

## SANGSAD BHABAN SC asks for original plan in 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the parliament secretariat to submit before it in three months the original master plan of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban designed by famous architect Louis I Kahn.

The Appellate Division of the SC passed the order during the hearing of an appeal filed by the government against a High Court verdict that had declared the residences of the speaker and deputy speaker near the parliament building illegal 11 years ago.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha also adjourned the hearing of the appeal for three months.

During yesterday's hearing, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told the apex court that the HC in June 2004 declared the residences of the speaker and deputy speaker in the parliament complex illegal without examining the original master plan of Louis I Kahn.

The residences cannot be declared illegal without examining the master plan, which is now in the archive of the State University of Pennsylvania in the USA, he said.

He said the government has taken steps to collect the master plan, as the prime minister wanted to see it.

Murad Reza said the HC had asked the government to take steps to announce the parliament building a national heritage site, and to ask the Unesco to recognise it as a World Heritage Site.

The HC cannot pass such a directive as the parliament building is the symbol of national sovereignty, the additional attorney general argued.

Writ petitioners' counsel Tanjib-Ul Alam told The Daily Star that they would contest the government's appeal before the apex court in order to uphold the HC judgment.

Following a writ petition jointly filed by the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), the HC on June 21, 2004, declared residences of the speaker and deputy speaker in the parliament complex illegal as those distorted the original design of Louis I Kahn's 1973 masterpiece.

Later, the Appellate Division had stayed the HC judgment following an appeal filed by the government.

The construction of the Sangsad Bhaban began in 1962 and took 12 years to finish.



Family members of Mukul Hossain crying inconsolably at Bahukula in Shibgonj of Bogra district. The 23-year-old policeman was hacked to death by unidentified assailants in Savar's Ashulia yesterday.

PHOTO:  
STAR

## Cop hacked to death in Savar

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team of three to four that had taken position at a nearby orchard.

He claimed that all five constables were armed.

Asked why they didn't open fire on the attackers, the SP said the sudden attack might have caught them by surprise, and that they didn't get time to fire shots.

In reply to a query, the SP said the motive behind the attack was still unknown, but it might be linked with the Cabtoli attack.

Ashulia police said the three other constables -- Mohammad Apel, Pinaruzzaman and Mohamamd Imran -- also suffered minor injuries during the attack, but didn't say how they were wounded.

The attackers fired two shots while leaving the scene. Two empty bullet shells were recovered from there, police said.

Sub-Inspector Azharul Islam last night filed a case with Ashulia Police Station against unknown criminals.

An SI of the police station was suspended for "negligence" in duty.

Mohsinul Kadir, OC of the police station, said checkpoints are regularly set up on the highway. A team of six policemen, including a sub-inspector and five constables, is deployed at each checkpoint.

Constables from Industrial Police are also hired for the job, he said.

After visiting injured Nur at Enam Medical College and Hospital, the home minister told reporters, "Police were caught off-guard. They must be more cautious while discharging their duties."

Referring to the recent killings and attacks, Kamal said, "I think all these incidents are linked."

"All of them [attackers] are the same people, and they carry out subversive activities sometimes using the name of Ansarullah, sometimes the JMB or the IS [Islamic State]."

"Even their patrons are the same," he said.

Only three days ago, Faisal Arefin

Dipam, owner of Jagriti Prokashani, was hacked to death at his office in the capital's Shahbagh, and another publisher, Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, and two bloggers were wounded at Lalmatia in separate attacks.

On September 28, Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella, 50, was shot dead in the capital's diplomatic zone while Japanese national Kunio Hoshi was murdered in Rangpur on October 3.

Locally-made bombs exploded at a Shia gathering at Hossaini Dalan in Old Dhaka on the day of Ashura. A teenage boy was killed and scores of people were injured in the blasts on October 24.

**EIGHT INJURY MARKS**  
Mukul's body bore eight injury marks, mostly on the left side of the body, said sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue where his autopsy was done.

There was no bullet mark on his body, said the sources.

According to a police inquest report, the body bore a six-inch cut on

the left side of forehead, another on the throat, and a four-inch cut in the abdomen.

There were also two injury marks on his back and on the left side of the chest, it said.

**BREADWINNER OF FAMILY**  
Mukul from Bahubal village of Bogra joined Industrial Police three years ago and was posted in Ashulia.

