

50,000 flats to be built for low-income people

BSS, Dhaka

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhaya (RAJUK) Chairman Engineer Md Nurul Huda yesterday said 50,000 apartments would be constructed in the city for resolving housing problems of the low and middle-income people.

While exchanging views with the journalists at RAJUK conference room here, he said a grand plan has been undertaken for giving Dhaka a new shape and for creating the capital city a planned and modern one.

The work on this grand plan would start after getting approval from the concerned ministry and the prime minister, he said.

The RAJUK chairman said a list of 5,000 buildings has so far been prepared which were constructed violating the RAJUK approved designs.

"Legal actions would be taken against these buildings in phases, he added.

There are five private RAJUK approved housing areas in the city which are: Bashundhara Residential Area (1st Phase) of East West Properties Development (Pvt) Ltd, Swarnali Residential Area (1st Phase) of Swadesh Properties Development and Rampura Banasri, Pallabi and Mayakanan Residential Areas of Eastern Housing Limited, he said.

These projects were approved in 1987 and except these, there is no RAJUK approved private residential areas in the city, he added.

The effort of turning RAJUK into a service-oriented organisation has been successful in various fields, he said. Adding "Efforts were taken for bringing dynamism in the activities of RAJUK and also for establishing transpar-

ency and accountability."

"Legal actions were taken against the officials and employees of the organisation who were involved in illegal activities," he said adding 12 employees were given light punishment and eight were dismissed from their jobs.

Huda said RAJUK has undertaken a programme for developing another Detailed Area Plan (DAP) by reviewing its already-made DAP in view of the government's Vision 2021, he said adding: "If this initiative is implemented successfully, it would help develop a modern city."

He said RAJUK, on priority and long term basis, is implementing some development projects, which includes resolving water logging, developing environment, setting up recreation centers, beautification and solving housing problems.

Govt to take steps to ensure quality education

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The government would set up new schools and take steps to improve the quality of education to bring about qualitative changes in the education system, said Education Minister AMA Muhith.

He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the second day's programme of 175th founding anniversary of the Sylhet Government Pilot High School here yesterday.

Muhith also said many students graduating from this institution have been playing laudable roles in different fields at home and abroad. It has a glorious history, he added.

Mosih Malik Chowdhury read out the Prime Minister's message in the occasion.

Former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury, lawmaker and chairman of Pubali Bank Limited Hafiz Ahmed Mojumdar, Fokhrul Islam Chowdhury and Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury were present as students while Dr AK Abdul Mubin, a former Secretary, was in the chair.

The programmes featured blood donation, session of reminiscence and a cultural function.

A larger number of former and present students participated in the programme wearing colourful dresses, caps and masks on the occasion.

Begum Rokeya Memorial Lecture held

DU CORRESPONDENT

Women would have to come out of the belief that they are to serve men, speakers at a discussion said.

If they can do this, they will be able to consider them as human being and to raise their voice against repression, they added.

They were speaking at the Begum Rokeya Memorial Lecture 2009, organised by the Department of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University at the Senate Bhaban on the campus on Thursday.

Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra Advocate Sultana Kamal presented the keynote paper at the programme on 'Family laws in the eyes of Rokeya: Context present Bangladesh'.

Sultana Kamal said Rokeya was 'an astonishing gift of history', someone who the women can feel proud of.

Rokeya had felt by her heart that the existing family laws had kept women confined, Sultana said.

So, steps should be taken to implement Rokeya's dreams and establish women rights, added the former adviser to a caretaker government.

Speaking as the chief guest, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said Rokeya was a foresighted and modern human being.

Noted jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik, DU Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin and Associate Professor Maleka Begum also spoke at the programme with Syed Md Sheikh Imtiaz in the chair.



Finance Minister AMA Muhith speaks at a programme marking the 175th founding anniversary of Sylhet Government Pilot High School on its premises in Sylhet yesterday.

Tannery owner held for confining 7 suppliers to factory for 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a tannery factory owner and his three men early yesterday on charges of confining seven rawhide suppliers to his factory at Hazaribagh in the city for seven days.

The police also rescued the seven suppliers who also suffered torture in their confinement.

The arrestees are Mozahid Tannery owner Zahangir Alam

alias Akash and his three cadres Mohammad Ismail, Delwar Hossain and Mohammad Ali.

The victims are Tofazzal Hossain, Odu Miah Nikunja Das, Ramkanta Das, Upendra Das, Mithun and Polan. The factory owner confined them when they came to the tannery to collect dues.

Of them, Tofazzal, Odu and Upendra were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as they were tortured severely by the cadres

of the factory owner.

Hazaribagh Police Station officer-in-charge Abdur Razzaq told The Daily Star they rescued the victims during a raid on the factory which was locked and arrested the four persons.

"As the hide suppliers had been demanding their dues, factory owner Akash called the suppliers in the factory for payment on Friday," the OC said. But Akash and his cadres kept them confined and tortured them, he added.

DU English Dept Alumni Society meeting held

METRO DESK

The first meeting of the executive committee -2010 of the English Department Alumni Society, Dhaka University was held in the city on Thursday.

Society President Dr M Ahsanul Haque presided over the meeting that welcomed the newly elected members of the committee, said a press release.

Haque thanked the members of the executive committee for making the annual get-together of 2009 a resounding success.

The Society will organise a river cruise in March, stated the meeting.



Buet Vice Chancellor Prof AMM Safiullah gives away an award to a winner of Science Olympiad 2010 organised by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences at Buet auditorium in the city yesterday.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD Encourage children to study science

Speakers urge parents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday called upon parents to encourage their children to study science subjects at least up to higher secondary level so that they can stay in tune with the developments in the field of science.

"Studying science till intermediate level would equip the youth with the basic knowledge to comprehend scientific facts and issues that have both local and global importance," said Prof Dr M Shamsur Ali, president of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

"From that level they can go towards any specialised field. But studying science till college should be a must," he said.

Prof Shamsher, who is also the vice-chancellor of Southeast University, was addressing the audience as the chair of the prize giving ceremony of Bangladesh Academy

of Science Olympiad 2010 at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) auditorium in the city yesterday.

Speaking as special guest, Prof Dr Misbahuddin Ahmed of Buet said Bangladesh is a country where science does not spark as much excitement and interest as it should.

"Because of a serious lack of interest in science, we are falling behind in numerous sectors in more than one way," he said.

"Bangladesh needs more initiatives to promote science education and science teachers have to encourage students to take up science related sector as a career, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Buet Vice-Chancellor Prof AMM Safiullah said the fundamentals of development of any country rely on scientific advancements and practices. The chief guest later

handed out medals to 100 students of different schools across the country who participated in the Olympiad.

Daffodil International University Vice-Chancellor Dr Aminul Islam was also present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in association with Buet organised the nationwide Science Olympiad to test scientific knowledge of over 400 participants in different secondary and higher secondary schools throughout the country.

The national level preliminary test was held in January 8 in different locations across the country. A number of 400 finalists were selected for the final rounds that took place at Buet yesterday.

The Science Olympiad is the first of its kind in the country and will be continued as an annual event, BAS source said.

Bangladesh

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