

Dhaka Day by Day

Save Our Forests

by Rahat Fahmida

With 34 years of experience in the department of forestry, he now heads the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) office in Dhaka. Abdul Malik Chowdhury shared his views on his concerned field and briefly discussed IUCN's programme in Bangladesh.

Talking about afforestation, a subject which should be addressed at great length, Mr. Chowdhury gave his overall view in short. Undisturbed forests protect watersheds, reduce erosion, offer habitats for wild species, and play key roles in climatic systems. They are also an economic resource providing timber, fuel wood, and other products. The crucial task is to balance the need to exploit forests against the need to preserve them.

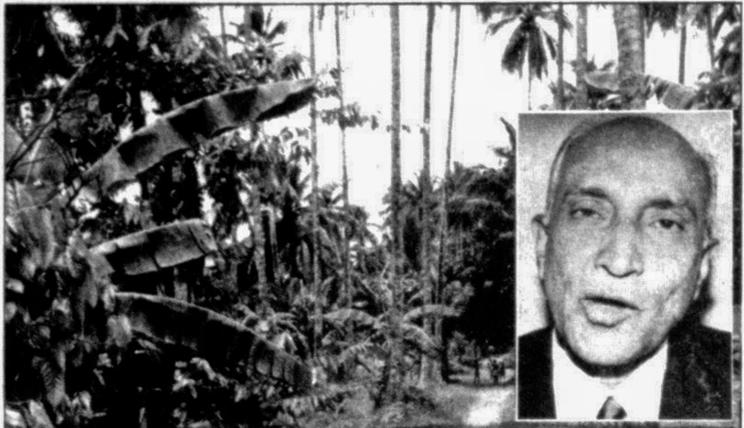
Sound forest policies can be based only on an analysis of the capacity of the forests and the land under them to perform various functions. Such an analysis might lead to some forests being cleared for intensive cultivation, others for livestock, some forestland might be managed for increased timber production or agro-forestry use and some left intact for watershed protection, recreation, or species conservation. The extension of agriculture into forest areas must be based on scientific classification of land capacities, insisted the IUCN head in Bangladesh.

Programmes to preserve forest resources must take into account the local people who are both victims and agents of destruction, and who

(IUCN) — The World Conservation Union is a membership organisation comprising governments, and conservation agencies in 120 countries. The Union's objective is to promote and encourage the protection and sustainable utilization of living resources.

In Bangladesh IUCN has been cooperating with the Government in development of the National Conservation Strategy in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As an outcome of this cooperation since 1986, a National Conservation Strategy (NCS) for Bangladesh has been prepared. The NCS covers 18 sectors of development activities. In each sector, the present status of resource use has been described, issues arising out of the present practice have been identified and actions to be taken to prevent resource depletion and environmental degradation have been recommended. This document compiled by Bangladesh experts with financial assistance from NORAD and Technical assistance from IUCN will remain a valuable guide for planning for sustainable development. Thus through the NCS process IUCN has become an active working partner with the Government of Bangladesh in the field of Natural Resource Management.

IUCN is supporting non-government research organisations to undertake pilot studies and to develop materials for environmental education and public awareness. Support is also being given to develop a model for a National Resource



Balancing forestry and agriculture.

will bear the burden of any new management scheme. They should be at the centre of integrated forest management, which is the basis of sustainable agriculture.

Abdul Malik Chowdhury pointed out that portions of forests may be designated as protection areas. These are predominantly national parks, which could be set aside from unrestricted exploitation to conserve soil, water, and wildlife. They may also include marginal lands whose exploitation accelerates land degradation through erosion leading to desertification. In this connection, the reforestation of degraded forest areas is of utmost importance. Conservation areas or national parks can also conserve genetic resources in their natural habitats.

Mr. Chowdhury pointed out that forestry can also be extended into agriculture. Farmers can use agro-forestry systems to produce food, fuel and fodder. In such systems, one or more tree crop is combined with one or more food crop or animal farming on the same land. Well-chosen crops reinforce each other and yield more food and fuel than when grown separately. The technology is particularly suitable for small farmers and for poor-quality lands. Agro-forestry has been practised by traditional farmers worldwide. The challenge today is to improve upon the old methods and innovate new ideas.

