

NEWS IN brief

Five-storey building tilts in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-storey residential building on Sher Shah Suri Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area was noticed tilted around 1:00pm yesterday.

Police said the building's all residents have been evacuated around 4:30pm to avoid any accident.

Several cracks have also developed in different places of the building which was constructed around 30 years ago, they said. The residents of the building and neighbours detected that the building was tilting and got panicked.

Firefighters from Mohammadpur Fire Service and Civil Defense rushed to the spot.

Obstetric Fistula in Bangladesh: Looking into the Future

Participants of a roundtable, "Obstetric Fistula in Bangladesh: Looking into the Future", at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. EngenderHealth Bangladesh organised the discussion under the USAID-funded Fistula Care project.

PHOTO: STAR

Hefajat chief rejected edn policy only lately: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hefajat-e Islam chief was involved in making the Qawmi Madrasa Shikkha Commission report and knew about the national education policy from the beginning, but lately he has rejected both, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday.

He said the government took opinions from every section, including Alem-Ullama (Islamic scholars and clerics), while preparing the policies.

The minister made the comments at the inaugural session of TIB 4th Sher-e-Bangla Cup Debate Competition at Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University in the capital.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University Debating Society jointly organised the three-day competition, drawing about 500 debaters from 47 educational institutions across the country.

Nahid also criticised the comment of some intellectuals that the rate of success increased in the SSC and equivalent examinations but the quality of education fell.

The minister also talked about corruption and cited a TIB report which said that in the early stage of his ministership, corruption was decreased by about 50 percent in the education ministry. He said he was committed to eliminating corruption from his ministry.

Dipu Moni flies to USA tonight

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will leave Dhaka tonight for the United States to request the country to continue generalised system of preferences (GSP) for Bangladesh.

She will meet US Secretary of State John Kerry on May 17 in Washington and discuss the signing of Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (Ticfa) and repatriation of the killers of Bangabandhu from the US.

She will also talk about the upcoming partnership dialogue between Dhaka and Washington when US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy R Sherman will lead a delegation.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, will lead a Bangladesh delegation to Washington and will discuss the continuation of Bangladesh's GSP privileges with US officials, buyers and other stakeholders.

The foreign minister will also attend a meeting on United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons scheduled to be held in New York on May 13 and 14.

Proper pregnancy care can prevent obstetric fistula

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adequate care during pregnancy and childbirth can help women combat obstetric fistula, a condition caused by complicated and delayed childbirth, experts said at a roundtable yesterday.

They said women could protect themselves from fistula by not taking babies before 20 years of age, doing regular check-ups during pregnancy, and seeing the doctor within 12 hours in the case of delayed delivery.

"Obstetric fistula perhaps stands out as the most tragic of preventable childbirth complications, which often leaves the victim abandoned by her husband and family," said Dr Abu Jamil Faisel, country representative of EngenderHealth Bangladesh.

He said adolescent pregnant girls from poor background suffered from fistula most.

The discussion was organised by EngenderHealth Bangladesh under the USAID-funded Fistula Care project at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Five in every 3,000 married women in Bangladesh suffer from fistula, said National Professor Dr Shaila Khatun, citing a 2003 study.

She said the woman affected by obstetric fistula lived a miserable life because of the continuous leakage of urine and stool into the vagina. "Most families and friends abandon them while many get divorced."

Dr Shaila said the sufferers should know that its treatment was free in the country.

Moeen U Ahmed wanted to be president: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said former army chief Moeen U Ahmed wanted to become president of the country.

"When I was taken to remand under army custody with my eyes blindfolded, I asked two young army officers what they wanted. They replied, they were working so that the army chief [Moeen U Ahmed] could be the country's president," Moudud said recalling his remand days during the past military backed caretaker government.

He was addressing a book launching ceremony in the Supreme Court Bar Auditorium in the capital.

The University Press Limited has published the book titled "Amar Karagarer Dinguli: 2007-08" [my days in jail] by Moudud.

In the book, he has also expressed his views about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia who were also in sub-jails during the caretaker government.

With former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair, Prof Mahbubullah, and Prof Talukder Moniruzzaman also spoke.

Seminar

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation will organise a seminar, "Encouraging innovative works"; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre; Time: 10:30am.

Procession

Acid Survivors Foundation will organise a procession marking an international conference it will organise; Venue: from Bangladesh Shishu Academy; Time: 9:00am.

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