

# Everyone deserves to have 'liveable' housing

Prof Nazrul says at Gyantapas lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While undertaking plans and policies regarding urbanisation, the government should look at poor, low and lower-middle income groups so that they are having "liveable" housing, urban expert Prof Nazrul Islam said yesterday.

About one lakh people live in a 90 acres of land in Dhaka's Karail slum. There, a single family of five to eight members live in one room, he said, while delivering a lecture at Dhaka University's Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium. "We don't want this. We want at least a two-room house," he added.

His solo lecture, on the topic

"Urbanization in Bangladesh: Past, Present & Future" was part of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Distinguished Lecture series, organised by the Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation.

In his over one-hour lecture, Prof Nazrul, former chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, said poor, low income and lower-middle income groups constitute 70 percent or more of the urban population.

They are more concerned about liveable housing, he said.

Referring to the United Nations definition, he said a liveable house will consist of minimum two rooms, and it will

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President Abdul Hamid presents a souvenir to former UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon at the 13th convocation of Brac University at Army Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. The former UN chief was the convocation speaker.

PHOTO: PTI

## 'Unite against dishonesty'

Says President Hamid at Brac University convocation

AGENCIES

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged all to forge a greater unity against all types of syndicates of dishonest persons and organisations.

"Transport owners and workers have unity. Dishonest traders, profiteers and hoarders are united too, but we [general people] lack such harmony," he said, reports BSS.

The president said this while addressing the 13th convocation of Brac University at Army Stadium.

Referring to the recent spate of price spiral of essentials including onion, salt and rice, he condemned the situation that caused sufferings to people. "We have to face the situation together to stand against it," said the president.

If the price is not within one's limit then he or she has to avoid using onion,

he said. "Onion is a perishable product. If we don't eat onion for a month, dishonest businessmen will be forced to sell it at a lower price," said Hamid, reports UNB.

The head of state also called upon countrymen to remain alert against rumors over stocks of essentials. "The media needs to campaign properly against it," he said.

He urged all to not pay heed to propaganda in this regard.

Turing to the education sector, President Hamid said education without quality is meaningless.

"One of the biggest challenges for Bangladesh is to ensure quality education. It must be ensured so that higher education does not become just certificate-based," he stressed.

At the same time, the president said, it is also necessary to ensure the quality of educational institutions and their

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

## 7 special tribunals in divs soon: CJ

CITY DESK

Seven special tribunals for trial of human trafficking-related cases will be formed soon, said Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday.

After formation of the tribunals, to be set up in seven divisions of the country, proper steps would be taken for speedy disposal of those cases, especially the child trafficking ones, he said.

The CJ was addressing an annual cross-border conference titled "Collaboration and Networking Meeting to Combat Trafficking of Children in Bangladesh" at the capital's Cirdap auditorium, says a press release.

At present, 4,784 human trafficking cases across the country are under trial, he said.

Attending the event as chief guest, the chief justice appreciated and wished success of those involved in preventing child trafficking.

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Prof Nazrul Islam, left, delivers his lecture at DU. Also on the dais are National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury and director of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation Dr Ahrar Ahmad.

PHOTO: STAR

## Healthy children for a healthy nation: speakers

Event marking 30 years of UN convention on child rights held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With more and more open spaces being grabbed, children are living in the confines of their homes spending more time with electronic gadgets and in front of TVs, which is seriously impeding their physical and mental development.

Therefore, the authorities concerned should not only preserve or reclaim the remaining open spaces across the country, but also create more playgrounds for children to play and breathe in, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

They also stressed on taking children's opinion while taking any decision regarding them.

Unicef Bangladesh organised the event at a city hotel, marking 30 years of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child -- a human rights treaty focusing on civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children.

The programme was aimed at engaging children with policymakers in a dialogue. School and college students from country's eight divisions participated in it and addressed the issues they face.

At the event, speakers also highlighted the rights of children with disabilities and underprivileged children.

Noted economist Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said children need open space. But such spaces are occupied by grabbers.

He called upon policymakers to expand school feeding programmes across the country to ensure children's nutrition.

Lawmaker Shamsul Haque Tuku, president of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, said, "Sports has numerous positive impacts on education and health, and it contributes towards building a healthy nation."

"Our prime minister also prioritises such activities. That's why she has said all government schools will have playgrounds," he added.

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Fazole Rabbi Miah said parents should listen to children and help them take decision.

"Today's children are tomorrow's future; we should listen to them," said the deputy speaker.

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## 83pc women face abuse from public transport staff: study

Road safety group recommends formation of gender-responsible guideline for the sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stating that 83 percent women face abuse from public transport staff on the streets, Road Safety Foundation yesterday called for formulating a gender-responsible guideline for the transport sector.

The non-government organisation working for road safety also recommended providing training to drivers and helpers of public transport on gender and road safety issues.

The foundation organised the roundtable titled "Safety of Women in Public Transport" at Bangladesh Press Institute auditorium in the capital, attended by road safety experts and rights activists, among others.

