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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

6 8

NIHALANI ON SEQUEL SPREE

The veteran director is making sequels to his previous two films

PAGE 7

'USE MY BROKEN HEART'

Trayvon Martin's mother urges others to use her story to change gun law

PAGE 10

Dhaka's doom in DAP failure

TAWFIQUE ALI

Tragedies like the Rana Plaza collapse loom large over the capital, as the government is yet to implement vital recommendations in the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), say experts.

"Structural and industrial disasters may occur further, as development has taken place defying the authorised land use plan," said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, who headed the DAP expert body.

The nine-storey Rana Plaza at Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, collapsed on April 24 this year, killing 1,132 people, mostly garment workers. It was built without the approval required under building construction law.

Besides, a fire at a chemical factory in the capital's Nimtali residential neighbourhood claimed 125 lives in 2010, while a deadly blaze at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia killed 112 workers in 2012.

Jamilur Reza said thousands of industrial units and other structures have been built on the outskirts of the capital, like in Savar, Ashulia, Turag, Tongi, Demra, Rugganj, Keraniganj and parts of Gazipur and Narayanganj, flouting the rules of land use. This happened due mainly to slack monitoring by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), which attributed its failure to do the job properly to lack of manpower.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

This file photo is a glaring overview of how messy the growth of Dhaka has been on both sides of the Buriganga without DAP implementation. Unbridled grabbing of wetlands, farmlands and rural homesteads went on over the years, with successive governments turning a blind eye to and sometimes facilitating the irrevocable planning disaster.

PURBACHAL PROJECT Greens decry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development of the proposed Purbachal housing scheme of the Rajuk will destroy around 1,300 acres of forestland and wetlands in Kaliganj of Gazipur.

Environmentalists made the observation at a press conference organised by an alliance of seven environmentalist groups at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital yesterday.

They organised the conference to present the findings of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ESSENTIALS PRICES Not successful, so he resigns

FBCCI representative quits price monitoring committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

FBCCI Vice-President Md Helal Uddin has resigned from two committees formed to monitor prices of essentials after the committees' efforts went in vain "due to extortion by highway police".

Helal told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have been trying to keep the prices of basic commodities at tolerable level with our greatest efforts, but we are failing due to the extortion by the police. It is really unfortunate.

"We have already informed some ministers about the extortion by highway police and its impact on prices of commodities, but no action has been taken so far."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Easy, safe also for criminals

Kidnappers, extortionists rely on mobile money transaction; Rab gets up to 12 complaints a day

ABDULLAH MAMUN

Mobile money transfer has become a way for kidnappers and extortionists to get money as the electronic fund transfer system lacks the means to verify identities of account holders.

Criminals can register with popular mobile money transfer services like bKash or Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd with an unregistered mobile number and a fake national ID card, kidnap a person and ask for the ransom to be sent via such mobile financial services.

Law enforcers, Bangladesh Bank and mobile money transfer operators have detected several such cases.

Lt Col Ziaul Hassan, chief of Rab's intelligence wing, said the force gets 10 to 12 complaints of this sort from across the country every day, mostly

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Doping gangs on the prowl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Think twice before buying any medicine or food items from a hawkker on a bus, as the hawkker may well be a member of a gang, known as oggan party, which drugs passengers and robs them.

Shariful Islam, a businessman, was doped by such a gang last month and he lay unconscious for nearly two and a half days after eating some sweets on a bus. He was robbed of Tk 1 lakh he had withdrawn from a bank.

The Detective Branch of police, which investigated the case he had filed with Uttara East Police Station, arrested 10 members of a gang at different parts of the capital on Friday night.

Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday told a press briefing about the arrests, noting that such gangs usually become more active before festivals, especially Eid-ul-Fitr.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

THREE-DAY TRIP TO INDIA Dipu Moni returns empty-handed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday returned home empty-handed after a three-day visit to New Delhi, according to the Indian media and diplomatic circle in Bangladesh.

India had made no commitment over the land boundary agreement and the Teesta water-sharing deal that had been the reasons behind her visit.

Influential Indian Bangla daily Anandabazar Patrika in its yesterday's issue published a report headlined "Dipu returning home empty-handed".

"If the deals aren't signed, it'll surely be frustrating," Dipu Moni was quoted to have said.

She, however, told the newspaper that the people of Bangladesh would understand and that they had seen no such initiatives by the previous governments to settle the matters.

"These are not today's issues. These have been pending for decades."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Getting the right dress in the right size for Eid is probably the world for them. Surrounded by grownups in a crowded shop in Karnaphuli Garden City mall, a little girl is seen trying to see if a dress would fit her cousin yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

City bursting with Eid shoppers

Tailbacks on roads, crowds at malls

SUMAN SAHA

With Eid-ul-Fitr fast approaching, all roads yesterday led to the city's shopping centres, which witnessed one of the biggest crowds in recent times.

"Our store is packed with Eid shoppers. We couldn't be more pleased," said Mohammad Ismail, a salesman at Additta Trading, a womenswear store at Eastern Mollika Shopping Complex.

Thanks to the widespread popularity of Indian TV serials, Indian saris, which cost between Tk 3,000-6,500 apiece, are selling like hot cakes, he said.

"The local jamdanis and taants are also selling well, particularly among the older women," said a busy Ismail.

It was the same story over at Stylus, another womenswear store at Eastern Mollika.

"The crowd at my store is simply unbelievable," said Kamrul Hasan, a salesperson of Stylus, which specialises in Pakistani lawn fabrics.

Hasan said he himself sold 8-10 pieces of unstitched lawn salwar suits a day over the last couple of weeks. Their prices range from Tk 8,000 to Tk 26,000.

"The business is very brisk," he said, while refusing to give a sales figure for the day.

The New Supermarket, too, was buzzing with Eid shoppers. But Dildar Hossain Babul, a salesman of New Dhaka Fashion, a menswear store at the market, however, was not

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

ILLEGAL ENTRY Mexico jails 9 Bangladeshis

AGENCIES

Nine Bangladeshis, who were among 94 illegal immigrants arrested in Mexico recently, have been sent to jail for 15 days for their illegal entry into the North American country.

An official release issued by Bangladesh foreign ministry on Friday said the Mexican authority sent the particulars of the arrestees.

The Mexican immigration authority will allow Bangladesh embassy in Mexico City to extend consular access to them for verifying their nationality, it added.

Upon verification, the mission will issue travel permits to them for their safe repatriation to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The Mexican authority assured the Bangladesh embassy of treating the arrestees well and providing them with healthcare, if needed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6