

'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 well-situated 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.

Environment, climate 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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Speaker of the Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury inaugurates the international gathering of architects. *Inset*, some stalls at the venue, Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

PHOTO: STAR

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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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

The minister further said the militant group "Allahr Dal" will be banned soon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BU, CU get new VCs

Akhtaruzzaman reappointed at DU



Prof Dr Md Sadequl Arefin



Prof Shireen Akhter



Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman

DU Correspondent

Prof Dr Md Sadequl Arefin has been appointed the new vice-chancellor of Barisal University (BU), five months after the tenure of his predecessor Prof Dr SM Imamul Haq expired.

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

Three separate gazette notifications were issued yesterday by the education ministry in this regard.

The vice-chancellor's post of Barisal University has remained vacant since May 27, halting its academic and administrative activities.

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

could not hold academic, financial and syndicate meetings for last six months.

Earlier, Prof Imamul applied for a leave and was subsequently sent on one on April 11 amid student protests that sparked on Independence Day programme.

The former VC rejoined the office on 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 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.

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

Bachchu, bodyguard of Dilruba's husband Kazi Monir Uddin, was made the number one accused in the case, said sub-inspector 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 were already in police custody, the SI said.

After scrutinising several CCTV footages, police said they believe that the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



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

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 Bangladesh.



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.

She would meet officials

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

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