



Tenants of a six-storied building that subsided at city's Kafrul area on Tuesday moving out yesterday fearing its collapse at any time.

BUILDING SUBSIDES AT KAFRUL Panic grips neighbours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The house is located almost at the end of a road next to a lowland where local people cultivate crops this season. There are two buildings constructed close to the ill-fated building on both its sides. Nizamuddin claimed to have taken all the necessary measures before constructing the building in 1998. "Rajuk has approved my building plan and I went through the legal procedures before constructing the building on three-katha (2160 square feet) of land," he said, adding, "Rajuk officers visited my house today (Wednesday) and took documents for verification." Officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station Jane Alam Khan said, "The matter is not under our jurisdiction. The Rajuk will now look into the matter." Rajuk officials were not available for comments after repeated contacts.

'Govt won't resign even one minute before completion of tenure'

BSS, Dhaka BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the BNP-led alliance government will not hand over power even one minute before completion of its five-year tenure. None will be able to oust the government by creating anarchy through negative programmes like hartals, he added. Bhuiyan was addressing a rally organised by the BNP Dhaka City Unit at Mukhtang in the city with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair protesting frequent hartals called by the opposition and the incidents of bomb attacks, killings and anarchy. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Housing and Works Minister Mirza Abbas, BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Aman Ullah Aman and Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu addressed the rally. Calling upon the AL to withdraw today's half-day hartal, Bhuiyan said hartal no more reflects public opinion rather it destroys the national economy, tarnishes image of the country and obstructs local and foreign investment. He urged the AL to join the parliament session and raise the demands of the people there for the greater interest of the nation. Referring to the improvement of law and order, Bhuiyan said had the AL cooperated with the government the situation would have been far better, as the BNP does not believe in politics of creation of "Godfather."



Noted cultural personality Wahidul Haque speaks at a press conference organised by Rabindra Sangeet Shommilan Parishad at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

PM likely to visit Japan in July

BSS, Dhaka Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to pay an official visit to Japan in early July at the invitation of her Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi. The date of her visit will be finalised through diplomatic channels, said a foreign ministry source. This will be her first visit to Japan, the largest donor of Bangladesh, since assuming power in 2001. During Khaleda's visit, the gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries will be reviewed, the source added. The two prime ministers are likely to discuss regional and international issues of common concern, in addition to Japan's interest to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Govt attitude towards Bangabandhu protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Bangabandhu Parishad yesterday protested the government's reluctance to cite the name of JSC submits report to president BSS, Dhaka Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (JSC) chairman Justice MM Ruhul Amin submitted the first annual report (2004-2005) of the commission to President Iajuddin Ahmed, yesterday. While submitting the report the chairman and members of the commission apprised the president of the last one year's activities of the commission. They said the commission is scrutinising through viva-voce the candidates who have passed in the written examinations of the 24th BCS judicial service. Because of no recruitment in the post of assistant judge for the last six years the number of judicial officers has come down alarmingly. They said it has become essential to issue rules relating to immediate constitution of judicial service, appointment and conditions of service. They also sought president's intervention to solve the problems of the Judicial Service Commission Secretariat. President Iajuddin thanked them for timely preparing the report.

Khaleda always resorts to falsehood: Jalil

UNB, Dhaka Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday protested the Prime Minister's remarks at a meeting in Joypurhat on Tuesday, saying many people speak lie on some occasions, but "Khaleda Zia always resorts to falsehood." In a statement, he said: "If there were any Nobel Prize for falsehood, Khaleda Zia would have won the award every year." Castigating the PM's remark that "Awami League is making propaganda against the state", Jalil said the BNP chief should recall the history of the birth of Bangladesh for which the AL played the leading role. "None would believe that Awami League is conspiring against the nation and the state, as people know what is its politics," he said. The AL general secretary also protested Khaleda Zia's remark that she took part in the war to liberate the country and challenged her to say where she had fought in 1971.

