

## What's on today....

**Workshop:** A 2-day workshop on "Environmental Law and Sustainable Development" will begin. Organisers: Environment Directorate in collaboration with UNEP, SAKEP and NORAD of Joint Environmental Law Project for South Asia. Time: 9:00 am.

**Conference:** Bangladesh Association for American Studies and the United States Information Service will inaugurate a two-day conference on "US Society and Culture." Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 9:30 am.

**BCPS lecture:** Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) will hold two lectures on "Bell's Palsy and its Management" and "Diagnosis and management of acute gout." Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11:00-11:50 am and 12:00-1:00 pm respectively.

**CESTI seminar:** Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will hold a seminar on "Foreign Investment in Pharmaceutical Industry in Bangladesh." Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR,B. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Competition:** Shishu Academy will hold a competition for juveniles on "Painting and Patriotic Songs." Venue: Shishu Academy premises.

**Inauguration:** The inauguration ceremony of Global Village, an NGO will be held. Chief guest: Zillur Rahman, Minister for LG and Cooperatives. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Musical soiree:** Indian High Commission will hold a Classical vocal recital evening by Kalpana Bhattacharya. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

**Concert:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will hold a live concert by Canopy. Venue: Alliance Francaise premises. Time: 7:00 pm.

## Weather

### Temperature may fall

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinalpur and the lowest of 24 degrees at Faridpur.

The sun sets today at 5:56 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	25.0	88	84
Chittagong	29.1	24.5	82	95
Rajshahi	27.1	24.5	93	96
Khulna	29.0	25.0	97	98
Barisal	28.5	24.8	88	100
Sylhet	31.6	24.5	92	93
Cox's Bazar	26.5	24.5	95	100

## HERE and THERE

### BPATC

The 18th Administrative and Development Management Course began at BPATC yesterday. Dr Ekram Hossain, Rector of BPATC, inaugurated the course as chief guest, says a press release.

Twenty-four participants from different organisations are taking part in the course.

The course will focus on organisational management, governmental system, office management, project management, financial management and commercial application.

### DU seminar

By DU Correspondent

A seminar titled "European Union: Integration and Development of Institutions" was held at IBA auditorium on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The key-note speaker at the seminar was ambassador Antonio de Souza Menezes of European Commission (EC) while DU Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury chaired the session.

In his speech, Ambassador Menezes discussed the emergence and role of different institutions under EU and their strategies to meet future challenges.

Chairman of the Department of Political Science Prof Shahidul Huq Munshi

gave the concluding speech at the seminar organised by Political Science Department. Teachers and students from different departments of the university took part in the seminar.

### Bangladesh-Libya Friendship Assoc

Bangladesh-Libyan Arab Friendship Association organised a discussion meeting in the city on Saturday to mark the Libyan Revolution Day, says a press release.

The speakers at the meeting recounted the contributions of the revolution under the dynamic leadership of Muammar Gaddafi to the cause of suffering humanity across the world. They also stressed the need for Muslim unity.

Presided over by H K Abdul Hye, president of the association and a member of the World Islamic Call Council, the discussion meeting was addressed, among others, by Ambassador of Palestine Mohammed Shaha Zarab, Charge d'Affaires of Libya Mahfud R Rahim, Charge d'Affaires of Morocco Driss Hachaq, Counsellor of Iranian Embassy Mohammad Ali Gorjizadeh, Principal Mohammad Noor Hossain, Justice Abdul Waheb and Preacher of WICS of Libya Shamsul Huq.

### Roundtable on 'Urban Housing'

## Speakers for updating Tenancy Act

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for updating the Bangladesh Tenancy Act and inclusion of earthquake safety measures in all future housing planning.

Organised by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), the roundtable on "Urban Housing in Bangladesh" was held at its office in the city.

Akhteruzzaman, MP and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, said that if an earthquake hits the country, the consequences would be much more devastating than that of Turkey or Taiwan.

The unplanned urbanisation has reached such a proportion that there are places in the city from where even a dead body cannot be taken out," he said.

Talking about the irregularities in construction sector, the MP pointed out that a House Building Authority should be set up immediately to oversee the constructions.

Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Dhaka WASA and Honorary Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies, read out the keynote paper.

Islam said that as 75 per cent of the city population live in rented houses, the planning for housing must be done involving the tenants. Fifty per cent of the city slums are situated on privately owned land while the

remaining 50 per cent squatter settlements are on public land, he said.

Sohal Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, said plan is underway to lease out land to NGOs for 30 to 40 years to solve the urban housing problem for the poorer section.

