



Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a consultation meeting on Khilgaon residential area at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Monir Hossain Khan and Mostofa Jamal Haider and on his left is Sharif Jamil.

Restore residential nature of Khilgaon

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation meeting yesterday called on the government to take steps to restore the residential nature of Khilgaon area in the city by demolishing illegal structures in the area.

They also urged the government to free Chowdhurypara Children's Park from illegal occupation and to cancel the housing project for government officials in the area.

They also called for taking appropriate measures to improve the services of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Wasa (Water and Sewerage Authorities), Desa (Dhaka Electric Supply Authority), Titas Gas and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in the area.

Khilgaon Samajik Sangstha and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) jointly organised the meeting on the environment of Khilgaon residential area at the National Press Club.

Speaking as the chief guest, Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the problems of Khilgaon residential area are similar to the problems in all other areas in the capital.

The authorities should take up a comprehensive plan to develop urban areas, he said, adding that Rajdhanee Ummayan Kartipaksha

(Rajuk) had many plans but those could not be implemented due to political reasons in the past.

"I do not think Rajuk can effectively carry out development initiatives in the city and at the same time play the role of a regulating body," he said. "There should be two separate entities for performing these two functions," he added.

Talking about DCC, he said, "DCC has 90 wards. All its wards should be regrouped to form 40 individual and

autonomous municipalities and the DCC would only play the coordinating role."

He also criticised the unplanned construction of high-rise buildings in the city.

President of Khilgaon Samajik Sangstha Monir Hossain Khan, General Secretary Md Hafizur Rahman Moina, Prof Anu Muhammad, Sharif Jamil, Mahidul Huq Khan and Fakir Alamgir also spoke.

Adab demands trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (Adab) strongly condemned the remarks made about the Liberation War by Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Shah Abdul Hannan, a Jamaat sympathiser and former secretary.

In a statement yesterday, the association also demanded trial of the war criminals.

The association leaders said the remarks of Mojaheed and Hannan signal a deep-rooted conspiracy against the nation.

Only the unity of the people of all walks of life who believe in the spirit of the Liberation War can put an end to such conspiratorial and provocative remarks, they said and called on the people to unite like 'during' the Liberation War.

Factory owner fined Tk 2 lakh, jailed for one yr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in the port city yesterday sentenced a factory owner to one year's imprisonment and fined Tk 2 lakh for producing and marketing adulterated ghee and butter oil.

Sources said the court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury in a raid in Foy's Lake area under Khulshi on October 11 seized around 5 metric tons of adulterated ghee and butter oil at Kohinoor Commend and Mamun Company.

Following the raid, the court sent some samples of the seized ghee and butter oil to Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) for laboratory test.

BSTI test report on Monday revealed that iodine and peroxide were found above the tolerable limit in both the items while the melting points were also found harmful for human health, sources said.

Meanwhile, the owner of the factory Emdadul Hoque and its manager Moniruzzaman were arrested yesterday when they surrendered before the court.

During primary interrogation Emdadul said that more than 200 tons of adulterated ghee and butter oil were produced in his factory in the last three years to supply those to different areas of Chittagong, Sylhet, Hill Tracts, Barisal and Khulna.

The court fined Emdadul and Moniruzzaman Tk 2 lakh and Tk 1 lakh respectively.

They were also sentenced to one year's and six month's of imprisonment respectively.

The court also ordered BSTI authorities to cancel the license of the factory and take necessary steps for banning the sale and distribution of its products.

When contacted, Magistrate Munir said such adulterated ghee might cause diseases like high blood pressure, heart diseases and kidney damage.

JN University admission tests rescheduled

DU CORRESPONDENT

The schedule of first year honours admission tests at Jagannath University for the sessions 2007-2008 has been changed due to unavoidable reason, a press release said.

According to the new schedule, the admission test of Ka Unit will be held on January 18, 2008, while the admission tests of Kha Unit, Ga Unit, Gha Unit have been scheduled for February 1, February 8 and February 15 respectively.

C'WEALTH ASIA COLLOQUIUM BEGINS IN CITY

Call to overcome barriers hindering women's dev

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day Commonwealth Asia Colloquium on Gender, Culture and Law began in the city yesterday to find out interlinks among customary practices in different cultures, gender perceptions and related laws of different countries and to adapt the good practices.

Organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the colloquium also aims at providing insight on women's claim on resources and rights under the law and customs, which are often mediated by social or cultural norms and beliefs.

Caretaker Government Adviser Geetara Safiya Choudhury for-

mally inaugurated the colloquium which is being participated by representatives from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Maldives and Indonesia.

Geetara said women have a very big role to play and strict law sometimes could be helpful to protect their rights.

