

NATIONAL BUILDING CODE Enforcement across country on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to enforce the national building code across the country within its tenure, said Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque yesterday.

The term of this Awami League-led government ends in 2013. Dr Razzaque was speaking at the launching ceremony of a project titled "Capacity development on natural disaster-resistant techniques of construction and retrofitting for public building" at a city hotel.

Public Works Department (PWD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) jointly organised the programme.

Dr Razzaque said, "We are seriously thinking about implementation of building code. We have already held inter-ministerial meeting and made some progress to this effect".

The government is considering establishing an authority to implement Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) across the country, he said.

Fumio Kaneko, head of a Jica study team, cited from the Earthquakes Hazard and Risk Assessment by Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (2006-09).

Fumio said if a 7.5-magnitude earthquake happens near Dhaka, 72,000 buildings will collapse, 158,000 buildings will be damaged, and 88,000 people will be killed.

The purpose of the four-year project is to build the capacity of PWD engineers regarding construction and retrofitting technology to enhance safety of the building.

Japan Ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinotsuka and Jica Chief Representative to Bangladesh Dr Takao Toda, among others, spoke at the launch chaired by Housing and Public Works Secretary Dr Khondaker Showkat Hossain.



Bangladesh Bharatia Adhikar Sangrakkhan Society (society to protect tenants' rights) forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding an end to oppression on tenants and to implement law to check house rent.

PHOTO: STAR

Mokim Gazi acquitted of robbery case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mokim Gazi, a notorious criminal gang leader convicted for 105 years, and his nine accomplices were acquitted of a robbery case filed against them on May 1991.

Judge (In Charge) AFM Aminul Islam of Special Judge's Court-2 of Dhaka handed down the judgment yesterday in presence of Mokim and five others.

Sources said Mokim was not release from jail as he was earlier convicted for murder and robbery.

The judge said the accused were acquitted as the prosecution failed to produce any eyewitnesses before the court for statements despite repeated summons and arrest warrants.

According to the prosecution, Mokim led a group of robbers to loot valuables from the house of Jibon Nessa, a resident of Shahidbagh in the city's Motijheel area, on April 30, 1991.

'Chronic disease ailment period widens'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary report on Household Income and Expenditure Survey-2010 yesterday revealed that the duration of ailment of chronic diseases has been increased to almost seven years or 81.38 months from 78.92 months in 2005.

The survey report, launched by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics at Sonargaon Hotel in city, also shows males suffer longer (86.13 months) than the females (77.32 months) on average.

The longest duration of ailment for both sexes has been found in the case of epilepsy, leprosy, and respiratory diseases ranging from nearly 9 to 13 years.

The lowest average duration of ailment is observed in the case of chronic fever preceded by cancer and chronic dysentery. The duration of suffering from paralysis, cancer, and diabetes is also prominent among the male.

The average duration of chronic diseases, however, is higher in urban area than in rural area, found the Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

The survey also revealed that the highest proportion of patients have received treatment from drug stores or from the medicine sellers, which stands at 29.74 percent.

Terming the consultation tendency as a health hazard, health experts said the medicine sellers

actually provide symptomatic treatment, and it is not based on diagnosis.

"It increases wrong treatment too, which is indeed a social problem," said Prof Rashid E Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association.

Severe crisis of doctors accompanied by poverty leads patients, who cannot afford seeing doctors, to consult the medicine sellers for treatment, he said.

Prof Rashid also said the reason behind prolonged suffering from epilepsy and leprosy is lifestyle and lack of awareness.

As these are diseases neglected globally and the poor mainly suffer from these diseases, the patients often have to suffer for a long time,

the experts said.

Different respiratory diseases that include chronic bronchitis, asthma, chronic obstetric pulmonary diseases are also prolonged, they said, adding that chronic obstetric pulmonary diseases stands fourth among the chronic illness and disease duration globally.