"The NGOs would build the housings for the low-income groups and at the end of the lease period, the government would get back its land with the infrastructure."

He said plans were also underway to build multi-storied low-cost housing in different areas where plots would also be sold to the affluent section of people.

The secretary said 10,000 units of housings each measuring between 400 and 450 square feet would be built in Duttapara. Rajuk's Superintendent Engineer, Emdad-ul Islam, said that it was a pity the National Building Code (NBC) is yet to be gazetted. "To tackle irregularities in the urbanisation process it is necessary to gazette the NBC immediately," he said.

Dr Tarafdar Robul Islam, Director of BUP, who was the moderator of the discussion, said that the existing Tenancy Act had to be modernised in order to ensure the rights of increasing number of people who are renting their accommodation.

## Heroin

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available clues and that "investigation was on".

The DG also said DNC could have nabbed the culprits earlier but decided to go slow so that the consignment could be seized and the carriers arrested.

"Since we have already arrested the accused and recovered the goods, we also hope to arrest others involved. They have been kept under our vigilance... we will submit the charge sheet shortly. If there is any major development then we may submit a supplementary charge sheet," the DG said.

The consignment was kept in the DG's room amid tight security.

Investigators said racketeers from at least five countries were involved in the drug trafficking unearthed on Monday. The consignment was brought into Bangladesh from Afghanistan through Pakistan and India. It was scheduled to be flown to Birmingham, Britain.

Two people were involved in sale of the drug while two British citizens of Indian origin were the buyers, the investigators said.

According to narcotics department officials, the carriers were asked to contact the buyers using a specific code. But the narcotics department sources managed to intercept the transaction and posed as buyers.

At first they agreed to sell half of the consignment, but on insistence of the "buyers", it was agreed that the whole consignment will be sold. Accordingly the parts of the consignment, which were kept at different city areas, were taken to the hotel for delivery to the customers.

Rais, one of the three held, came to the hotel by an autorickshaw and went inside the room at around 2:15 pm with a bag. Later when he came out of the room to avail the lift two narcotics department men stopped him.

The team then asked Rais to open the door of his room. As Rais opened his hotel room, the DG of DNC and other officials went into the room and took possession.

The consignment was kept in a bag that contained 118 packets of Lux soap. Each packet had 200 grams of heroin. DNC officials told The Daily Star the arrested immediately confessed that they carried the drug. But they also said that they were mere carriers, not traders.

## UNGA seat

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UNSC require approval of all 15 members of the Security Council, which is instrumental in accepting or rejecting a decision or resolution.

On general issues placed before the UNSC, nine affirmative votes are necessary to carry out a resolution. However, the Big Five or permanent members—US, Britain, China, France and Russia—continue to hold the Veto power enabling them to make or break any decision despite having the seal of unanimous approval by all other or any group of members.

Bangladesh's entry into the UN body was delayed for three years as China gave veto, ostensibly at Pakistan's request, for two consecutive years in 1972 and 1973.

However, Bangladesh consolidated its position in the international arena very rapidly since its entry to the world body in 1974.

In 1978, only four years after becoming a member, Bangladesh, at the initiative of late President Ziaur Rahman, contested Japan for a Security Council seat. It was a bold venture as Japan was not only a major donor but also a member of the rich Group of Seven (G-7). As a member of G-77, Bangladesh lobbied hard with the 120 plus under-developed countries and also sought support through NAM members. Also as a member of OIC countries, it sought vote of all Muslim nations.

To achieve two-thirds majority, Bangladesh required more than 100 votes out of 159 members in 1978. In the first ballot on the election day, Bangladesh secured 80 plus votes while Japan got slightly more than 20. In the fourth ballot, when Japan realized that it could not get more than 20 votes, it withdrew, giving Bangladesh the Security Council seat for 1978-1979.

Eight years later, in 1987, during the tenure of former President H M Ershad, Bangladesh tried again for a Security Council seat but lost hopelessly to Malaysia.

Bangladesh decided to make a serious bid for the Security Council seat when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made her first official visit to the UN in October, 1996. Although Cambodia announced its candidature much ahead of Bangladesh, Dhaka's diplomacy finally managed to win over full Asian support and withdrawal of Phnom Penh.

The UN, which was established 54 years ago in 1945 with 51 original members on the debris of the Second World War. The last time the Security Council was expanded was in 1965 when the number of non-permanent members was increased to ten from six.

In recent years, there has been a growing pressure to increase both the number of permanent and non-permanent members. The pressure to expand the Security Council is coming from Japan and Germany many who want to be permanent members. Developing countries are putting pressure to increase the number of non-permanent seats.

