

New Detailed Area Plan gazetted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday published a gazette notification for the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of 1,528 square kilometres under Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha.

With the new gazette, the effectiveness of the old DAP was abolished yesterday, so the new DAP, effective from 2016 to 2035, will be valid from now.

The DAP was formulated by consulting firms Sheltech and DDC, following a work order of Rajuk.

According to the gazette, a draft of the DAP was published in 2020. All were invited to submit suggestions and objections regarding it. Later, the master-plan was approved after considering the opinions.

However, works completed or action taken under DAP 2010, till publication of the latest gazette notification, shall be deemed valid.



A man tries to regain his balance as the van carrying him and a container was almost about to topple while moving through the uneven road. Although the road was supposed to get fixed a long time ago, the situation remains the same. Locals allege accidents have become a regular phenomenon in the area. The photo was taken on Outer Circular Road near Bangla Motor yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SLAIN BNP LEADERS Won't let their sacrifices go in vain: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

Stating that their party has initiated a fresh movement across the country, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said BNP will not let the sacrifices of its slain leaders and the tears of their families go in vain.

"We launched a fresh movement up to village level across the country from yesterday (Monday) protesting the hike in the prices of fuel and daily essentials and ongoing load-shedding," he said.

He alleged that the ruling party "cadres" attacked their party leaders and activists in different areas of the country, including in Laxmipur and Barishal to thwart the movement.

"The problem of Awami League and (Sheikh) Hasina is that they can't suppress BNP even after so much repression, killing and enforced disappearance. BNP is rising from debris like Phoenix. This is the biggest reason behind their anger and fear."

Jatiyatabadi Help Cell arranged the programme at BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office to provide

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PRAYER
TIMING
AUGUST 24

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Congratulations

Australian International School Dhaka delightfully announces the great achievement in the IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Program) Examination 2022. Our student Nazahat Tahsin has scored 43 out of 45 which is recorded as the highest score in the history of the school. Heartfelt congratulations for her excellent success and good luck for greater achievements in the future

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Joarshahara, Purbachol (300 Feet Road), Khilkhet, Dhaka

New drugs, new challenges

Kush now a major headache; meth, marijuana smuggling on the rise

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite law enforcers' tough vigilance, smugglers are trying to introduce new types of narcotics in the country and are doing business using social media.

Just two years back, crystal meth was relatively unknown in Bangladesh.

In February 2019, only 5 grammes of meth was seized. But within years, it has spread to different corners of the country, according to law enforcers.

The database shows that over 21 kg of meth was seized in 2021 alone.

Recently, a new narcotic – kush, a type of cannabis – is worrying law enforcers.

Mehedi Hasan, assistant director of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), told The Daily Star yesterday that smugglers are bringing in regular marijuana consignments and providing it in the market using names like "kush" or "POD".

According to DNC's annual report, around 2,742 kg of marijuana was seized in 2020, while the amount rose to 4,417 kg in 2021, a 62 percent increase.

Accepting the fact, Mehedi said high seizures reflect high smuggling. "But we remain alert for any kind of activity."

Mehedi added, "We are now trying to figure out the smuggling routes and selling methods."

For the first time, Rapid Action Battalion seized kush on August 1, after arresting a youth, Onaisi Sayed alias Rear Sayed, during a drive in Gulshan and Mohammadpur.

Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told The Daily Star yesterday that Onaisi brought marijuana seeds from Canada and the Netherlands and cultivated them in Mohammadpur using a heat-control method.

- » Marijuana smuggling rose by 61pc from 2020 to 2021
- » Kush smuggled into country from Netherlands, Canada
- » Per 100g of kush sold at Tk 1 to 1.5 lakh
- » Kush significantly more potent than regular marijuana
- » In South-Asia, kush largely used in Afghanistan, Pakistan, some areas of North India
- » Continued use can damage liver, kidney

It takes three to four months to produce 300 to 400 grammes of kush, he said. Onaisi used to sell per 100-gramme of kush for Tk 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh.

About the selling method, Moin said Onaisi's main targets were the affluent. "He used to take orders on social media and met the buyers in person to sell it," he said.

