text of the Supreme Court verdict is not available. But it seems there are some inconsistencies in the Supreme Court order.

## Dr M Zahir

**FROM PAGE 1**  
He said the SC has already declared the caretaker system void and ultra vires the constitution but it can suggest holding the next two elections under the system excluding the judges.

A bill has to be passed in parliament to amend the constitution to hold the next two elections under caretaker government. Awami League and BNP have to reach a compromise to avoid any chaos, he said.

## Shahdeen Malik

**FROM PAGE 1**  
system will be valid for the two elections only.

One may presume that the next two elections may be held under the caretaker government since the full

text of the SC judgment is not available, he said.

"I feel that the Supreme Court has used the word 'prospectively' in its verdict to avoid any misunderstanding," Dr Malik said.



## Mahbubey Alam

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the caretaker government system had become illegal and void from the date the verdict was announced.

It cannot be said right now how the next two elections can be held under the caretaker government without going through the full text of the SC verdict, he said.

Sources close to former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque said he will start writing the full text of the verdict from first week of next month. It will take at least six months to finish the task.

# STATE RELIGION

# HC begins hearing on petition

UNB, Dhaka

The hearing on a writ petition challenging the validity of the insertion of Islam as state religion by the 8th amendment of the constitution began with deliberations by the amici curiae (friends of the court) at the High Court yesterday.

All the three amici curiae expressed the identical view that the issue should be left for parliament to decide as it enjoys the sovereign authority to amend the constitution.

Parliament, now in session, is considering amendment proposals placed by the special committee on constitution amendment in the light of recent Supreme Court judgments. It would not be prudent for the High Court to continue hearing on the rule, they told the court.

Hearing the submissions by the three amici curiae, Dr M Zahir,

Yusuf Hossain Humayun and Abdul Matin Khasru, an HC division bench headed by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury adjourned the hearing until July 14.

# Zawahiri

**FROM PAGE 20**  
assumed responsibility for command of the group," the website Ansar al-Mujahideen said in a statement.

The bespectacled Zawahiri had been seen as bin Laden's most likely successor after the man held responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington was shot dead by US commandos in Pakistan 45 days ago.

Zawahiri, the brains behind much of al-Qaeda's strategy, vowed this month to press ahead with al-Qaeda's campaign against the United States and its allies.

His whereabouts are unknown, although he has long been thought to be hiding along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The United States is offering a \$25 million reward for any information leading to his capture or conviction.

# Domestic helps

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

Any country violating labour rights will come under pressure from the global community, he said.

Around 20 lakh domestic workers are currently working across Bangladesh, BILS estimates. In Dhaka alone, there are 4.25 lakh domestic workers, says an ILO-Unicef survey.

Bangladesh's labour ministry is already drafting a policy which will officially recognise domestic workers as formal labourers and will entitle them to the benefits received by industrial workers, he told The Daily Star.

The labour rights activists said the convention is significant for Bangladesh, as a good number of Bangladeshis who work abroad as domestic workers are denied of many fundamental rights as they are not recognised by domestic labour laws of those countries.

Around two lakh Bangladeshi female migrants work abroad, mainly in the Arab countries where reports of exploitation are common.

Recent surveys on 117 of ILO member countries suggest the number of domestic workers is at least 53 million. However, experts say it could be a 100 million.

In developing countries, they make up at least 4 to 12 per cent of wage employment, 83 per cent of them being women and migrants.

"Bringing the domestic workers into the fold of our values is a strong move for every worker who aspires for a decent job," Somavia said.

According to ILO proceedings, the new Convention will be effective after ratification of the convention by two countries.

# More casualties luckily averted

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Shuvo's mother Rahima Begum said as she heard a man screaming because people were beating him up, she came out to stop her kids-slain class-IX student Swadhin Ahmed Shuvo and injured class-IV student Sohag Sheikh.

"Seeing me, Shuvo cried out 'Ma lets go back home, they are all carrying arms' and at the moment a shot was fired," Rahima told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that her sons were just a couple of yards away from where a man was being beaten up.

"Moments later I heard another shot and saw Shuvo groaning with blood oozing profusely out of his face," she added.

She said she could recognise three of the youths--Monir, Sohel and Arif--in the moonlight despite the lamp-post light were out. She, however, said she did not see anyone with firearms.

