

## Teenage boy beaten to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning after being beaten in the city's Lalbagh, police and his relatives said.

The victim is Bilal Hossain Shuvo, 16, son of Lalu Miah at Amligola of the area. His family claimed he was a hawker of New Market area.

Police detained two youths, Younus and Shakil, claiming to be friends of Shuvo, in this connection, who said some residents of a house in the area beat Shuvo after catching him red-handed while stealing.

But the area's residents claimed there was no such incident of beating or theft, said Sub-Inspector Mir Sabbir Ali of Lalbagh Police Station, adding that they are suspecting that Shuvo's friends are involved.

Shuvo's elder brother Mohammad Rashed said his mother last saw Shuvo with his friends at a clubhouse in Shaheednagar Pukurpar around 11:00pm on Saturday when he said he would attend a wedding and not be home that night.

They found Shuvo bruised and unconscious inside the clubhouse in the morning yesterday and rushed him to DMCH, he said.

Morgue sources said the body bore marks of injury.

## Construction worker electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker was electrocuted at an under-construction building site at Badda in the city yesterday.

Zahid Hasan, contractor of the under-construction building, told this correspondent over cellphone that Mohammad Sharif, 20, was electrocuted as he came in contact with a Thai aluminium bar lying on a 440 volt electric line while receiving the bar standing on an open space of a window on the 2nd floor of the building.

Zahid and other co-workers rescued him and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Sharif, 20, son of Bachchu Miah of Choudhagram in Comilla, had been working in the under-construction building for nine months. He used to live in a nearby building with other workers.

Badda police said they are yet to get information about the incident at 6:30 pm.