Saber invites Abbas to an open debate on Khilgaon flyover

BDNEWS, Dhaka Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury on Tuesday made an invitation to Works Minister Mirza Abbas for an open debate on the Khilgaon flyover issue in presence of print and electronic media at any place. "If Abbas agrees to we can sit together at any place of his choice in presence of the LGED representatives, contractor of the Khilgaon flyover, print and electronic media, and let the people know what is truth," Saber, also organising secretary of Awami League, said at a press briefing at his residence. Saber, former lawmaker of Dhaka-6 (Motijheel-Sabujbagh-Khilgaon) constituency, and Works Minister Mirza Abbas are now engaged in war of words on the much-talked-about flyover that was inaugurated on March 23 by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Earlier, the AL leader at a press briefing on March 23 said they are happy that the Khilgaon flyover is finally opened for traffic, but incomplete portion will deprive a million of people from getting its full benefit. "If people vote Awami League back to power in future, we will complete the incomplete loop that will ease the traffic movement on the flyover, and facilitate the people of Khilgaon and other wide areas," he said. The Works Minister, who is incumbent lawmaker from the constituency at a press conference on March 27, ruled out the allegations of Saber about Khilgaon flyover terming it 'untrue and political'. Refuting Saber's allegations, Abbas said the loop was not included in the original design. Saber had alleged that an important loop was dropped and the width was narrowed down from 15 metres to 14 metres raising risk to traffic movement, and took excessive time to complete the flyover. Referring to Mirza Abbas' remarks made at the inaugural function of the flyover and at a press conference, Saber said, "I have doubt whether the Works Minister has any idea about flyover or not." "It was a plan of LGED and the tender was floated and Ecnec also approved it. How Abbas said that there was no design?" Saber questioned adding that "unwanted interference by Abbas" delayed the implementation of the project. "The construction of another loop will not need to demolish even a single house, he said in a counterpoint of Abbas who said the second loop needed to demolish thousands of houses. "We do not want to do politics on it. We want the people to know the fact as they have the right to know the truth. Even the LGRD Minister Mannan Bhuiyan during the inauguration admitted that another loop would benefit people of Khilgaon supplementing our position," Saber said.

Obituary

Ahmad Moazzar Ahmad BSS, Dhaka Alhaj Moazzar Ahmad, father-in-law of Major (ret) Saeed Eskander, MP, died old age complications at the Combined Military Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 76. He was laid to rest at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Baridhara Park Street Road w

Modern signal system to be introduced at 12 rly stations

UNB, Dhaka A computer-controlled modern signal system will be introduced at 12 railway stations on the Akhaura-Sylhet route at a cost of Tk 88.50 crore. The signal system will be placed under the 2nd phase of the Modern Signal and Interlocking System Introduction Programme, aiming to reduce the time of train traffic on the Dhaka-Sylhet route. An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh Railway and Irkon International Ltd. at the Bangladesh Railway conference room yesterday, said a press release. Additional Director General of Bangladesh Railway M Abdullah and Managing Director of the Indian company BS Kapoor signed the agreement. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Director General of Bangladesh Railway AFM Mostafizur Rahman and high officials of Indian High Commission, Indian railway and Irkon International Ltd. were present at the signing ceremony. The signals will be set up at Laskarpur, Rashidpur, Shatgaon, Srimongol, Tanugachh, Shamshearnagar, Tilagaon, Longla, Boramchal, Bhabarabazar, Majigaon and Mogla Bazar stations. Work on the project will be completed within 18 months after the agreement comes into effect. Earlier, another agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Railway and a Korean company for setting up a computer-controlled modern signal system at 10 stations on the Akhaura-Sylhet section of the route. Involving Tk 79 crore, works on this project will be completed by 2006. Now trains in this section cannot run at a speed of over 48km due to the old signal system, but on completion of these projects, they will be able to run at a speed of over 80 km.

30 years' RI for raping a girl in Keraniganj

COURT CORRESPONDENT A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to 30 years' rigorous imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old girl in Keraniganj on September 15, 1999. Judge Mohammad Mujibul Kamal of the First Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression handed down the verdict in presence of the convict Abul Kashem. The girl gave birth to a child after she was raped by Abul Kashem. The tribunal fined the convict Tk 5 lakh and directed the authorities concerned to realise the money from the convict's property and to pay it to the victim and her child. In the case filed with Keraniganj Police Station, it was alleged that Kashem raped the victim at her residence at Maddhyerchar village under Keraniganj police at about 10:00pm on September 15, 1999 when she was there alone. After the incident, the rapist threatened her not to disclose his name to her parents.

