

Mechanism to implement Nat'l Building Code absent

Experts say buildings constructed without compliance pose threat to life and environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unnumbered buildings are being constructed in the country without compliance with the National Building Code, posing threat to life, property and environment, experts said at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

This is happening in absence of a mechanism to implement the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC), though the code was legally made mandatory in 2006, they said.

"The foremost barrier to implementing the building code is the lack of a nationally-applicable legal framework," said M Abu Sadeque, former director of Housing and Building Research Institute.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo, along with Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk), International Code Council and Smart Development Engineering Limited jointly organised the discussion on 'Application of building code and implementation strategy' at its Karwan Bazar office.

The amended building construction rules of 2008, meant for the capital city, is also followed by Chattogram Development Authority, he said.

The BNBC cannot be enforced across the country without building construction rules applicable nationally, said Sadeque, also a

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure thorough building inspection during and after construction

Generate public awareness on BNBC

Bring all building construction in the country under national code

Enforce occupancy certificate on all buildings

Employ qualified professionals for compliance with BNBC

Rajuk has to operate either as a regulator or a development authority

Recruit competent building inspectors

technical expert on updating the code.

At present, there are no authorities in the country to check whether the structural and electro-mechanical designs of a tall building are code-compliant, he said. How can the BNBC be implemented under the circumstances, he wondered.

As for the capital, M Abu Sadeque said, Rajuk too cannot enforce the code as a regulatory authority as long as it remains

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Bangladesh in talks with neighbours for electricity import: PM

Four power plants inaugurated

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh is now in talks with its neighbouring countries to import electricity to meet the growing demand.

"Discussions are on with India, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal to import hydro-power to meet our demands; we've taken that initiative," she said.

The prime minister said this while inaugurating four power plants, eight 33/11 KV GIS sub-stations, and hundred percent electricity supply at 10 upazilas in seven districts across the country through video conference from her official residence, Gono Bhaban.

She said Bangladesh has already imported 600MW electricity from India. "We're thinking of investing in Bhutan, negotiations are on for that. We're also planning to invest in Nepal."

Sheikh Hasina, also the power, energy and mineral resources minister, said the government wants to illuminate the whole country with electricity. "No village will remain in the dark."

"We're providing subsidy. Please don't waste electricity. We're giving electricity at half of its production cost. It's not right to provide subsidy this way, but we're doing it for the welfare of people," Hasina said.

Recalling the days of BNP-Jamaat regime, she said they had just taken the country backward in all sectors, including power, and this is their character. "We've undertaken development programmes to meet the demands, ensure poverty-free Bangladesh, and provide electricity to all."

The PM said the development of power sector is crucial,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Resist those who snatched our right to vote: Fakhrul

BNP organises human chain demanding Khaleda Zia's release



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, inset, speaks at the human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR



STAR REPORT

BNP yesterday urged people to put up a resistance against the current government through waging a national movement to "restore their rights, democracy" and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War.

"We call upon people to unite to resist those who snatched our rights, including the right to vote," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, reports UNB.

Speaking at a human chain, he further said, "All of us -- irrespective of party and opinion -- must be vocal to protect our independence and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War. We'll surely be able to defeat this regime through launching a greater movement in the days to come."

BNP organised the human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club, demanding its chairperson Khaleda Zia's release from jail.

Party leaders and activists holding banners, festoons and placards joined the programme and shouted slogans to have their chief freed from jail.

Apart from Fakhrul, BNP standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Nazrul Islam Khan addressed the programme.

On Sunday, Fakhrul announced the programme demanding the release of Khaleda and her proper treatment.

The party is also scheduled to stage similar programme today in all districts and metropolitan cities to press the demand.

Khaleda Zia was sent to jail after

a special court convicted her in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case on February 8, 2018.

She has been receiving treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University since April 1 last.

HC BENCH REFUSES TO HEAR KHALEDA'S BAIL PLEA

Meanwhile, a High Court bench yesterday refused to hear a petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, seeking bail in Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in which she has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice ASM Abdul Mobin told the lawyers for Khaleda that earlier a senior HC bench has rejected a similar bail petition of the BNP chief on merit.

They [lawyers for Khaleda] can move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC order, the bench said.

Khaleda's lawyer Zainul Abedin told the HC bench that there is no bar for this bench to hear the bail petition now. The HC bench asked Advocate Zainul to produce the rules before it, showing that a junior bench can hear a petition that has earlier been rejected by a senior bench.

Then the lawyer took the bail petition back from the HC bench.

Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the lawyers for Khaleda have failed to produce any rules in support of their argument that a junior HC bench can hear

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Bring river grabbers to book immediately'

Environmental activists demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists yesterday demanded that the government immediately bring river grabbers, who have been identified lately, under trial and ensure exemplary punishment for them.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, they said if the grabbers are not brought to book soon, they will keep grabbing river lands and harm Bangladesh's lifeline deliberately.

The event was held at Jatiya Press Club, marking World Rivers Day 2019, to be observed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A man cleans the drainage system in Dilkhusha area, halfway submerged in dirty water. Locals claimed city authorities have not paid attention to their demands for cleaning the area, so they have taken it upon themselves.

