



1. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia comes out of the cantonment house in a car at about 4:00pm yesterday.
2. Another vehicle with her belongings.
3. Police action on BNP activists at Naya Paltan.
4. BNP men set fire to a bus at Fakirapool.
5. ISPR Director Shahinul Islam briefs journalists.
6. BNP leaders brief reporters. (Stories on Page 1, 3 & 16)

PHOTO: STAR



Gazipur BNP leader killed

UNB, Gazipur

A BNP leader was hacked to death by some assailants in Chhayabithi area of the district town early Saturday. The deceased was identified as Abdus Salam, 36, general secretary of Gazipur Pourashabha Ward No 6 and son of Jamir Uddin Mollah.

Jamaat protests reports on death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh condemned and protested the reports published in several newspapers yesterday, which claimed that Jamaat workers had threatened to kill State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam and burn his residence.

In a statement, Jamaat's Publicity Secretary Prof Md Tasnim Alam yesterday said the reports were baseless and the party workers were not involved in issuing any threat.

Khaleda will have to abide by court order Says Shafique

BSS, Dhaka

Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will have to abide by the order of the court regarding the cantonment house.

None is above the law and the law will take its own course, he said while talking to reporters after a seminar at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city.

The court had given Khaleda one month's time to vacate the cantonment house, the law minister said, adding that she did not appeal to the court to extend the time.

Earlier, addressing the seminar, Barrister Shafique said the government has taken all-out measures to ensure international standard in the trial of crimes against humanity committed in 1971.

The government is pledge-bound to remove the culture of no-justice, he said while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day regional seminar on "National Human Rights Commission: Experience and Challenges".

Organised by National Human Rights Commission, the seminar is being attended by the chiefs and representatives of human rights commissions in some 20 countries. Presided over by National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman, the inaugural function was addressed by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, New Zealand National Human Rights Chief Commissioner Rosslyn Noonan and National Human Rights Commission Member Kazi Riajul Haq. Geoffrey Robertson Presented a key-note paper.

Preparedness help to tackle disaster aftermath

Experts say

UNB, Dhaka

Experts here in the city yesterday said preparedness could help tackle aftermath of all kinds of natural disasters.

They said Bangladesh is intrinsically associated with natural disasters due to its geographical location.

The country frequently faces devastating floods, cyclones and storm surges, tornadoes, riverbank erosion, drought as well as it is a very high-risk location for devastating seismic activity.

The experts were addressing a press conference at the National Press Club in the afternoon.

'Disaster Preparedness Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection' (DIPECHO) Partners in Bangladesh (DPB) organised the press conference on Sharing Experience from Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Bangladesh.

Manish Kumar Agarwall, Program Manager of Oxfam GB Bangladesh, read out a written statement.

Experts from six international development partners including ActionAid Bangladesh, Concern Universal, Islamic Relief Worldwide, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, Oxfam GB and Plan International attended the session.

Manish Kumar said Bangladesh is a nation particularly susceptible to disasters while it has the highest number of people (19,279,960) in the world living in flood-prone areas, is prone to earthquakes, and being extremely flat, is victim to many cyclones and storm surges.

72,000 city buildings at quake risk: Minister

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Food and Disaster Management Dr Abdur Razzaque yesterday said over 72,000 buildings in and around Dhaka city would collapse if the capital is hit by a 7 magnitude earthquake.

The minister was speaking after inaugurating a two-day workshop on "Risk Resilient Infrastructures: Role of Education and Training" at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

He said academics of Buet could serve an important role to reduce the risk of disasters like earthquake by inventing modern technology.

As part of government initiative to deal with such disastrous situation and minimise the risk, about 62,000 volunteers

have been trained under Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), said Dr Razzaque.

He also stressed the need for the involvement of community people and the use of modern technology side-by-side to reduce the risk of any kind of disasters including earthquakes.

He urged academics to give priority to the experiences of the people who faced destruction of natural calamities over the years, referring to the recent cyclones Aila and Sidr.

"We should use the experiences of the affected people on how they had re-started their lives by involving themselves voluntarily in the reconstruction of damaged embankments within weeks of disaster."

The minister called upon all to work collectively to reduce risk of disaster, as government alone could not do so.

Buet Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nazrul

Islam chaired the function, which was addressed, among others, by Buet Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Habibur Rahman, National Project Director of CDMP Abdul Qayyum, and Mehedi Ahmed Ansary, director of Buet-JIDUPS (Buet-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention and Urban Safety).