But here laws are often confined to papers, she said hoping that this forum will provide some guidelines to deal with the challenges in this area.

Secretary to the ministry Rokeya Sultana highlighted government's different steps for the development of women including the formulation of Women's Development Policy in 1997, programme for lactating mothers and Vulnerable

Group Development programme for the hardcore poor women.

The colloquium will open a door for the participants to share their experiences regarding customs and laws, she hoped.

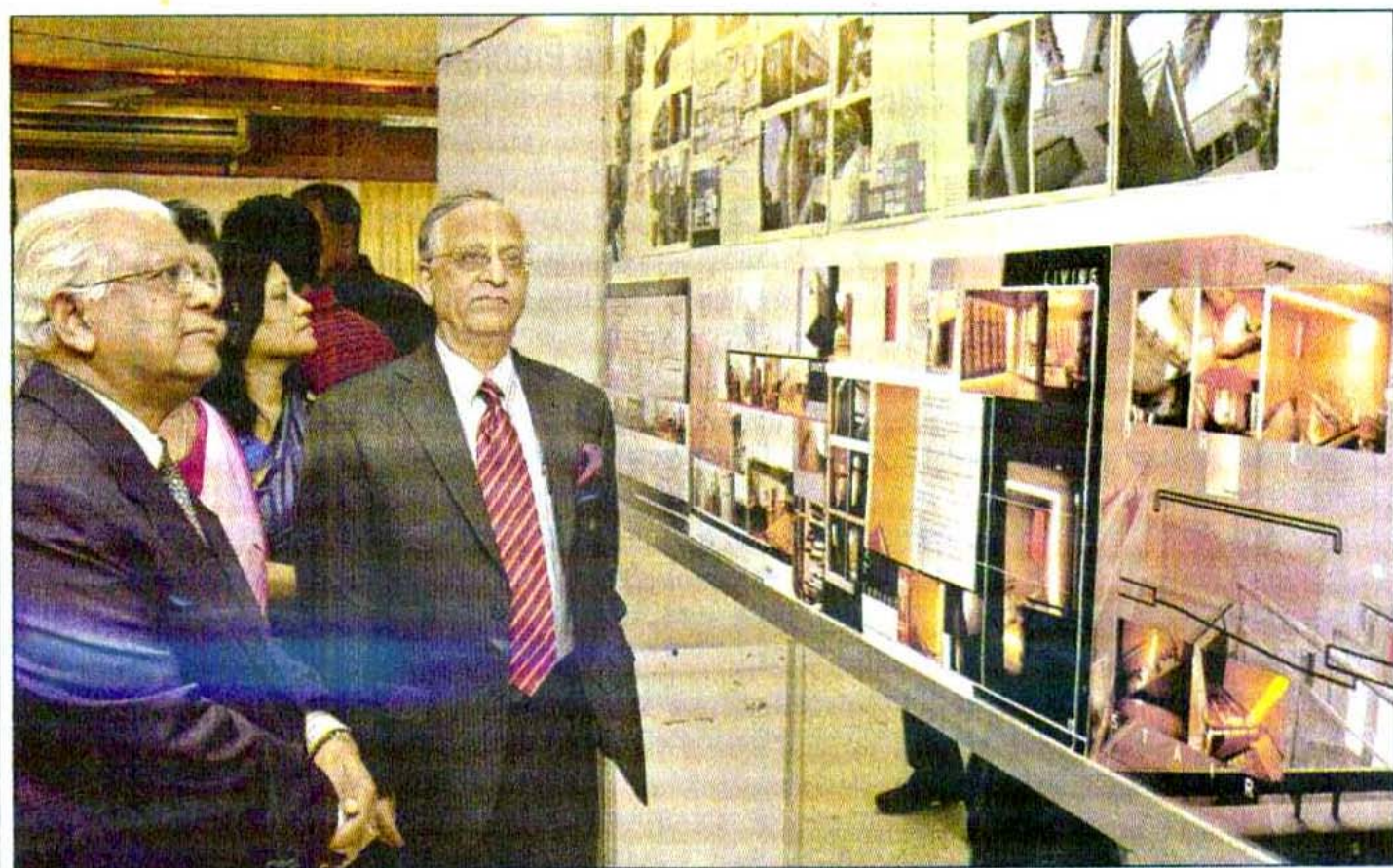
While delivering the keynote address, adviser to a former caretaker government and Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra Sultana Kamal said division between women and men is epitomised in the sketch of 'the home and the world'.

"Therefore, gender, understood this way, influences laws to clearly mark a division of labour between the sexes. Moreover, to maintain that division, discriminatory laws are made for the two genders. If we look at the legal system in Bangladesh very briefly, we will see

that despite Constitutional guarantee of equality in all spheres of national life, the laws applying to private lives are based on religious principles which have a cross affinity to cultural beliefs," she said.