PPRC to conduct survey on crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), a research organisation working with governance issues, will conduct a countrywide survey to identify country's crime trend and its prevalence. Crime data from the countrywide survey will help the policy makers to evaluate the situation and take action to that end. The PPRC already piloted a crime prevalence survey in two unions under Natore district. Advocate Dr Shaheen Malik, supervisor of the survey, presented a report about the survey at a meeting at the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) auditorium in the city yesterday. Dr Malik said currently there is no complete crime data in the country. He said the number of crime incidents in the country is much higher than the police records show. Referring to crime statistics of the USA and India, he said the rate of crime in Bangladesh is lower compared to many western and our neighbouring countries. "About 1200 incidents of murders take place only in the New York city a year while in Bangladesh the number is about 700 to 800 the same period," he said. The law enforcement agencies can use the data of crime survey for their activities, he added. Speaking at the meeting former advisor of a caretaker government Hafizuddin Khan said in rural areas the rate of crime is lower compared to the urban areas. He said it is not possible to have right information about the crime from police records as sometimes police are interested in cases. Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive director of the PPRC, told the meeting that combating crime was vital to ensure good governance. If there is no complete data about crime of the country then it is not possible for the policymakers and law enforcement agencies to have a clear picture about it, he said. The crime survey, if completed, would help a lot ensure good governance in the country, he added.

DHAKA TODAY Hou Hsiao-Hsien retrospective Discussion Bilial AGM Sylhet Division Dev Council Management Net Closing ceremony BPWD council Poetry evening Int'l Spectacles Fair

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Noorunnahar Fyzennessa, a professor of IER, Dhaka University, says a press release. The first elected woman member of DU Syndicate, Dr Fyzennessa was an eminent personality widely respected in academic and liberal political circles. She initiated the Liberation War memorials on the DU campus and Rokeya Hall premises. The founder of Chayanir, she launched a merit scholarship project, Rokeya Memorial Foundation. She was also a member of the Pay Commission and Asian Regional Population Association, Bangkok. She was also the president of Dhaka City Mahila Parishad and Usha and vice-president of Women for Women. She also played a significant role in the movement for establishing women's rights and the country's liberation struggle. Dr Fyzennessa was also a faculty member of the London University. She has a number of research publications to her credit. On the occasion of her death anniversary, a milad mahfil will be held at her residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Md Golam Hossain Bhuiyan

The seventh death anniversary of Md Golam Hossain Bhuiyan, a member of Dhaka Newspapers Hawkers Multipurpose Cooperative Society, will be observed today, says a press release. He died of a cardiac arrest in 1998. Nazrul Islam Nayeem, advertisement manager of the daily Matribhumi, is his second son.



Asma Kibria, wife of slain AL leader and former finance minister Shah SAMS Kibria, speaks at a press conference yesterday at her Dhanmondi residence in the city. On her left is her son Dr Reza Kibria.

Nine lawyers, women activists burn certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong Seven senior lawyers and two women activists burnt their academic certificates yesterday afternoon in front of the Chittagong Press Club protesting the authorities' inaction against people with fake certificates. Those who destroyed their certificates were Parimol Kanti Biswas, Ashoke Das, Rana Das Gupta, Shihabuddin Mahmud, Osman Gani, Tafsiruddin Ahmed, Uday Shankar Dhar, Noorjahan Khan and Noor-e-Asma. "In recent times, the spread of fake certificates has increased to such an alarming rate that many people have managed to get coveted government jobs with those tampered certificates. The authorities concerned so far have remained unmoved and took little or no action against them," said Rana Das Gupta to journalists. Noorjahan Khan said the protest was actually initiated by lawyers but they came there on behalf of Mohila Parishad to express solidarity with them.