

Dhaka Day by Day

Renewables and Solar Energy to the Rescue

by Fayza Haq

Cordula Brendel, who is here in Bangladesh, having been invited by the Goethe-Institut, Dhaka, to give a lecture on the utilization of renewable energy resources at BUET, had quite a few suggestions for our technical authorities.

Ms. Brendel thought that it was too early to give suggestions to Bangladesh as to what to do with their resources. All she could offer, she said, was to guide them to those technologies which were applicable to Bangladesh.

There is for instance, plenty of solar energy and water resources in the Hill Tracts, which are only periodically available, as I was told, apart from the wind energy in the coastal areas. I felt that biomass organic matter may be somewhat difficult to use because of the type of cutting which is not quite appropriate, but is being done in Bangladesh. You need about 100 cows to produce an adequate amount of biomass. To collect the residue of cattle involves problems. However, solar energy is easily available. Another hindrance in Bangladesh is the infrastructure of power supply. There are many remote areas that are not connected to the public electric-grid, and there would be a considerable cost-effective pre-condition in order to use solar energy: e.g. there is 'photovoltaic', better known as a technique of solar cells, from which electrical power can be produced," she informed.

"I realise the energy expert added, that it is too expensive to carry out this project immediately, although there are many coastal areas, and northern districts, such as Sylhet, and other places which are not connected to the grid—especially the villages. The coastal islands also remain neglected. As I have already mentioned, there is periodical water supply discharge, which is now possible to use for power production. Even small portable motor power plants can supply about 5 kilowatts of energy per hour which is enough to supply an entire village with electrical power," Ms. Brendel added.

"They can have refrigerators too for medicines for health services. I talked to Bangladeshis for two months, and they told me of their needs. I have visited Sunamganj, where I stayed for five days. I have seen other sites too, but only for a period of a day or a couple of days. In the villages, I found that there was dire need of power supply by grids," she added.

The energy expert continued, "Supply is necessary, because they could result in the use of solar cookers instead of the energy wasting

cookers in the villages. Fairly cheap solar cookers could be imported from India, across the borders, which are locally produced in India by Indo-German co-operation, and which costs about Rs. 500 each. They are box-type cookers and would be good for fuel savers.

"However, you cannot replace a conventional stove cooker as solar energy is not available in the evening. It would be a good fuel saver and it would make the work easier for the women, as the women have to do the cooking, as I witnessed myself," Ms. Brendel said furthermore.

She added, "Social acceptance must be there. In India, this was one of the problems for the bio-gas plants, because people were not used to cook with gas, to begin with, in the rural areas i.e., and would not easily accept the use of residuals, which went into the manufacture of the gas. Pig-droppings, cow-droppings, chicken-droppings, could be used. The municipal co-operation many use any completely organic matter. You can also use human excretion, but people, however, may not like to cook from the last type of biomass."

In order to save the energy resources, Ms. Brendel suggested that every kind of telecommunication, as well as small applications, as in the case of torch-lights, should be done. Any conventional electrical appliance can be supplied by solar energy. This also applies to the pumps, essential for irrigation and drinking water.

The experts at the D.U. are aware of the use of solar energy," Ms. Brendel informed, "but clear guidelines are missing where the government authorities are concerned. The scientists feel the constraint by the ruling political power. Solar-cell installations should be made by authorities who run the country," Ms. Brendel added.

"You need a plan and education for solar energy to be used in the villages. As for the garbage from the municipal trucks in the city, the authorities have yet to invest in their recycling process. This involves not only financial support but also social and political assistance. The people must be prepared mentally, economically and socially, and only then can solar power be used adequately," the energy expert explained.

It was enlightening for one to meet the intelligent and enthusiastic energy expert, who was born in Munich, and was educated at Bonn. Ms. Brendel is basically a town-planner and geographer by training. At present, she is preoccupied with P.R. work of the renewables on a scientific level, as an energy conscious town-planner.

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Cordula Brendel

Khaleda greets Australian PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating on his party's victory in general elections, reports BSS.

In a message today, Prime Minister Begum Zia said, "Please accept my warm felicitations on your party's victory in the recent general election in Australia under your dynamic leadership."

"I hope to continue to work closely with you in further strengthening the friendly ties that already exist between our two countries and for promoting peace and stability in the world."