A bachelor, he was the eldest of four siblings and the breadwinner of his six-member family, said his cousin Shafiqul at the DMC morgue.

His father Shaidul Hossain is a farmer and mother Morsheda Begum is a housewife.

Mukul used to pay for education of his two sisters studying at schools, said Shafiqul, who works at a factory in Ashulia.

Mukul, along with some other constables, was supposed to join Dhaka Metropolitan Police within a week or two. They had already got joining orders, said his colleagues.

## Police van 'attacked'

5 cops hurt after their vehicle falls in a ditch amid 'gunfire'

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Five policemen were injured as the vehicle carrying them plunged into a roadside ditch after being fired upon at Ghatara in Brahmanbaria on Tuesday night.

The injured were Abdul Awal Bhuiyan, a sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, and constables Abul Bashar, Mithun Chandra Nath, Sahidul Islam and Ariful Islam.

On information that a group of smugglers would transport a consignment of contraband items in a private car through the area, a police team set up a checkpoint on Comilla-Sylhet highway at Ghatara around 11:30pm, said the local police.

As the policemen signalled a red private car to pull over, it sped away ignoring the signal. The cops chased the car in a pickup truck. At one point, the criminals opened fire on the police van.

The vehicle then veered off the road and fell into the ditch as its driver lost control over the steering.

The injured were taken to Sadar Hospital.

Three youths have been detained in connection with the incident.

Superintendent of Brahmanbaria Police Mizanur Rahman said police and Rapid

Action Battalion have launched a joint drive to arrest the criminals.

## 'Syrians should join peace process'

AFP, Moscow

UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said yesterday that the Syrian government and opposition should start talking to each other, as global powers seek to keep up a push aimed at ending the war.

Russia hosted de Mistura after 19 key international players met for key talks in Vienna on Friday, including the United States, Iran and Saudi Arabia, in the broadest push yet to end the four-year conflict.

The participants -- who did not include any representatives of the Syrian government or its opponents -- agreed to ask the UN to broker a peace deal between the regime and opposition to clear the way for a new constitution and UN-supervised elections.

"We are ready, the UN is ready, to start immediately with this process in Geneva," de Mistura said.



Security was stepped up in the capital following a machete attack on a police checkpoint in Savar yesterday morning. In the photo taken at Kakrail, an officer is frisking a motorcyclist.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Policemen asked to stand

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The DMP boss also asked the DCs to ensure all personnel at checkpoints wear bulletproof vests and have other safety equipment.

The DCs, additional DCs and assistant commissioners were asked to visit checkpoints at night for monitoring.

"Don't set up any checkpoint if you don't have enough manpower for it," the commissioner was quoted as saying at the meeting by sources.

Police headquarters too ordered the superintendents of police (SPs) of all districts a couple of days ago to stay alert with loaded guns at checkpoints and during patrols and drives, said a number of SPs.

"In the wake of recent attacks, we have taken the highest level of security measures," said an SP, wishing anonymity.

"These are common guidelines for the checkpoints. But from time to

time, the authorities alert the force to follow them," said Deputy Commissioner (Media) Muntasirul Islam of the DMP.

The real picture is, however, completely different. Policemen at checkpoints are always seen very casual. While one is frisking a person, the others are often seen gossiping or even standing at a distance not paying attention to what is going on.

**'ALL ATTACKS LINKED'**  
Referring to the recent attacks, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, "I think all these incidents are linked."

"All of them [attackers] are the same people, and they carry out subversive activities sometimes using the name of Ansarullah, sometimes the JMB or the IS [Islamic State]."

"Even their patrons are the same," he told the press after visiting the policeman, who was injured in the Ashulia attack, at Enam Medical

College Hospital yesterday.

He asked the law enforcers to be more cautious while on duty, saying that intelligence agencies have raised security warnings ahead of the "imminent verdicts" on review petitions filed by condemned war criminals Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

**RAB BOSS WARNS OF RETALIATION**

Condemning the attacks on police, Benazir Ahmed, director general of the Rapid Action Battalion, yesterday said those, who are pushing the families of innocent policemen to "this tragic situation", should remember that it could happen to them as well.

"The terrorists are only a handful and they will inevitably be defeated by the great power of the state," he said while visiting the knife-attack spot in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital.

## Netherlands to help

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2100.