"Bangladesh's expected election to the Security Council seat will give it more visibility and international profile," Dhaka's Permanent Representative to the UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury told the media in New York recently.



Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), speaking at the inaugural session of two-day-long international dialogue on "Growth Zones in South Asia: What We Can Learn From South East Asia?" Organised by CPD in association with UN-ESCAP, the dialogue was held in the city yesterday.

## Call for increase in JS reserved seats for women

By DU Correspondent

Women leaders at a press conference in the city yesterday demanded that the government take an initiative in the next parliament session to increase the number of reserved seats for women and their election by direct voting.

They also stressed upon the need for empowerment of women to bolster and implement various government development activities in the country.

The women leaders were speaking a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, jointly organised by some 25 women organisations of the country.

The women organisations of the country have been working together for several years for increase in the number of reserved seats in JS for women and their direct election," said Advocate Sultana Kamal of Ain O Salish Kendro.

She said that the women leaders have already exchanged views with various political leaders, including Speaker, Deputy Speaker of JS and MF, on empowerment of women through increasing reserve

seats and direct election. "All of them have reacted positively and assured us for cooperation in this regard," she added.

Stressing rapid political empowerment of women, she said it was also an important issue in establishing their rights and status in the society.

In the regard, Sultana Kamal placed forward set of demands which included preservation of women's reserved seats system for at least three terms, increase in number of reserve seats to 64 instead of 30 and election of women by direct voting.

She disclosed at the press conference that a grand rally would be arranged in the city soon to press home various demands of women.

Sultana Kamal, of Ain O Salish Kendro, read out the written speech at the press conference where Ayesha Khanom of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, Fowzia Khandaker of Proshika, Laila Aruman Barua of ADAB, Tania Amir of The Law Associates were also present.

## Dhaka, Kathmandu for signing road transit accord

Bangladesh and Nepal have decided to increase bilateral cooperation, especially in trade, reports UNB.

With a new trade cooperation strategy chalked out to this end, bilateral trade negotiations would be started soon to explore the areas for expanding bilateral trade.

This was decided at a meeting between Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and visiting Nepalese Agriculture Minister Chakra Prasad Bastola at the Commerce Ministry here yesterday.

The ministers also agreed that the two countries would identify products for duty-free access.

They also underscored the need for signing Bangladesh-Nepal road transit agreement and improvement of land port facilities at Banglabandh.

Referring to the proposal of transshipment of Indian goods, Tofail Ahmed said: "We have formed task force and appointed consultants to give reports on the prospect and procedure of transshipment."

Later, it will be discussed at both countries' experts group meeting where we are expected to get duty-free market access on 25 items to Indian market on non-reciprocal basis," he said.



Women's organisations and Human Rights groups held a press conference at the Press Club in the city yesterday. They demanded of the government to increase the number of reserved seats for women in parliament.

## Dhaka lacks capability

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Epidemic Control Preparedness Programme of (ICDDR,B) International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, also acknowledged that vector borne disease like dengue could break out if mosquitoes were not controlled.

He said, "there is every chance of epidemic in urban and semi-urban areas. We don't yet know if dengue has taken an epidemic form, but what we do know is that Bangladesh happens to be one of those regions with high dengue incidence."

Dr Siddique also said, "the type of mosquito that causes Dengue—Aedes Aegypti is found aplenty in the urban areas. However, the classical dengue virus does not cause much of a harm but the more lethal one—dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) can kill its victim."

He added, "Aedes mosquito can fly a maximum distance of 50 yards. Once it bites a human being, it incubates in blood for about 5-7 days. Typically dengue causes 'flu-like illness' in children and adults and rashes appear in some parts of the body."

An expert said, "once infective, a mosquito is capable of transmitting dengue virus throughout its life. Infected mosquitoes may transmit the virus to the next generation through its eggs. This makes us most alarmed. If there is any case of dengue in the city the government should immediately take all precautionary measures."

Dr Siddique, who has conducted numerous studies on the mosquito-borne infection dengue, and is about to start a three million dollar USAID funded programme to assess how many people in the country faced the risk of dengue attack said, "there has been no specific study on how many people in the country are prone to be attacked by dengue. So, we really don't have any picture on its prevalence rate. There is also no specific treatment for dengue."

According to WHO, southeast Asian regions are the worst affected by dengue viral attack. Burma, Thailand, India and Bangladesh are recognised as 'endemic zones' in this region.

For more information on Japanese Encephalitis (JE) the Daily Star searched in the internet homepage of WHO.

