

Tajuddin's house declared 'risky'

Cracks develop after excavation work on adjacent plot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk building inspectors yesterday declared the four-storey house of late prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed at Dhanmondi 'risky and unsafe' and asked its occupants to evacuate.

The structure, built in 1960, developed cracks after a developer made a 17-foot deep excavation on the next plot for construction of a commercial building without taking proper safety measures.

The developer, Amin Mohammed Foundation Ltd., also ignored written and verbal warnings about a possible accident from neighbours and Tanjim Ahmed MP, son of the late prime minister.

Tajuddin Ahmed was the first prime minister of Bangladesh. His leadership during the War of Liberation was instrumental in achieving independence in nine months.

Rajuk inspector Nazmul Haque yesterday inspected the four-storey building on Plot No.- 751 at Satmasjid Road and the excavation site of Amin Mohammad Foundation on Plot No.-752. He said Rajuk would take legal action against the developer.

"It is quite clear that the developer has been neglectful of the safety of adjacent structures while excavating such a big area," Nazmul said.

At around 1:00pm yesterday, about 50 labourers were seen dumping hundreds of sand bags against the wall of Tajuddin's house on the southern edge in a bid to

prevent it from caving in. A part of the building on the ground floor slightly caved in two days ago. The

workers were also pressing long steel I-beams against the pilings of the excavated ditch on the western

side of the plot fearing that the structure there might also cave in.

Tanjim Ahmed said he had evacuated his family from the house and they are now living with relatives. He also said the house represents the memories of his slain father and thus the family has always rejected offers to develop the house into a modern shopping centre.

"My mother is now emotionally broken as we are all worried about the safety of the building. We shall keep this historic house for ever, we want to keep the souvenir of our father intact," Ahmed said.

He showed a letter dated March 16, which he personally wrote to the managing director of Amin Mohammed Foundation, informing him of sudden appearance of a large crack in his building stretching from east to west.

"But they did not take any action until the soil slide started to occur," he said.

Ashrafuddin Ahmed, director (construction) of Amin Mohammed Foundation, said the emergency situation occurred due to rain. "We are trying our best to protect the adjacent buildings," he said.

He, however, kept mum when asked why they had not foreseen rain while taking up such a big construction work.

Neighbours said that few months ago, the developer suggested to Tajuddin's family that they hand over their plot for development.



PHOTO: STAR

A developer makes a 17-foot deep excavation on a plot adjacent to the four-storey house of late prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed at Dhanmondi for construction of a commercial building without taking proper safety measures.

Hasina visits Jalil at hospital

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited her party General Secretary Abdul Jalil, MP, at Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital.

She enquired about his health and treatment.

Hasina was told that Jalil will be flown to Singapore in the evening.

She was accompanied by party leaders Totail Ahmed, Kazi Zafrullah, Obaidul Quader and Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Jalil was admitted to the hospital Wednesday evening following complaint in his chest.

Doctors said he has been suffering from respiratory problem and other physical complications.

Jalil has been unwell for last several days and staying at home.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina along with party leaders visits her party General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP at Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital in the city yesterday.

Help LDCs offset impacts of global climate change

Developed countries urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called on the developing countries to implement the Kyoto Protocol and help the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) offset the impacts of global climate change through capacity building and technology transfer.

The press conference was held at the end of LDC-GEF Consultation on Least Developed Countries Fund in the city.

The three-day consultation adopted a framework for the fund, which will be utilised in implementing adaptation measures to offset the impacts of global climate change.

The recommendations of the consultation will be included in the LDC Fund programmes in order to help implement the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), said Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, secretary of the ministry of environment and forest.

About 28 million US dollars has already been collected for the LDC Fund, he said, adding that a meeting will be held in Denmark in May where developed countries will pledge contributions to the fund.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest and Global Environment Facility (GEF) jointly organised the consultation attended by representatives of 41 LDC countries, GEF,

UNDP, UNEP, World Bank (WB) and the developed countries.

Mohammad Reazuddin, director (technical) of the Department of Environment, Richard H Hosier of GEF and Janos Pasztor of the United Nations Framework for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were present at the press conference.

18 extra-judicial killings in March: BILIA report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen people were killed by the law enforcement agencies across the country last month.

This was revealed in a report of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) yesterday.

The report was prepared on the basis of stories published in seven national dailies in March.

According to the report, 20 people were killed in political clashes.

A total of 240 people were murdered across the country during the period. Of them 52 were women.

Besides, 45 were the victims of rape, 22 were the victims of acid throwing, 13 were the victims of dowry and 37 were the victims of domestic violence.

Eighteen children were murdered while six children were tortured on various grounds.

The BILIA report found that the women and children are the most vulnerable group to human rights violation.

It said the deep rooted social and religious superstitions are the major reasons for present

perilous situation of human rights in the country.

58 houses, shops gutted in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least 58 houses and shops were gutted and properties worth around Tk 5 lakh damaged in three incidents of fire in the port city yesterday.

Fifty-four shanties were gutted at a slum near Foy's Lake. The fire originated from an earthen oven. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after a two-hour effort.

The damage in the fire was estimated at around Tk 3 lakh, sources said.

Meanwhile, three shops and a dwelling house were burnt down and properties worth around Tk 2 lakh damaged in separate incidents of fire at the city's Oxygen intersection area and at Shulak Bahar area.