Founded in 1948, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Information Centre. After completion of the pilot studies IUCN hopes to generate enough interest and support within the country so that they are eventually taken up at the national level.

In the near future IUCN plans to support action oriented rural based environmental programmes, particularly, related to population, human resource development and women's activities. Various proposals are now under process.

The role of the IUCN country office, as Abdul Malik Chowdhury pointed out, is to develop new projects and action programme related to natural resource conservation, environmental protection and to monitor successful implementation of IUCN projects. IUCN maintains close cooperation with the government, donor agencies and the NGOs and join hands in sustainable development of Bangladesh for the welfare of the people now and in future.

Abdul Malik Chowdhury got his degree from Indian forest college, Dehradun with further training in forestry in the USA and Australia. Mr. Chowdhury retired from government service of Bangladesh as Chief Conservator of Forests in 1983. Since then he has been busy as consultant on Forestry and Environment with various organisations, and joined the IUCN in October 1991. "An environment hostile for wildlife is an indicator that human existence is in danger," warned Abdul Malik Chowdhury as he concluded.

More support to Ekatturer Dalal Nirmool body

By Staff Correspondent

Twentyone student leaders have supported the 'Ekatturer Dalal Nirmool Committee' (the committee for uprooting the killers and collaborators of 71) planning trial of Golan Azam as a war criminal in a people's court on March 26, next.

The support was extended in a joint statement signed, among others, by Ashim Kumar Ukil of Chhatra League (S-A), Nazmul Haq Prodhan of Chhatra League (N-S), Nur Ahmed Bakul and Ragib Ahsan Munna of Chhatra Moitri, Ruhin Hossain Prince of Chhatra Union, Belal Chowdhury of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Abdus Sattar Khan of Chhatra League (S-A) and Moshrefa Mishu of Chhatra Oikya Forum.

Special privileges of MPs discussed

A meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on privileges yesterday discussed some matters relating to special privileges of the members of parliament and took a number of decisions, reports BSS.

Presided over by Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali the meeting was attended by Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain, State Minister for Law and Justice Md Aminul Haq, Tofael Ahmed MP, Md Matiur Rahman Nizami MP and Abu Eusuf Md Khalilur Rahman MP.

According to a Sangsad press release, Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major Gen (Retd) Majid-ul-Haq, State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad were also present at the meeting.

Kozyrev greets Mostafiz

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation A. Kozyrev has congratulated Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russian Federation and Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a message to his Bangladesh counterpart the Russian Foreign Minister expressed the hope that the Russian Federation and the Bangladesh would maintain further fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship using accumulated experience on developing relations on the basis of equality and goodwill.

JU English Alumni Assoc confce January 31

The third annual general meeting and get-together of the English Alumni Association of Jahangirnagar University will be held at the central cafeteria on January 31.

The day long programme will begin at 11 am.

A special bus will leave for campus from Osmani Udyan for the participants of the reunion.

Time	Programme
5:00	Opening announcement, Al Quran, programme Summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Ceeta
5:30	Cartoon : The Great Space Coaster
6:00	Sports programme : Wrestling
7:05	TV debate
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Janamat
9:00	Kotha-O-Sur
10:00	News in English
10:25	Parliament round-up
10:05	Film : Rescue
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tuesday's programme
11:45	Closing.

US envoy's role criticised

Jute workers threaten movement

Jute and cotton mill workers yesterday asked their private owners to implement the wages commission award immediately or face a vigorous movement, reports UNB.

The warning came at a press conference held jointly by the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad and Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation at their office. They also demanded lump allocation of Tk 1,500 for each worker on implementation of the award.

Otherwise, the workers will build movement for nationalisation of these private mills, the trade union leaders threatened.

The government entered an agreement with the workers on December 19 last year on implementation of the wages commission award in the private sector within four months, said one of the leaders.

Convener of Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad Abdul Bashir told newsmen that the workers were ready to

take over responsibilities of the mills and factories on stake for denationalisation. It's better than privatisation.

He said the workers are running 9,000 mills in America. Bashir was critical of the recent role of US Ambassador William B Matlam, suggesting the government for privatisation.

