

# BGMEA building set to be demolished this week

HELEMUL ALAM

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is finally set to demolish the 15-storey BGMEA building later this week.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) building was supposed to be demolished by Rajuk on April 16 this year after getting clearance from the High Court, but the process could not be initiated on time.

Rajuk also did not take any decision at the time regarding the method which would be applied to demolish the building.

"We are going to start the demolition work of BGMEA building manually by this week and the procedure in this regard has been completed," Rajuk Chief Engineer ASM Raihanul Ferdous told the Daily Star yesterday.

He said they have already given work order to Four Star Group to demolish this building.

"We have given them [Four Star Group] six months' time primarily to demolish the building, and they will provide Tk 1.55 crore to Rajuk for the demolition -- taking away all the material that they will get from the building," he said.

Raihanul said they held an auction for the demolition and gave the work order to the highest bidder.

There will be two vigilance teams from Rajuk and the construction firm so that safety measures are taken properly during the demolition, he said.

The High Court had earlier given the building owners three chances to vacate the building.

The last chance allowed them until April 12, after which the building was



FILE PHOTO

supposed to be demolished -- but even that was not heeded to.

On April 16, Rajuk went to BGMEA Complex with police and bulldozers -- apparently ready to bring down the building built on a canal.

Eventually the building was not brought down because authorities

found that office bearers were still residing in it. They were given the day to vacate, and the building was sealed off.

The then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the building on November 28, 1998.

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## People must be freed of misrule: Rob

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding resignation of the Awami League-led government, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rob yesterday demanded formation of a national government to "free the people from the misrule of this government".

"They [AL] have failed to run the country properly, so there is no alternative to forming a national government to hold a free and fair election and establish human rights in the country, eliminating the ongoing crisis," he said.

He made the demand while speaking at a human chain organised by his party at the Jatiya Press Club.

Rob said AL has pushed the whole country into a calamitous situation.

"Gambling, terrorism, corruption, murder of students and children and looting are becoming casual affairs; terrifying torture cells have been made at residential dormitories of universities, and ruling party's student leaders are torturing general students," he alleged.

He further said the incumbent government should introduce the pathway of forming a national government, by ensuring their resignation first.

Rob also demanded exemplary punishment

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## Menon makes a U-turn!

Backtracks from comments on people could not cast vote in last polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said his Saturday's remarks on people could not cast vote in the last polls have sent a wrong message to the national and 14-party alliance politics.

"This confusion arose for presenting my remarks partially," he claimed in a statement yesterday.

"I want to say clearly that the elections till date are the outcome of struggle of the 14-party alliance and the government was constituted through the struggle of 14-party," Menon said.

"This struggle will have to be taken forward to face the emergence of fundamentalism and sectarianism," he added in the statement.

The leaders and activists of 14-party alliance, especially of ruling Awami League, took to the social media against Menon after he during a party programme in Barishal alleged that people could not vote in December 30 national election.

"Although I was elected in the polls, I am testifying that people couldn't cast their votes in that election. They couldn't vote in the union parishad and upazila parishad polls," he said on Saturday.

Responding to Menon's Saturday's claim, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday questioned whether Menon would have made such claim had he been a minister.

"He [Menon] is a senior leader... Why did he make such claim now after so many days?" Quader said.

In yesterday's statement, Menon further said, "When I was addressing on the president's speech in the parliament, I lauded that the 11th parliamentary election was held in a successful manner. But the experience was not pleasant."

Menon said in his speech he also mentioned that mismanagement, irregularities and misuse of power continued during Zia-Ershad-BNP-Jamaat regimes. He claimed that he had been a witness to those as an election candidate.

'I'M HAPPY HE SAID IT'

Meanwhile, Jatiya Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday thanked Menon for, what he said, confirming that people could not cast their votes in the national election, reports UNB.

"I'm happy he [Menon] said it, even if it's late. I've long been saying it [people could not cast their votes]," Dr Kamal said while talking to reporters after a meeting of Oikyafront's steering committee at his Motijheel chamber.

Dr Kamal further said, "Wherever I go, I ask people whether they could cast their votes on December 30. I still didn't get a single positive response, and he [Menon] has now confirmed it. That's why I thank him."

'A STATE APPROVER'

Meanwhile, BNP yesterday said Menon like a "state approver" admitted the fact that the current government is "illegal as no election was held on December 30".

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office, party Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi also said the government should step down and dissolve the parliament if it has a "minimum sense of shame" after its alliance partner approved that people could not cast votes in the general election.

"The truth has somehow got revealed. A partner of the government himself admitted the great fact that no election was held on December 30," he said.

The BNP leader said, "People are sometimes forced to reveal the truth due to their conscience. We don't know his [Menon's] objectives and goals, but he as a state approver admitted there had been vote robberies on the night of election."

Rizvi hoped that the ruling party leaders will also reveal "the truth" someday like Menon.

He also criticised Jagannath University Vice Chancellor Prof Mijanur Rahman for expressing his desire to take the charge of Jubo League, saying he has stigmatised his

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## NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

# Quality treatment at primary level inadequate: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite a rise in non-communicable diseases (NCD), quality treatment for such diseases at the primary-level healthcare centres across the country is still largely inadequate, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Currently, NCDs like diabetes, heart disease and cancer cause thousands of deaths each year due to "imbalanced lifestyle, insufficiently diverse diet and lack of awareness", they added, referring to different studies.

Under this circumstance, there is no alternative to strengthening quality care for NCDs at upazila health centres of the government as well as generating awareness through health education in schools, speakers said at the programme at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in Dhaka.

