

# VAT ON PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, WRATH OF STUDENTS



Anti-clockwise from top right, Dhaka city's artery that connects its south with the north snapped in the middle at Banani Chairman Bari as private university students' opposition against value added tax (VAT) on their tuition fees snowballs into a massive citywide demonstration yesterday. On Mirpur Road, one group shouts the slogan "No VAT on Education". Students of East West University do the same on nearby Rampura Bridge, with some protecting themselves in the extreme temperature. As always, the first casualty of any demonstration is the general public, but demonstrators in the bridge area help a man with a bandaged arm get onto a rickshaw. People walk with luggage in the area after they were forced to get down from buses, due to road blocks created by the demonstrators. Stuck in an indefinite traffic jam, an auto-rickshaw driver opts to carry his heavy vehicle over the road divider to the opposite direction on Mohakhali Flyover. Chittagong city also sees demonstrations at Wasa intersection. As a result, a huge traffic jam is created in the intersection and surrounding areas of the port city.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, AMRAN HOSSAIN, ANURUP KANTI DAS

## 1995 master plan for CCC will be modified: Nasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The master plan for Chittagong Metropolitan area, which has not been implemented in last 20 years, will now be implemented but after proper modification, said Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

The city has been facing different and new problems for last 20 years, so the master plan has to be changed according to present circumstances, Nasir said at a meeting jointly organised by the CCC and Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) in CCC auditorium.

To find out problems at the grass-root levels, meetings will be held in 41 wards of CCC with civil society representatives, he added.

People's involvement with the formulation of master plan is mandatory but it did not happen in 1995, said CDA Chairman Abdus Salam, mentioning that the plan also has some inconsistency.

The mayor mentioned that water-logging has now become the biggest problem of Chittagong city because the drainage master plan had not been implemented. The CCC and CDA will try to implement the updated master plan in a planned way, he added.

CCC Chief Executive Officer Kazi Md Shafiqul Alam chaired the meeting where CCC ward councillors were present too.

# New Dhaka master plan in making

*While existing DAP remains mostly unimplemented; N'ganj Mayor Ivy calls it initiative to legalise acts of land grabbers; professional bodies, previously involved experts not invited; Dhaka South Mayor Khokon critical of realtors; North's Mayor Annisul feels being left in the dark; Rajuk advised to stop promoting plot-based housing*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has to stop promoting plot-based housing in the capital because it encourages massive earth filling of dedicated conservable wetlands by the government and private realtors, recommends a newly proposed master plan for Dhaka city.

Rajuk instead should support apartment housing and develop urban facilities so that private individuals can build their own houses, said Prof Aktar Hossain Chowdhury, deputy leader of the consultants' team for the proposed

20-year master plan, at a national seminar at Rajuk Bhaban yesterday.

With the existing master plan mostly unimplemented and its term expiring this year, Rajuk has embarked on drawing up a new one, the Dhaka Structure Plan 2016-2035, under the "City Region Development" project funded by the Asian Development Bank and Bangladesh's government.

Rajuk organised a two-day national seminar on the draft structure plan on its premises seeking opinions of relevant experts and professionals.

The plan proposes protection of flood flow zones, canals, rivers, ponds

and flood water retention areas through land acquisition and proper demarcation to save surface water against contamination, help storm drainage, and ground water percolation, said Chowdhury, while making a presentation.

The proposed plan outlines long-term development of the city's transportation, housing and utility services, land use, conservation of floodplains, water retention areas, farmland, open spaces, industrialisation, disaster management, heritage and culture. It has divided an updated 1,624 sq km

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## 'Rescued' children kept in shelter home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine children, out of 10, who were "rescued" from a flat in the capital's Banasree on Saturday, have been sent to the Juvenile Development Centre in Gazipur while another was handed over to his family.

Police said the children were sent to the shelter home following a Dhaka court order as their guardians could not be contacted or identified immediately.

The court yesterday also put their four "captors"-- Arifur Rahman, Hasibul Hasan Sabuj, Zakia Sultana, and Feroz Alam Khan Shuvo -- on a two-day remand each in a case filed by one Monir, uncle of one of the children, under the human trafficking act.

Officer-in-Charge of Rampura Police Station Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star that they will interrogate the four to verify whether their claim of running an NGO, Adamya Bangladesh, which "shelters such street children" is true.

Khadiza Begum, caretaker of the house, said the NGO had been paying Tk 17,000 as rent for the last 10 months.

After the incident, this correspondent talked to the children who said that they had been staying in the flat for at least six months. They were treated well and no one even tortured them.

## Families of migrants see better living

*Reveals survey disclosed at consultation organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, RMMRU, Warbe Development Foundation*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Households having migrants are faring better than those that do not with the remittance being sent contributing significantly in reducing poverty and creating employment, says a survey of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).

"The benefits of international migration are distributed among non-migrant producing areas," RMMRU Founder Chairperson Prof Tasneem Siddiqui told a programme in the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

The programme on "National Civil Society Consultation on 8th GFMD 2013" was jointly organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, RMMRU and Warbe Development Foundation. GFMD stands for Global Forum on Migration and Development, scheduled to be held in Turkey next month.

The survey was conducted on 5,084 households in 17 districts under Bangladesh's seven divisions between December 2013 and March 2014.

It said each household that had migrants received on an average of Tk 2.68 lakh as remittance last year.

Only 13 percent of the migrant-containing families live below the poverty line while it was over 80 percent for the other, it added.

Prof Tasneem said the employment was created in cultivation, poultry and livestock farming and small-scale enterprises.

"Around 30 percent of international migrant households have savings accounts whereas 18 percent of non-migrant households have savings accounts," mentioned the survey.

The migrant-containing families enjoyed

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## Stop illegal parking, use of hydraulic horns in capital

HC tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately stop illegal parking of vehicles, sound pollution and use of hydraulic horns in the capital.

In response to a petition, the court asked the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to submit a report complying with the order before it by November 3. Deputy Attorney General Tapas Kumar Biswas told The Daily Star.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain in four weeks as to why they should not be directed to comply with the order. Secretaries to the

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