Plan for a livable city

FROM PAGE 1 Headed by LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful 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 and from the grip of unauthorised housing proects, relocation of 2,724 industries and scrapping of 16 projects that are nonconforming 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 politi-

cal connections persuaded the prime minister into forming such a committee and go soft on its enforcement," he

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

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) prepared the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP), popularly known as master plan, in 1995 and published the

gazette two years latter. 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 tangles.

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, Protyasha Housing, Shatabdi Housing, Adarsha Shikkhak Housing and Dhaka Udyan.

More casualties luckily averted

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 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 lamppost light were out. She, however, said she did not see anyone with firearms.

walk back to their homes.

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Meanwhile, locals seemed

Nadira and Shahnaz were

arrested at the residence of

Atiqur Rahman, bodyguard

of IG-Prisons, while Rumana

jail authorities suspended

Nadira and transferred

Atiqur Rahman to

Mymensingh jail as a guard,

said Golam Haider, deputy

inspector general (DIG) of

The Rab team recovered

yaba tablets and heroin

worth Tk 1.20 lakh from the

detainees, said Rab-3 offi-

cials at a press briefing in

According to the Rab

officials, taking the advan-

tage of being a jail guard and

blessings of some high offi-

cials of the jail, Nadira had

been carrying out illegal

drug trade in and outside the

superintendent of Dhaka

Central Jail, however, denied

the allegation of drug ped-

Towhidul Islam, senior

Rab Tikatuli office.

prisons in Dhaka division.

After the Rab drive, the

at her home in Maniknagar.

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

Female jail guard

Asked whether he

dling inside the prison say-

ing Nadira had been

involved in drug trade out-

actions against her to the

high officials of prisons,"

said Tawhidul Islam.

Narayanganj Jail.

Central Jail,.

not be reached.

"I earlier recommended

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

Dhaka in 2009, after her

sister and sister-in-law had

been posted to Dhaka

Contacted over the

Nadira was transferred to

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

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

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.

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

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

Commanding officer o 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 part 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.

Corporal

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

cellphone yesterday evening, IG-Prisons Brig Gen Kurigram Sadar Hospital. Ashraful Islam Khan said he Selina Begum, victim's was busy with talking to the daughter-in-law, filed a case home minister and to conagainst Motiur Rahman and tact him later. But despite 19 others in this connection, repeated attempts aftersaid Chilmari Police Station wards, the IG-Prisons could Officer-in-charge Bazlur Rashid.

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 examina-

"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 yester-

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 southwest 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 costal 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.

Caretaker illegal right after verdict

introduced through the

FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1

tution, he said.

of 1996) is prospectively declared void and ultra vires

the constitution". The system had been

Mustafa Kamal

A bill has to be placed in the

House to amend the consti-

elections will not be illegal or

unconstitutional, as the SC

verdict permits holding of

the next two elections under

There will be no need to

amend the constitution, if

parliament keeps in force

the existing caretaker sys-

tem headed by the last

The former chief justice

retired chief justice, he said.

said the word "prospec-

tively" in the SC verdict

means the judgement had

come into effect the

moment the apex court

Seeking anonymity,

another former chief justice

said the sentence "the thir-

teenth Amendment to the

constitution is prospectively

declared void and ultra vires

the constitution" implies

that the caretaker govern-

ment system became illegal

announcement.

from the date of the verdict's

thirteenth amendment to

the constitution void ab

initio, it would mean that it

was illegal from the begin-

PM interpreted

ning, the justice said.

If the SC had declared the

announced it.

caretaker government.

Mustafa Kamal said the

thirteenth amendment in 1996.

The jurists said the word

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.

"prospectively" in the SC

verdict means the declara-

tion became effective the

moment the apex court

announced it.

city

"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.

command of the group," the website Ansar al-Mujahideen

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Hasina of making "wrong and confusing interpretations of the verdict."

Khaleda quoted part of the verdict where it says, "The Constitution (Thirteenth amendment) Act. 1996 (Act 1 of 1996) is prospectively declared void and ultra vires the constitution."

This clearly means, she said, the illegality of the provision will not be effective now.

She mentioned that the verdict also said the 10th and the 11th parliamentary elections may be held under caretaker government system for the sake of safety of the people and the state. Moudud Ahmed, a former

law minister and a central leader of BNP, backed Khaleda's interpretation of the SC verdict. The interpretation focused

particularly on the verdict's words "prospectively declared void."

Moudud said the system has been declared illegal only for the future.

Giving his interpretation of "prospectively", Moudud told the Daily Star, "The court said at least two more elections can be held under caretaker government. The illegality will be applicable after tenth and eleventh parliamentary elections."

In her written statement, Khaleda said the prime minister is dreaming of staying in power to hold the next election. "Referring to the verdict, the prime minister is repeatedly saying the caretaker system has become illegal. What the prime minister is saying is

"It will be a major political

challenge to establish an

impartial and strong elec-

tenure of the current com-

mission expires," Inu told

or two general polls should

be held under the caretaker

An eight-member JSD

delegation led by Inu joined

the dialogue with the EC at

the commission secretariat

in the city as part of EC's

ongoing dialogue with polit-

Inu said his party

favoured introduction of

Electronic Voting Machine

out explaining it further.

dialogue.

ical parties.