Clinical Research Platform -- a tripartite initiative of icddr, BSMMU and British Medical Journal -- organised the discussion on the first day of the two-day long "1st Scientific Congress on NCD".

In Bangladesh, there has been an 8.7 percent rise (from 58.3 percent to 66.9 percent) between 2010 and 2016 in deaths related to non-communicable diseases, according to World Bank data.

One in four Bangladeshi adults -- 25 years and over -- are hypertensive, while one in 10 have diabetes, according to a 2015 estimate.

The prevalence of lung diseases is 13.5 percent.

Prevalence of cancer is also very high -- an estimated 1.3 to 1.5 million patients are suffering from cancer, with 200,000 newly diagnosed cases each year.

Kidney Foundation of Bangladesh estimates 18 million people suffer from kidney disease, of whom annually 35,000-40,000 patients develop chronic kidney

disease, eventually leading to kidney failure.

Conducted by Dr Aliya Naheed, the discussion was attended by chiefs of major healthcare institutions and specialists.

Prof Sohel Reza Choudhury, head of the department of epidemiology and research at National Heart Foundation, talked about ensuring quality treatment for NCDs in upazila health complexes across the country. "In upazila-level health centres, patients come, physicians write prescriptions and provide some drugs, and the patients leave. There is no system of keeping records or aptly following up."

However, an effective intervention at primary-level healthcare could control hypertension and other NCDs, he said.

Prof Shahedur Rahman Khan, director of the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital, spoke of government intervention in stopping tobacco use in all forms especially smoking, ensuring safe food, health education in schools and so on.

He asked, "Our government allows tobacco plantation but we are speaking against tobacco. [Then] how will it be possible to control tobacco?"

Prof Moarraf Hossen, director of National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, said, "Some 30 percent cancer patients could get better if the disease is detected early. But in reality, 80 percent of cancer patients come for treatment at advanced stage."

He stressed on extending cancer treatment facilities up to district-level hospitals. "We have to think of prevention," he said.

Earlier in the morning, Md Ashadul Islam, secretary of health services division of health ministry, inaugurated the event as chief guest.

Speaking at the session, he said, "NCDs

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Sacks of rice are piled up right near the rail track in Karwan Bazar area. Traders do business here, putting themselves and customers at risk. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 'I told BCL leaders he is involved with Jamaat'

Accused Tanvir confesses in Abrar murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khondaker Tabakkharul Islam Tanvir, one of the accused in the Abrar Fahad murder case, confessed to a magistrate yesterday that he was present at the meeting where the murder plan was prepared.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury recorded the confessional statement of Tanvir after Detective Branch Inspector Md Wahiduzzaman, also the investigation officer produced him at his chamber.

In his statement, Tanvir told the magistrate that he checked Abrar's laptop and his mobile messages and found some information about Jamaat-Shibir on the

day of the incident. Then he told the other offenders this information.

This led to the assailants beating Abrar to death, Tanvir said in his confessional statement

After recording his statement, the magistrate ordered to send Tanvir to Keraniganj Central Jail.

Meantime, two other accused -- Amit Saha and Shamsul Arefin Rafat -- were sent to jail yesterday on expiry of their three-day remand in the case.

Abrar, a second-year student of Buet's electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten to death by a group of BCL men at the university's

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## SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

# HC summons probe in-charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the investigation officer (IO) of the murder case of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi, to know of the progress in probe.

The IO has been asked to appear before the court with the case dockets on November 6.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order while hearing a petition filed by accused Tanvir Rahman, who is now on bail.

Tanvir, an official of an English medium school in Dhaka, recently submitted the petition to the HC for scrapping trial proceedings against him of the case.

His lawyer Advocate Fawzia Karim Firoze told the court that his client is innocent, but he is still an accused of the case as the investigation of the case was not completed.

Tanvir's image has been tarnished and he could not get married as the case is still open against him, the lawyer said.

After the hearing, the court issued a rule asking authorities concerned of the government to explain in two weeks why the proceedings of the case against Tanvir could not be quashed.

On March 8, 2015, the

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## HC irked by govt dillydallying

10 months on, no separate tribunal to try narcotics cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday again expressed utter dismay as the government has not set up separate tribunals to try narcotics cases even though the law was formulated 10 months ago.

It is a very harsh reality that no step has been taken yet to form tribunals or to give responsibility to additional district and sessions judges to run those through issuing a gazette notification under the Narcotics Control Act-2018, in order to try the narcotics cases, said the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman.

Even no measure was taken to amend the law, which is undesired and disappointing, the bench added.

Trial proceedings of the narcotics-related cases and their bail petitions at the lower courts have been stagnated and therefore, different legal complexities have been created. Proceedings of significant number of cases have also been halted, the bench further said.

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Non-MPO Educational Institutions Teachers' and Employees' Federation gathered yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club, demanding enlistment of their institutions under the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme and a meeting with the prime minister.

PHOTO: STAR

## DHAKA TODAY

### SESSION

A daylong session with Manzare Hasin Murad  
Organiser: Bangladesh Documentary Council  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 10am



### SEMINAR

Continuing Professional Development Policy  
Organiser: Chartered Accounts Bangladesh  
Venue: CA Bhaban, Karwan Bazar  
Time: 6pm

### ACADEMIC SESSION

English Speaking Club  
Venue: Midas Centre, Dhanmondi  
Time: 4pm

### EXPOSITION

Build Bangladesh  
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara, Kuril Bishwa Road  
Time: 10am

### WORKSHOP

Arduino: Essentials  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 4:30pm

### EXHIBITION

Act Together to End Poverty  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 9:30am