He asked the foreign envoy to refrain from such activity.

He urged the government for withdrawing criminal cases against workers immediately.

President of Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation Badrul Alam Lavlu also spoke.



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Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Mainly dry weather is likely over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday. Meteorological office forecast.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore and Kushtia. It will remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period.

Little change in weather would be noticed during subsequent two days. Met office also said.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	25.0	14.8	86	66
Chittagong	26.2	14.7	88	67
Rajshahi	25.2	12.0	100	80
Khulna	25.9	12.4	100	84
Feni	27.4	13.3	87	72
Srimangal	26.5	10.8	89	66
Cox's Bazar	26.3	14.8	68	74
Dinajpur	24.6	11.8	95	74
Teknaf	26.6	14.6	89	89
Isurdi	25.2	11.7	97	77

Sunset in Dhaka on Monday at 5-41 pm and sunrise Tuesday at 6-42 am.



Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, attended, as chief guest, the publication ceremony of the Text Book of Community Medicine and Public Health at the NIPSOM auditorium in the city yesterday.

Video teaching system in medical colleges suggested

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the medical students to devote themselves in acquiring knowledge for building them as good physicians, reports BSS.

He urged them to think about the medical problems of the people and be prepared to solve them.

Prof Chowdhury was speaking as the chief guest at the freshers reception and installation ceremony of Sir Salimullah Medical College Students Union (1991-92) here.

He also urged the teachers to behave with the students as their friends which will create a congenial atmosphere for proper delivery of knowledge to the students.

He suggested introduction of computer and video teaching system in the medical colleges and said video lectures prepared by best teachers could be interchanged in different colleges to maintain the same standard of teaching.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf was the special guest at the function.

Presided over by the principal of the college Prof M Kasimuddin the function was also addressed by the chairman of the freshers reception

committee Prof Pravakar Purakalita, vice-chairman Dr Mustafizur Rahman, vice-president of the students union Ehteshamul Tuhin, General Secretary Chowdhury Suif Jala and Treasurer Prof A K M Muntagin.

The Health Minister said there was a block allocation of a large amount of fund for improvement of medical colleges.

Publication ceremony

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said yesterday the book titled 'The Text of Community Medicine and Public Health' would play a significant role in the country's public health sector, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the publication ceremony of the book at the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) Mohakhali, National Professor Nurul Islam was the special guest on the occasion while Dr K M Rashid presided.

The book has been written by 39 renowned medical scientists of the country and edited by Professor M Khabiruddin, Dr K M Rashid and Dr Syed Haider.

Inclusion of RUJ in BFUJ voters' list declared illegal

A sub-judge's court here declared illegal the exclusion of councillors of Dinajpur Journalist Union and the inclusion of councillors of the Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) in the voters list of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), reports UNB.

Subordinate judge of 1st court of Dhaka Iktedar Uddin Ahmed delivered his judgment Saturday following a case filed by GM Yeakub, Wasiuddin, Akhtar Ahmed Khan and Shafiqur Rahman challenging the preparation of voters lists of the bi-ennial election of the central executive committee of BFUJ which was to take place in October 1990.

The court, however, held the inclusion of Bogra Union of Journalists and Jessore Union of Journalists as legal.

The court vacated its earlier order of injunction on holding the election.

Decision on free import of salt withdrawn

The government allowed free import of salt on November 24 last in view of shortfall in production. Commerce Minister M K Anwar told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

But the decision on free import was later withdrawn on January 6 last to protect the interests of local producers, he said.

Answering a question from independent member Nurul Islam Mont the Minister said the total deficit in salt requirement during 1991-92 was about two lakh tons.

The government has allowed imports of 1.75 lakh tons of salt through TCB in the public sector while another one lakh ton through 244 salt crushing mills, he said. The Minister attributed the fall in production of salt to cyclone and tidal waves in 1990-91.

The letters of credit, which have been opened for import of salt was worth about 81.17 lakh US dollar, he said.

The target of salt production during 1991-92 was set at seven lakh tons as against the requirement of 7.5 lakh tons, the Minister said. Thus there is a shortfall of salt by half a lakh tons during the period, he said.

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