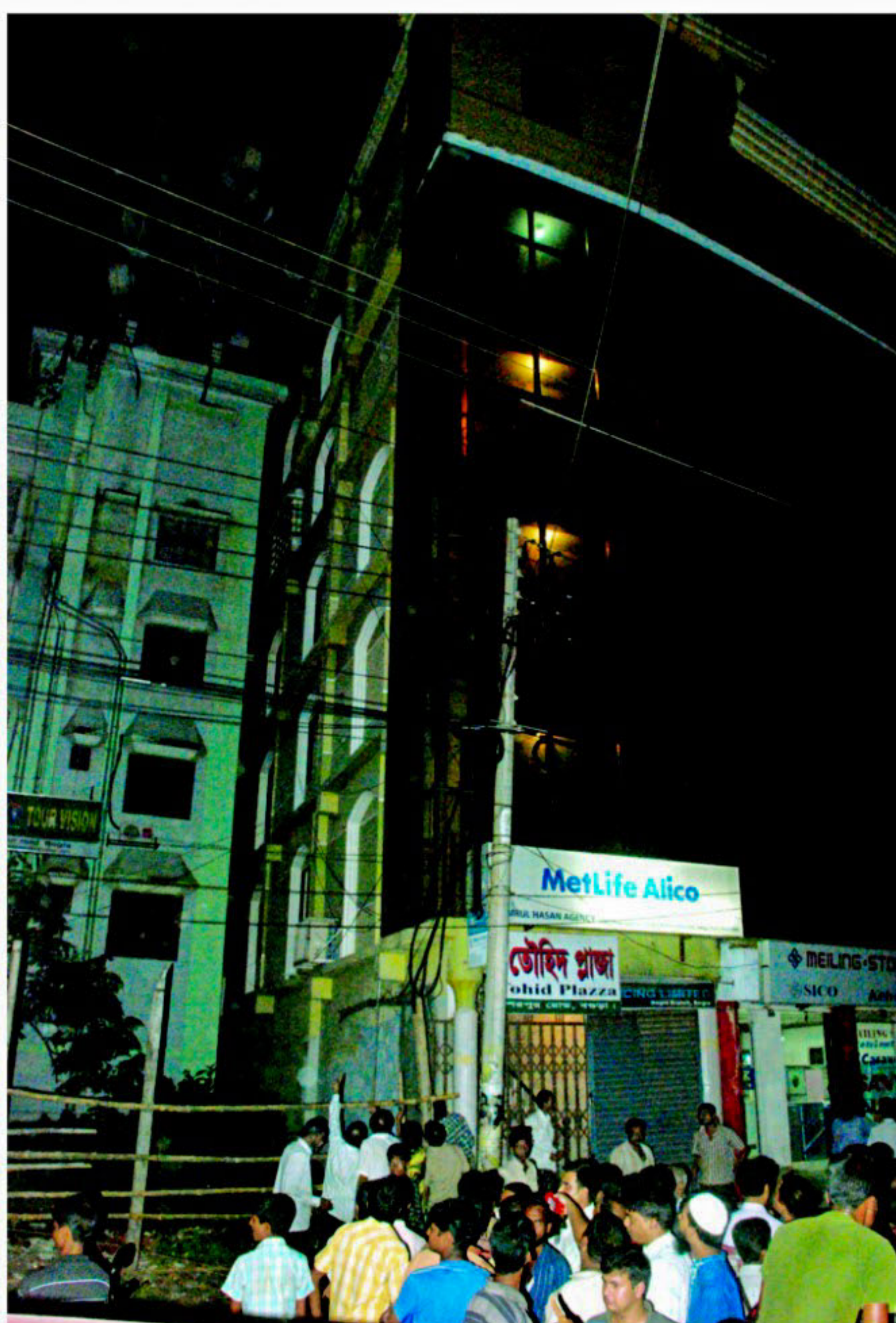


PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

The six-storied building on the left tilted towards the right in Saat Matha area in Bogra after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country yesterday evening.

## RTI ACT IMPLEMENTATION

# Lack of understanding obstacle, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of citizens' understanding about the Right to Information (RTI) Act and non-cooperation from authorities in providing information are holding back the act's successful implementation, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The discussants also identified the low number of campaigns to make the law understandable to people and lack of infrastructure to preserve information as the two key factors behind the act's low popularity in the last two years.

The discussion titled "Two Years of RTI in Bangladesh: An assessment" was organised by Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast) and Nijera Kori in the city's Jatiya Press Club.

There is no alternative to preserving information to establish people's right to information, said Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir, speaking as the chief guest.

Zamir said the additional activities needed to be carried out by the designated officers who provide information to people should be recognised to encourage them.

They should have access to computers, scanners, photocopier machines and other equipment to preserve and provide the information, he observed.

Expressing dissatisfaction as the

Supreme Court did not designate any official to provide information, Zamir said it is people's right to access information about their cases in the court.

He called upon the civil society and media to make people more aware about their right to information and the function of the act.

Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim stressed the need to involve both the government and non-government bodies to implement the act properly.

Although lawmakers passed the act in parliament, many of them do not encourage its implementation in their constituency, she pointed out.

Dhaka University teacher Robaet Ferdous said people should be made to understand what type of information to seek from the authorities. Information involving corruption in government offices should be inquired to ensure accountability, he added.

The political parties and the legal community did not express much interest to use the law in getting information. Orientation and training among public authorities on the objectives of the act is essential, observed speakers.

RIB Chairman Shamsul Bari moderated the programme where Blast Honorary Director Sara Hossain and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir also spoke.

## 2339 shops, factories, hotels fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection fined 2339 shops, factories and hotels over Tk 2.45 crore during the last one and a half years across the country.

Director General of the directorate Abul Hossain Mian said this at a press briefing emerging from the sixth meeting of National Consumer Rights Protection Council at the directorate's conference room in the city with Commerce Minister Faruk Khan in the chair.

A total of Tk 2,45,11,810 has been deposited to the state treasury, which was realised during the drives from April 6, 2010 to September 13, 2011.

