

Alternative energy sources needed

Education Adviser Prof. Zilur Rahman Siddiqui Tuesday emphasised the need for political will and development of use of renewable sources of energy especially the solar energy, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a seminar on "energy situation in Bangladesh and role of solar energy" at the BCSIR laboratories auditorium in Dhaka Prof. Siddiqui expressed the hope that the future government would give necessary attention in this regard.

Social Welfare, Youth, Sports and Women Affairs Adviser Alamgir M. A. Kabir was the special guest at the inaugural session which was presided over by Energy Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed.

Jointly organised by BCSIR, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), Renewable Energy Research Centre (RERC) of Dhaka University and BCC foundation, the inaugural session was also addressed by BCSIR Chairman Dr. M. Wajiduzzaman, BAEC Chairman Dr. M. A. Mannan, RERC Director Prof. M. Ibrahim and member (science and technology), BCSIR, Dr. M. Eusuf and Executive Secretary of BCC foundation A. F. M. Nurul Alam.

Prof. Siddiqui said development of appropriate technology was necessary to popularise solar energy for everyday use.

He said "since 1947 we imported so many technologies but could not contribute to improve our economy as we failed to adopt those technologies."

The Education Adviser said we should explore alternative sources of energy to reduce the import of fossil fuel. Solar energy could play an important role. He said a large chunk of our foreign currency was being spent to import over 18 lakh tons of fossil fuel annually.

Referring to the improved

chula oven developed by BCSIR he said popular use of this oven could save 50 per cent of our biomass used in the rural areas as fuel.

Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir expressed concern at the denudation of our forest due to increased use of biomass as fuel for cooking. He suggested some measures to save fuel.

He also emphasised the need for increased use of solar energy to reduce pressure on biomass and fossil fuel.

Dr. Wajiduzzaman discussed the energy scenario in Bangladesh and suggested de-

velopment and use of solar energy for socio-economic development of the country. He also mentioned about the solar cookers, hot box and improved chulas developed by BCSIR, popularisation of which could help improve the energy situation.

Dr. Mannan said due to the Gulf war there was a possibility of structural change in global energy supply. He said keeping this in view we should re-evaluate the alternate energy sources. He advocated that we reconsider use of nuclear power as an environmentally clean source of energy which could help reduce global warming process caused by release of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning.

Prof. Ibrahim gave a description of the activities of renewable energy centre and said since its creation in early eighties the centre had made a good progress including development of an energy park which was open to all.

A.F.M. Nurul Alam suggested liberal import policy of solar panels and other solar devices to encourage the use of solar energy. He also emphasised the need for extensive publicity by mass media to popularise solar energy.

Energy Secretary Azimuddin said a national commission on uses of solar energy would be formed soon which would review the progress and possible uses of solar energy every six months. Representatives from BCSIR, BAEC, Dhaka University would be its members, he added.

Later, Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir inaugurated an exhibition of different gadgets, of solar energy use developed by the BCSIR, BAEC and the Dhaka University.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions where papers were presented on different aspects of research and development of solar energy use.

JP show cause on Kaiser, Redwan

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party has issued show cause notice on former State Minister for Agriculture and another candidate for violating party discipline and working for rival candidates.

A JP press release said on Tuesday that former State Minister Syed Mohammad Kaiser has been asked to show cause as to why he is working against JP candidate favouring BNP in Habiganj-4 Constituency.

Comilla district (north) JP President Redwan Ahmed was also served with a notice asking why he is contesting as an independent candidate against JP nominated candidate in Comilla-6 Constituency.

The press release also said that if they failed to reply within scheduled time action would be taken against them according to the party constitution.

Suhrawardy strike passes ninth day

By Staff Correspondent

The third and fourth class employees of Suhrawardy Hospital continued their strike demanding removal of the Project Director of the Hospital, a press release said.

The strike has been continuing since February 4.

The class three and class four employees of the National Institutes of Cardiology and Ophthalmology, situated in the same complex, also started a two-hour token strike from Tuesday in support of the striking employees.

The action committee of the Suhrawardy Hospital employees, expressed their concern over the issue.

Technology seminar tomorrow

A seminar on "technology for sustainable national development" will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at 9am at the seminar room of BUET in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Prof. Mosharraf Hossain Khan, Vice-Chancellor of BUET will attend seminar as chief guest while Dr. Zastim-Uz-Zaman, President of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association (BUE-TTA), will preside.

Prof. Iqbal Mahmood of Chemical Engineering Department of BUET will present the key-note paper.



A musical drama staged at the premises of Central Shaheed Minar on Tuesday in commemoration of language martyrs. —Star photo

Discussion on Nazrul, philosophy

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangla Academy on the 7th day of its Ekushey programme series Tuesday held discussion on books, recitation from poems and presentation of Nazrul songs at the Academy premises.

Prof M Shamsur Ali and Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam discussed a book 'Science and Philosophy', written by A M Haroon while Dr Karunamoy Goswami and poet Habibullah Straji took part in discussion on the book 'Kazi Nazrul Islam: A New Anthology', edited by Rafiqul Islam.

Today's programme:

Two books 'Literature Theory of 20th Century' and 'Songs of Lalan Shah' will be discussed at Bangla Academy premises at 4.30 pm. Recitation from poems and Lalan songs will be presented in the evening. 'Sammilita Sanskriti Jote' programme from 4 pm.

12 screened out students allowed for MBBS test

Authorities have allowed 12 candidates, earlier screened out, to sit for admission test in the 1990-91 MBBS session rescheduled for February 15.