"I take this opportunity to convey my sincere wishes for your good health, happiness and long life."

BAU deferred exams to start April 11

The postponed M. Sc. examinations of seven departments of Bangladesh Agricultural University for 1988 and 1989 will begin on April 11, reports UNB.

According to a BAU press release received here yesterday, the examination will be held in Veterinary Science, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics, Agri Statistics (Preliminary) and Agri Economics (General).

Besides, the M. Sc. (Ag) and M. Sc. (Ag Ext. Ed) examinations will commence on 8 April as per earlier announcement.

50 Taka prize bond draw results

The 44th draw of 50 Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held yesterday at the conference room of the Commissioner Office, Dhaka division. The Additional Commissioner, Dhaka division presided it over, says a press release.

The draw was held under the system of single common draw and applied to all the 24 series in the 50 Taka Prize Bonds currently in circulation.

The following common numbers were draw:

First Prize of Tk 2,50,000 for No. 0363263  
Second Prize of Tk 50,000 for No. 0245285  
Four Prizes of Tk 5,000 Each for nos: 0266792, 0360131, 0461377 and 0466200; Four Prizes of Tk 2,500 each for nos: 0021328, 0236479, 0246981 and 0485391 and Ninety Prizes of Tk 500 each for the following nos:

Table with 3 columns: Nos, Prizes, Amounts. Lists winning numbers for various prize tiers.

BPDSA seminar March 19

Bangladesh Private Dental Surgeons Association (BPDSA) will hold a seminar on "Implantation, crown bridge and modern concept on dentistry on Mar 19 at Hotel Purbani International, reports BSS.

Eminent Maxillo-Facial surgeons Dr. Bruce J. Munroe and Dr. Michael D. Bowler of New Castle, Australia will participate.

The Association will also organise a free camp on oral and dental treatment for the poor patient at Gazipur Mohila College on March 18, from 9 am to 3 pm. Free medicines will also be distributed in the camp.

Dr. Bruce J. Munroe and Dr. Michael D. Bowler have offered free consultancy and treatment.

Bangladesh Private Dental Surgeons Association has requested all the graduate dental surgeons of Bangladesh (Government and private) to participate in the seminar and camp.

Decision of appointing UP Chairmen TDC chiefs hailed

By Staff Correspondent

The Engineers-Agriculturists-Doctors and BCS Coordination Committee Monday lauded the recent government decision to appoint the elected Union Parishad chairmen to head the thana development committees as an "objective and positive development."

However, in a statement the committee expressed "deep concern" at the decision to appoint the Thana Nirbahi Officers, a member of the BCS (Administrative) cadre, as the member-secretary of the Thana Development Committee.

A meeting of the coordination committee held at the Engineers Institution on the day discussed the government decisions taken at the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reform

(NICAR) meeting on Sunday. Presided over by committee Chairman Dr. M. A. Majed, the meeting was also attended by Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Md. Abu Hena, Engineer MAK Azad, Engineer Ruhul Matin, Agriculturist Javed Iqbal and others.

A resolution at the meeting said: "We laud the government step to appoint the Union Parishad chairmen, in a cyclic order, as the Chairman of the Thana Development Coordination Committees and the appointment of the honorable Members of Parliament as Advisors of the committees, aimed at making the elected representatives role a principle one, as an objective and positive development."

Expressing "deep concern" at the decision to appoint the TNOs of the BCS (Administrative) cadre, as the Member-Secretary of the committees, the resolution read: "We fear that providing such a responsibility to a particular group of bureaucrats would again foil the move to democratise the administration as in the past."

The committee suggested that the Member-Secretary and Secretary to the Chairman of the Thana Development Committee should be directly appointed on a full-time basis.



Tuesday

Table of TV program schedule for Tuesday, listing times and program titles.

What's on today...

Ritwik Film Society Ritwik Film Society, in cooperation with the German Cultural Centre, will screen the German film 'Max Ernst', as part of its session on documentary films, today (Tuesday) at 3.15 pm at the German Cultural Centre auditorium.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday) says rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over the regions of Bogra, Pabna, Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The minimum temperature of 17.8 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet yesterday (Monday) and the maximum of 36.0 degree was reported from Rajshahi.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.08 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6.06 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Table showing temperature and humidity for various cities and towns.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Morocco and Palestine Abdul Quayyum presented his credential to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat recently. - PID photo

Flood action plan won't affect environmental balance: Majid

The visiting special envoy of French President Madame Anne Lauvergeon called on the Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M. Majid-ul-Haq at his office here yesterday, reports BSS.

