

Environmental action plan Move to involve people in decision-making

By Masud Hasan Khan

A country-wide campaign to elicit people's views on the draft National Environmental Management Action Plan (NEMAP) has been launched opening a new horizon of cooperation between the government and the non-government organisations (NGOs).

The joint programme was launched last Wednesday at a workshop at Comilla where a cross section of people expressed their views on different environmental issues and put forward suggestions.

Government officials and NGO community leaders said the workshop, held at the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) at Kotbari, was one of the few instances where the government and the voluntary development organisations of the country worked together to chalk out an environmental programme for the country.

The two-day workshop was attended by 50 rural people, most of them women. They gave their opinions about the most pressing environmental issues of the area like sand deposition in the river Gumi, ex-

tinction of fish and bird species and loss of rice crops due to increased production of high yielding variety (HYV) paddy, the organisers of the workshop said.

National problems like indiscriminate use of pesticide, loss of soil fertility and lack of people's participation in the family planning programme also came up for discussion.

The organisers said, the workshop at Comilla was the first of 24 workshops to be held in different areas of the country. These workshops would be followed by divisional level meetings and a national workshop to involve the common people in the decision-making of the environmental management programme.

Earlier, the draft of the NEMAP could not be finalised because of differences of opinion between the environmental activists and some NGOs who said more discussions were needed on the issue.

Meanwhile, the World Bank is also not disbursing any credit in the absence of any action plan on environment.

Speaker's 'no' to debate

From Page 1 Col 7
parliaments India and Britain to point out that there was no scope for a general debate on the non-specific allegations of corruption against a member of any bench — be it the treasury or the opposition.

However, referring to the JS Rules of Procedure, Razzak Ali said any member was free to move any motion seeking a discussion on the alleged corruptions of any member of the House. "If the motion is moved as per rules, I am ready to accept the motion," the speaker assured the legislators.

Despite the ruling of the chair, the leader of the Opposition took the floor to demand a 'specific date' for a general debate on corruptions.

Arguing in favour of the demand, Sheikh Hasina said that as both the opposition and the treasury benches had agreed to have a debate, the chair should not hesitate to give the schedule for a discussion.

When Tofael Ahmed (AL) sought the floor to say something on the issue, the speaker told him that there was no parliamentary convention of challenging the speaker's ruling.

Tofael said he had no intention to challenge the ruling, specially relating to the rejection of the adjournment motions on the reported corruptions of the ministers.

About the Speaker's observations on the general debate on 'corruptions', Tofael said, it was the chair's obligation to accept the demand, especially when the 'entire House was in favour of a debate'.

In reply to Tofael, the Speaker maintained that the chair was not bound to give in to the demand, wherever it came from, in violation of the rules and conventions of parliamentary practices across the world.

"If you can show me a single instance of a general debate, on the basis of unsubstantiated allegation of corruption, taking place anywhere in the world, I am ready to bow to the demand here in this House," the Speaker said.

At this point, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister

Secretariat bill

From Page 1 Col 8
the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister in charge of parliamentary affairs and the Finance Minister or their nominees as members.

The Commission will decide upon the structure, rules, terms of service of officials and the budget for the secretariat.

The bill was, however, opposed by Abu Lais Mohammad Mobin Chowdhury of Jatiya Party who argued that it was inadequate to fulfil the provisions of the Constitution. His objection was rejected by voice vote.

Rafiqul Islam Mia, also in charge of the Law Ministry in parliament, contended that rules for the secretariat would be framed by the Commission after adoption of the bill. The doubts expressed by the members are baseless, he said.

A similar bill introduced last year by Awami League's Prof Rafiqul Islam and scrutinised by the House Standing Committee, is already before the House for consideration.

The private member's bill was considered inadequate and hence the government came up with a comprehensive one.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhammandi B/A, Dhaka-1206. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



An Israeli frontier guard arrested a Palestinian woman during a demonstration in Arab East Jerusalem yesterday, held to protest Friday's massacre in Hebron. — AFP photo

Hasina defends relations with Jamaat in JS

By Nurul Kabir

Sheikh Hasina yesterday told her colleagues in the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) that there should be no question about the party's working relations with the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh inside the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

Hasina made this observation at the meeting of the party's parliamentary wing held yesterday afternoon at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

She, however, told the party MPs that the AL would not maintain any relations with the Jamaat outside Parliament.