Highest 1087 shops were fined for selling products without the maximum retail price written on the packets. Others were fined on different allegations like selling of products above the fixed price, adulterate products, expired product, cheating in weight.

The directorate has also decided to conduct drive in at least 62 markets under 28 district towns in next one and a half months. The directorate will launch campaign to create awareness among the people about the consumers' rights protection law.

Abul said the directorate has plan to establish its office in every division with a view to protecting consumers' rights.

# Doc's negligence claims life of 6-yr-old Musarrat

## Alleges grandfather

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday alleged that neglect and failure of doctors at Square Hospital in the city to timely administer correct treatment led to the death of a six-year-old girl diagnosed with dengue shock syndrome.

The child Musarrat Binte Alam was declared dead in the hospital after cardiac arrest on August 8 at 11:50am. It was stated in her death certificate that she died of dengue shock fever and major organ failure.

Dengue shock syndrome or dengue haemorrhagic fever occurs when a person has immunity to one form of dengue virus as a result of previous infection, making that person more susceptible to more serious forms of the disease.

Dr Abdus Sabur, associate professor at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and grandfather of the deceased child Musarrat Binte Alam, organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Dr Sabur said Musarrat was admitted to Square Hospital in paediatric intensive care unit on August 7 around 12:56am and diagnosed with dengue shock syndrome.

"After the diagnosis I asked them (the doctors) to give her ionotropic support (to increase the blood pressure) to keep her kidney and heart in good condition and to prevent the risk of organ dysfunction.

"But they said it was not needed," said Dr Sabur, adding that he did not pursue the issue after the doctors refused.

"But approximately nine hours later (around 10:00am) they gave her ionotropic support after she had already gone into shock," he added.

If doctors fail to insert a cannula (access for intravenous infusion or injection) on the hand once or twice, they switch to cen-

tral venous tube to administer the fluid through a large vein on the neck, he said.

But the doctors there tried for three hours (from 7:30pm to 10:30pm) to insert the cannula in her hand and only afterwards did they use the central venous tube, he added.

They transfused four litres of saline but there was no renal output and fluid accumulated in her lungs, which came up in a X-ray. But Dr Masudur Rahman, the consultant, paid no heed and said it was normal, Sabur alleged.

**Musarrat Binte Alam was declared dead in Square Hospital after cardiac arrest on August 8 at 11:50am while it was stated in her death certificate that she died of dengue shock fever and major organ failure**

When The Daily Star asked Dr Masudur Rahman over phone to comment on the allegations, he said, "I have no comment. You should take it up with mortality morbidity committee for such allegations."

He said the committee is formed by Square Hospital to deal with such incidents. He, however, hung up before this correspondent could make any further queries.

On contact, Director of medical services of Square Hospital Prof Sanawar Hossain refused to comment.

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## Be transparent in spending

Nurun Nabi urges NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-Government Organisations (NGO) should function not as a business entity but for the people's welfare, said NGO Affairs Bureau Director General (DG) Nurun Nabi Talukder yesterday.

"Activities of some NGOs are not transparent or accountable especially in terms of spending pattern of the donor funds," he said.

He was addressing a discussion titled 'Disability: Inclusive development' jointly organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) in LGED Bhavan.

The interest rate of micro-credit based NGOs is so high that poor people often do not get benefit out of taking a loan, the DG said suggesting reduction in the interest rate.

He also said the NGO Affairs Bureau will enact a new law to bring the activities of the NGOs within a specific framework to ensure their transparency and accountability.

