

Abe hopes for talks, acceptable solution to political crisis in Bangladesh

Meets BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, President Abdul Hamid, Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad

CITY DESK

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last night hoped that Bangladesh's major political parties would hold talks for hammering out a solution to the country's ongoing crisis, which would be acceptable both at home and abroad.

He expressed the hope during a meeting with BNP chief Khaleda Zia at the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

Abe told the BNP chief that Japan was aware of the fact that "major political parties did not join the January 5 parliamentary election," said BNP vice-chairman Shamsheer M Chowdhury, who accompanied Khaleda, while briefing reporters after the meeting.

The meeting lasted around half an hour starting from 7:00pm. There was no briefing on the Japanese side.

The BNP chief thanked Abe for continued assistance for the development of Bangladesh and hoped that the bilateral relations would be strengthened further in the coming days.

Asked about Bangladesh's decision to withdraw its candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term of 2016-17 in favour of Japan, Chowdhury said that as the government did not consult with BNP about this, they would not comment.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Khaleda's foreign affairs adviser Reaz Rahman, and Sabih Uddin Ahmed also aided Khaleda in the meeting.

Abe also called on President Abdul Hamid, at Bangabhaban, when the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Primary school students, their parents, and civil society members at a rally in front of Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday demand that the government take immediate steps to reclaim the grabbed lands of 28 state-run primary schools in Dhaka city, and resume operations of Champa Parul and Samajik Shikhhakendra schools, buildings of which were demolished.

PHOTO: STAR

Reclaim school lands from grabbers

Primary school students, parents, civil society urge govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Primary school students, their parents and civil society members yesterday demanded that the government immediately reclaim the grabbed lands of 28 state-run primary schools in the capital to ensure the poor children's right to education.

They made the demand at a rally organised jointly by Nagorik Sanghati and non-government organisation Amar Odhikar at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

The programme was organised protesting the grabbing of the lands of the 28 schools and demolition of the buildings of two of them—Champa Parul Girls High School and Samajik Shikhhakendra Government Primary School.

Addressing the gathering, columnist Syed Abul Maksud said, "A culture of grabbing—of land, river and forest—is prevailing in the country. School grabbing is a new element in that culture."

Terming grabbing of school land a "violation of human rights", Maksud said taking away the right to education of children will cripple the nation. "Without the favour of the government, how can the land grabbers roam freely?" he asked.

Former student leader Ruhin Hasan Prince said, "Only schools where poor students go to fall victim to grabbing, but the schools for the affluent never face such problems."

"Why do you not take any action against the grabbers when they strip them of their [the students'] education?" journalist Abu Sayed Khan questioned the education minister.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Major earthquake to kill 2.6 lakh in capital

Govt official tells international seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 2.61 lakh people will be killed in Dhaka city alone due to building collapses in the event of a major earthquake striking midnight, a top government engineer said yesterday, citing the findings of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme.

The figure would be 2 lakh if it happens in midday, said Md Abdul Malek Sikder, additional chief engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD), on the concluding day of a two-day international seminar on seismic design and building retrofitting for safer cities.

Nearly 73 percent of 3.26 lakh buildings in the capital may collapse beyond repair during such a seismic event, he told the seminar, jointly organised by PWD and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) at a city hotel.

Citing the same findings, Malek, also project manager of the Capacity Development on Natural Disaster Resistant

Techniques of Construction and Retrofitting for Public Buildings (CNCRP), said the death figure was estimated at 95,183 in Chittagong and 20,709 in Sylhet if a strong earthquake occurred at midnight.

Nearly 78 percent of 1.82 lakh buildings would collapse beyond repair in Chittagong, while 98 percent of 52,000 buildings would collapse in Sylhet, he said.

The three cities together would suffer an aggregated economic loss of \$20,000 million due to the damage of properties, he said.

Poor construction, absence of engineering, reinforcement, and seismic assessment, and non-compliance with the national building code are the causes of vulnerability, said Malek.