Dateline Khulna

Money and muscle power in polls to be curbed

KHULNA, Feb 12: The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, today reiterated his firm determination to fulfil the sacred responsibilities reposed on the Election Commission by the nation for holding free, fair and impartial parliamentary elections on February 27, reports BSS.

The CEC was addressing a meeting of the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna Division, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna Range, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Khulna, Deputy Commissioners, Police Super, Upazila Nirbahi Officers and Officers-in-Charge of Khulna Division in the Khulna Deputy Commissioner's Conference Room.

The meeting was presided over by the Commissioner, Khulna Division, A. K. M. Fazlul Huq Mia.

Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf was assisted in the meeting by two Election Commissioners, Justice Mezbahuddin and Justice Naimuddin Ahmad, and Justice in the conduct of polls would be seriously taken into cognizance by the government and the Election Commission.

He said the nation has given us many things without reservation and wanted from us only a free, fair and impartial election on the basis of adult franchise to choose their own candidate without intimidation from any quarter. He said during the last decade of autocratic rule, the former government had given the people

wrong ideas about democratic norms through show of force and coercion when the voters were barred from casting their votes. He also said that with the fall of the autocracy, people are now hopeful that democracy would be established through peaceful holding of polls.

The CEC also issued a note of warning that if any person or quarters tries to use money or muscle in the election to intimidate or allure the voters,

the person or quarter, living in a fool's paradise, will be dealt with severely. He also directed the concerned authority to take stern action against those who will be found resorting to fraudulent activities to jeopardise the polls.

Dateline Chittagong

Plea to uphold nationalist spirit in elections

CHITTAGONG, Feb 12: BNP leaders here Monday urged the people to vote for the candidates of their party to uphold the nationalist spirit and consolidate national independence and sovereignty, a party press release said, reports BSS.

Addressing projection meetings at Chotopoli, Ezarpol and near Seamen's hostel of Double Mooring constituency where BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia is a candidate, they said that Begum Zia did not compromise with the ousted autocratic government of Ershad and that her leadership was essential to strengthen the nationalist forces of the country.

The chief coordinator of Begum Khaleda Zia's election, Mr Amir Khoshru Mahmud Chowdhury, local leaders Saiful Alam, Ekramul Karim, Shamsul Alam, Nurul Bahar and others addressed the meeting.

Jatiya Party leaders at a meeting here Monday expressed grave concern over frequent clashes among workers of different political parties during the election campaign in Chittagong and other places, reports BSS.

The meeting held at Iswarbhat Bazar, under Boalkhali upazila with local leader Gura Meah Pandit in the chair was addressed by Chittagong city JP Acting President Harun-ar-Rashid Khan, Nurul Alam Khandakar, Muhammad Khorshed and Abu Alam.

They expressed fear that continued clashes would foil the coming elections. Political leaders and workers should exercise restraint and tolerance, they added.

'Vote for honest candidates' cal Muslim League (Yusuf)

leaders Monday called upon the voters to cast their votes in favour of honest candidates who could work for the welfare to the people, a party press release issued after a meeting here said, reports BSS.

Attestation parade

The attestation parade of a batch of new recruits was held at the East Bengal Regimental Centre (EBRC) at Chittagong Cantonment Tuesday morning, an ISPR release said, reports BSS.

Md. Iftekhar Hussain was adjudged the best allround recruit while Hasan Imtiazuddin Ahmed became second amongst the newly born tigers.

The EBRC Commandant brigadier A K M Shahjahan reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive marchpast.



Members of Pahari Chhatra Sangram Parishad holding rally in city on Tuesday demanding fulfilment of the demands of tribal students. —Star photo

Electioneering geared up

Triangular fight in N'ganj likely

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 12: Triangular fight is expected in the coming parliamentary election in Siddhirganj-Far-ulah constituency no-4 of Narayanganj sadar upazila among BNP, Awami League and independent candidates, reports BSS.

The sleepy villages of Alitrek Union, Bakhtab Union, Gogonagar Union, Shahidnagar Union, Enayetnagar Union, Kashimpur Union, Sumil Para Union, Kutubail Union and Aliganj are now pulsating with election activities. Colourful posters, leaflets and bunting, plastered and hung here and there, give a festive look. Election arches have been set up across crop fields with the portraits of leaders of different parties.

A total of 11 candidates are now contesting in the constituency. The candidates are: Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Channu, former national footballer and presently Manager of Abahani Krita Chakra, is contesting the election as an Awami League candidate. He said he has come to politics with a mission to serve the people of his area. If he wins the election, he would try to improve the standard of football in the country, he said. All the candidates are my immediate rivals, he said.

BNP candidate Strajul Islam expressed his optimism of being elected as he thinks the people of his area have given him spontaneous support. He said he considered Awami League candidate as his immediate rival.

Independent candidate Mohammad Ali said that he is contesting the election at the request of the people of his area. He expressed his gratitude that some of his friends and well-wishers have voluntarily set up election camps.

Former Jatiya Party Chief Whip M.A. Sattar said he is confident of winning the election if it is held in free and fair atmosphere. He said he considered BNP candidate as his rival. Automobile engineer Kamal Ahmed of Freedom Party said Awami League workers are his rivals in politics but still they respect him as their good neighbour.

Shahidul Islam of Islamic Oikyo Jote, Babul Prodhan of JSD (Mohiuddin), Fatema Begum of JSD (Straj), Ruwanara Begum of Gonatantrik Oikyo Jote, Musleh Uddin Moslu of Bangladesh Madakdrabya Nyantra Sangtha and Shuruzzamal of Zaker Party are also contesting in this constituency.

New director of Ophthalmology Institute

Prof. Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology of the P.G. Hospital has been made the director and professor of the National Institute of Ophthalmology, a press release said on Monday, reports BSS.

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