

Second Int'l Conference on Bangladesh Environment-2002 Dhaka Declaration launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday formally launched the Dhaka Declaration on environment adopted in the Second International Conference on Bangladesh Environment-2002.

The declaration, which contains 113 recommendations, aims at outlining future strategies at national, regional and international levels to protect the country from environmental degradation.

Bangladesh has to consolidate its stand to ensure its due environmental and business interests at any business dialogue under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), said Bapa

Chairperson Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury while reading out the highlights of the declaration at the National Press Club.

The declaration calls for inclusion of China, Nepal and Bhutan in the Joint River Commission to settle river disputes and frame policy for the mutual benefits of the transboundary river basin countries.

It recommended that all professional groups, socio-cultural organisations, community leaders and the mass media of the country should play an important role to make the environmental movement a success.

All the encroachers must be evicted from the banks of the Buriganga and all the other rivers and

water bodies be freed from illegal occupation to protect riverine environment and ensure navigability, the declaration said.

To contain air pollution, it suggested use of compressed natural gas (CNG) in all vehicles and supply of natural gas to rural areas.

It also calls for proper use donors' funds in mitigating arsenic contamination.

The declaration recommends proper enforcement of the environmental laws relating to industrial waste management.

It called for adopting a policy to reward the industries that abide by the environment laws and punish the polluters.

Other recommendations include installation of a safe and independent system for clinical waste management, strict prohibition on the use of firewood in the brickfield, encouraging renewable solar and windmill energy, and approval of the National Building Code.

As an environmental forum, the Bapa put pressure on the government to take steps for protection of the environment, said Prof. Choudhury.

Bapa Vice-Chairmen Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed and ASM Shahjahan, General Secretary Abu Naser Khan and Treasurer Prof. Amirul Islam Choudhury were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon Chairperson Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury speaks at the launching of Dhaka Declaration on environment at the National Press Club yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in night temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and the lowest 19.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:17pm today and rises at 6:08am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.1	23.5	67	65
Chittagong	33.0	21.8	70	68
Rajshahi	30.5	21.0	85	82
Khulna	32.0	23.3	61	82
Barisal	31.0	22.1	85	87
Sylhet	31.5	20.1	74	84
Cox's Bazar	32.3	23.4	77	78

CJA concerned at attacks on press freedom

UNB, Dhaka

Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) has expressed deep concern at the blatant attacks on press freedom in Zimbabwe and expressed solidarity with the journalists who are bravely fighting the draconian actions of the authority.

CJA International President Hassan Shahriar in a statement in the city yesterday said it is surprised to see that Zimbabwe continues flagrantly to breach the Commonwealth principles it agreed to in the Harare Declaration of 1991 and the Millbrook Action Programme of 1995.

"Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of Commonwealth membership, yet Zimbabwean journalists are still deprived of their voice and the country of the only independent daily newspaper on which the people can depend to report the true situation in their country," he pointed out.

Transport workers threaten strike in N-region from tomorrow

BSS, Bogra

Bangladesh Sharak Paribahan Sramik Federation yesterday threatened an indefinite strike in the northern region from tomorrow if the killers of Moniruzzaman Manik are not arrested by today.

Manik, a leader of Bogra Bus Owners' Association, was shot and chopped to death by some miscreants on Monday morning at Chelopara of Bogra town while supervising vehicles at Chelopara bus terminal.

Executive president of the federation Shahjahan Khan, MP, gave the ultimatum at a meeting to protest the killing of Manik.

Chaired by president of Bogra Motor Sramik Union Abdul Mannan, the meeting was also addressed by Mostafizur Rahman Badsha, Israfil Hossain Dewan and Nurul Islam Omar.

The speakers at the meeting said, if the local administration failed to arrest them by November 5 an indefinite transport strike will be called in northern districts from November 6.

Meanwhile, Bogra Motor Sramik Union called an indefinite transport strike in the district including 12 upazilas on Monday. Thousands of passengers have been suffering due to the strike.

Tariqul visits ailing Nirmal Sen at BSMMU

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday visited ailing eminent journalist Nirmal Sen at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital.

The information minister stayed for some time beside Nirmal Sen and inquired about his treatment. He asked the attending doctors to take all possible measures for his treatment and quick recovery.

The septuagenarian journalist has been undergoing treatment at the BSMMU since October 11 following a brain stroke. He has also been suffering from serious ailment in his eyes.

Tariqul also visited former state minister Ahsanul Haque Mollah, MP at the BSMMU.