(EVM) in phases.

The BNP chief said her

party will sit with the government if it announces that the the constitution as it is.

The prime minister and her ruling Awami League insist that the caretaker government system as provided in the 13th amendment to the constitution has been dead since the SC verdict on May 10. She is asking BNP to return to parliament to discuss a new formula of caretaker govern-

When pointed out that as per the existing provision of caretaker system. Just retired chief justice ABM Khairul Haque may become the chief adviser, Khaleda said her party will not accept him. "He is controversial and he is not a

"There are a lot of options [regarding head of caretaker government] in existing provision and we will be able to settle it through discussion if decision to scrap caretaker The former prime minister

said also said, "No new formula is necessary. We gave our opinion clearly and now the government has to take its decision. We also want to discuss strengthening the Election Commission comprising neutral and competent persons after the formation of caretaker government.'

to sit for dialogue with the government, Khaleda said, "We are not against discussion. We can sit anywhere to discuss any important issue with anyone for the sake of national interest. But discussion on something which is not necessary will be a waste of time" She further said, "There is

issue [caretaker government system] ... This cannot be a reason for joining parliament The government must stop what she called its ill attempt

to scrap the caretaker provision before any discussion. Asked about EC move to introduce electronic voting machine (EVM), Khaleda said the Election Commission is not neutral, and it is working for others. "It (EVM) will create

more opportunities to rig the

polls. So, we can't accept it." Standing committee members of the and party and its acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir accompanied the chairperson. It was Khaleda's second press conference on caretaker government issue this month.

States and its allies.

global community, he said.

labour rights will come

there are 4.25 lakh domestic workers, says an ILO-Unicef survey.

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.

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

Jamaat Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam said, "We will take decision about joining the dialogue after discussion with our party leaders. If we would not go, then we will inform million. the commission through

Earlier, main opposition BNP did not attend the dialogue that was scheduled to

The EC on June 7 launched dialogues with the political parties for their opinion on some key issues like Representation of the said.

HC begins hearing on petition

STATE RELIGION

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

M Zahir, Yusuf Hossain Humayun and Abdul Matin Khasru, an HC division bench headed

by the three amici curiae, Dr

by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury adjourned the hearing until July 14. Zawahiri FROM PAGE 20 assumed responsibility for

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

said in a statement.

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

Domestic helps

FROM PAGE 20

director of Bangladesh no scope to discuss a settled Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). Any country violating

> under pressure from the Around 20 lakh domestic workers are currently working across Bangladesh, BILS

Bangladesh's labour

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 coun-

exploitation are common.

In developing countries,

values is a strong move for every worker who aspires for a decent job," Somavia

ceedings, the new Convention will be effective after ratification of the convention by two coun-

FROM PAGE 20 JSD leaders at the talks also ATM Shamsul Huda and platform. underlined the need for a other officials of the com-In another development strong Election Commission mission, among others, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami to hold free, fair and transskipped its meeting with the attended the dialogue. parent elections. Also yesterday a citizen EC scheduled for 3:00pm

government system at a tion commission after the press conference in the city. The Shangbidhanik Adhikar Forum proposed

rights group came up with a

reporters emerging from the that the president appoints the chief election commis-"So, until a strong com- sioner the chief advisor of mission is formed, next one the caretaker government along with 10 advisers five each from the ruling party government," he said, withand the opposition.

any of their children or siblings will participate in the national election," sug-JSD general secretary gested Suranjan Ghosh,

wrong and confusing. The Supreme Court verdict does not mean the caretaker system has become illegal"

non-party caretaker government system will continue and the provision will kept in She went on, "We will sit with the government to decide who will be the head of

non-party caretaker govern-

ment only when it is neces-

sary. But there is no need now to hold discussion." Khaleda's reading of the SC verdict came amid intense political debate over the fate of non-partisan caretaker government. BNP and its allies have already taken the issue to the streets, enforcing three days of countrywide

hartals in a week this month.

neutral person at all."

JSD backs caretaker Nurul Sharif Ambia, CEC Dr member secretary of the

new idea for a caretaker

The caretaker government, the forum said, will complete the national election within sixty days. In case of emergencies like natural disasters, the government will get another 30

"Neither the advisers nor

system," she added.

government withdraws its

Rejecting repeated calls

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.

Ahmed, assistant executive

estimates. In Dhaka alone,

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

they make up at least 4 to 12 per cent of wage employment, 83 percent of them being women and migrants. "Bringing the domestic workers into the fold of our

People Order; laws on According to ILO pro-

demarcation of constituencies and appointment of election commissioners; and use of electronic voting machine. tries.

yesterday.

letter."

be held on June 13.

Talking to The Daily Star,