DHAKA

'Climate-adaptive designs a moral duty'

Architects Regional Council Asia opens

Staff CorresponDent

In the face of climate change challenges around the world, architects are wellsituated to ensure sustainable living conditions for people, Speaker of the House Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said yesterday at the inauguration of the five-day annual forum of Asian architects, the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA), at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"Architecture is described as a social art, and architects have a major contribution to ensuring congenial environment for all of us," she said.

The prediction is that by 2050, 64 percent of the developing world will be urbanised, she said, adding that this poses a new challenge to assuring better living conditions.

Rapid urbanisation, population growth, housing shortage, exclusion and growing inequality are all inextricably linked issues, said Chaudhury.

The biggest of its kind, this year's ARCASIA conference in Dhaka deliberates on the theme of 'Architecture in a Changing Landscape' and marks golden jubilee of the apex body of architects in Asia.

climate Environment, change, sustainability, disaster risk management and urbanisation are discussed at this forum to find innovative ways of resolving and responding to the emerging challenges, said Chaudhury.

ARCASIA President Rita Soh said it is not only a professional duty but also moral responsibility of architects to create innovative and adaptive designs for future development -- in the face of rapid urbanisation and extreme weather conditions.

"We have to create a better environment for the future generations," she said.

ARCASIA over the years has embraced the spirit of cooperation and unity among architects across Asia, she said.

Jalal Ahmed, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) -- that is holding the prestigious regional forum -- said development in Bangladesh is happening in an unprecedented pace.

"We have to be cautious because development must be planned," he said. Over 1,500 architects, including 275

from 20 other Asian member countries, are taking part in the annual forum.

Noted Bangladeshi architect Shamsul Wares, Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim and architect Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, convener of this year's ARCASIA conference, and noted architects from abroad, among others, spoke at the inauguration and during day-long discussions.

A series of events that the conference comprises of are aimed at promoting exchanges among architects and sustainable architectural practices in Asian countries.

The events include IAB Build Expo, exhibitions on photography, green

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international gathering of architects. Inset, some stalls at the venue, Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman

Wealth inequality at critical level

Workers Party leaders say

Staff CorresponDent

Leaders and activists participating at the 10th congress of Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday expressed their deep concern over "the unequal distribution of assets among the country's people".

"Wealth inequality has risen to a critical level, though the country has witnessed a visible infrastructural development in the last decade," said the party general secretary Fazle Hossain Badsha.

He was speaking at a press conference after the second day of the party's 10th congress at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Badsha presented their four political proposals that were approved at the congress.

Saying that the country has become a developing one, he alleged, "Despite this positive picture, labourers and low-income groups are being deprived, as only a handful of people are accumulating wealth," he alleged.

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Rumour-mongers to be brought to book

Warns home minister

Staff CorresponDent

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday warned that those who are engaged in circulating propaganda and rumours on Facebook will be brought to book.

"We have identified people who are spreading propaganda and rumours on Facebook, and we only need two days to nab them," Kamal said in reply to a question at a dialogue organised by the Secretariat Reporters' Forum at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

Forum president Tapan Biswas chaired the dialogue while it's general secretary Shamim Ahmed was the moderator.

The home minister made the remark weeks after the clash in Bhola that left four people dead and over hundred injured. Zealots clashed with police in Borhanuddin upazila of the district over "hate conversation" spread through Facebook and its messenger.

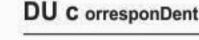
"People spreading such rumours have a motive. I am warning them to refrain from such activities," 'Kamal said, calling upon people not to believe the rumours.

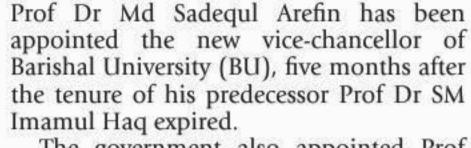
The minister further said the militant group "Allahr Dal" will be Akhtaruzzaman as VC of Dhaka University.

The minister called upon Facebook users to publish posts based on evidence and expected responsible behaviour on social media.

banned soon. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Prof Dr Md Sadegul Arefin





The government also appointed Prof Shireen Akhter as the new VC of Chittagong University and reappointed Prof Dr Md

issued yesterday by the education ministry in this regard. The vice-chancellor's post of Barishal University has remained vacant since May

Three separate gazette notifications were

27, halting its academic and administrative The authorities had to suspend the admission tests for 2019-20 session, scheduled for October 18-19 as the posts of

VC, treasurer and registrar remained vacant. The university registrar was dismissed in April on moral grounds while Treasurer Mahbub Hasan returned to DU on October

7. The chief examination controller's post is also vacant.

Due to the vacancies, the authorities

Prof Shireen Akhter

BU, CU get new VCs

Akhtaruzzaman reappointed at DU

could not hold academic, financial and syndicate meetings for last six months. Earlier, Prof Imamul applied for a leave

11 amid student protests that sparked on Independence Day programme. The former VC rejoined the office on

and was subsequently sent on one on April

May 27 -- the day his tenure expired, paving the way for a fresh appointment. The VC allegedly launched a tirade

after students demonstrated on campus, protesting their exclusion from the programme on campus. President Abdul Hamid, chancellor of

the university, appointed Dr Sadequl Arefin, a professor of social work department of Rajshahi University, for the next four years, the notification said.

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY

Meanwhile, Prof Shireen Akhter will be serving as the VC of Chittagong University until a regular VC is appointed through the were already in police elected panel of the university's senate, or a fresh order is issued in this regard, said a gazette notification.

Born in Cox's Bazar on May 1, 1956,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DhanmonDi MurDers Key suspect arrested

Staff CorresponDent

Police yesterday arrested the house help who is the key suspect in the murder of an elderly woman and her house help in Dhanmondi on Friday. Officer-in-Charge of

Dhanmondi Police Station Abdul Latif said she was held from Agargaon. Earlier in the day, five people including her were sued in connection with the double murder.

Sultana, Dilruba daughter of slain Afroza Begum, filed the case with the police station yesterday.

bodyguard Bachchu, of Dilruba's husband Kazi Monir Uddin, was made the number one accused in the case, said subinspector Subrata Boidya of Dhanmondi Police Station.

The other accused are: the domestic help, the building's security guard Nuruzzaman, caretaker Belal and one Prince.

Bachchu had brought the

domestic help to the flat. All the other accused

custody, the SI said.

After scrutinising several CCTV footages, police said they believe that the SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

US state dept official arrives tomorrow

Trafficking, press freedom, Rohingya to top agenda Diplomatic CorresponDent

US Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells, who is arriving in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit, will seek stronger measures to prevent human trafficking, promote free media and trade between US and



Alice, Washington's focal point for the region, is also likely to express concerns over the government plan to relocate Rohingyas to Bhashanchar, diplomatic sources in Dhaka said.

According to a US embassy official, US appreciates Bangladesh's significant economic growth, but it also has concerns over the situation of freedom of expression and human trafficking. Alice is likely to share

these concerns, the official said.



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going for Tk 120 per kg. The photo was taken recently.

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requested to contact the following official between 10am - 5pm (except holidays). For details:

These shiny apples – decorated with twigs full of leaves – were displayed for sale in Eskaton. The vendor

claimed that the apples, some bunched up and hanging from the twigs, were imported from Australia and were

The Daily Star, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka-1215

Phone: 09610-222222, Mob: 01711-582702

She would meet officials SEE PAGE 4 COL 3