"In Bangladesh one in every five people aged above 40 is attacked by chronic obstetric pulmonary diseases," said Prof Rashedul Hasan of the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital.

Blaming air pollution as one of the main causes, he said currently one crore people have been suffering from asthma in the country, which needs long-term treatment.

IUB holds recruitment programme

METRO DESK

A recruitment programme titled "Career as a Banker" was organised by Career Guidance and Placement office of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) at its Bashundhara campus in the city yesterday.

Brac Bank CEO Syed Mahbubur Rahman; IUB Vice Chancellor (In-Charge) Prof M Omar Rahman; and IUB School of Engineering and Computer Science Director Prof M Anwer spoke at the programme.

DIPU MONI MEETS XI JINPING China to help build deep seaport

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China yesterday assured of support to build a deep seaport in Bangladesh and allow duty free access to more Bangladeshi products.

The assurance was given by Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi when Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni met them separately in Beijing yesterday.

They also offered a grant of RMB 150 million to Bangladesh for socio-economic development, says a message received from Beijing yesterday.

The leaders agreed that both countries would work to establish direct road and rail link between Kunming and Chittagong.

Both foreign ministers further agreed that Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary would be jointly organised in China.



A mobile court of Dhaka City Corporation yesterday seized 100 maunds of chemically treated mangoes raiding different places in Mirpur and buried the fruits near Ganopurta Bhaban in Agargaon.

PHOTO: STAR

Ctg Wasa ministry's worst body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives at a meeting yesterday identified Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) as the ministry's worst performing organisation for spending only one fourth of its annual development programme (ADP) fund.

Chaired by State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, the review meeting was held at conference room of local government division at the secretariat in the city.

The meeting also decided to cut Tk 10 crore ADP fund for Sylhet City Corporation as only 40.62 percent was spent till May under three projects while Tk seven crore of Dhaka City Corporation under two projects.

The meeting decided to serve Chittagong Wasa authority a show cause notice for poor progress of its four projects.



Dialogue

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallayan Samity will organise a national dialogue. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Award giving

Walton Bolshakhi Star Award 2011 giving ceremony will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 7:00pm.

Reception

Udayan Avivabak Parishad will arrange a reception. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University, Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Awami League will arrange a discussion. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Steps Towards Development will

DISHONEST REALTORS

Rajuk plans tough action

BSS, Dhaka

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday said they planned to toughen their actions against dishonest real estate businesses amid reports of sale of illegal plots and apartments by land developers in a recent housing fare.

"We are already in action against the dishonest real estate businesses and now planned to intensify the campaign against illegal sales of land and apartments or flats," a Rajuk spokesman told the news agency.

He added, "Tough actions await for the dishonest real estate businesses who reportedly sold illegal plots or flats".


His comments came as media reports

said many of these plots and flats were displayed and sold at the recently organised Rehab Summer Fair.

We have sent letters to the members of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) and Bangladesh Land Developers' Association, who were listed by Rajuk, to stop their illegal activities regarding unregistered projects, the spokesman said.

Rajuk reiterated that it was carrying out a number of activities from 2004 onwards to create awareness among people about these illegal activities by a section of unscrupulous businessman.

These included repeated cautionary notices in national dailies and audiovisual media.



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance

Announces the call for nominations for the

UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize

for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers

\$ 270,000

The UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers aims to promote initiatives that contribute to improving educational practices around the world, with priority given to developing country contexts, as well as to marginalized and disadvantaged communities from the wider global context.

The value of the Prize, US \$270,000, shall be divided between three winners.

Candidates should be Organizations, international or national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), institutions or local, national and regional communities who are working to enhance the performance and effectiveness of teachers.

Letters of Nomination must be sent during the period of 15th June to 15th September 2011 to the following address;

UNESCO
Section for Teacher Policy & Development
Division for Planning and Development of Education Systems
ATTN: UNESCO-Hamdan Prize
7 place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris 07 SP
France

www.hamdanunesco.ae