

Change in admin, laws suggested for effective land reform

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the capital yesterday said any attempt to reform the existing land system must be supplemented by other measures like land administration reforms, updating the present land laws and a proper documentation system.

They said the question of land reforms has been marginalised after independence because of poor political response and absence of any implementation mechanism.

The Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD) and Oxfam, Bangladesh, jointly organised the seminar on "Land Reform: Agenda in the 1990s" at the Caritas auditorium at Malibagh.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, a Senior Research Fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

Abdur Rab Chowdhury MP, ADAB Chairperson Khushi Kabir, noted economists Dr Atiur Rahman and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Journalist Rahat Khan, Abdus Sattar Khan of Bangladesh Khas Federation and ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda took part in the discussion.

Hossain Zillur Rahman in his paper said, attempts to reform the land system of the country have proved a flop because the issue never got due importance from the political leadership.

He said that between 1930s and 1940s land reform was a major national issue. However, after independence, it became marginalised in the political agenda.

Besides, land reforms could not be possible due to age-old administrative system in the country, he said.

Dr Rahman informed the seminar that total land area in the country was approximately 35 million acres of which only two-thirds under cultivation.

The fallow land as a proportion of total land area was less than three per cent, he said, per capita land availability was under 20 decimals.

He said that at the beginning of this century, there was one person for each acre of land while, now, there are five persons for each acre.

Hossain Zillur Rahman said that with the present population growth, per capita availability of land could rise to as much as eight persons by the end of the century.

The total landlessness in the country stood at 53 per cent of the total households during 1980s, he said, adding that with the increased migration of rural population to urban areas increase in the rate of rural landlessness may have slowed down in the 1990s.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said the net cropping area in the country was more than 53 per cent.

He said agriculture growth was required in the rural

economy which would lead to surplus, increasing the buying capacity of the majority population.

Rahat Khan said, criss-crossing 'aals' (the land boundaries) symbolised the state of land in the country.

"Our politicians never paid their attention to the need for land reforms, he said, 'because they had to spend more time on removing the constitutional problems than looking at the people's problems.'"

Abdur Rab Chowdhury pointed out that a law in 1950 abolished the 'jamdari' system in the country eliminating all rent-seeking interests for the interest of the common people.

But the present waterbody leasing system brought back not only the feudal system but also their repression, he said.

The Member of Parliament

said, without strengthening the existing local governments, any attempt to reform lands would prove futile.

Union parishads have to be activated, he said, putting all state-owned land under the union parishad, so that they would list the amount of khas land and the number of landless people.

Chowdhury, a lawyer by profession, suggested the setting up of 'land court' at the union level for better identification of the landless people.

He also strongly spoke against the utility of having land registration offices saying the offices made the existing land documentation system more complicated.

Dr Atiur Rahman pointed out that the policy planners and NGOs should give attention not only to the moderate poor but also to the potential poor.

Productive assets of the country have been destroyed in the name of development, he said pointing out that the land acquired for bungalows of the DC, and SPs at the districts prove what kind of development usually takes place in the rural areas.

Abdus Sattar Khan said, development initiatives and high technology in agriculture have 'deep fried' the lives of the farmers wiping out their indigenous farming knowledge.

Khushi Kabir said, the landless people aspiring for 'khas land' have been repressed by the vested groups with 10 to 12 false cases filed against each of them.

Shamsul Huda hoped the politicians would restore the priority of the land reforms in their political agenda and bring about the desired economic emancipation of the people.

SC vacation bench

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has constituted a vacation bench to deal with urgent matters of the High Court Division during the period of vacation, a notification of Supreme Court said yesterday, reports BSS.

The two-member vacation bench has been constituted with Justice B B Roy Chowdhury and Justice D M Ansaruddin Ahmed.

The court has gone into vacation from yesterday and the leave will last till January next.

During the vacation period, Justice Ansaruddin Ahmed will sit in the court room no 8 on December 18 and 19 while Justice Roy Chowdhury will sit in the court room no 6 on December 26 and 27 for hearing of special emergency matters, the notification added.

Dhaka Youth Foundation anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Youth Foundation will hold a reception in honour of some eminent persons on the occasion of its founding anniversary on January 20.

The programme will be held at the Institution of Engineers' in the city, said a press release.

On the occasion, it added a souvenir titled "Rhodaye Dhaka" will be published. The foundation has urged all interested persons to send their articles on the Liberation War or the tradition of Dhaka to A Sarkar Babu, B 29, Block E, Zakir Hossain Road, Mohammadpur or Md. Munir Hossain Mintu, 198, Bangsal Road, Dhaka.

Dr Angus in city to give lectures at universities

Dr Angus Calder, an eminent literary critic and writer, is now visiting Bangladesh to deliver a series of lectures at the universities of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar and Rajshahi, says a press release.

