



PHOTO: STAR

The boundary wall of a housing project built on the flood flow zone near the Balu at the eastern edge of the capital defying the detailed area plan.

## Goodbye to city's flood flow zones

FROM PAGE 1  
Housing Minister Mosharraf Hossain, who presided over yesterday's cabinet committee meeting, said they approved the requests of the army's and admin officers' housing schemes as the two had come up with engineering solution to water drainage.

"Those were once flood flow zones but not anymore as they have developed and built them up," he said.

Replying to a question, the minister said any other real estate developer that has developed housing on wetlands and flood flow zones would also get approval if they keep provision for sewer and drainage.

There had been tremendous pressure on the government for several years to alter the DAP and accommodate the schemes developed by destroying wetlands, croplands and rural settlement flouting the DAP and housing laws, official sources said.

"Finally, the move was successful, as both Rajuk planning department and the cabinet committee favoured it," said a top Rajuk official.

Responding to a question on the consequences of altering the DAP, Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, who led the DAP technical committee, said, "The consequences are suffered every day with knee-deep waterlogging after little rainfall and I do not know what else is left to do to protect this vital plan."

Interestingly, there is no need for filling wetlands and flood flow zones to build homes. At least 35 percent of the 1,528 square km DAP is earmarked as residential areas and the 35 percent has not been exhausted.

If all the residential land were to be utilised, at least 1 crore more people would be able to live in the capital.

Noted town planner Khondaker M Ansar Hossain a few months ago had said the capital could accommodate 2.75 crores of people at a rate of 350 population density per acre without filling in flood flow zones, river plains, lakes, water retention ponds and canals.

Rajuk's own Prubachal project could accommodate 10 lakh people and the Uttara Third Phase another

10 lakh. Its Jhilmil project in Keraniganj could be home to 1.33 lakh people.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association, said the government's job was to implement the master plan, not to facilitate real-estate developers' business by bending the plan and rules. She said as per law, no organisation could hold on to over 60 bighas of agricultural land or 100 bighas of other types of land.

According to DAP documents, Rajuk estimated that nearly 65 percent of the proposed site of Jolshiri was the flood flow zone, 12 percent was water bodies and 13 percent rural settlement. There was a natural canal that flows to Dakshin Nabagram from Beraid through the site.

The DAP technical committee had recommended scrapping the Prottyasha housing project as it was on the flood flow zone.

The cabinet committee's decision to scrap a 100-foot wide canal along the Purbachal Link Road would help the approval of at least six more

blocks of Bashundhara housing in Baridhara, from Block-G to Block-L.

Bashundhara has approval for Block-A to -F, said Rajuk officials.

Golam Rabbani, secretary to the housing and public works ministry, said, "The job of the cabinet committee is to review DAP and there is nothing to worry about."

The DAP, with a view to ensure a planned, healthy and environmentally sound capital, was finalised after an epic battle against vehement opposition by powerful real-estate developers.

But the government, immediately after its gazette notification in 2010, formed a seven-minister committee for "final review".

Following letters from over 20 developers of illegal housing schemes asking for alteration to the DAP, a technical committee last year prepared a report based on GIS and satellite maps, video and photographs and showed the present and past state of wetlands and flood flow zones in the DAP.

Convener of the technical committee Sheikh Abdul Mannan, a

## TENSION ON MYANMAR BORDER

# Border forces to meet today

STAR REPORT

Amid tension along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Bandarban, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will hold a sector commander-level flag meeting with their Myanmar counterpart at Maungdaw in Myanmar today.

Cox's Bazar sector commander of BGB Col Farid Hasan will lead a delegation of 20-22 members at the meeting where the Bangladesh side will raise the issue of Myanmar Border Guard Police's unprovoked attack on a BGB patrol team on May 28, killing its member nayek Mizanur Rahman.

Devising ways to ease tension along the border and smuggling of narcotics are also on the agenda of BGB, said Maj Mifthaur Rahman, second-in-command of BGB 17 Battalion of Cox's Bazar.

A tense situation has been prevailing along Naikhanghari of Bandarban since Mizanur was killed in the BGP firing.

BGP members had also taken away

the body intruding into Bangladesh territory.

On May 30, Myanmar border guards attacked another BGB team when it neared the border searching for Mizanur. A gun battle then took place between the two sides.

Myanmar finally handed over Mizanur's body to BGB the following day as the foreign ministry summoned the Myanmar ambassador in Bangladesh twice demanding the body and withdrawal of the army Myanmar had deployed along the border.

After the May 28 incident, Myanmar deployed army to stand guard with its border police along its border with Bangladesh while BGB called for reinforcement with heavy weapons.

