



Participants at a roundtable titled "Risk factor and Preventive measures: Dialogue on Chittagong City Development" jointly organised by The Daily Star and Rotary Club of Chittagong Mid City in the conference room of The Daily Star Chittagong office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Multidisciplinary body must for Ctg city dev projects

**Roundtable told**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A multidisciplinary supervisory body, comprising public service providers, engineers, architects and planners, must be formed to monitor Chittagong city's development projects and detect and avoid indiscipline and accident risks, said speakers yesterday.

They were addressing a roundtable, "Risk Factor and Preventive Measures: Dialogue on Chittagong City Development", jointly organised by The Daily Star and Rotary Club of Chittagong Mid City in The Daily Star's Chittagong office.

Addressing the roundtable, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) panel mayor Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud Hasni said ensuring coordinated development projects require a "city government", the multidisciplinary body.

Unilaterally carrying out development works is impossible and causes

disasters like the Bahaddarhat flyover collapse, he said.

At least four people died and 15 were injured when concrete girders of the under-construction flyover at Bahaddarhat collapsed on a kitchen market on November 24. Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) was supervising the project.

CDA Board Member Younis Gani Chowdhury said all five in the board, including the CDA chairman, were selected on political consideration and had no technical knowledge.

"I have doubts whether CDA carried out a proper feasibility study on the flyover," said Ali Asraf, former chairman of Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre.

City planner engineer Subash Chandra Barua questioned the necessity of the flyover's construction, stating that of the vehicles that pass Bahaddarhat intersection every 12 hours, 57.41 percent is rickshaws,

which cannot use flyovers.

Architect Sajal Chowdhury, a teacher at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, emphasised the necessity to save Chittagong's "cultural properties like hills, river and sea" while continuing development projects.

Bangladesh Economic Association Vice President Khorshedul Alam Quadery said the authorities concerned should undertake a five-to-seven-year plan to gradually reduce the number of rickshaws in the city.

The club member Zabina Zibran Chowdhury said the city should have separate zones for schools, hospitals, residences and factories.

The Daily Star, Chittagong Bureau Chief AKM Raisul Huq Bahar moderated the discussion where IEB, Chittagong centre Chairman Md Harun and historian Dr Shamsul Hossain also spoke.

## RU convocation today

**Alumni complain about mismanagement**

RU CORRESPONDENT

The eighth convocation of Rajshahi University (RU) will be held today after 14 years of the last one to confer degrees to its graduates.

RU authorities have arranged colourful programmes to give certificates to 7,021 graduates who completed Masters, MPhil, PhD and MBBS degrees between 1991 and 2005.

RU sources said the main function will be held at the university stadium.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will chair the programme, while Dhaka University Bangla Department Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman will attend as speaker.

Meanwhile, some of registered alumni in a press conference on the campus yesterday expressed their dissatisfaction over the convocation gowns.

They also criticised the RU authorities for their mismanagement as some preparations of the function were not completed till yesterday.

They said most of the gowns have Dhaka University's seal on those, and all

were dirty.

MM Nuruzzaman, a former student of Law Department of the university, said, "It is the matter of shame that we are going to take certificates by wearing the gowns of Dhaka University".

Md Golam Azom, a registered graduate, and also an additional chief judicial magistrate of Satkhira, criticised the RU authorities for not inviting any world famous person as convocation speaker.

"We are astonished hearing the news that the education minister will preside over the convocation," he said.

RU Registrar MA Bari said they collected the gowns from DU as it was a tradition to borrow those from one university to another.

"We have already taken all preparations to hold the convocation successfully," he added.

Meanwhile, pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers would boycott the convocation saying that the university authorities politicised the convocation by nominating the education minister to preside over the function instead of the chancellor or vice chancellor.

**Raise awareness about rights among poor**

**Law minister urges legal service providers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday urged the country's non-government legal service providers to make marginalised and underprivileged people aware about their rights to help ensure justice.

"Let the people know about their rights because many of them are ignorant about it," he said adding, "Educating them about their rights is very important."

The minister was addressing, as chief guest, a launching ceremony of a programme titled "Community Legal Services" at British Council in the capital.

Maxwell Stamp PLC, British Council and the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution will implement the five-year long programme, funded by the UK government.

Under the project, the country's about 10 million poor, marginalized and socially excluded people will get a variety of legal services.

Shafique Ahmed also emphasised sensitising the people about punishing anybody, especially women, by issuing fatwa (religious edict).

"Punishment by fatwa has been declared illegal. Let the people know that nobody is authorised to punish anybody by issuing fatwa in Bangladesh," he said.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, judge of Appellate Division of the Supreme Court; Dr Hameeda Hossain, chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra; and Sarah Cooke, country representative of DFID in Bangladesh, among others, spoke on the occasion.

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(Md. Imtiaz Hossain Chowdhury)  
Secretary



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