He will also give lectures on "Colonial and Post-Colonial Literature" at a Conference on Colonial and Post-Colonial Encounters at Dhaka University from December 20-22, 'Commonwealth Literature' and 'TS Eliot's Poetry' at Jahangirnagar University on December 17 and 18 respectively.

He will give lecture on 'Post-Colonialism' at Rajshahi University today.



Rotary District 3280 Bangladesh arranged a reception to the surgeons and physicians who conducted first ever IOL Eye Camp sponsored by the Rotary District Bangladesh recently at Rotary District Secretariat. Rtn M Mosharrat Hossain is seen welcoming the surgeons and doctors.

Death anniversary

The 23rd death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Mafiz Uddin Khan will be observed today, says a press release.

Dr Khan was killed in an air attack by the Pakistan Army at his residence at 106, New Elephant Road, Dhaka, on this day in 1971.

A *milad mahfil* and *Quaran khawani* will be held at his residence to pray for the departed soul.

BSC confce begins today

A conference of the agents of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) of 16 countries of Asia and Africa begins today in the port city of Chittagong, reports BSS.

The two-day conference will be inaugurated by Secretary of the Shipping Ministry Waliul Islam.

ASA's annual meet begins

The three-day annual coordination meeting of the Association for Special Advancement (ASA) began Monday at the city's WVA auditorium, says an ASA press release yesterday.

The prime objective of the meeting is to analyse the constraints faced during implementation programmes of the organisation throughout the year and to draw up next year's plan, the release added.

The inaugural meeting was presided over by Md Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, chief executive, ASA.

60 arrested in city

Police arrested 60 people, including 12 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city yesterday, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

All the arrested were produced before the court.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent
Income tax adviser and Advocate Md Sirajul Islam died at his residence at South Goran yesterday afternoon. He was 54.

He was suffering from various diseases for long time. Islam left behind his wife, a son, three daughters and a host of admirers.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Baitul Mukarram mosque after Zohr prayers today.

Dr Benajir Kamal, FRCS (Edinburgh), died yesterday at London. He was 45, says a press release.

Dr Kamal, the consultant urologist of the BIRDEM and the Specialised Hospital (Pvt) Ltd, left behind his wife Dr Alyson Reive, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.



Students of the Dhaka University demonstrating in front of the office of vice chancellor yesterday for shifting the Honours and Master degree examinations. — Star photo

'Govt initiates integrated tree plantation'

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrat Hossain Monday said the government has initiated an integrated tree plantation programme to maintain ecological balance and environmental upgradation across the country, reports BSS.

He urged the botanists to extend their all-out help and cooperation for the successful implementation of the tree plantation programme to increase the green areas and develop forest resources of the country.

The energy minister was inaugurating the 8th biennial botanical conference held at the BARC auditorium here.

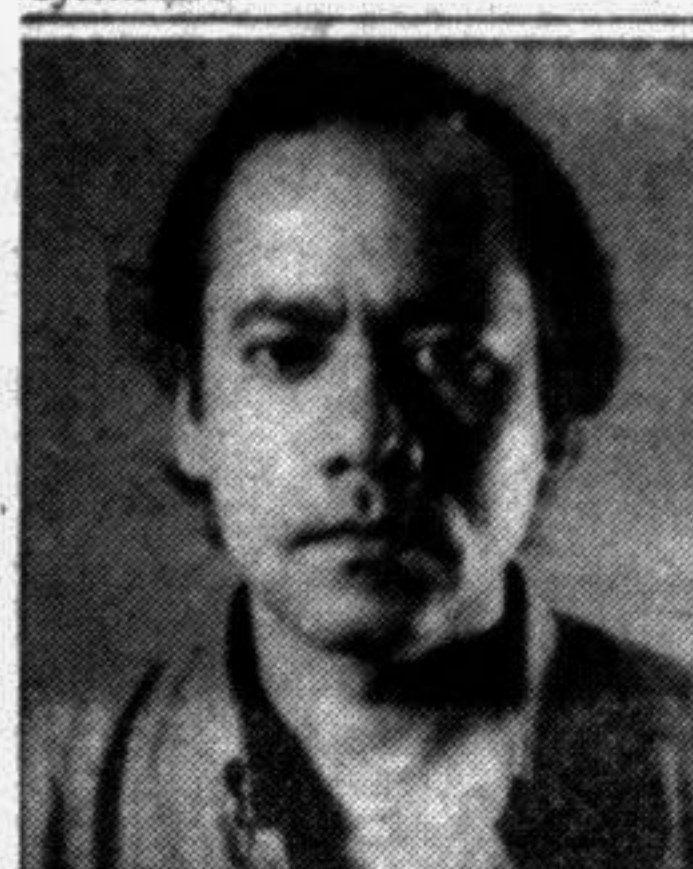
Sponsored by the Bangladesh Botanical Society, the inaugural session was also addressed by the chairman of the conference organising committee and Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Dr S D Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Botanical Society Prof Salar Khan and general secretary Prof Abdul Aziz.

