

Erant private universities will be punished

Nahid tells inauguration of Sheikh Hasina Hall at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday warned that stern actions will be taken against the private universities which are not following the Private University Act-2010 properly and are only acting as certificate selling agencies.

At the inaugural ceremony of a female dormitory, Sheikh Hasina Hall, on Jahangirnagar University campus, Nahid also said some private universities, instead of fulfilling all the criteria of the act, managed a stay on a government move against them and started operating again.

This is the 13th dormitory of the university and three more are under construction.

The minister said six public universities will be established soon and he urged the teachers and students to conduct new researches.

JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam, Education Secretary Dr Muhammad Sadique, Pro-VC Prof Abul Hossain, and JU Teachers Association's President Prof Farid Ahmed spoke among others.

Dhaka may see massive earthquake anytime

Experts tell BSRM seminar, urging people to wake up to the possibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost a dozen of 50 buildings in Dhaka were levelled by an earthquake on June 12, 1897. Originating in India's Assam state, the earthquake known as the Great Assam Earthquake had devastated an area of 250,000 sq km, including Dhaka.

The 8.1 magnitude earthquake had diverted the course of a river, hills collapsed to block traffic but it killed only 15 people in Dhaka where 90,000 people lived at that time.

If an earthquake like this was to occur in Dhaka now, over 83 percent of the total buildings will be damaged, revealed a seminar titled "Seminar on Earthquake."

And the number of victims to die would

83pc of buildings to suffer damage

2,60,788 to die

Strong materials not enough, soil quality also vital

Wetland destruction to bring disaster

be around 260,788, followed by an estimated 95,183 and 20,708 to be buried alive in Chittagong and Sylhet, estimates show.

Prof Mehedi Ahmed Ansary of the Department of Civil Engineering at BUET presented the keynote paper on "Earthquake related research and activities in Bangladesh during the last two decades."

The seminar was organised in the wake of globally renowned earthquake experts' anticipation that a strong earthquake is likely in and around Bangladesh anytime.

"Soil is a very important factor to be considered before construction. Only ensuring strength and quality of construction materials is not enough," said Ansary.

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BANGLADESH, INDIA, MYANMAR

Cooperation must for utilisation of Bay resources

Indian strategic expert C Raja Mohan tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh, India and Myanmar should find ways together to benefit economically by utilising the resources of the Bay of Bengal, noted Indian strategic expert C Raja Mohan said yesterday.

He said the three nations needed the resources of the Bay to develop their own economies. "So it needs to start a simple and regional cooperation among the countries."

Mohan, head of strategic studies and distinguished fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi, laid importance on cooperation also to ensure security at the sea.

He made the remarks while addressing a talk on "India-Bangladesh: Building the Bay of Bengal Community", organised by Indian High Commission in the capital's Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre.

Talking about Bangladesh-India relations, Mohan said Bangladesh had now a vast economy globally, so it had many scopes to call for joint cooperation and increase trade with India.

Brig Gen (retd) Shahedul Anam Khan, editor, Op-ed and defence and strategic affairs of The Daily Star, said the countries had to remove doubts between them.

Former ambassador Humayun Kabir also spoke.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Suspect Latif produced before tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes suspect Abdul Latif Talukder, who was arrested at his house in Sholarkola village of Bagerhat's Kachua upazila early Wednesday, was produced at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

The prosecution prayed for his arrest on Tuesday.

The investigation agency, designated to probe war crimes, is currently probing the alleged involvement of Talukder, 68, in crime against humanity in Shakhrikathi village during the liberation war.

The investigation officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police Helal Uddin, said Talukder was involved in killing 42 people of the village, and looting, torching shops on May 5, 1971. "Apart from that,

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MANDATORY RAJUK APPROVAL

Ministry to seek order on DCC, govt universities for building construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The housing ministry will seek a cabinet directive on the two city corporations and the public universities of the capital for obtaining mandatory approval from Rajuk for building construction, said Housing Minister Engr Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

He was addressing officials of Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) at its office in the capital.

According to the law, Rajuk is the absolute authority over any development within its 1,528 sq-km master plan area, and any organisation or individual is required to obtain approval from it for constructing any building.

However, organisations like Dhaka south and north city corporations, Dhaka University and BUET do not obtain the mandatory approval for constructing

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From left, GM Jainal Abedin Bhuiya, Prof AMM Toufiqueul Anwar, and Prof Mehedi Ahmed at a seminar on "Earthquake Related Research and Activities in Bangladesh During the Last Two Decades" organised by BSRM at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Justice to elude CHT till Kalpana case solved

Rights activists tell discussion on 18th anniversary of her abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The culture of impunity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) would prevail unless justice is served in the Kalpana Chakma abduction case, human rights activists said yesterday, referring to the kidnap of the indigenous activist 18 years ago.

They also said proper implementation of the 1997 peace accord would ensure justice and prevent human rights violation in the region.

No case of violence against women and children would get justice if Kalpana's case is not solved and the accord not implemented properly, said rights activist Khushi Kabir.

She was addressing a roundtable on the 18th protest day of Kalpana's abduction organised by the Hill Women's Federation at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Kalpana, then organising secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, was abducted from her house in Rangamati's Baghaichhari in early June 12, 1996, allegedly by 8-10 men led by Lt Md Ferdous Kaiser Khan from a nearby army camp.

Till date, two investigations—one by police and the other by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)—failed to identify the abductors.

In last January, a Rangamati court ordered the district's Superintendent of Police Amena Begum to reinvestigate the case. The SP has recently told media that she was yet to submit the report, in the last 17 months, because she could not rescue Kalpana as per the court's instructions.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, described the SP's arguments as "unacceptable". The submission is important because there the SP could tell why she could not implement some instructions, she said.

Referring to the SP's claim that Kalpana might be alive and living in the country, Ushaton Talukder, MP of Rangamati, said, "If you know where she is, bring her before us." Talukder also called for publication of the report of the judicial inquiry committee formed in 1996.

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Child pornography gang busted in capital

13-year-old boy rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department of police have arrested three men for pornographic videos and photographs for foreign customers, and rescued a 13-year-old boy.

The mastermind of the gang TIM Fakruzzaman alias Tipu Kibria, chairman of Sudhui Bangla Photography Society, used to sell the videos and photos through internet to his clients in Germany, USA, Australia, UK and Saudi Arabia, said CID officials yesterday at a press briefing in the capital. Tipu was arrested in Khilgaon on Tuesday.

The same day, the officials arrested Nurul Amin alias Nuru, who used to capture the videos, in his Mugdha residence and seized cameras, laptops and CDs containing a huge number of pornographic photos and

videos involving several hundred boys.

The boy was rescued from Nurul's house whom he lured with a job and later compelled to act in the videos.

Shaharul Islam, who used to look after the transactions, was arrested in Gazipur. on Wednesday while another member, Nurul Islam, is absconding.

CID started the investigation after the Interpol informed them about the gang a week ago.

The gang had been using mostly street boys and those who came to the capital in search of jobs for the business since 2005.

Nuru gave a confessional statement before a court. The court granted three-day remand for Tipu and one-day for Shaharul.

Protest continues against eviction of artists from Chhobir Haat

DU CORRESPONDENT

People from different strata of life yesterday continued protesting for the second day against a recent eviction drive at Chhobir Haat, a gathering place for painters and artists, in the capital.

During the 30-minute drive on Tuesday, a mobile team of Public Works Department (PWD) cleared a makeshift structure there that housed paintings of different artists.

Alleging that the drive was conducted with no prior notice, the protestors have been staging sit-ins on the spot since Wednesday.

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Baridhara RA,
Dhaka 1212

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