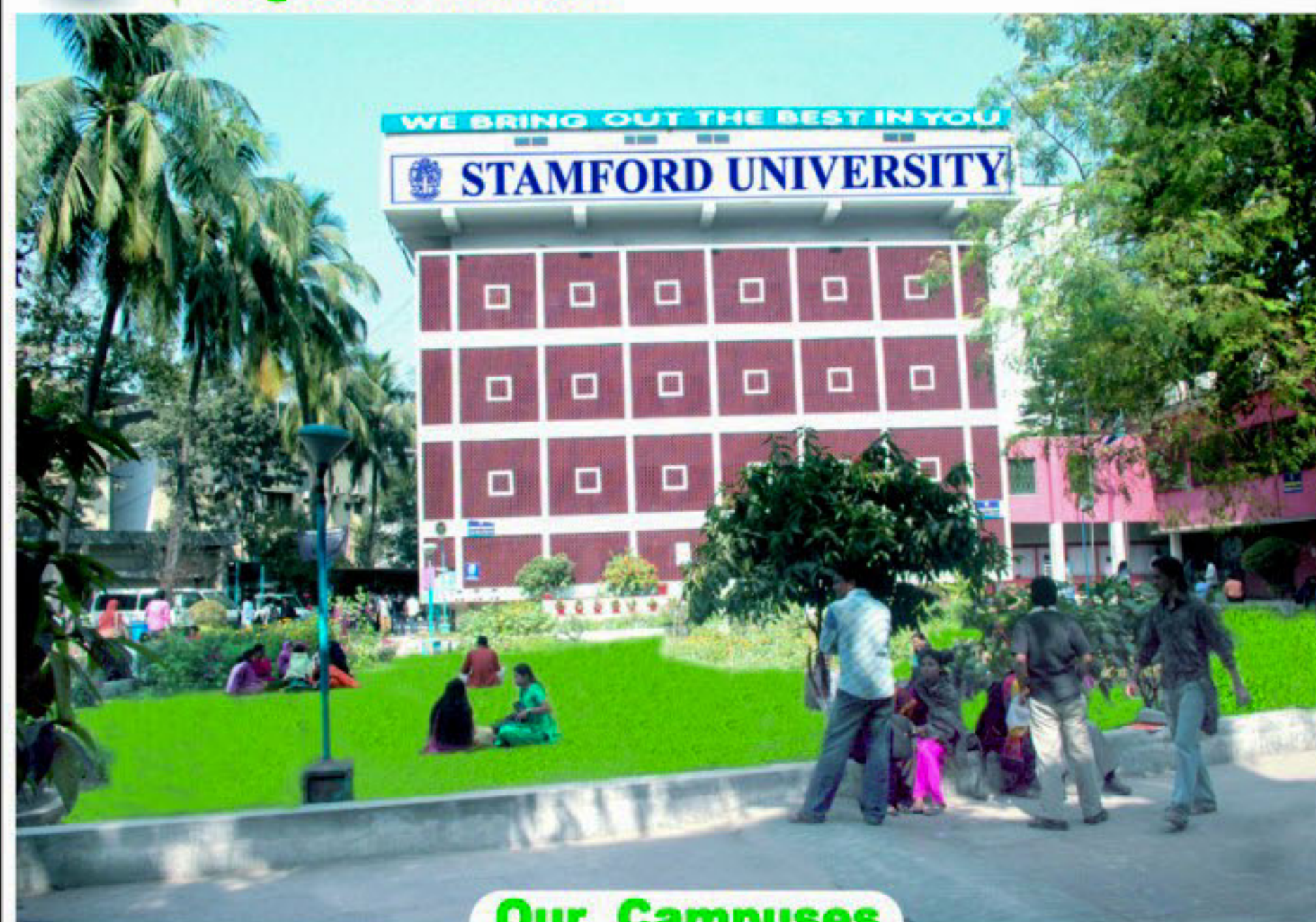
CDD's Executive Director AHM Noman Khan called upon the government to include the people with physical challenge in the development activities to ensure overall development of the country.

He urged the government to enact a new law to ensure equal rights to people with physical challenge by amending the existing law in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCPRD) to expand its scope.

NFOWD President Khandaker Jahirul Alam, it's General Secretary Jauherul Islam Mamun, and CBM officials Murali Padmanavan and Shawneaz Quraishi also spoke.

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