Principal Information Officer (PIO) Khandakar Monirul Alam accompanied the minister.

Workshop on journalism

CU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day training workshop on Journalism will begin at the Chittagong Press Club auditorium on Friday. Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) organises the workshop for the working journalists of the port city. Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman will formally inaugurate.

Chairman of Banani Group Prof Nurul Amin Chowdhury will be present as special guest. Prof Mahbulul Huq of Bengali department, Ali Asgar Chowdhury, chairman of journalism department and Shahid Ullah Lipon, assistant professor of Chittagong University, Resident Editor of the Prothom Alo Abul Momen, senior journalist Mahbul U Alam, Mohammed Idris, Arun Das Gupta, Nurul Amin and Omar Kaisar will deliver lecture as resource persons. CUJ members have been advised to contact its office at the press club building to register their names as participants.

Urs

The annual Urs of Hazrat Mazhar-e-Asare Karim Moulana Shah Abdur Rahim Shahid will be held at Mia Saheber Maidan, Laxmibazar, in the city today, says a press release.

As part of the daylong programmes, a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers.

Pirzada Dr Sayed Waliullah will preside over the programmes and Motawalli of Abu Yusuf Abdullah Waqf Estate Alhaj Shah Sufi Sayed Hamid Ullah will conduct the prayers.

11 Party to observe solidarity day Nov 12

SATFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning 11 Party will observe November 12 as solidarity day with the garment workers protesting the killing of a garment worker at Fatullah in Narayanganj.

Leaders of the party, at a rally at Muktagong yesterday, protested the killing and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the persons responsible for it.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party, said the killing of workers will only create further unrest in the country.

General Dastgir quits JP

BSS, Dhaka

Major General (Retd) Quazi Golam Dastgir has resigned as a member of the presidium of the Jatiya Party (Ershad).

He also resigned from the primary membership of the party.

In a statement yesterday, General Dastgir said he has resigned from the party protesting certain developments in the organisation.

Gonoforum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Maink and Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal also addressed the rally.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) held a separate rally at Muktagong to protest the killing.

Addressing the rally, party leaders urged the owners of garment industries to meet the just demands of the workers including bonus and arrears.

Garments Sramik Oikyo Forum, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and left-leaning four-party also held demonstration at Muktagong in protest against the killing.

Garments Tailors Workers League has urged all the garment workers to observe a dawn to dusk work abstention programme on November 14 across the country to protest the killing.

In a statement, President of the league Shajahan Khan MP also urged the authorities concerned to pay the workers their arrears, overtime and bonus ahead of the Eid.

Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association, Left Gonotantrik Front, Jatiya Gonofront, Bangladesh Awami Swachhasebok League, Progotishil Chhatra Front, National Garment Workers Federation and Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation also protested the killing.



Newly appointed Chinese Ambassador Chai Xi calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

Two get 5 years' RI

CU CORRESPONDENT

A court here on Monday sentenced two persons to five-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer three-month more RI for mugging.

The convicts are Siddique Ahmed and Amir Hossain.

According to the prosecution story, the convicts snatched Tk 30,000 at gunpoint

from the hotel of one Md Iftekar at Muradpur intersection in the city on the night of August 26. Soon after the incident, police arrested Siddique Ahmed and recovered one rifle with four bullets from his possession.

Judge Md Wahidul Islam Khan of the Speedy Trial Tribunal pronounced the verdict after examining the witnesses and evidences.



PHOTO: STAR

The Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the killing of a garments worker in police firing in Narayanganj.

Discussion
A discussion on the establishment of 'road fund' for the development of road network will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: BRAC Centre auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 3.00pm.

BCRA discussion
Bangladesh Cultural Reporters' Association (BCRA) organises a discussion on the occasion of its 9th founding anniversary with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Micado Chinese Restaurant, Eskaton. Time: 4.00pm.

Memorial discussion
Shaheed M Monsur Ali Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion to mark the Jail Killing Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2.00pm.

Seminar
Universal Study Counselling Services organises a seminar on admission and teaching in Holborn College of London. Venue: Seminar room of Hotel Sundarban.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Agent Cody Banks'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7.00pm.

Human chain
Bangladesh Consumer's Society will form a human chain to protest the failure of the government to control the market. Venue: In front of Shantinagar market. Time: 11.00am.

Rally
National Front organises a rally to protest the price spiral of daily essentials. Venue: Muktagong. Time: 3.00pm