

Buet declares Razzak Plaza safe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The eight-storey Razzak Plaza in Savar, which was closed down Wednesday after cracks surfaced in the wall of an illegally built tin-roofed room on its rooftop, will open today, as a Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) inspection team declares it safe.

The building houses two garment factories and a shopping centre.

Savar Upazila took the decision as the inspection report says there is no risk to open the building, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kamrul Hasan Mollah. He said the building will be opened today at 9:00am after exchange of views with journalists and administrative officials.

The team found no cracks in the pillars and beams of the building and declared it risk-free but recommended that the tin-roofed room and tower of a telecom company on the rooftop be demolished within three months, said Oli Ahmed Khan, one of the owners, citing the report.

Razzak Plaza, situated near the collapsed Rana Plaza, was built in 2002. The first three floors are occupied by a shopping centre, where about 260 shops are located. Pacific Blue Jeans Wear of Al-Muslim Group occupies the third, fourth and fifth floors and Jovian Sweaters occupies the sixth and seventh floor. About 2,400 people work in the two garment factories, said the building sources.



One Savar Rana Plaza collapse victim receives a part of a \$7,500 donation from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Vice Principal Prof Ismail Khan while National Prof Shahla Khatun comforts her in DMCH yesterday. The donation, \$6,000 from Bangladesh Medical Association of North America, Carolina Chapter and \$1,500 from Dr Sufia Siddique Mita, is meant for nine victims of the collapse being treated at DMCH. Associate Prof Abdul Hanif Tablu, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, and DMCH Director Brig Gen Dr Mustafizur Rahman were also present.

PHOTO: STAR

RESTORATION OF GSP FACILITIES BNP to send request letter to US: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will soon send a letter to the US government requesting restoration of trade facilities under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme for Bangladesh, said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He was addressing a press conference organised in BNP's Naya Paltan headquarters in the capital demanding immediate release of BNP leader Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu.

The US on June 27 suspended the privileges after a six-year review exposed "serious shortcomings" in safety and labour standards.

Fakhrul also rejected Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu's allegation in Bogra on Friday that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was responsible for the suspension as she wrote a letter to the US government to suspend the privileges.

The Daily Star yesterday could not contact Inu on his cellphone despite several attempts.

On January 30, Khaleda wrote an article on The Washington Times, stating, "They (the US government and its allies) must explain to Ms. Hasina that general preferences for trade will be withdrawn if those who support workers' rights and have political views opposed to those of the prime minister are not now allowed to express their beliefs."

New China FM promises strengthening of relations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has termed Dhaka-Beijing bilateral relations a "closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation" and assured all possible support for furthering the relations.

Wang Yi made the remarks after receiving Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque and his delegation at Wang's office in the Chinese foreign ministry Wednesday, says a press release.

The Bangladesh delegation had bilateral consultation with Chinese delegation led by Liu Zhenmin, vice foreign minister of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

In response to Haque's request to China to ease the visa procedures for Bangladeshis, the Chinese side assured his delegation of further easing visa procedures for tourists and particularly Bangladeshi businesspersons.

The Chinese side said China was considering to expand the preferential trading arrangement which would cover almost 95 percent of Bangladesh goods as well as to discuss the issue of rules of origin to reduce the trade imbalance.

The foreign secretary handed over a list of 17 products for duty-free access to China while meeting the vice minister of the commerce ministry.

ENSURING RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE Land dispute resolution identified as govt's key job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous leaders yesterday said the resolution of land disputes, which is the key demand of indigenous people of both plain lands and Chittagong Hill Tracts, should be a priority job of the government towards ensuring their rights.

They were speaking at a discussion at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity to mark the 158th anniversary of Santal Revolution, which broke out in the British India against the colonial rule and the repressive zamindari system in 1855.

At the programme, the speakers, includ-

ing Chakma Circle Chief Barrister Debashish Roy, shed light on the struggles of the indigenous communities and called for the government to play its role to ensure their rights.

President of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Rabinranath Soren said it would be impossible for them to live in the country if the government did not show a friendly attitude.

The country's development is not possible without the contribution of the indigenous people, said President of Workers Party of Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad organised the event.

CTG GUNFIGHT Jubo League expels Babar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jubo League central committee member Helal Akbar Chowdhury Babar, who led his side in Monday's gunfight with Bangladesh Chhatra League activists in the port city killing two people, was expelled from the ruling party's youth front yesterday.

Jubo League General Secretary Harunur Rashid said the decision came at a meeting of the central executive committee.

Meanwhile, Babar's four-day remand began at Kotwali Police Station in Chittagong yesterday. He was arrested by detectives in the capital's Gulshan on Wednesday.

Babar led Jubo League activists in a gunfight with BCL men, led by Saiful Islam Limon, over dropping of a railway tender.

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উত্তরা সেক্টর ৪-এ (কর্ণার গুট) ১১৭০ বর্গফুট, সেক্টর ১০-এ ১০১০, ১০৬৮, ১১৮৭, ২১২২ বর্গফুট (৪বেড) এবং উত্তর বাজার কর্নার গুটে ১১২৫-১১৯০ বর্গফুটের নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট কিস্তিতে বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ # ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৩১, ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬২১

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