'ILLEGAL ENROLMENT'

Protest continues at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different platforms and student wings continued their protests at Dhaka University against the "illegal enrolment" of 34 former and incumbent Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders into an evening programme of the Faculty of Business Studies.

Meanwhile, Prof Shibli Rubayat UI Islam, dean of the faculty, at a press conference on Tuesday claimed that students who completed graduation and post-graduation from the university can be enrolled in the evening programmes without any written exam or circular.

He also claimed that the decision was made by the chairman's committee and the interested students only have to face viva voce. Evening programmes are the faculties' own programmes and they conduct the programmes and change rules by themselves, he added.

Prof Rubayat did not elaborate any further.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform which spearheaded the quota reform movement; Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a pro-BNP student organisation; and Dhaka University Against Corruption, a platform of general and left-leaning students, in separate programmes yesterday demanded resignation of the vice-chancellor and dean of the business studies faculty.

They also demanded resignation of those eight Dhaka University Central Students' Union leaders who got enrolled into the university ahead of Ducus election without any admission test or viva voce.

The quota reformists' platform formed a human chain at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla yesterday morning and burnt effigies of the VC and dean at night in protest, while JCD brought out a protest rally on the campus.

Meanwhile, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in a statement yesterday expressed deep concern and demanded neutral investigation into the incident.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE

1,000 DU students to receive free copies of Star for a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of its continued effort to help students excel in English, The Daily Star will provide some 1,000 resident students of Dhaka University with free copies of the newspaper at their dormitories for the next one year.

Since 2012, The Daily Star with support of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd has been providing free copies of the English daily to DU resident students, chosen every year on the basis of merit and economic background.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Anis A Khan, managing director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, launched this year's initiative at a ceremony titled "Promoting Knowledge: Inauguration of the Eighth Year" at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.



Anis A Khan, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, with students at the event yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Anis A Khan said DU students, who are the future nation builders, can improve their English language skills and develop knowledge on various issues through reading the newspaper regularly.

Mahfuz Anam said through this initiative, The Daily Star has created an opportunity for students to strengthen their

skills.

Besides improving their skills on linguistics and grammar, students through reading the newspaper regularly can enhance their knowledge on contemporary global issues, he added.

The Daily Star has similar initiatives in some other public and private universities.

JU DEVELOPMENT MASTERPLAN

70 noted citizens call for transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy eminent teachers, professionals and activists have demanded appointment of an ombudsman for effective implementation of the masterplan adopted for the development of Jahangirnagar University (JU).

They also demanded formation of a powerful monitoring cell with participation of teachers and students, to put an end to all questions and allegations.

In a joint statement, they expressed their support to the demands of teachers and students who are protesting a Tk 1,445 crore development masterplan, bringing various allegations.

Dhaka University's Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and Prof Citiara Nasreen, human rights activists Hamida Hossain, Sultana Kamal and Shaheen Anam are among the signatories to the statement.

The statement said, "We're concerned over the allegations that the masterplan has been formulated keeping no scope of including observations and opinions of teachers and students of the university."

"It would be undemocratic and unexpected if the allegations prove to be true that the masterplan is a non-transparent one," it further said.

"For long-term benefit, the masterplan and its implementation need to be made transparent, democratic and participatory," they opined.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DHAKA TODAY

FILM SCREENING

Paterson
Venue: Charcha, Mohammadpur
Time: 6:30pm

MUSIC

Joy Shahrir Live: Lapatta Tour
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Time: 6:30pm

FOOD EVENT

The Green Journey
Venue: Unimart, Gulshan 2
Time: 10am

THEATRE

Mukti
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm

EXHIBITION

National Photography Competition & Exhibition 2019
Organiser: Rajuk College Photography Club
Venue: Rajuk Uttara Model College
Time: 10am

OPEN MIC

Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Time: 7pm

PHOTO EXHIBITION

Secretive Works of an Outsider
Artist: Waziuddin Mamun
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Time: 4:30pm

Why shouldn't govt buy paddy directly from farmers: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to purchase paddy and rice directly from farmers, in line with the Domestic Food Grain Procurement Policy 2017.

Secretaries to the ministries of food and agriculture, and director general of directorate general of food have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule following a writ petition by Jatiya Krishak Samity General Secretary Aminul Islam Golap.

In the petition filed on August 18, Golap said the government is supposed to purchase paddy and rice from farmers as per the Domestic Food Grain Procurement Policy.

But it has been procuring those from middlemen including warehouse owners in violation of the policy; therefore, farmers are not getting fair price, he said.

The petitioner said the farmer community is getting no scope and opportunity to sell their paddy/rice at the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

VISION Refrigerator

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Item name	Previous MRP	Present MRP
Glass Door 222 Ltr	33500	28800 Tk.
Glass Door 238 Ltr	34500	29800 Tk.
Glass Door 252 Ltr	36000	31100 Tk.
Glass Door 262 Ltr	37200	32100 Tk.

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