Rescue, research and rehabilitation work would be extremely difficult due to the number of collapsed buildings, he said, adding that vulnerability assessment and retrofitting under the CNCRP scheme appeared impossible, as most buildings did

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at Sonargaon hotel in the capital yesterday. During the meeting, the PM hoped that major political parties in Bangladesh will sit in a dialogue to resolve the present crisis.

PHOTO: BNP

To Know is to Prevent

Who doesn't have a friend or family member whose life has been affected by Stroke?

In stroke, Time is Brain. Every hour the brain suffering a stroke loses 200-million nerve cells and ages nearly four years

As salatu khairum minan naoom (prayer is better than sleep)..... the sounds of Fajr Azaan emanating through morning calm, woke up Abdur Rab. He thanked Allah the merciful, for giving him yet another day to live. He went back to the morning six months back when he suddenly felt dizzy with his left arm and leg going numb; he failed to climb out his bed; he could only make some slurred sounds when he tried to call his son Sazzad in the next room. Sazzad found Mr. Rab unconscious on the bed around half an hour later. He immediately called for ambulance support of this renowned hospital of Dhaka which is Internationally Accredited. Within next 20 minutes they were in the Emergency Room of the hospital.

Mr. Abdur Rab, a widower at 82, lives with his son and daughter-in-law at his own house in Uttara, Dhaka. With his daily walks, prayers and playful times with his two young grand-daughters, he is contented with his own life. That early morning, at around Fajr prayer time, he had a Stroke.

A Stroke—a decrease in blood flow to the brain due to a clot or bleeding—is a medical emergency. And doctors often say "time is brain," meaning the quicker you get treatment, the less likely it is that your brain tissue will be permanently damaged. About 80 percent of strokes are due to a clot (ischemic strokes) and the rest are due to bleeding in the brain (hemorrhagic stroke).

The signs and symptoms of a stroke vary from person to person but usually begin suddenly. As different parts of your brain control different parts of body, so symptoms will depend upon the part of brain affected and the extent of the damage.

The main stroke symptoms can be remembered with the word FAST: Face-Arms-Speech-Time.

- Face – the face may have drooped on one side, the person may not be able to smile or their mouth or eye may have drooped
- Arms – the person with suspected stroke may not be able to lift one or both arms and keep them there because of arm weakness or numbness
- Speech – their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake
- Time – it is time to dial hospital emergency hotline immediately if any of these signs or symptoms are seen

* Name disguised to protect identity

** This information is for public awareness only; it is NOT a medical advice

For further queries or feedback

call Dr. Nafiz Ahmed at 01713240314 (everyday 9am to 5pm)

or write back to us at 2know2prevent@apollodhaka.com



Thankfully Sazzad could bring his father to this International Standard hospital which is maintaining Stroke Protocol with specific time-bound steps in place to assess, monitor and manage stroke patients. "There are treatments available for stroke that needs to be provided within the first 3-4 hours, such as clot-busting medications. That is why urgent attention is critical," said the Consultant of Neurology of the hospital to Sazzad.

Other than a small limp on left side, Mr. Abdur Rab is now quite okay. Of course the loving care that the doctors, nurses and the physiotherapists in the Stroke Ward of this hospital gave to him during his 2weeks stay, made him feel like a family. But he realizes only time has saved him as he was brought in this hospital within 2-3hours of the stroke.

So don't waste time wondering if you should go to the hospital. If you or someone you know shows the Stroke symptoms, call for a hospital ambulance at the soonest.



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Junior Climate Champions 2014

Junior Climate Champions is coming to

CHITTAGONG

Date: September 12 (Friday), 2014

Venue: Chittagong Collegiate School, Ice Factory Road, Chittagong.

Rporting Time: 8.30 am

SYLHET

Date: September 19 (Friday), 2014

Venue: Scholarshome, Shahi Eidgah Campus, Sylhet

Reporting Time: 8.30 am

DHAKA

Date: September 26 (Friday), 2014

Venue: Dhaka Residential Model School & College, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207

Reporting Time: 8.30 am

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