The Dutch minister said the two countries have been facing common challenges in controlling flood. "So, we need collaborative measures to encounter these challenges."

Putting emphasis on sharing knowledge and experience for practical solution to the water resources management problems, Melanie Schultz said the Delta Plan is very

crucial for both the Netherlands and Bangladesh.

In this connection, she said two-thirds of the Netherlands land is vulnerable to flood. "Keeping this in mind, we took another Delta Plan after the successful implementation of the 60-year Delta Plan of 1953."

"There's a word that the God had created the world, while the Dutch have created the Netherlands," she added.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali,

State Minister for Water Resources Mohammad Nazrul Islam and PM's Principal Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad were present, among others.

The governments of Bangladesh and the Netherlands have been working together to formulate a long-term plan for management of the Bangladesh delta, known as the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

The formulation of the project is led by the General Economics Division of

the Planning Commission of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is the world's largest delta. Its rivers and floodplains, that account for 80 percent of the country, support life, livelihoods and the economy.

The country faces major inter-related delta challenges in water safety, food security and socio-economic development and is prone to natural calamities such as flood, cyclone, and drought.

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the matter on their own.

"If I want security, at least four police will be posted. If I want more security, perhaps four more will be deployed. If I ask again, police department will not hesitate to deploy 20-25 more cops. But how long general people like us could ask police for security in this way? We have to go out for work every day," he said.

Contacted, Shiblee Noman, assistant commissioner of police (Ramna Zone), said, "We've heard of the threat. We're now investigating if the threat is linked to Dipam's murder."

Talking about his state of mind, the professor said he had written and expressed his opinion freely in independent Bangladesh despite many obstacles.

"Many wrote countering the arguments in my write-ups. But I have never thought there'd be an armed attack [on my family]," he said in a choked voice.

On Saturday afternoon, his only son Faisal Arefin Dipam, owner of Jagriti Prokashani, was brutally hacked to death inside his office at Aziz Super Market in the capital's Shahbagh. Around the same time, Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, owner of Shuddhoswar Prokashani, and Tareq Rahim and Ranadipam Basu were hacked by three youths in the capital's Lalmatia.

Professor Quasem said the situation had become so worse that people were getting attacked and killed inside their bedrooms and offices.

He, however, did not place any complaint against the police force.

"I do not think police are negligent in discharging their duties. I feel police, though they will not admit, are helpless in many cases," he said, adding at least 30-35 police were killed in the last four years.

He said the government was working to curb terrorist activities but its statement and activities were marked by narrowness.

"BNP and Jamaat are being held responsible for everything but people are not buying it anymore," he said. "The criminals should be arrested."

He further said the youths who were killing people in this way were "mentally sick" and reiterated that good sense should prevail among people so that the killers could be resisted.

Prof Quasem told reporters that the investigators were yet to inform him anything about the development of the investigation.

Police said they were working on CCTV camera footage and the call list from Dipam's cell number, he said.

## Who are the youths seen on CCTV?

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According to Nazmul, all the youths could be aged between 20 and 22 and they were in pant, shirt and t-shirt

He said the whole episode was captured by two CCTV cameras -- one at the east side of the market and another at the parking. The market has at least 14 entry-exit points and four of those were not under CCTV coverage.

Unidentified assailants hacked dead Faisal Arefin Dipam of Jagriti Prokashani inside his office on the second floor of

the market building on Saturday. The killing came to light around 6:00pm after the door locked from inside was opened by his colleagues in presence of police. The office was not under any CCTV coverage.

Around afternoon that day, publisher Ahmedur Rashid Chowdhury Tutul of Shuddhoswar Prokashani and two writers Tareq Rahim and Ranadipam Basu were hacked by three youths at Shuddhoswar office in Lalmatia.

As there were no eyewitnesses, the time of the killing is not confirmed yet.

Contacted, Mashrukure Rahman, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star yesterday that they in the CCTV footage found the movement of many people suspicious.

"We are not in a position to say anything about any specific suspicion. It will take time as we need to see the footage repeatedly," he added.

Investigators of Dipam murder case

were also checking the list of calls processed through the mobile phone towers covering the market area, DB sources said.

Meanwhile, after a three-day strike protesting the killing, owners and employees of Aziz market opened their shops yesterday morning.

Around 12:15pm, the owners and employees along with publishers and writers took to the street in front of the market demanding immediate arrest of the killers.