It appears that JE is an acute viral infection of the central nervous system and is the most important form of viral attack in Asia causing at least 50,000 cases of clinical disease and 10,000 deaths each year, mostly in the Far Eastern and South Asian regions.

There is no drug treatment for JE. Vaccination happens to be the single most important control measure. Currently three types of JE vaccines are in use: a mouse-brain-derived and inactivated vaccine based on the Nakayama strain is produced in several Asian countries.

A 'cell culture-derived inactivated' vaccine and a 'cell culture-derived live attenuated' vaccine are produced in China and widely used under the Chinese immunization programme.

Bloodsucking Culicine mosquitoes transfer JE virus to humans from infected animals like pigs and wading birds. Studies showed that most of the people are infected with JE virus before the age of 15.

JE infections normally do not show clinical symptoms. An estimated 'one in 300' cases of JE virus attack shows symptomatic illness.

## DU abduction

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boy, student of a city's English medium school was abducted from in front of the Dhaka University Club on Saturday evening and held hostage for three hours.

Two other teenage boys were allegedly kidnapped from the city's Elephant Road area by group of Dhaka College students and held hostage for two hours at Mohsin Hall of the university on September 14.

Police arrested one Mohsin alias 'mobile Mohsin', an expelled student of the university was arrested by Ramna police from Surya Sen Hall on Sunday night, suspecting his involvement with the abduction of the school boy.

He was arrested under section 54. However he was produced before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court on Monday and the court sent him to jail, according to police.

Mohsin, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra league (BCL) was also arrested on charge of kidnapping a businessman about two months back and released from the jail ten days ago.

## Fake shares

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share certificates."

Before the Council meeting, the DSE management is scheduled to meet top executives of 30 listed companies to solicit their opinions on the issue.

As an immediate step, the bourse is likely to issue ID cards for staff and brokers without which nobody will be allowed to access a workstation, the sources said.

The sources said the DSE was planning to ask the listed companies to declare that shares traded after book closure must bear the name of clients and that those already in the name of owners must bear the company's revalidation with seal, signature and date.

"Clients shall not be allowed, without valid reason and clearance from (DSE) management, to trade through more than one broker," Rakibur Rahman said. "This will stop trading of fake shares through different brokers, other than through the brokers who purchased those shares for the client."

"We are planning to restrict our members from accepting sale orders for shares purchased from another DSE member unless they receive a 'NOC' from the other member."

The DSE is also likely to discuss the possibility of introducing registration of share certificates in the name of clients, instead of their brokers.

The DSE's decision to go tough on the issue has angered a lobby involved in the scam.

Earlier this week, sources said, these 'known outsiders' who sell the shares through different brokers got together in the DSE building to chalk out their strategy. Sensing trouble, the DSE management even alerted securitymen.

The DSE, fearing that its stand against the forgers may lead to trouble, also plans to seek help from police.

Several DSE members claim that the market would have been in a better situation if there had been no fake shares.

"Several crores of taka are blocked in these fake shares and the index would have been well above 1000 points if there were no fake shares," a top DSE member said.

Both the DSE and SEC have formed inquiry committees in this regard but have not yet submitted any report.

## 118 DU teachers

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"In this context, they said, as a recognition of her outstanding contribution to the establishment of peace and democracy in the national, regional and international arena, alleviating poverty, expanding education and empowerment of women, the decision to confer the degree on the prime minister is a correct and timely one."

"Any attempt to create controversy centring the decision would be undesirable, they added."

The signatories to the statement are: Dr Mohammad Morruzzaman, Dr Syed Akram Hossain, Dr Anisuzzaman, Dr ATM Nurur Rahman Khan, Dr Begum Akhter Kamal, Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Khondoker Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, Dr Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddique, Dr ANM Abdul Mannan Khan, Dr Fayzunnisa Begum, Dr ABM Mahmood, Dr Kazi Shahidullah, Dr Ratan Lal Chakrabarti, Dr Ayesha Begum, Nurul Islam, Dr Galib Ahsan Khan, QAI M Nooruddin, Dr Mohammad Golam Rahman, Dr Sitara Parvin, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr Rajib Humayun Kabir, Dr AK Monwar Uddin Ahmed, Fariduddin Ahmed, Dr Mohammad Abul Barkat, Dr Sushil Ranjan Howlader, Dr Chowdhury Shamsul Hossain, Dr Haroon, Dr Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Dr Showkatara Hossain, Dr Dalem Chandra Barman, Dr Mohammad Harun-Ur-Rashid, Syed Ahmed Khan, Dr Rabeya Khatun, Dr A K M Nurunnabi, Dr Syed Glasuddin Ahmed, Dr H K Shamsul Arefin, Dr Sharof Kumer Shah, Shantinarayan Ghosh, ASM Abdullah, Dr Abdul Das Bhattacharya, Dr Abul Hossain, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Dr AHM Habibur Rahman, Dr M Khatirul Hossain, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, Dr Hironmoy Sen Gupta, Dr Sultana Shafi, Dr R I M Aminur Rashid, Dr Lolitomohan Nath, Dr Ahmed Shafi, Dr Mesba-