CDMP and Buet-JIDUPS jointly organised the workshop participated by over 130 academics, experts and representatives of Wasa, Rajuk, Desa, Desco and other institutes including Cuet.

The objective of workshop is to assess the current status of architecture, engineering, urban, and regional planning curricula in Buet and other institutes to obtain input from different professionals practicing in this field to develop an outline for Master's programme on disaster management.

CANCUN CLIMATE CONFERENCE Dhaka to highlight global action

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Akramul Qader said Bangladesh would highlight the global action needed for vulnerable countries at the forthcoming Cancun Climate Conference.

He made the remark at a panel discussion under the World House Series, organised by Humanity's Council in collaboration with Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on Thursday at the embassy, a press release said.

Based on the "Philosophy of Green" envisioned by Martin Luther King Junior, the panelists highlighted various perspectives on the topic "Caring for the world house: A shared responsibility as citizens and a community".

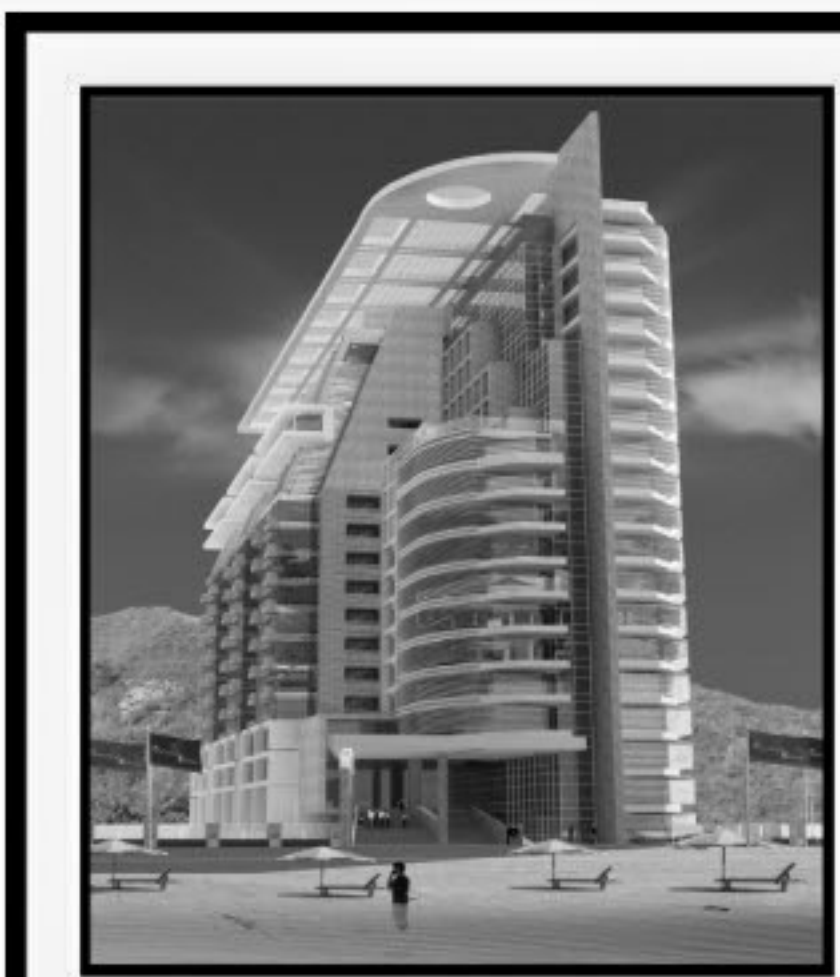
Günter Hörmandinger, first counselor of Environment Delegation of the European Union, and Edith Grace Ssempala, head of the Civil Society Team of World Bank Group and former Ugandan ambassador to the USA, also spoke at the discussion.

Terming Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world due to climate change impacts, Qader highlighted the on-going measures taken by the present democratic government to address the challenge.

He further said Bangladesh plans to shift to green technologies and green development in conjunction with achieving a technologically advanced 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021 as envisioned by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Janata Bank directors Advocate Baram Poddar and Alhaj A K M Shahjahan Kamal hand over a cheque for Tk 4 lakh to four daughters and husband of late Chanpa Rani Bhowmik who has recently been murdered for protesting stalking against her daughters at Modhukhali in Faridpur recently.



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