

Law on land use okayed

Taking permission mandatory for use of land for any development activities

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law aiming to bring discipline in land management and prevent misuse of land in the country.

According to the "The Urban and Regional Planning Act-2017", one must obtain a clearance from the authority, to be formed under this law, before one can, for instance, build a structure on an arable piece of land.

Government, non-government, private organisations as well as individuals would have to obtain clearance before going for development activities.

The approval of the law came at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Experts hailed the cabinet decision and said it would foster economical development through proper use of land in a coordinated manner.

Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam said, "It was a long expected law. It has been drafted for discipline in land management and so that pieces of land can be used in a planned way."

He said the law proposed five years' rigorous imprisonment and a maximum fine of Tk 50 lakh for people who would violate the law.

"Once the law is passed, necessary clearance will be required for the use of all public and private land directly or indirectly related to urban and city development ...," he said.

Alam said the law proposed constitution of a 27-member advisory council, led by the minister of housing for issuing such clearances. The advisory council would also be empowered to delegate its powers to any specific authority.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4