

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE

Rana charged for code violation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday finally pressed charges against Sohel Rana in a case filed for violating building code in constructing the nine-storey Rana Plaza, which collapsed last year killing 1,135 people.

The ACC filed the case on June 15 with Savar police against 17 people, excluding Rana. ACC Deputy Director SM Mofidul Islam, investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Dhaka. The commission included Rana's name in the charge sheet as it found evidence of his involvement in violating the building code.

The other accused include Rana's parents Abdul Khalek and Morzina Begum; engineer Sajjad Hussain, Savar Mayor Mohammad Refatullah; and Associate Professor of Khulna University ATM Masud Reza, who was the architect of the building. Of the accused, six people, including Rana, were earlier arrested and they are now in jail while 12 others have been absconding. According to the case statement, the building authorities obtained permission for a six-storey building but later extended it by three more floors.

NEWSIN

brief

Unclogging drains, canals to reduce waterlogging urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To reduce waterlogging during monsoon, all drainage canals and pipe drains in the capital should be unclogged by May every year, suggested diploma engineers yesterday.

The canals in the eastern side of the city and Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment area should be freed from encroachment, they told a seminar of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. MA Gofran, chairman of IDEB Study and Research Cell; and Dr Hasan Mahmud, MP, also spoke.

Kazi Imtiaz new envoy to Australia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, now Bangladesh ambassador to Thailand, as the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Australia, said a press release.



Prof Bijoy joins NSU as consultant

CITY DESK

Prof Bijoy K Sahoo joined North South University on July 12 as a full-time consultant for Educational Quality.

He will assist in research, planning, curriculum development, learning assessment, and accreditation of the university. A Rotary scholar from India, he was the Business School Dean, North Carolina Central University.



Participants at a roundtable, "Existing Laws and Policies Relating to Sex Workers in Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre in the capital, organised by CARE Bangladesh.

Sex workers persecuted

as laws lack clarity

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As there are no specific provisions about the legality of prostitution in the country's constitution and laws, the sex workers' rights are being violated at the hands of law enforcement agencies and vested interest groups, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Though Article 18 (2) of the constitution stipulates that the "state shall take effective preventive measures against prostitution and gambling", an adult person has the option to declare his or her entry into the profession before a magistrate, they said.

"Nowhere in the constitution is the profession declared illegal directly," explained Tawhida Khandaker, director of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA).

Activists from different NGOs took part in the discussion, "Existing Laws and Policies Relating to Sex Workers in Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre, organised by CARE Bangladesh's Solidarity & Empowerment through Education, Motivation and Awareness (SEEMA) project.

The keynote paper, presented by CARE official Rawnak Jahan, mentioned that Section 290 of the Penal Code puts sex work

under public nuisance category, which is a punishable act, while the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Ordinance 1976 explains the nuisance as an attempt by anyone to attract attention in any public place, or soliciting or molesting anyone for the purpose of prostitution.

Speakers said that because of the ordinance, law enforcers could take action against floating sex workers but not against those living in brothels.

The recent eviction at the 200-year-old Kandapara brothel in Tangail, where around 1,500 sex workers, of whom 937 were registered, lived came up in the discussion.

Speakers said that though a High Court judgement in 2000 termed such action as unconstitutional and illegal and recognised sex workers' rights to state protection, the verdict was not implemented.

Abu Obaidur Rahman, senior deputy director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), said the main target of their eviction was to grab the land of the brothels. It is difficult to rehabilitate the sex workers once they are evicted, he added.

Md Ashraf Ali Mojumder, project manager of Mukto Kakash Bangladesh, recommended that the HC be requested to clarify Article 18 (2) regarding prostitution.

Project on cards to save agricultural

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the Urban Development Directorate (UDD).

Taibur Rahman, senior assistant chief of the General Economic Division of the commission, said, "The top-down approach of the planning commission is a failure."

The approach on planning is just a document and not fully consistent with the government's Five Year Plan and cannot be implemented in the root levels, he added.

He said the planning process should start from the grass-root level such as union parishads, and then go up to the national level after covering upazila, district and city levels.

Monirul Islam, another senior official of the commission, however, said both top-

down and bottom-up approaches have to be applied for the development of the country.

Nazrul Islam Sarker, joint chief of the Physical Infrastructure Division of the Planning Commission, who moderated the working session, said the much-needed institutional and legal framework does not exist in the country to adopt the bottom-up approach.

Prof Akhter Mahmood, head of urban and regional planning department of Jahangirnagar University, said the country is only serious about planning of major cities.

Md Akhteruzzaman, programme manager of UN Habitat in Bangladesh, said the government could also think of shifting the capital from Dhaka to elsewhere.

Khaleda warns

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unit had to admit that they made mistakes at that time. She said she would announce a fresh committee of the Dhaka city unit soon.

Criticising the government for its apathy to dialogue, the BNP chief said the Awami League might enjoy more time in power but it would collapse very badly.

Khaleda requested all parties opposing the government to join the movement.

Later, at her Gulshan office, she met the family members of 21 leaders and activists of the party's Dhaka city unit who were killed or disappeared recently, and handed over Tk 1 lakh in cash to each of their families.