Over one hundred botanists and experts from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and host Bangladesh are taking part in the six technical sessions of the two-day conference.

The energy minister said, Bangladesh has the heritage of a very rich and varied biological diversity of thousands of species of flowering plants. But due to the lack of proper care, a large number of species of flora and fauna area being threatened with gradual extinction, he said adding, deforestation, forest conversion, agricultural and industrial pollution, flood control and other exploitation of biological resources are the main factors of loss of biological diversity. It is urgent need to undertake a serious study and prepare a complete inventory of our rich

and varied plant bio-diversity as early as possible before they face extinction, he said.

Dr Mosharrat Hossain said, plants have always been very useful for the survival of mankind and important factor to the welfare of men. They not only provide food for men but also give shelter, clothing, medicare and other amenities of life, he said and added: "plants can tap solar energy through the process of photosynthesis."



Kamal's painting exhibition begins today

By Staff Correspondent

A fortnight-long solo exhibition of paintings by T A Kamal Kabir opens at the gallery of Alliance Francaise today.

The exhibition, Kamal's first since 1978, will be inaugurated by renowned cartoonist Rafiqul Nabi at 4:30 pm. Director-in-charge, Department of Fine Arts, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Subir Choudhury, will be present as special guest.

Forty-four works in oil, acrylic and mixed media will be on display.

The show will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm everyday barring Saturdays, until December 30.

77 DU teachers slam bomb attack

By Staff Correspondent

Seventy-seven teachers of the Dhaka University in a joint statement yesterday strongly condemned the bomb attack on the residence of Justice Kazi A T Monwaruddin and demanded a probe into the incident to punish the persons responsible.

Expressing their grave concern, the teachers said such attack would discourage many judges from performing their duties independently.

Supreme Court is the guardian of the Constitution, they said, "adding therefore we must always be respectful to the verdict of the judges."

Prof Alam's clarification

By DU Correspondent

Professor A H M Mahbubul Alam yesterday said that the clarification of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) which was published Saturday was not 'logical and satisfactory'.

The DUTA, in a statement Saturday, said that the association had proposed suspension of two teachers — Professor Alam and Professor Harunur Rashid Khan — only for the sake of a proper investigation into the allegations which were brought against them by the teachers of the Economics Department of the university.

Prof Alam in his statement yesterday said, "The statements of the DUTA are illogical, unreasonable, unconvincing and politically motivated."

The faculty members of the Economics Department demanded dismissal of these two teachers for their alleged 'corruption' and 'unethical' activities last week.

But both professors denied the allegations.

Body of Law Association

By Staff Correspondent

Advocate Mohammad Zakir Hossain and advocate Biplob Saha were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Law Association yesterday.

The election to the association's executive council for the year 1995 was held at the Science Annex Building of the Dhaka University during its ninth annual conference, said a news release.

Other elected office-bearers were: vice-presidents: Abul Hossain Khandaker, Abul Kashem Surjan, Noor Md Jahangir, Md Abdur Rab Howladar and Md Akhteruzzaman; joint secretaries: Md Abul Kalam and A K M Afzalul Munir; assistant secretary: Md Jahangir Alam; organising secretary: Ataul Karim Khan; finance secretary: Syed Tanwir Ahmed; literacy, education and research secretary: Jalaluddin; publicity and public relations secretary: Susanta Kumar Saha; law and social welfare secretary: Manzur Md Shahnewaz Tipu; sports, culture and entertainment secretary: Md Mynul Haq; publication secretary: Syed Azad Surhani; office secretary: Nasheet Mustafiz Rahman; assistant office secretary: Kamrul Hossain Tito; international affairs secretary: Mohammad Shahjahan and executive members: Golam Mahub, Abu Md Mortaish, Molla Abu Kowar, Kazi Jamil Haq, Sarkar Tahmina Sandhya, Rafiqul Islam Tipu, Meherunnessa Mala, Md Muniruzzaman, Ruhul Inman, Zahurul Haq and Nurul Islam Shaker.

Dr Atiur Rahman, senior research fellow of BIDS, addressing the opening session of three-day annual coordination meeting of the ASA at city's WVA auditorium Monday.

Buddhist Trust okays Tk one lakh for Ctg Bihar

A meeting of the Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust was held yesterday in the Ministry of Religious Affairs with Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

4 JCD activists' release demanded

Leaders of the Jahangirnagar University unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday demanded release of four JCD activists who had been rounded up by police during a hall raid last month, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at the JUCSU building, JCD leaders Masud Hasan and Manirul Islam also demanded that those accused in the Dipu murder case be arrested immediately.

