

## Nat'l policy on pvt housing soon

BSS, Dhaka

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas yesterday said a national policy on private housing would be enunciated soon to regulate infrastructural development of the city.

"Unless a sound private housing policy is evolved, Dhaka city will soon be confronted with severe problems like water logging

while the major infrastructures and big buildings of the city would also be threatened," he told BSS after an inter-ministerial meeting at his secretariat office here.

He said in the absence of any national policy since independence of the country, many private real estates were developed indiscriminately in and around Dhaka city which not only destroyed vital water bodies but also created environmental hazards.

"This situation can not be allowed to continue further," he said.

Abbas said this was the first such initiative since the liberation to formulate a national policy on real estate development.

"We shall finalise the policy within seven days after holding discussions with the representatives of the Real Estates Housing Association of Bangladesh," he said.

Discarding all "misleading propaganda" that the government was going to halt all real estate housing projects, he said "ending all speculations and falsehood we will announce a national policy for the growth of private sector real estate housing ensuring transparency and accountability".

Presided over by Mirza Abbas, the inter-ministerial meeting was joined by the works secretary, chairman of Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakhya (Rajuk) and other concerned high level officials.

Meanwhile, Housing and Public Works Ministry sources said they prepared a draft policy last month and suggestions were sought on this policy from the representatives of private real estate housing associations.

The sources said that a number of suggestions and recommendations were received from the associations and these were reviewed in the inter-ministerial meeting.

## Tk 126cr Danish grant for HR, good governance programmes

BSS, Dhaka

Denmark will provide Bangladesh 168 million Danish Kroner (approximately Tk 126 crore) grant for supporting Human Rights and Good Governance programmes in Bangladesh.

An agreement to this effect, was signed here yesterday by Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division, and Niels Severin Munk, Ambassador of Denmark on behalf of their respective governments, a Danish Embassy press release said.

Under the agreement, the grant will be utilised for a period of five years for the overall support to the initiatives by the government, NGOs and Civil Society Organisations in promoting human rights and good governance activities in Bangladesh.

The programme comprises co-operation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the government institutes and NGOs.



A devastating fire engulfs the biscuit factory at Gani Miar Hat of Sowerighat in the old part of the city yesterday.

## Two graft cases against Amu Hearing on charge-framing Oct 27

Court CORRESPONDENT

The Special Court for Dhaka Division yesterday adjourned the hearing on Charge-framing against former food minister Amir Hossain Amu in connection with two graft cases.

Judge Azizul Haq adjourned the hearing till October 27 following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

In the petition, the lawyers stated that Barrister M Amirul Islam the Chief Defence Counsel, would hear the petition on charge-framing. But he went to Africa to join a conference. So, they prayed for adjournment of the hearing.

Amu, now on bail, was present in the court during the hearing.

The Investigation Officers (IOs) of the cases submitted charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka against Amu on July 1.

Ramna thana, it has been alleged that on July 15 last year Amu gave instructions through "unofficial notes" for issuance of 52 delivery orders for procurement of one lakh tons of rice under his quota as minister. He then ordered purchase of the rice at a price higher than the market rate. As a result, the government incurred a loss of Tk 20 crore.

An inspector of the Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) Moham-mad Abdul Majed filed the case against Amu on January 8 this year.

In the second case, filed with the some police station, it has been alleged that as food minister, Amu misappropriated Tk 16.95 crore by procuring food grains (rice and wheat) through dealers of his own choice.

Another inspector of the BAC Syed Tahsinul Haq, filed the case against Amu on March 7.

## World Standard Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The 33rd World Standard Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today with a vow to maintain standard and quality of all products.

The theme of this year's World Standard Day is "One Standard, One Test - Accepted Everywhere".

The day is observed every year with the hope to keep pace with international standard while producing goods and improve the standard of lifestyle of the people.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) has taken up special programmes to

observe the day.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have given separate messages on the occasion highlighting the significance of the day.

In his message Iajuddin said standard of all products must be commensurate with the international standard to compete and sustain in the open market.

He hoped that the day would help build awareness among all concerned in upgrading the standard of goods.

Khaleda in her message said the only way to sustain in the competitive internal and international market is to ensure standard and quality of goods.

BSTI will organise a discussion meeting at Hotel Purbani at 10:15am with the participation of renowned scientists, engineers, specialists and industrialists of the country.

Newspapers will bring out special supplements while radio and television broadcast special programmes.

The day will also be observed in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet regional offices of BSTI with similar programmes, said a press release.

## Teenage girl commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage girl committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling at her Uttar Badda residence in the city yesterday morning.

She was identified as Fatematu-z-Johra Nipu, 18, daughter of Advocate Mosharruf Hossain.

Being informed, Badda Police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Police quoting relatives of the girl said she committed suicide as she was rebuked for failing in the SSC examinations thrice.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been filed with Badda police station in this regard.

## DU Mourning Day tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka University Mourning Day will be observed tomorrow commemorating the students, staff and guests who died in Jagannath Hall tragedy in 1985. The university authorities have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Black flags will be hoisted atop all student dormitories as well as academic and administrative buildings while the varsity flag will be flown at half mast at 6am on the day.

Students, teachers, officials and employees of the university will bring out a mourning procession from Aparajeyo Bangla at 6:30am and march towards the memorial plaque at Jagannath Hall.

They will place wreaths there and observe one-minute silence paying rich tributes to the deceased.

A prayer session of Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities will be held on the hall premises at 8:30am while special munajat will be offered at the university mosque after Asr prayers.

Jagannath Hall will arrange an exhibition of photographs and personal memorabilia of the deceased from 9am to 6pm. Besides, a blood donation programme will be held at 11:30am.

As this year's October 15 is a holiday on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami of the Durga Puja, the varsity authorities will hold the formal condolence meeting on October 26 at 6:30pm.

## White Cane Safety Day tomorrow

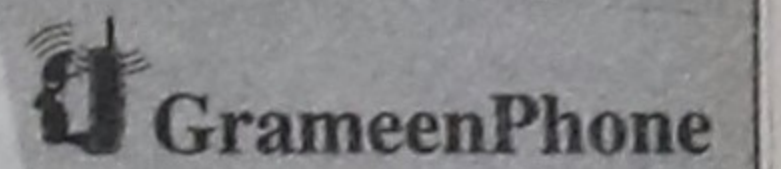
White Cane Safety Day will be observed in a befitting manner tomorrow, says a press release.

On this occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, have given separate messages.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Department of Social Services, National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled Persons and National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) have jointly organised elaborate programmes to observe the day.

A colourful rally will start at 9:30 am from in front of the Sugondha Bhaban, East of Ramna Park.

## GrameenPhone's



Existing Number **017**

from November 2002

Changed Number **0171**

other digits will remain unchanged .....

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Phone: 9130613 9120248 Prof. M. H. Khan Vice-Chancellor

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