Arguing in favour of her position on the issue, Hasina said that she was the leader of all the opposition parties in Parliament including the Jamaat.

There was nothing wrong in maintaining relations with the Jamaat in the House especially in the case of parliamentary practice," Hasina said.

She made this comment with a view to clearing the party's ethical position in the context of the critical views on the recent Al-Jamaat relations published in a section of newspapers, and MP who attended the meeting told The Daily Star last night.

The AL chief, also directed the party MPs to be vocal on the JS floor against the alleged corruptions of the ruling party.

The meeting sources said, she asked the MPs not to miss any chance on the Parliament floor to criticise the alleged corrupt practices of the government.

Beginning at 2:30 pm the meeting lasted for an hour.

DU student killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A final year student of the Marketing Department of the Dhaka University (DU) was killed when a speeding bus knocked his rickshaw on the Mazar Road, Mirpur in the city about 4:30 pm yesterday.

The victim, Mohammed Zamilur Rahman, 25, was seriously injured and rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors on duty declared him dead.

Police seized the bus (Dhaka Ja-244) but its driver managed to escape.

Side by side with the Speaker's announcement to adjourn the House, Sheikh Hasina took the floor to announce that the opposition was left with no option but to walk out in protest against the chair's refusal to allow a general debate on corruptions.

The adjournment of the House and the walk out came almost simultaneously at 1:55 pm.

Later, the ruling party and the opposition held separate press briefings.

Earlier, the Parliament Secretariat Bill, 1994 seeking the setting up of a separate secretariat for the Jatiya Sangsad was introduced in the House by voice vote. The Jatiya Party opposed the introduction of the bill.

The House resumes at 10 this morning.

Gunshots rock DU

The Dhaka University campus was rocked again with gunshots early yesterday, reports UNB.

Campus sources said at least six rounds of gunshots were heard at about 4 am and around the Surjans and Mohsin Hall areas.

Another shot was also heard at the university mall area at about 12 noon. Panic stricken students ran helter-skelter for safety.

The BNP Secretary General, at the briefing was flanked by Deputy Leader of the House Prof B Chowdhury, Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Food Minister Lt. Gen (retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq and Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara.

Talukder said considering all aspects of the notices as per rules and on the basis of

4 Sarbaharamen killed by their fellows

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Feb 28: Four members of the outlawed Bhabanbanglar Sharbahara Party were murdered here in early hours today reportedly by their fellow activists as a sequel to intraparty conflicts.

Local Superintendent of Police Mohammad Jahangir briefed journalists at his office this afternoon about the killings and showed three of the four slain bodies recovered by the Alamdanga thana police of today.

According to police, Nazrul Islam, Sattar and 'bullet' Sattar were killed in Kabilnagar of Alamdanga thana at about 1:30 am today. Police recovered the bodies from there and brought those to the thana. The three Sharbahara Party members were wanted in connection with several murders and arms cases, police said.

Another activist of the Sharbahara Party, Shamsul Islam alias Pocha was found

Normalcy returns to Eye Hospital, claims Mustafiz

Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Director (Admin) of the Islamia Eye Hospital, yesterday said the hospital had resumed its normal functioning after restoration of the authority of its management committee on Thursday, reports UNB.

"Normalcy has returned with the cooperation of doctors, nurses and employees. Doctors attended about 500 patients today," he told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon.

The AL chief, also directed the party MPs to be vocal on the JS floor against the alleged corruptions of the ruling party.

The meeting sources said, she asked the MPs not to miss any chance on the Parliament floor to criticise the alleged corrupt practices of the government.

Beginning at 2:30 pm the meeting lasted for an hour.

DU student killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A final year student of the Marketing Department of the Dhaka University (DU) was killed when a speeding bus knocked his rickshaw on the Mazar Road, Mirpur in the city about 4:30 pm yesterday.

The victim, Mohammed Zamilur Rahman, 25, was seriously injured and rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors on duty declared him dead.

Police seized the bus (Dhaka Ja-244) but its driver managed to escape.

Side by side with the Speaker's announcement to adjourn the House, Sheikh Hasina took the floor to announce that the opposition was left with no option but to walk out in protest against the chair's refusal to allow a general debate on corruptions.

The adjournment of the House and the walk out came almost simultaneously at 1:55 pm.

Later, the ruling party and the opposition held separate press briefings.

