

# Country marching towards progress

## PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that Bangladesh is marching towards progress at an overwhelming pace, dispelling pessimists' takes on the country's future.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, the PM said her government is determined to build a safe and integrated communication network in the country.

"The government is committed to easing traffic congestion, ensuring comfortable public transport, increasing discipline and security on roads... and developing an integrated multimedia communication network by being consistent with the existing system and changing situations of future development," she said in reply to Awami League MP Didarul Alam.

In reply to MP Momtaz Begum, Hasina said, "Bangladesh is marching towards development and progress, disproving all conceptions of pessimists about the future of independent Bangladesh."

In a scripted answer, she said, "In the year of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and Bangabandhu's birth centenary celebration, UNDP recommended Bangladesh's graduation to a developing country in 2026. It's a matter of pride for us."

Hasina said to dispel misconceptions about

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Yesterday's winter rain took Dhaka residents by surprise, as many were not prepared to face the downpour. Some, however, were a bit more prudent. This man thought about the weather before going out, and it shows, because his trusty umbrella was by his side all day. This photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



PHOTO: KASHEF CHOWDHURY/URBANA

# Building it right!

## Satkhira's rainwater-harvesting hospital wins UK award for World's Best New Building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi architect Kashef Chowdhury, director of Bangladeshi architecture firm Urbana, has been announced the winner of the 2021 International Prize for the World's Best New Building by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) for his Friendship Hospital project.

A model of climate-conscious design built with the bare minimum of resources, the Friendship Hospital beat off competition from a Berlin-based gallery by David Chipperfield, and a cycle



and footbridge in

Denmark by Wilkinson Eyre.

The RIBA award-winning hospital is located in Bangladesh's Satkhira.

Chowdhury has designed the building to be a machine for rainwater harvesting, with every roof and courtyard surface draining into the central canal, which runs into two storage tanks at either end of the site, according to a report published in The Guardian on January 25.

It is the first "land hospital" for the NGO Friendship, for which Chowdhury has helped to convert several boats into floating hospitals in the past, designed to serve remote communities in the delta region. Built with a tight budget of just under \$2 million, their first permanent building provides a medical lifeline for thousands of people in an area that was heavily affected by a major cyclone in 2007.

Chowdhury told The Guardian: "I am encouraged that this may inspire more of us to commit to an architecture of care both for humanity and for nature, to rise collectively to the urgencies that we face today on a planetary scale."

# Mayor does a first-hand inspection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam went inside some newly built drains yesterday to inspect the construction work.

In photos posted on DNCC's Facebook page, Mayor Atiqul was seen observing the quality of work in the capital's Bosila area around 3:00pm.

The post said, "Public money is used to fund urban development projects. It is the responsibility of the people's representative to ensure that the general public receive maximum benefits."

DNCC has been working to recover 2.5 km-long Lautola canal since January 23, and the mayor visited the area as part of it.



Over 50 structures, including some multi-storey buildings and a truck terminal, have been constructed on the Lautola canal, according to DNCC officials.

As part of the drive, Dhaka North City Corporation has already demolished some multi-storey buildings, under-construction markets and a truck terminal.

The city corporation is also working on excavating the canal to restore its water flow, they added.

Earlier, Atiqul also said they will not serve any notice to owners of illegal structures before demolishing them.

"The width and length which are required for the canal have not been ensured as grabbers filled up the canal and constructed structures on it," he said.

# A rising health risk

67pc of all deaths in country due to non-communicable diseases, says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are a growing health risk and matter of concern for Bangladesh, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

Such diseases, which include heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease, are collectively responsible for almost 70 percent of all deaths worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

"Some 67 percent of all deaths in the country are due to non-communicable diseases," Maleque said, referring to different statistics, while addressing the first National NCD Conference 2022 virtually.

Besides, around 20 percent of the population suffer from hypertension, 10 percent from diabetes, and as much as 20 lakh people suffer from cancer each year in the country, the minister said, adding that around 50,000 new patients join the list annually.

Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh Health Reporters Forum, Clinical Research Platform and several other organisations arranged the conference.

Researchers and physicians from around 30 organisations in home and abroad participated in the event.

The conference will conclude tomorrow.

Maleque said, "NCDs are increasing due to the change in lifestyle and diet, obesity, tobacco consumption, environmental pollution, and misuse of medicines. To control NCDs, awareness among people, alongside early detection and treatment facilities everywhere, must be increased."

Joining virtually, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "Attaining the SDG has become challenging due to non-communicable diseases. NCDs are increasing due to the use of tobacco and unhealthy lifestyle. The WHO will help Bangladesh



PHOTO: COLLECTED

**Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which include heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease, are collectively responsible for almost 70 percent of all deaths worldwide, according to WHO.**

## REASONS

Change in lifestyle, diet  
Obesity, tobacco consumption  
Pollution, misuse of medicines

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Awareness among people  
Early detection  
Better treatment facilities

in the prevention and control of NCDs."

He stressed on ensuring equitable healthcare services at primary level for those who are suffering from such diseases.

On the first day of the conference, researchers from different organisations presented their keynote on non-communicable diseases.

Dr Aliya Naheed, scientific officer at icddr, and secretary of the conference organising committee, said, "As much as half of the rural population do not know they have hypertension. They start medication as per the

advice of local medicine sellers but do not go to doctors."

She said there is a lack of knowledge among both literate and illiterate people about these diseases.

"Everyone has to go for screening at least once a year after the age of 30," she added.

Unicef, UNFP, Orbis International, Trauma Center and different local and international organisations have sponsored the conference.

Tomorrow, on the concluding day, six physicians will be given posthumous awards and six will be given special awards.

# 'One has no licence, another on drugs'

## Says Rab after arresting helper, driver of buses that crushed teen to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the two buses, which crushed a teenage boy in Dhaka's Moghbazar area on January 20, was being driven by a helper who has no driving licence.

Monir Hossain (27) took the bus of Ajmery Glory Paribahan from the driver in Gulistan, sat behind the steering wheel and was heading to Gazipur.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, shared the information with reporters at a press conference yesterday, after arresting Monir and Md Imran (34), driver of another bus of the same company, from Dhaka's Paltan and Munshiganj areas on the same day.

Facemask vendor Rakibul Hasan (14) was crushed to death between the two buses when

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## ABRAR MURDER CASE

# HC accepts 17 jail appeals for hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday accepted the jail appeals of 17 death-row convicts in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case for hearing.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil passed the order after deputy attorney general KM Masud Rumi placed the appeals before the judges.

A Dhaka court on December 8, 2021, sentenced 20 Buet students to death for their direct involvement in Abrar's murder inside a dorm room -- an incident that shook the entire nation two years ago.

The court also sentenced five other Buet students to life imprisonment in the case.

The documents of the case reached the HC on January 6 as death reference to examine the lower court's verdict.

PRAYER TIMING JAN 27	Fazr					
	Zohr					
	Asr					
	Maghrib					
Jamaat	6-10	1-15	4-30	5-50	7-45	
	SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

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