

## 'Rajuk lacks resources to implement DAP'

Speakers tell BIP event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new Detailed Area Plan (DAP) has put forth important proposals to build a better Dhaka city, but authorities will face huge difficulties to implement them due to its lack of capacity, said leaders of Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) yesterday.

"Rajuk does not have the organisational capacity to implement the DAP. So, strengthening its capacity and coordinating with other organisations is a must for proper implementation," said BIP President Fazle Reza Sumon at a press conference at the organisation's conference hall.

Sumon, who chaired the programme, said the government had taken different plans before, like Strategic Transport Plan, Revised STP, and DAP-2010, but none of them have been implemented properly.

Ignoring the plans, different ministries carried out development works. Dhaka's present situation is the result of not implementing the plans, Sumon said.

BIP demanded the government take immediate steps to implement the DAP properly and update plans every five years.

Different government agencies will have to refer to DAP properly when forming their own plans, said Sumon.

It is essential to make it obligatory for every government agency to take NOC (no objection certificate) from Rajuk before planning and implementation, he said.

Not calling housing developments in flood flow and sub-flood flow zones illegal, and not fixing any penalties

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Protesting the recent attacks on BNP activists and leaders and the death of Shaon Mahmud in Thursday's clash between party men and police in Narayanganj, BNP organised a protest rally at Naya Paltan in Dhaka in front of its central office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## We won't back down

Says Fakhru about BNP's movement

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said their party will not get defeated in any way this time as they will make their movement a success by braving all obstacles.

Speaking at a discussion, he also warned the BNP leaders and activists to remain alert so that the ruling party does not get any scope to put them in danger.

"We can't let the sacrifices of Noor-e-Alam, Abdur Rahim, Shaon Pradhan go in vain."

Bangladesh Chhatra Forum and Uttaranchal Chhatra Forum organised the discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, marking the 16th anniversary of the release of BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman from jail. Fakhru said the government is trying to suppress BNP as the party leaders and activists have

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'Nothing has been the same ever since...'

Shahidul Alam shares his ordeal at Gyantapas lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"I cannot use a phone for my safety, or ride my bicycle, which I have ridden for 50 years," said photojournalist Shahidul Alam at a lecture session in the capital yesterday.

"I cannot go alone anywhere anymore. I have come here today with a companion," said Alam, while speaking at Bengal Shilpalay.

The lecture session was organised by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation.

Alam said he has been under pressure from the authorities and as a result has had to take these measures.

"Last year, when we held a press photo contest and the winning photo was on the theme of enforced disappearance, we received many calls from the law enforcement," he said.

He also spoke about how this has hampered his mobility and his photography to some extent.

"After I was picked up, all of our corporate clients left us, and a client told me that it is not safe for him to take my call," said Alam.

He said law enforcers have not submitted any charge-sheet against him even though four years have gone by following the filing of the case.

# Achievements aplenty, still a long way to go

Say speakers about NGOs' contributions at celebration of MJF's 20-year journey



Guests and speakers at Manusher Jonno Foundation's celebration programme yesterday. MJF organised the event at the auditorium of the capital's Liberation War Museum, where alongside eminent persons, members of its many partner organisations spoke about achievements and future targets.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development organisations in Bangladesh need to come up with newer ideas and solutions to fight future challenges, like impacts of the climate crisis, said speakers yesterday, while celebrating Manusher Jonno Foundation's (MJF) 20-year journey.

They said these organisations play a complementary role to the government by implementing various activities, while upholding social harmony, equality and basic rights. They stressed that continuous government support in this regard is crucial.

MJF organised the celebration programme at the auditorium of the capital's Liberation War Museum, where alongside eminent people, members of its many partner organisations spoke about achievements and future targets.

Starting its journey in 2002, MJF has so far reached about 30 lakh poor and underprivileged people across the country by creating a network of over 400 partner organisations in 330 upazilas of 52 districts.

Of the various other achievements, MJF has assisted four lakh people come out of

poverty, 6.5 lakh women be economically empowered, and stopped about 50,000 child marriages.

Speaking at the programme, Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairperson of Power and Participation Research Centre, said it is important to keep finding the people who have been left behind.

He said whether the environment in which MJF and many other organisations in Bangladesh are operating is easy or difficult is contextual, but what is crucial is the commitment and will to continue the journey.

"Human rights are non-negotiable; women's empowerment is non-negotiable; inclusivity is non-negotiable," he said, adding that these are not going to be achieved overnight.

Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh said NGOs play a vital role in long-term development, working with the government.

He said climate-change adaptation is essential for the people of Bangladesh, and NGOs will need to play a big role in this regard.

In her opening speech, MJF Executive Director Shaheen

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## A legacy to lean on

Say speakers about Amit Habib at memorial event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Veteran journalist Amit Habib's legacy will live forever through the work of the next generation of journalists, said speakers yesterday.

They said this at an event organised for commemorating the eminent journalist and editor of Bangla daily Desh Rupantor. The daily arranged the event at Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

"Amit Habib never liked limelight. It was his unique characteristic... He had enlightened those who were in the front. Many journalists grew and got themselves enriched by getting to know him," Mostafa Mamun, acting editor of Desh Rupantor.

"He might have had a political inclination but it never affected his work... The legacy he created will remain alive through the work of our next generation," he added.

**Some people enriched the society and the world through their work. Amit Habib was such kind of a person. He enriched journalism and newspapers.**

HASAN MAHMUD  
Information Minister

Addressing the event, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said, "Some people enriched the society and the world through their work. Amit Habib was such kind of a person. He enriched journalism and newspapers." He could have given so much more to journalism if he were alive.

Noted thespian, director and playwright Mamunur Rashid echoed him.

"Amit Habib's death is an irreparable loss to objective journalism... If the peers, students and followers of Amit Habib practise objective journalism keeping his memory in mind, then Amit will live forever through their work," said journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul.

Among others, former bureaucrat MA Momen, Awami League joint general secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif, Amit Habib's brother Foyzul Habib Ranga, and Dhaka Union of Journalists president Sohail Haydar Chowdhury spoke at the event.

## Ensure women's right to property

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take immediate measures to revise Hindu laws to ensure Hindu women's rights to inherit property, said discussants at a programme yesterday.

As the existing laws exclude Hindu women from getting a share of their father's or husband's property, authorities must take steps to end such deprivation, they said.

They made the demand at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Hindu Law Reform Council at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

Addressing the function, Justice Krishna Deb Nath of Supreme Court's Appellate Division said, "Despite being a justice, I did not get any

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Dengue death toll 23

Total number of patients 6,692

858 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 5,811

245 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:23 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:26 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Auto-rickshaws remain parked occupying a large portion of this major road in the capital's Jurain area. Due to indifference of the authorities concerned, gridlocks have become a permanent feature in the area. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Movement of BNP limited to infighting

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said there are still bloodstains on the hands of BNP leaders and workers.

Quader said this while addressing the conference of BCL's combined private university branch at Krishibid Institution.

He said BNP killed 21,000 AL leaders and activists.

Mentioning that the movement of BNP means their internal quarrels, Quader said BNP's movement means infighting and throwing chairs among themselves.

He also said when BNP attacks police, law enforcers have to retaliate for their self-defense.