Meanwhile, 40 to 50 families from four bordering villages -- Jamchhari, Phultoli, Phultolir Matha and Achhartoli -- have not yet returned to their houses, reported our Cox's Bazar correspondent. They fled the villages hearing firing of mortar shells and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## One more to join 19-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 19-party alliance last night decided to widen the platform by including a faction of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal in the combine.

The decision was made at a meeting of the alliance high ups at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office, said meeting sources.

Khaleda showed interest in including the party in the alliance. As per the directives of the party chief, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at a press conference today at the party's Nayapaltn headquarters will make an announcement in this regard.

Earlier on Tuesday, a delegation of the Samyabadi Dal's faction, led by its acting secretary general Sayed Ahmed, met Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office and expressed their interest in joining the 19-party alliance.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Cops asked to register case

FROM PAGE 1  
(CPC)-3 of Rab-14, and Enamul Haq, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Rab unit.

Seven other unnamed Rab men and two civilians have also been made accused in the case.

In the case statement, victim's brother Mehedi Hasan alleged that some Rab-14 members tortured Shahnur at the battalion's Bhairab camp in Kishoreganj.

He died at a hospital in Comilla on May 6 after being admitted there following a referral from the Brahmanbaria prison authorities.

ASI Enamul led the team that picked up Shahnur from his home on April 29, the case statement reads.

Rupak Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nabinagar Police Station, said he had heard about the court's order and was waiting to receive its copy.

The case comes amid widespread criticism of the elite force over its alleged involvement in extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, something the force has always denied.

Three of its dismissed officers are now facing abduction and murder

charges in a Narayanganj court.

The case involves the April 27 kidnap and subsequent killing of seven people, including Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker.

One of the dismissed officers, Maj Arif Hossain, made a confessional statement before a Narayanganj court yesterday.

In 2011, a Jhalakathi court directed the police to register a case against six Rab personnel over an allegation of shooting a college student, Limon Hossain.

Limon's mother, Henora Begum, complained that the Rab men on March 23 that year shot her son near their home.

In Brahmanbaria, victim's brother Mehedi said nine plainclothes men came to their home at Bogdohor village under Nabinagar upazila around 12:30pm on April 29.

Three of them summoned Shahnur and asked for drinking water. Shahnur brought water for them but in the meantime the six others, who were a little behind, appeared on the scene and handcuffed him.

All the nine men then brought out Rab uniforms from their backpacks, put them on and then went away with Shahnur, Mehedi added.

The next day, Shahnur was handed over to Nabinagar Police Station with injury marks on his body. A court sent him to jail on May 1, police said.

As his condition worsened, the jail authorities admitted him to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital on May 4 and later shifted him to Comilla Modern Hospital. He died there on May 6.

The two civilians accused in the case are Nazrul Islam, a manpower broker of Krishnanagar, and his accomplice Abu Taher of Nabinagar.

Mehedi claimed that the Rab men picked up his brother in exchange for money from Nazrul.

Rab denied that its members tortured Shahnur. It said the Rab men detained Shahnur following an allegation that he was involved in extortion in the area.

It also claimed that Shahnur was handed over to the police unhurt.

But, Nabinagar police said the forwarding report that the Rab-14 officials gave them mentioned that Shahnur's body bore injury marks.

## Jubo League man killed in internal feud

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A ward-level Jubo League leader was killed in Sonagazi upazila of Feni over internal feuds early yesterday.

The dead, Jasim Uddin, 35, was president of ward-9 (Adarshagram) of Chardarbes union unit Jubo League, the youth wing of the ruling Awami League.

Quoting locals, police said some seven to eight criminals swooped on Jasim in Adarshagram village, some 150 metres from a police investigation centre, when he was returning home from a wedding ceremony around 1:00am.

They stabbed Jasim indiscriminately, leaving him seriously injured.

Hearing his screams, locals rushed to the spot and took Jasim to Sonagazi Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, locals caught one of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## BCL BOMB ATTACK

# 6 cops among 7 hurt in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least seven people, including six policemen, were injured in a bomb attack by a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League in Bogra yesterday.

The injured are: Officer-in-Charge AHM Foyjur Rahman, Havilder Shahjahan Ali, constables Delwar Hossain, Shahriar, Swapan and Ashkur of Bogra Sadar Police Station, and Badal, a shop owner.

According to police, two factions led by Jewel and Julfikur were at loggerheads over the formation of a number of local Chhatra League unit committees. Yesterday afternoon they took position at Shatmatha in Bogra town.

To prevent any untoward situation, a team of police positioned themselves between the groups around 8:00pm.

At one stage, some crude bombs were hurled at the police from one of the factions, leaving the police personnel and the trader wounded.

