

Construction of RU cultural centre uncertain

RU CORRESPONDENT

The construction and modernisation works of Teacher Student Culture Centre (TSCC) of Rajshahi University have become uncertain for its faulty design.

Campus sources said, due to poor design of the building, the under-construction beam collapsed in October and three labourers were injured. The university authorities, however, suspended the construction works without forming any investigation committee.

The university authorities are yet to ensure punishment of the accused construction firm owner, the sources added. A Dhaka based construction firm 'Engineers and Consultants Bangladesh Ltd' prepared the design of the building in 1991. Based on the design, a part of the building was constructed in that period.

In July 2005, the university authorities again started the extension works of the building involving Tk 1.25 crore. A vigilance committee of the university identified that the design is faulty and recommended rectifying the design. The university authorities again formed a seven-member investigation committee headed by Additional Chief Engineer Sirajum Munir.

Aminul Islam, a committee member and an engineer of Rajshahi public works department, said the beams and columns were unable to bear the load of the concrete roof of the building. Six more columns are needed to cover the roof by corrugated tin, he said.

RU Chief Engineer Abdur Rahim said construction work started while the previous engineer was in charge, so the latter is responsible for the faulty design.

Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain said engineering section did not scrutinise the design and the accident took place. Punitive measures will be taken against the construction firm, he added.



UK Deputy Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Charles Style speaks at a press conference at the residence of British High Commissioner in the city yesterday. On his right is British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

PHOTO: STAR

Cancer hospital receives around Tk 44 lakh as donation in Oct

A total of Tk 43 lakh 95 thousand 2 hundred and 38 has been received in the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) Fund in October, says a press release.

The amount includes donations from individuals as well as organisations.

The donors of the month are Southeast Bank, Tk 20 lakh; Md Rafiqul Islam, 10 lakh; Alhaj Salauddin Ahmed, 5 lakh; Iftekhar Islam, 3 lakh; Nahar Jamil, 1 lakh 72 thousand; Mahbub Jamil, 1 lakh 60 thousand; DAM USA, 1 lakh 26 thousand; Mina Bazar, 33 thousand 2 hundred and 68; husband and sons and daughters of late Jubeda Khanom, 30 thousand; Dr Tariqul Islam, 20 thousand; Imamus Sultan and Setara Begum, 10 thousand each; Alhaj Abdul Gafur Khan, 7 thousand; Dr Sarmin Khan, 6 thousand; Syeda Jubaida Choudhury and Dr Ferdousi Ahmed, 5 thousand each; Dr Tahmidur Rahman and Taslimur Rahman, 3 thousand each; Bholanath Saha, 2 thousand; Rausan Islam and Md Riadh Arafat Amin, 1 thousand each; and Mahbub Sultana Baby and Tasdiqur Rahman, 500 each.

So far approximately Tk 47 crore has been received for the Hospital in cash and as commitment.

This is only a quarter of the estimated amount of money required for the hospital to cover its construction and other costs.

The sponsor of the Hospital Dhaka Ahsania Mission hopes that benevolent people in the country will come forward with more donations to complete the construction of a 500-bed world-standard Cancer Hospital in Bangladesh.

8 children die in China bus crash

AFP, Beijing

Eight primary school students in China were killed and another nine seriously injured after an overcrowded bus driven by an unlicensed driver plunged off a bridge yesterday, state press reported.

The school bus was speeding and carrying 52 passengers, even though it was licensed to hold just 26, the official Xinhua news agency, citing local authorities and a student who survived.

"The bus was going too fast," Xinhua quoted a third-grade student who was taken to hospital after the accident as saying.

The crash occurred about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Harbin, the capital of China's northeast Heilongjiang province, according to Xinhua.

Eight students were confirmed dead and nine others were in critical condition in hospital, Xinhua said.

The agency said the bus driver did not have a license that allowed him to drive a bus.

Initial investigations also showed the owner of the bus did not have a license to run a service to carry students, it said.

China's roads are among the most dangerous in the world, with nearly 42,000 people killed in traffic accidents in the first six months of this year, according to government statistics.

Last year more than 100,000 people were killed on China's roads, an average of 270 traffic fatalities every day.