Workshops were also held in Sylhet, Mymensingh, Tangail and Jessore to make the people understand the usefulness of flood action plan and such workshops will be held in different important centres to know their opinion.

They discussed the components and studies of flood action plan in Bangladesh.

Majid-ul-Haq explained to the French envoy the initial formalities and the phases of flood action plan in detail. He said, the implementation of flood action plan will not affect the environmental balance. The programme has started with a workshop and

members of all conscious sections of the society including the peoples' representatives took part in that workshop, he added.

It was observed that people of all walks of life are interested to implement the flood action plan as early as possible, he said.

The Irrigation Minister requested the envoy to implement the whole of the 26 components of flood action plan simultaneously to minimise excessive expenditure and time.

The envoy of the French President expressed that her government will take necessary steps to inform the plan in detail to the members of European Parliament. She assured to arrange a discussion meeting in Europe, where she will invite the representative of Bangladesh government.

The envoy also showed interest to import agricultural goods from Bangladesh.

Earlier, she flew over the different areas of Jamalpur district and adjacent region to see for herself the river situation. She also called on the State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharif Hossain Shahjahan at his office.

The State Minister also sought cooperation of the French government in implementation of flood action plan in Bangladesh.

PM accepts YMCA invitation

Members of Dhaka Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and expressed their gratitude to her for taking necessary measures to transfer a plot of land to the Association, reports BSS.

Late President Ziaur Rahman had given the directives to allocate the plot of land to YMCA to construct its office building in 1981.

The members of the association said the plot was not transferred to the association by the past autocratic regime.

They said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had taken necessary measures to transfer the plot of land on which a multi-storied office building of the association would be constructed.

The members requested the Prime Minister to attend the foundation laying ceremony of the building, to be held soon. She agrees to attend the function.

Those, who called on the Prime Minister at her office, included Prof. Gabriel Manik Gomez, President Dhaka YMCA, Tapan Chowdhury, President Bangladesh YMCA National Council, Arole D. Robertson, Vice President Bangladesh YMCA National Council, James P. Mridha, General Secretary Dhaka YMCA and Matthew Malakar, former National General Secretary YMCA National Council.

Advocate Mahbub awarded State Language Gold Medal

Advocate Kazi Golam Mahbub was awarded State Language Gold Medal, 1993 yesterday for his outstanding contribution during the historical Language Movement, reports UNB.

Principal Abul Kashem State Language Gold Medal Council announced the award on the occasion of "Rashta Bahasha Chuktidibash" yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the council with its President Dr. Innas Ali in the chair Sunday, said a press release.

Advertisement for 'Dhaka City Corporation' (ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন) regarding public works and drainage projects. Includes contact info and a table of project details.

Advertisement for 'Arthkhon Adalat' (অর্থখন আদালত) under the 1990 Arbitration Act. Includes details about the arbitration process and contact information.

Notice of Tender Military Engineer Services

1. Applications are hereby invited by AHQ, E-in-C's Branch, Works Dtc, Dhaka Cantonment for issue of tender documents for the following works by 20 March, 1993:

- a. Construction of 1X Lawn Tennis Court for DSC&SC Mirpur Cantt.
b. Manufacture & supply of furniture and supply & fixing of 8 Nos Freeze against 8X'D' type qtr for foreign student officers at DSC&SC Mirpur Cantt.
c. Construction of training shed for special warfare ground at SI&T Jhalabad Cantt.
d. Construction of 1X2 Class-I Staff qtr over existing bldg at Jhenidah Cadet College.
e. Construction of 1X8 Class-II Staff qtr at Barisal Cadet College.

2. Bonafide enlisted Contractors/Firms of class 'C' of MES may apply for tender documents. Enlistment Index No., Class, VAT Registration No., Name of Proprietor, P/Ty address and Telephone No. (if any) for MES enlisted Contractors/Firms must be shown clearly in their applications. Incomplete application will not be accepted.

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