



Visiting Indian parliament member and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi poses with Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at the Nobel Peace Prize Exhibition at Grameen Bank in the city yesterday.

Twelve victims of violence demonstrate their worth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Farzana Khatun Shova, an acid survivor, is proud to get a job in the Persona Hair & Beauty Ltd with a handsome salary just after receiving only one-and-a-half-month training on makeover.

"I don't want to remember my previous ordeal. The training has helped me get my confidence back. Today, I believe that I also can contribute something to society and my family," she said yesterday after receiving the appointment letter from Persona at the 'Job placement ceremony of violence victims of society' at Bengal Gallery in the capital.

Persona Ltd also gave appoint-

ment letters to eleven other women, who fell victim to dowry and acid violence. All of them received training along with Shova.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal, the Prothom Alo Editor Matir Rahman and Persona Managing Director Kaniz Almas Khan gave away appointment letters to the 12 women at the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Sultana Kamal said a number of women fall victim to violence everyday, but they also can contribute to the development of the nation if they get proper opportunities.

Matir Rahman said the acid violence is now on the decline due to massive campaign against it.

The job placement training proves that the victims of violence can also lead a normal life and help their family and society, if they get proper training or opportunities, he added.

Kaniz Almas Khan said these 12 women have completed the six-month course only in one and a half months as all of them were keen and quick learners.

All of them have performed very well in the training, she added.

Eleven other women are Nur Banu, Papia Khan, Khidza Khatun, Sharmin Nahar, Shamrin Akhtar Sathi, Jasmine Akhtar Poly, Nazma Khatun, Minara Begum, Noorjahan Khatun, Rubanee Yasmin and Rupali Akhtar.



Twelve victims of violence who received training on makeover pose with the guests at the 'Job placement ceremony' at the Bengal Gallery in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Prothom Alo Editor Matir Rahman, Sultana Kamal and Kaniz Almas Khan.

Follow building code to reduce vulnerability to earthquake

Experts urge people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar yesterday urged the people to follow Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) during the construction of any building to reduce vulnerability to earthquake.

They also called for raising awareness among the people about a moderate to severe earthquake in a bid to reduce the extent of damage in the country.

The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at the National Press Club in the city with its Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad in the chair.

Vice-chancellor of Brac University Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury in his keynote paper said there are a large number of buildings which have been constructed in the city without following the BNBC.

"To avoid a catastrophe in case of a severe earthquake, it is imperative that measures are initiated to strictly enforce the provisions of the BNBC," he added.

Vice-president of Bangladesh Earthquake Society Prof Mehdi Ahmed Ansary of Buet said the intensity of the earthquake, which was recorded on July 27, was seven at Haluaghat and four in Dhaka.

Damages were done at Dhauraura and Haluaghat in Mymensingh, Durgapur in Netrakona and



Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury speaks at a seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, Iqbal Habib and ATM Asaduzzaman.

Nalitabari in Sherpur during the earthquake, he added.

ASM Maksud Kamal, national expert on earthquake and tsunami preparedness, said as the nation has not faced any strong earthquake in last 100 years, there is lack of awareness among the people.

He said the government is preparing a micro-zoning map giving all about a city, and the people will be able to know what kind of structures they will be able to build on their

selected places.

Stressing the need for building awareness Associate Professor of Asia Pacific University Dr Iftekhar Anam said due to lack of awareness many students of Dhaka University jumped out of their dormitories in panic.

"First we have to think whether the house where we live and the office where we work is safe or not and then we have to take steps to make it safer," he added.

"An earthquake does not kill man, our activities and our structures kill us," said ATM Asaduzzaman, a geologist of the Survey of Bangladesh.

People will have to decide how they will live with earthquake, he added.

Abdul Latif Helali of Rajuk hoped that as the Building Construction Rules 2008 have the provisions for punishment to all concerned, future buildings would be constructed without any deviation.

Hearing on charge framing against Koko August 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday set August 7 for hearing on charge framing against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in connection with a corruption case.

Judge M Sirajul Islam of the Special Court-7, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, fixed the date following time prayer by the defence.

As the court began its sitting, defence counsels appealed for time saying they could not see necessary case documents.

"The court then fixed August 7 for next hearing."

Koko was represented by his lawyer as he is now staying abroad for medical treatment.

On April 23 this year, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Abu Sayeed filed the case against him with Ramna Police Station for amassing wealth worth Tk 2.23 crore through illegal means and holding back information on assets worth around Tk 11.20 lakh.

According to the case statement, Koko in his wealth statement to the ACC showed that he, his wife and two daughters own movable and immovable properties worth around Tk 8.08

crore. But an ACC investigation found that the assets belonging to the family are worth more than the declared amount.

The investigation also gathered that Koko concealed information about a flat at Banani, loans from banks and remuneration and other benefits that he might have received from different businesses.

He also concealed information about 500 shares (Tk 100 each) he has in a business firm named Hasanco Aviation Ltd and two bank savings certificates (Tk 1 lakh each) under his wife's name.

Meanwhile, detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu fell sick during his trial in relief materials misappropriation case at the Special Court-5 at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex yesterday.

Falu, also the political secretary to former premier Khaleda Zia, told the court that the news of his daughter's illness has made him sick.

Judge M Ashraf Hossain of the court adjourned the hearing and ordered the security personnel to bring him in the court custody and provide him with necessary treatment. The court fixed August 10 for next hearing.

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