



SALUTING THE NATION BUILDERS OF TOMORROW



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ AND AMRAN HOSSAIN

The 11th award presentation ceremony honouring the outstanding achievers in the O and A level examinations was held at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in the city yesterday. (Clockwise from left) Participants at the ceremony. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid addresses the ceremony. Students render a song and perform a spectacular dance number. The Daily Star organised the event to salute the nation builders of tomorrow. (Story on Page 16)

Govt to build 11,268 flats in city for middle-income people

UNB, Dhaka

The government will build 11,268 flats with modern amenities in the capital in the next three years to sell out those to the government employees and general public. According to official sources, the National Housing Authority (NHA), a statutory body of the public sector housing, has already finalised a project to be implemented on an area of 145.91 acres at Mirpur section-9. "We hope, we can invite the tender soon to award the contract to the contractor to build 128 apartment blocks housing the flats. All preparations have been done in this regard," NHA Chairman Neazuddin Ahmed told UNB.

The project, titled 'Swapnonagar Residential Flats', will be implemented at an estimated cost of Tk 5,258 crore in 2010-13. Initially, the project was thought to be plot-based one like other housing projects. But considering the high density of population, the government converted it into a flat system residential project, which means people will be given flat instead of plot. Under the project, a total of 128 apartment blocks of 12-storied building will be constructed. The flats will be in three categories in terms of size -- 1625 sft, 1386 sft and 1040 sft. Each building will have 88 flats, with car parking facilities on the ground floor. Other facilities include lift, lobby, fire-stairs and air circulation.

As per the project profile, the NHA will construct half of the apartments while the Public Works Department (PWD) will build the remaining apartments. The sale value of the flats was fixed by adding a 10 percent profit to the construction cost. Under this criterion, sale value of a 1625 sft flat was fixed at Tk 57.55 lakh, a 1386 sft flat at Tk 49.09 lakh and a 1040 sft flat at Tk 36.83 lakh. The entire project area will be surrounded by security walls. Earth filling, road, drain, culvert, electric substation, HT overhead lines, gas lines, auto generator, water reservoir, telecom system, CCTV, fire-fighters, lift, deep tube-well, pump and guard shed has been included in the project.

At present, the NHA has been implementing a project in Mirpur and Mohammadpur for low and middle-income people to build about 840 flats. "Seeing the success of this project, the NHA came up with this huge project to offer flats to the middle- and upper-middle-class people," said a top official of the project. Normally, NHA and PWD implements projects for the government employees, but this project will be for all and flats will be allotted through lottery, he added. The official said the project was approved by an inter-ministerial meeting and a draft-project profile (DPP) was approved. The finance ministry also gave its nod to the project.

'Declare Feb 1 as Sign Language Day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday demanded state recognition to sign language and declaration of February 1 as 'Sign Language Day' for establishing rights of the deaf. They placed the demands while addressing the view exchange meeting organised by Society for the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city. Presiding over the meeting, SDSL Chairman M Osman Khaled said major portion of the country's physically challenged people are deaf. But their rights are always neglected. State declaration of the sign language is prerequisite to establish rights of the deaf, he added.

Osman called on the government to establish a Bangla sign language institute in the country for development of the deaf. SDSL Executive Director MI Chowdhury demanded creation of an atmosphere congenial to the deaf for learning and create employment opportunity for them. Other demands of the organisation include ensuring participation of deaf children in general schools and appointment of sufficient skilled teachers in seven schools of the deaf. Shirin Begum, president of Jatiya Mohila Badhir Sangstha, and SDSL representatives were present at the meeting. Thirty-four people from different organisations received awards for participating in a month-long training on 'Introductory level of Bangla Sign Language'.



Worker killed in Khulna brickfield clash

UNB, Khulna

A man was killed and six others were injured in a clash between two groups of workers in a brickfield at Khurnia in Dumuria, Khulna, on Thursday night. The dead was identified as Rustam. Witnesses said two groups of workers were locked in an altercation at about 6:00pm over repairing a trolley used in the brickfield. Two hours later, the two groups -- one led by Zahid Sarder and another by Rustam -- were locked in a violent clash that left Rustam fatally injured. He was first admitted to the upazila health complex and later shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital where he succumbed at late night.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain at Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday protesting mindless felling of trees at Srimangal.

GAS CYLINDER LEAK 7 injured in fire at motor works

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Seven persons were injured in a fire at a motor works here yesterday. The fire started from a gas cylinder leak at Shah Amanat Motor Engineering Workshop at around 10:00am. It soon spread to Bahodderhat Bus Terminal where it damaged two buses, sources said. The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Five fire-fighting units from the city's three fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the flames within half an hour.

Meanwhile, another fire gutted at least eleven houses at Boalkhali upazila of the district in the early hours yesterday. Sources said the fire originated from an electrical short-circuit at a house at 2:35am, and in no time engulfed 11 adjacent thatched houses. A fire-fighting unit from Kalurghat Fire Station put out the blaze after around two and a half hours. Some fire service sources said valuables worth around Tk 11 lakh might have gone up in smoke.

10 shops burn down in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Ten shops were burnt to ashes in a fire in Chaittankanda area of Araihazar upazila here on Thursday night. At least four people were injured while extinguishing the fire. They were admitted to the local health complex. Locals said the fire broke out in a blanket shop and spread fast to the surrounding area, engulfing two godowns of rice, two furniture shops, two confectionaries and a few more blanket shops. Firemen from Narsingdi rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after a one-hour effort. Firefighters said the fire might have been originated from an electric short circuit.

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