"There is no specific formula to overcome the customary barriers and laws hindering women's development. The struggle for equal legal status and dignity has a long historical background. Whenever reforms are made, only the minimum rights are accepted, not the best or most progressive rights, Sultana added.

The colloquium will come to an end with some recommendations to take necessary steps for women's development.



Vice Chancellor of North South University Hafiz GA Siddiqi and Managing Director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd Masih ul Karim inaugurated an exhibition of architecture on the university campus in the city yesterday.

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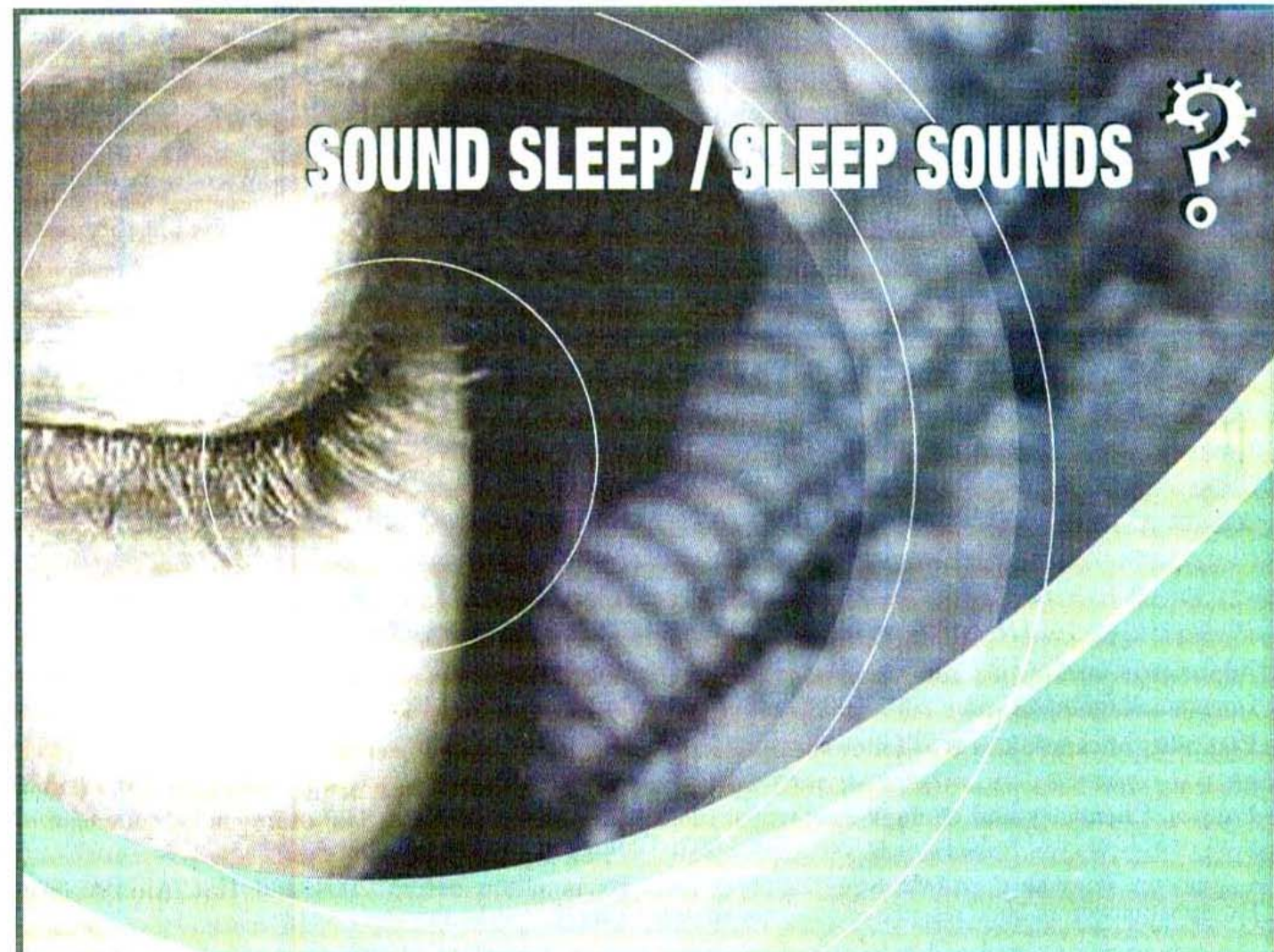
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LABAID SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL
House 6, Road 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205, Tel : 9676356, 8610793-8
Fax: 88-02-3617372, E-mail: info@labaidgroup.com, Web: www.labaidgroup.com