In his keynote speech, Saidur Rahman, executive director of the foundation, citing a research, said 83 percent women received abusive comments from public transport staff on roads.

"But such physical and mental harassment on women are often ignored, and women fail to understand from where and how they can get respite," he said.

In absence of specific law to stop sexual harassment in public transports, victims allegedly do not get remedy even from police, rather they have to face unpleasant questions, he said.

In February, the foundation carried out a survey on 1,100 women who use public transport in Dhaka and came up with the numbers, Saidur said.

Jobeda Khatun, assistant professor of Dhaka University's Clinical Psychology department, said many women become depressed due to abuse they

face while using public transport.

"Journey on public transport is a traumatic experience for many women," she said.

She recommended providing training and necessary mental counselling to transport workers as many of them are in poor mental health.

Kamran Ul Baset, the head of Road Safety and Driving School at Brac, said the transport sector is highly male-dominated and more women have to be inducted to the sector to change the scenario.

He said institutional training and more research are required for transport workers, and not only government but also other stakeholders of the sector should come forward in this regard.

He also observed that the government should take initiatives right now to make the metro rail woman-friendly.

Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua, also the foundation's vice chairman, said although different problems of the transport sector are being discussed widely, problems faced by women in the sector are rarely discussed.

He also said transport workers need to be brought to mainstream of the society and need to be given proper respect and facilities, instead of only blaming them.

Jana Goswami, advocacy director of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said transport system of Dhaka is not women-friendly, and even the routes and timing of women-only buses are not woman-friendly.

The foundation also recommended installing CCTV and vehicle tracking systems in all public

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### DHAKA TODAY

HUMAN CHAIN

Demanding compensation and rehabilitation for the victims of Tazreen garments tragedy  
Organiser: Bangladesh Srom Odhikhar Forum  
Venue: Jatiya Press Club  
Time: 11am

DEMONSTRATION

Protesting price hike of onions  
Organiser: Gonosamhati Andolon  
Venue: TCB, Karwan Bazar  
Time: 10am

TOKEN HUNGER STRIKE

Protesting rape and sexual violence  
Organiser: We Can  
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar  
Time: 10am

ACADEMIC SESSION

English Practice Session  
Organiser: US Embassy  
Venue: American Center, Baridhara  
Time: 2pm

INT'L THEATRE FESTIVAL

BotTala Rongomela  
Organiser: BotTala  
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Agargaon  
Time: 6pm

FILM SCREENING

Through Her Eyes  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Time: 5pm

Join us on Sunday, 24 November 2019 at 3 pm at the auditorium of Goethe Institut Bangladesh

**Through Her Eyes**  
A special watch and discuss film with women filmmakers of Bangladesh

Goethe Institut Bangladesh

Story Without an END/দে গল্পের শেষ নেই  
Documentary Film, By Fauzia Khan  
Date: Sunday, 24 November, 2019  
Time: Screening Starts at 5 pm  
Followed by Q&A discussion

GOETHE INSTITUT

## A Mediterranean feast

Ambassador Nunziata hosts 'Week of Italian Cuisine in the World'

MH HAIDER

The lawn of the Italian ambassador's residence in the capital last night turned into a celebration of Italian cuisine, where regional delicacies from across the country were featured, with the aim of promoting healthy eating and Mediterranean diet.

"The Mediterranean diet is one of the healthiest in the world," said Enrico Nunziata, Italian ambassador to Bangladesh, explaining that Italy is one of the countries where this diet is prevalent.

The lavish buffet was held as part of the "Week of Italian Cuisine in the World" programme, which began on November 18 and will run till today.

The garden of the ambassador's residence hosted a number of stalls, each featuring a region of Italy. Guests had the opportunity to see the chefs in action, interact with them, understand the specialities of the regions, and taste the freshly made delicacies -- Polenta, Baci di Dama, various kinds of pasta, Arancini and Cannoli Siciliani to name a few.

Meanwhile, another stall featured Ancel Keys, a prestigious



Guests walked from stall to stall to try delicacies of various regions of Italy.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Italian culinary school which has historically been linked with healthy Mediterranean diet. The stall saw a number of teachers and students from the school cooking for guests.

In addition to Mediterranean diet, the ambassador also highlighted the importance of "Slow Food", a movement which protects and promotes the diversity of local cuisines all over

the world. "We must promote sustainable farming and ensure fairness towards farmers; and at the same time, uphold traditional and authentic cuisines, be it in Italy, Bangladesh, or elsewhere."

Globally, the "Week of Italian Cuisine in the World" is taking place for the fourth time; but it was observed for the first time in Bangladesh this year.

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## BNP slams PM for not raising Teesta issue with Mamata

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday voiced its discontent at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, alleging that she did not raise the issue of ensuring fair share of water from the Teesta River during her Friday's meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"The prime minister met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as she went to India. The country's people had expectations that she would return home after resolving the Teesta water-sharing problem. But the meeting was limited to only exchanging saris," said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office, he further said, "Nothing was found [from the meeting] let alone the fair share of water from the Teesta River."

He alleged that the government has gifted

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