Earlier, the Parliament Secretariat Bill, 1994 seeking the setting up of a separate secretariat for the Jatiya Sangsad was introduced in the House by voice vote. The Jatiya Party opposed the introduction of the bill.

The House resumes at 10 this morning.

Gunshots rock DU

The Dhaka University campus was rocked again with gunshots early yesterday, reports UNB.

Campus sources said at least six rounds of gunshots were heard at about 4 am and around the Surjans and Mohsin Hall areas.

Another shot was also heard at the university mall area at about 12 noon. Panic stricken students ran helter-skelter for safety.

The BNP Secretary General, at the briefing was flanked by Deputy Leader of the House Prof B Chowdhury, Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Food Minister Lt. Gen (retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq and Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara.

Talukder said considering all aspects of the notices as per rules and on the basis of

observations of Kabul's parliamentary practices, the Speaker by his ruling yesterday disallowed a discussion on 'allegations out of blue'.

He said that for the last few days they (BNP) did not react to the 'wild goose hunting' by the opposition to uphold the institution of the office of the Speaker and institutional parliamentary practice. But the way the opposition had been trying to create a situation in the House out of nothing was only to undermine the parliamentary practice, he observed.

Referring to the speeches of Awami League member Tofael Ahmed and leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina in JS yesterday Salam Talukder said that while Tofael did not contest Speaker's ruling, Sheikh Hasina took an opposite stand saying that individual members could speak against the ruling of the chair.

Pointing to Sheikh Hasina's threat to walk out from the House in protest against the Speaker's ruling, Salam Talukder said that the Awami League now had friends in Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party for mutual convenience.

The BNP Secretary General observed that only to advance selfish political game, Awami League has found friends in arch enemy Golam Azam and JP. Even 'Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee' is not giving any programme now, he said.

He categorically said that nobody was above rules and there was no scope for anybody to transgress rules of the House.

If politics is a game, then

there should be some rules, he said adding, 'time has come that we should decide our strategy.'

Referring to a news item published in a local daily, Barrister Salam Talukder said it was alleged there (report) that an opposition lady leader had several millions in foreign bank. He, however, said that they did not go for wild goose hunting based on newspaper report.

Summing up the whole gamut of opposition's behaviour in the House, the BNP Secretary General said that while the people in general pinned much hope on the present parliament to advance democracy, we are giving through the parliamentary probe committee to investigate the allegations of corruption against Agriculture, Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Major General (Retd) M Majidul Huq and the ministry concerned.

Sheikh Hasina said that the essence of democracy was that the government would be transparent and accountable to Parliament. But here, the BNP government considers it to be above criticism and is trying to guide the proceedings of the House as per 'their sweet will.'

Clinton said helicopters have violated the NATO 'no-fly' zone in the past, but there have been no fixed-wing violations by fighter planes since September.

Those are much more serious because the capacity they have to engage in military conduct from the air,' he said.

British Prime Minister John Major, who was in Washington ahead of a meeting with Clinton in Pittsburgh later in the day, endorsed the action.

Commissioner for Refugees, Relief and Repatriation Golam Murza, DIG of Chittagong and officials concerned with the repatriation process were present in the meeting.

DUCSU election schedule announced

By DU Correspondent

The University authorities announced the schedule of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) elections yesterday.

Returning officers for DUCSU in each hall will receive nomination papers from 8 am to 12 noon on March 26 in the hall offices.

The nomination papers will be distributed from March 21 to 26 from 10 am to 4 pm from all the Provosts' offices in the halls.

Scrutiny of nomination papers of DUCSU and hall union polls will be held on March 26 at 1 pm. Besides, the withdrawal of nominations will be allowed until noon on March 31.

The voting of DUCSU and hall unions will be held in all the 14 halls on April 12 from 8 in the morning to 2 in the afternoon without any break.

All the voters will have to show their identity cards to the polls authority before casting their votes.

The final voters' list will be published on March 23 at 4 pm and a supplementary list of voters will be announced at 4 pm on April 11. Meanwhile, a draft voters' list will be published on March 2 at 2 in the afternoon.

The authorities have suggested the hall administration to nominate a Returning Officer in every hall for the DUCSU polls, sources said, adding that these Returning Officers will maintain liaison with the Chief Election Commissioner.

Besides, the DU authorities will form an advisory committee for the polls shortly.

Test of BNP, AL

From Page 1 Col 3
parties, dealing with student affairs, may be given the charges of guiding their respective student bodies for the DUCSU polls.

Ch