Though Rahima earlier filed a case accusing several local youths, including the three she could recognise, of killing her son, yesterday she said she did not see whose bullet killed Shuvo and injured Sohag and Shuvo's classmate Badal Hossain Rakib.

Badal said he could not recognise anyone who fired the shots. He said with excruciatingly painful wounds he and Sohag could manage to walk back to their homes.

Meanwhile, locals seemed

to be harbouring anger for what has happened.

A number of locals wishing anonymity said Rab conducted the drive against a well-organised gang in a "casual manner". They said around 15 to 20 minutes after the shooting, a Rab vehicle came to the spot and left the place with the injured Rab man.

They questioned how an elite force can conduct a drive in which their own members are in serious threat and innocent people get exposed.

They said Ali Hossain, who leads the syndicate of over 50 drug dealers, has been carrying out a reign of terror in major parts of Fatullah.

Commanding officer of Rab-10 SM Kamal Hossain yesterday said their member sergeant Zakir fired a shot injuring a criminal and managed to set himself free.

He also said after Zakir fired the bullet, the criminals fled spreading bullets and that's when Shuvo was killed and two others sustained injuries.

Asked whether enough precautionary measures were taken for the safety of his men during the drive in a densely populated area, he said it is not possible to arrest criminals going in with a large force. He said they only fired one bullet since the area was densely populated.

Asked whether he informed local police about

their drive, Kamal laughed and threw a question instead, "Is it possible to launch a successful drive, informing local police prior to the drive?"

Asked about locals' allegation that police maintain a relation with drug dealers, Officer-in-Charge of Fatullah Police Station Ainul Haq refused the allegation. He also denied that police take bribes from drug dealers.

Commanding officer of Rab-10 SM Kamal Hossain said a team of 20 Rab personnel went in the drive at Boubazar and two of them went to the spot in the guise of customers.

This, however, contradicts with the cases Rab filed with police.

Police quoting the two cases filed by Rab in this connection said six Rab personnel in two motorcycles went to the area for the drive.

Asked about ruling party men patronising drug dealers and criminals, local Awami League lawmaker Sarah Begum Kabari yesterday said criminals do not belong to any party. They use ruling-party banner for protection, she said.

"I'm personally very tough against criminals and law and order improved a lot after I became a lawmaker, but my predecessors [political leaders] patronised drug dealers and criminals," she told The Daily Star over telephone.

# Female jail guard

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Nadira and Shahnaz were arrested at the residence of Atiqur Rahman, bodyguard of IG-Prisons, while Rumana at her home in Maniknagar.

After the Rab drive, the jail authorities suspended Nadira and transferred Atiqur Rahman to Mymensingh jail as a guard, said Golam Haider, deputy inspector general (DIG) of prisons in Dhaka division.

The Rab team recovered yaba tablets and heroin worth Tk 1.20 lakh from the detainees, said Rab-3 officials at a press briefing in Rab Tikatuli office.

According to the Rab officials, taking the advantage of being a jail guard and blessings of some high officials of the jail, Nadira had been carrying out illegal drug trade in and outside the jail.

Towhidul Islam, senior superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, however, denied the allegation of drug peddling inside the prison saying Nadira had been involved in drug trade outside.

"I earlier recommended actions against her to the high officials of prisons," said Tawhidul Islam.

Jail sources said Nadira was arrested on charges of supplying cell phones to prisoners while she was posted in Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur in 1998. She was later transferred to Narayanjan Jail.

Nadira was transferred to Dhaka in 2009, after her sister and sister-in-law had been posted to Dhaka Central Jail.

Contacted over the cellphone yesterday evening, IG-Prisons Brig Gen Ashrafur Islam Khan said he was busy with talking to the home minister and to contact him later. But despite repeated attempts afterwards, the IG-Prisons could not be reached.

# Corporal

**FROM PAGE 20**  
chopped down some bamboo stems that belonged to the victim.

Hashi permitted Motiur to cut off only a few branches so he can carry an electric cable to his house.

When his labourers chopped off the bamboo stems and took those to his house, Hashi went to confront him.

At one stage of the altercation, Motiur and his family members beat her up and cut her hair off.

They then kept her confined at their house till police rescued her early yesterday and admitted her to Chilmari Hospital with marks of injuries on her body.

She was later shifted to Kurigram Sadar Hospital.

Selina Begum, victim's daughter-in-law, filed a case against Motiur Rahman and 19 others in this connection, said Chilmari Police Station Officer-in-charge Bazlur Rashid.