"We have managed to identify around seven to eight people [involved with Onaisi],

one of whom is abroad. A drive is underway to arrest them," added Moin.

Along with Rab, police and DNC members are also trying to trace whether any other group has gotten involved in selling and smuggling kush.

Regarding Onaisi's arrest, Rab has filed a case with Gulshan Police Station.

Mamun Mia, sub-inspector of the station and the case's investigating officer, said they have interrogated Onaisi during a three-day police remand.

"We have received some information. We are now trying to find out who were the buyers of kush and from where and how it entered the country," he added.

Md Azizul Islam, additional director general of DNC, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have already started getting information about new types of drugs and are increasing vigilance to stop their spread.

KUSH'S EFFECTS, AVAILABILITY

Kush is significantly more potent than regular marijuana, said Dulal Krishna Saha, chief chemist of DNC.

Continued use of kush can damage the liver and kidney, said Dulal.

About the availability, Dulal said the recent seizure of kush was for the first time in Bangladesh.

"This narcotic is mainly found in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and some areas of Northern India. Our country's environment is not appropriate for kush cultivation, but it can be done by following a scientific process," he said.

'Global community didn't do enough' Speakers say on Rohingya crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international community did not respond to the Rohingya crisis the way it did after other crises in the world, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Although five years have passed since the Rohingya influx from Myanmar, there has been no progress in their repatriation.

In this context, educating Rohingya children should be a priority, in line with the repatriation initiative, they said.

"We see a lack of proper involvement of the international community. We don't even see any Muslim state coming forward to host the Rohingyas," said Shahnaj Huda, a professor of Dhaka University.

In light of the recent verdict of International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Myanmar's objection to the Gambia's case, filed against the former's alleged genocide of Rohingyas, ActionAid Bangladesh – in partnership with Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), Brac University, and DU's Centre for Genocide Studies – organised the discussion at a city hotel.

Non-government representatives, diplomats, civil society members, NGOs, academics, think-tanks and researchers joined the roundtable.

Stressing on educating Rohingya children, Shahriar Sadat, director at Brac University's CPJ, said, "Special attention should be given to increasing the capacity of Rohingyas aged 12 to 24 years."

Johannes Van Der Klaauw, regional representative of UNHCR, opined that the solution to this crisis is totally "political". "The international community has been trying to continue the repatriation discussion... The solution has

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INT'L COMMUNITY UNHCR seeks more support for Rohingyas

UNB, Dhaka

UNHCR has appealed for further investment from the international community to ensure Rohingyas can benefit from skills development, including vocational training and other forms of capacity-building measures.

This will allow them to support their communities and live with dignity in Bangladesh, and above all to prepare them for rebuilding their lives when they can voluntarily and safely return to Myanmar, said the UN agency yesterday.

The support from the international community has been and is crucial in delivering lifesaving protection and assistance services for Rohingyas, but funding is well short of needs, UNHCR said.

The 2022 response plan seeks over US \$881 million for more than 1.4 million people, including Rohingyas and more than half a million most

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CJ reschedules court hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique in a full court meeting yesterday decided to reschedule the work hours for the High Court and subordinate courts in line with the government's decision to save electricity.

The decision will come into effect from tomorrow, meeting sources said. According to the decision, the HC will start functioning from 9:30am till 2:45pm with a 45-minute recess from 12:45pm. The lower courts will start their functions at 8:30am and continue the proceedings till 2:30pm with a one-hour break. The Appellate Division will run as usual.

'Have to fight every day to protect ourselves' Indigenous students demand justice for Narendra Munda

DU CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous students yesterday demanded justice for Narendra Munda – who was allegedly killed by land grabbers in Satkhira – in a rally in front of the National Museum.

The rally was organised jointly by Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, Adivasi Jubo Forum and Parbotto Pahari Chhatra Parishad.

Speakers said the government has failed to ensure safety for the indigenous people of the country.

Alik Mree, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, said, "The indigenous people have to fight every day to protect themselves from land grabbers. Meanwhile, local

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