



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain in the city yesterday demanding immediate implementation of the new building code.

Implement city building code immediately

Environmentalists urge govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), an environmental organisation, formed a human chain and held a rally in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday demanding immediate implementation of Dhaka City Building Code 2006.

Addressing the rally, speakers said the government introduced the City Building Code in a bid to protect 'habitation environment' of the capital but some unscrupulous and corrupt people are trying to delay the process of implementation.

They said if the building code is implemented, it would ensure accountability of Rajuk, the city development authority.

Speakers hoped that the building code would bring discipline and accountability in the building construction sector.

Vice President of Bapa Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said Dhaka has now become a slum full of brick-built buildings.

He said Dhaka City Building Code was formulated after three years of efforts by different professional organisations, specialists and civil society members.

"We have noticed that a vested quarter has been trying to delay the process of implementation through giving wrong interpretation," he said adding that mass campaign is needed for the enforcement of the code, which was included in the gadget on

April 16.

Presided over by Prof Sayeed, the rally was also addressed by Bapa General Secretary Mohidul Haque Khan, VP ASM Shahjahan, President of Bangladesh Architect Institute Khadem Ali, Treasurer of Rehab Akil Aktar Chowdhury, General Secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners Dr Golam Mortuza and Bela representative Advocate Shakil Ahmed.

Bela, Green Voice, Coalition for the Urban Poor, Sheba, Nagarik Uddog, Cats Bangladesh, Sundar Jibon, Sylhet Division Development Movement Council and other pro-environmental organisations' representatives joined the human chain to express their solidarity.

Khaleda greets Kuwaiti PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia congratulated her Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, on his reappointment as the Prime Minister of Kuwait.

In a message, Khaleda said, "It is my firm conviction that under your guidance and leadership, the state of Kuwait and its people will reach newer heights of stability, peace and prosperity."

30 cellphone sets, 541 wristwatches seized at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mobile phone sets, wristwatches and contraband spray worth over Tk 6 lakh were seized at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport here yesterday.

According to sources, the customs officials recovered the goods from a passenger of a Biman flight that arrived at Chittagong airport from Dubai at 1:00am.

While searching the luggage of the passenger, Jamaluddin Chowdhury, the customs officials found 30 pieces of Nokia mobile phone sets, 541 pieces of Japan-made wristwatch and 250 pieces of Germany-made spray.

Jamal, who hails from Hathazari in Chittagong, brought the goods without any declaration to evade tax, said Arif Hasan Khan, an official of Chittagong Airport Customs.

RMG SECTOR

'Stability won't return unless workers' demands are met'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Swadhin Bangla Garment Sramik Karmochari Federation yesterday formed a human chain in the city demanding immediate implementation of the tripartite agreement signed between the government, garment owners and workers.

They also demanded implementation of bilateral agreement signed between garment owners and 16 garment workers federation, declaration of Tk 3000 as minimum wage

and stopping of torture and harassment of women workers at their workplace.

Addressing the programme at Muktangon, federation President Shamima Nasrin said though the image of Bangladesh in the world market of ready-made garments has been built on the hard labour of workers, they are still deprived and tortured.

Shamima said the country's apparel sector is passing through a critical juncture due to non-payment

of due wages and overtimes to workers for years, sexual harassment of women workers and imposition of inhuman conditions by the garment owners.

Urging the government to implement their demands, she said stability at garment industries would not return unless lawful demands of workers are realised.

Federation General Secretary Mir Abul Kalam Azad and other central and regional leaders were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury speaks at a roundtable on 'Crisis in primary education and the way out' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Education and Human Resource Development Sub-committee of the Awami League organised the roundtable.

Hasina condemns attack on Bogra AL office

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has strongly condemned and protested the 'attack' on the party office in Bogra on Thursday night.

In a statement yesterday, she said the Bogra district AL publicity secretary Shahriar Opel and some 12 other activists were seriously injured in the "attack by Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal cadres".

Hasina said, "The BNP-Jamaat alliance government has become desperate to stay in power by eliminating Awami League as the people have already rejected the government due to corruption, looting, and their misrule."

No autocrat could remain in power through repression and this government also would not be able to cling to power, she said.

The AL chief demanded immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to all those involved in the attack.

Old man killed in road accident

UNB, Dhaka

An old man was killed as a motorcycle hit a rickshaw he was travelling in at Mirpur-12 bus stand in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Shafiuddin Chowdhury, 70, a resident of 3/527, Mirpur section-12.

Police seized the motorcycle and arrested one of its riders, Kamal.