In retaliation, police fired around 15 rubber bullets and six teargas canisters to disperse the activists of Chhatra League, the student front of the ruling Awami League.

The injured policemen were rushed to Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital immediately and were in a stable condition.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Nazir Ahmed Khan of Bogra said drives were on to arrest the attackers.

General Secretary of the district Chhatra League unit Masrafi alleged that some Chhatra League activists, instigated by the local Jubo League leaders, had carried out the attack on

## Intruders to face action

FROM PAGE 16  
problem," said Kiran Rijjui, minister of state for home.

"We have to look at these things from the national perspective. So action will be taken, but we have to work along with the state government," he added.

He was responding to queries from reporters on the BJP Assam unit's plan to launch "Bangladeshi Bhagao Abhiyan (remove Bangladeshis)" in the state.

Rijjui said his party BJP never treated the issue of illegal migration as a political problem. "It has been an issue for all of us, particularly our party. We consider this issue not as a political problem. This is a national problem," he mentioned.

Two days ago, BJP lawmaker from Assam Kamakhya Prasad Tasa said a "Bangladeshi Bhagao Abhiyan" will be launched by the party in Assam soon.

The Jorhat MP said the drive will start from Jorhat district to be followed by other parts of the state.

Speaking at various election rallies

last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised the issue of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and threatened to deport them if the BJP was voted to power.

Meanwhile, a report from Agartala, capital city of the north-eastern state of Tripura, said tension in Bangladesh's Khagrachhari district has led around 90 Bangladeshi families crossing into Tuichakma in Tripura's Dhalai district.

District Magistrate Milind K Ramteke, who was camping at Tuichakma village, yesterday confirmed the influx of Bangladeshis in some border areas of the district.

"We are collecting information about the families who have come over from across the border," he mentioned.

The BSE, added Ramteke, will organise a flag meeting at Mayang Border Outpost (BOP) where the BGB's wing commander of Naracherra BOP will be present. "We are optimistic about sending all the Bangladeshi nationals back to their homeland."

## Dhaka to seek \$4b for six

FROM PAGE 16  
yesterday, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said Dhaka would table six fast-track infrastructure and power generation projects during talks with Beijing on June 9.

The projects are: a 1,320-megawatt coal-fired power plant at Kalapara in Patuakhali, Rajshahi Wasa water treatment plant project, multilane tunnels beneath the Karnaphuli river, second railway bridge in Kalurghat of Chittagong, a rail-network through Chittagong-Ramu-Cox's Bazar and Ramu-Gundhum, and Info-government project.

A high-powered committee, headed by the PM's principal secretary, placed its final recommendation to the premier for considering China in awarding the deep-sea port project, sources at the PMO said.

"She [the PM] is taking the shipping secretary in her entourage for final negotiations on the deep-sea port project with China," the sources added.

The government will keep in

mind geopolitical sensitivities while signing any deal with China for the deep-sea port construction.

It also plans to have a consortium involving the Netherlands for consultation, India for navigability works and some other countries.

After Japan conducted a feasibility study for the port in 2009, the China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) submitted a proposal to finance and construct the port promising to complete the first phase by 2019.

Some other companies from different countries had also given some proposals, but the CHEC promised financing. The government on January 22 put the deep-sea port project on a fast track.

The prime minister is also expected to seek Chinese military cooperation during her visit.

There is a possibility of the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding and exchange of letters, followed by a joint statement, the foreign minister said at the press conference.

Trade between Bangladesh and China stood at \$6.77 billion in the fiscal year 2012-2013. Bangladesh imported goods worth \$6.3 billion but exported only \$458 million.

Bangladesh will seek to reduce this trade gap during the premier's six-day visit to China, which strongly backed Hasina's government following the January 5 general elections.

The PM's delegation includes Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, a 70-member business delegation, eight secretaries of the government and civil and military officials.

PROGRAMMES

The PM will attend the second China South Asia Exposition in Kunming on Friday at the invitation of the Governor of Yunnan Province, Li Jiheng.

She will also address a gathering of the China-South Asia Business Forum there on Saturday.

Hasina will then proceed to

Beijing and hold official talks with her Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang on June 9.

The entire range of bilateral, regional and international issues will come up for discussion at the official talks.

Besides, issues related to investment, agriculture, communications, tourism, culture, power and gas, telecommunications, climate change, disaster management, reduction of disaster risk and scientific cooperation will come up for discussion.

Hasina will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Yu Zhengsheng.

She will also hold a meeting with the Vice Premier Wang Yang.

In Beijing, the Bangladesh leader will address the Bangladesh-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum hosted by the China Council for Promotion of International Trade.