huddin Ahmed, Dr Asadur Rahman, Dr Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Dr Shamima Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Rezaul Karim Majumder, Dr Faruq Ahmed, Dr Mohammad Shekul Islam, Dr Nimchandra Bhoomik, Dr Mohammad Mohibur Rahman, Dr Nilufar Nahar, Dr Mohammad Haibul Bahar, Dr Tofail Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Dr Monoranjan Shah, Dr Ajoy Kumar Das, Dr Mohammad Sajjad Hossain, Dr Mohammad Hossain Mansur, Dr M A Q Lutful Huq, Nazrul Islam, Dr Khondoker Nazimuddin, Dr AKM Mahboob, Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, Dr Mohammad Mukhlesur Rahman, Dr Mohammad Ainul Islam, Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Dr Mohammad Nurul Islam, Dr M Mazharul Islam, Dr A B M Mofizul Islam Patwari, Dr Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, Dr Muniruddin Ahmed, Dr Rebecka Banu, Biddyt Kanti Datta, Dr S M Imamul Huq, Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, Dr Mohammad Didar-Ul Alam, Dr Mian Mohammad Abdul Quddus, Dr Gulshanara Latifa, Dr Anwara Kabir, Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, Selina Begum, Dr Anwarul Islam, Dr AZM Nowsheer Ali Khan, Dr Syed Haduzzaman, Dr M Mozammel Huq, Dr Moniruzzaman Khondoker, Dr SSMA Khorasani, Dr Rakhori Sarker, Dr Harun Kader M Yusuf, Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Nihar Ranjan Sarker, Dr Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Dr Mohammad Shahjahan Mian, Porimal Kumar Shah, Mohammad Jalaluddin Rumi, Dr Mohammad Sekander Hyat Khan, AMM Hamidur Rahman, Dr Iftekhar Goni Chowdhury, Dr Rezaul Karim, Dr Kazi Salamattullah, Dr Abdul Hakim Sarker, Bulban Osman, Mohammad Abul Hashem Khan, Ahmeduzzaman Khan, Farida Zaman, Nazma Khan Majlish, Dr Ennan Kabir Chowdhury, Dr Syed Humayun Akter and Dr Saiful Majid.

## Development of LDCs

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and carried forward all the time."

"Unless we ensure that citizens live a life of dignity where their rights are secure, we cannot have a just and peaceful world." This is true for communities and nations.

Striking a note of concern over the recent decline in commitments by the donor countries to the UN Development System and the UNDP in particular, Hasina said Bangladesh attaches importance to multilateral assistance as a reliable and trusted source of impartial expertise.

She urged the donor countries to make good of the commitments made in the Executive Board of UNDP for the multi-year funding framework, enabling countries like Bangladesh to prepare development programmes accordingly.

Recalling the recent statement of the G-8 in Köln, she said Bangladesh is already utilising over half the country funds available from UNDP for programmes related to improving governance, which are helping address fundamental constraints to faster development.

"Now is the time for donors to recognise the commitment we have made and the success we have achieved by increasing resources for these valuable programmes."

About activities of the United Nations, the prime minister said the universal body had been a catalyst of many initiatives that bettered the lives of peoples across the world.

The UN addressed problems that were beyond the capacity of individual states to solve, she said and called for wide-ranging international cooperation in present perspective.

Hasina said the international community should ensure a coordinated and integrated follow-up for effective and full implementation of the decisions of the global conferences the UN held throughout the 1990s to address major challenges facing humankind.

Pointing to interdependence between the UN and its member states, the prime minister said there was no denying that the world needs the world body. "But we must remember that it is equally true that the United Nations needs the world."

She said all countries must do their best to fulfill their commitments to make it strong and durable. This, she said, has been the endeavour of Bangladesh for the last 25 years.

When Hasina arrived at the podium to deliver her speech, the attending delegates of different countries greeted her with clapping.

The speech Sheikh Hasina delivered in Bangla, for the second time after her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did so, marked the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's admission to the UN.