An emotional atmosphere was created at the moment as the family members went on hugging the BNP chief one after another, breaking down in tears. Khaleda tried to comfort them, while blaming the government for the killings and forced disappearances.

Passing of

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Foundation, said discriminations against women, poor, adivasis, dalit are still visible though it is unexpected. Law Commission Member M Shah Alam and Milton Das, executive director of Paritran, also spoke.

DMCH forms

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The hospital authorities said Kamal's mother, an attendant working on the fourth floor of the same building, was detained for interrogation about her son's whereabouts.

Ctg city canals to be encroachment free

Shajahan tells meeting of Nat'l Taskforce on Rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The National Taskforce on Rivers yesterday decided to launch a drive to free the banks of Chittagong city's canals within one month.

It was one of the seven decisions the taskforce took at a meeting at Chittagong Circuit House, to save the rivers and canals of Chittagong from pollution and encroachment.

Briefing media after the meeting, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said residents of the respective areas would be informed of the eviction move beforehand.

Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Nizamuddin Ahmed will coordinate four sub-committees formed in June to save the water bodies through different activities like cleaning, dredging and demarcating those and identifying the polluters. There are about 51 canals in the city, but many have dried up or become dead.

The minister said most of the 29 canals, visible at this moment, were being polluted by different types of waste, and they were filling up with sludge flowing from the city.

Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sharif emphasised a proper waste management system in Karnaphuli Paper Mill (KPM) to stop the pollution of the Halda river.

The meeting was on the Karnaphuli but officials put stress on canals first as there were some legal issues that need to be settled by court before conducting drives on the river.

Local lawmaker Mainuddin Khan Badal proposed forming a separate authority to address the problems of the river.

Stamford University

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Centre, on his way to the private university at Dhanmondi. Rana Hawlader, driver of the motorbike who was arrested earlier, in a confessional statement before a Dhaka Court on Tuesday claimed that Feroz financed the attack on Shameem.

DB Inspector Shamsuddin Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, also IO of the case, told the court that Feroz had provided money to a group who had shot Shameem.

Demanding exemplary punishment of the attackers and perpetrators, Shameem told The Daily Star that he had no personal enmity with Feroz. Earlier, seven persons were arrested in connection with the attack.

HC grants bail to BDR

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him, said the lawyer.

He said Sarwar had earlier got released from jail after the trial court granted him bail in the carnage case. Sarwar surrendered to the lower court on November 5 last year. Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were slain in the BDR mutiny on February 25 and 26, 2009 at the headquarters of BDR which was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh.

A Dhaka court last November gave death penalty to 150 soldiers of the erstwhile BDR and two civilians, and sentenced 161 others to life imprisonment for their roles and involvement in the carnage.

It also handed down rigorous imprisonment, ranging from three to 10 years, to another 256 people, mostly BDR jawans. Sarwar was jailed for keeping the phone set in his possession. He was not present during the massacre.

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Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP)
Expression of interest (EOI)

Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) is inviting **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from eligible and reputed training service providers (Individuals or Organizations) in Bangladesh to develop and provide relevant and audience appropriate training (ToT) for its Market Development Project's staff (CLP and IMO) to then deliver such training to char based milk, meat and fodder producers (small scale farmers) in the following areas:

- Marketing and market development Training, and**
- Financial business management Training.**

The Technical and Financial proposal (hard and soft copies) is to be submitted by **COB 3rd August 2014** to the Manager, Markets and Livelihoods Unit, Chars Livelihoods Programme, Rural Development Academy Campus, Sherpur, Bogra-5842. Soft copies should be sent to: **info@clp-bangladesh.org**

Please visit our official website at **www.clp-bangladesh.org** for more information and the EOI.

VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the position of **National Project Manager with Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) Project**.

The duration of the service contract is one year initially with the possibility of extension upon satisfactory performance.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: **http://www.bd.undp.org**. Applications should be submitted no later than **31 July 2014**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Proposals from interested Companies for the below requirements:

- RFP for Development of Cause list application**, Ref: RFP-BD-2014-040; Deadline for submission of proposal is at **4:30 p.m. by 05 August 2014**
- RFP for Development of Service Tracking System of Judicial Officials**, Ref: RFP-BD-2014-041; Deadline for submission of quotation is at **4.30 p.m. by 06 August 2014**.

All interested companies may download the Bidding documents from **http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/**

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and the Proposals must be submitted as per the instructions specified in the RFP document by the deadline mentioned above to the **Registry, UNDP Bangladesh**, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Vacancy for Consultant

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) invites application before 15 August 2014 for Consultant (Administration) for its Headquarters located in Dhaka. Experience dealing with FAO Operations Manual will be preferred. For details please visit **www.cirdap.org**.

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আশা টাওয়ার -এ স্পেস ভাড়া

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যাদের জন্য প্রযোজ্যঃ

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VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancies for the following positions with **"Third National Communication (TNC) to the UNFCCC"** Project:

1. Project Manager - (Service Contract, SB4 Level)	1 (One) position
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For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply for the above position, please visit our website: **http://www.bd.undp.org**. Applications should be received no later than on **Wednesday, 30 July, 2014**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female candidates are encouraged to apply.