Annual picnic

The annual picnic of the Ex-students' Association of Siddeswari High School (1967 batch) will be held on December 30. Interested members have been requested to contact — Nasir, member-secretary of the association, 589/C Malibagh Chowdhury Para, Dhaka (near Al-Madina hotel). Tel: 402634, 832725, says a press release.

Lost

We have lost our Visa Cat 659 No: 4BD 696792 dated: 06-12-94 issued from Export Promotion Bureau. Any one finding this Visa is requested to contact Dada (Dhaka) Ltd Plot # 28, Sector # 6, Uttara C/A Dhaka, Bangladesh. S-647

MERRY X'MAS

Come and Buy Your Christmas Goodies From our Christmas Hut. between Dec 14 and 25, 1994

Name of Items	Price-Taka
Chocolate Boots (Dark, Brown and White)	Tk. 320.00
Chocolate Bells	Tk. 320.00
Father Christmas	Tk. 170.00
Chocolate Santa Claus (Large)	Tk. 390.00
Chocolate Santa Claus (Medium)	Tk. 200.00
Chocolate Santa Claus (Small)	Tk. 150.00
Christmas Cookies (Box)	Tk. 190.00
Praline Mix (Box) (Small)	Tk. 200.00
Christollen (German Style) 1000 Gm	Tk. 650.00
Christollen (German Style)	Tk. 325.00
Christmas Log 500 Gm	Tk. 340.00
Ginger Bread (Heart)	Tk. 120.00
Christmas Fruit Cake, 1000 Gm	Tk. 400.00
Christmas Fruit Cake, 500 Gm	Tk. 200.00
Marzipan Animal	Tk. 60.00

For queries, please contact Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel
Phones: 811005, 812011



Wednesday 14th December
(All programmes in local time)

9:00am BBC World Service News
9:25 Italy Means Business 10:00
BBC World Service News 10:25
Holiday 11:00 BBC World Service
News 11:25 Public Eye 12:00noon
BBC World Service News 12:30 BBC
Business Breakfast 1:00 BBC World
Service News 1:25 Film '94 With
Barry Norman 2:00 BBC World
News Headlines 2:05 The Longest
Walk 3:00 BBC World Service News
3:15 Everyman 4:00 BBC World
News Headlines 4:05 The Clothes
Show 4:00 BBC World News
Headlines 4:35 Top Gear 5:00 BBC
World Service News Hour 6:00pm
BBC World News Headlines 6:05
Assignment 7:00 BBC World
Service News Hour 8:00 BBC World
Service News Hour 9:00 BBC World
Service News 9:10 World Business
Report 9:25 Holiday 10:00 BBC
World News Headlines 10:05
Travels 11:00 BBC World Service
News 11:15 Everyman 12:00noon
BBC World Service News Hour 1:00
BBC World Service News 1:25
Tomorrow's World 2:00 BBC World
News Headlines 2:05 The Longest
Walk 3:00 BBC World Service News
3:25 Film '94 With Barry Norman
4:00 BBC World Service News 4:25
World Business Report 5:00 BBC
World Service News 5:25 World
Business Report 6:00 BBC World
Service News 6:25 Newswatch 7:00
BBC World Service News 7:25
World Business Report 8:00 BBC
World Service News 8:25
Newswatch



6:00am Mr Roger's Neighbourhood
6:30 Sharky & George 7:00
Kidstreet 7:30 Size Small 8:00 G I
Joe 8:30 Julia Child Cooking With
Master Chefs 9:00 Aerobics Oz
Style 9:30 The Sullivans 10:00
Donahue 11:00 El TV 11:30
Aerobics Oz Style 12:00noon
Neighbours 12:30 Santa Barbara
1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00
The Oprah Winfrey Show 3:00
Riviera 3:30 Julia Childs Cooking
With Master Chefs 4:00 Aerobics Oz
Style 4:30 The Sullivans 5:00 Small
Wonder 5:30 Robotech 6:00
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 6:30
Batman 7:00 El TV 7:30
Neighbours 8:00 M*A*S*H 8:30
Dodge Howser MD 9:00 Anything
But Love 9:30 Moonlighting 10:30
The Bold & The Beautiful 11:00
Santa Barbara 12:00 The (New)
Twilight Zone 12:30 MASH 1:00
The Fall Guy 2:00 El TV 2:30
Neighbours 3:00 Movie:
'Monsieur Quixote' 5:00 Perfect
Soundbites



7:00am Fashion Police 7:30 VJ
Rick 8:00 Rewind 8:30 VJ Sophia
9:00 Big Bang 9:30 VJ Petrina
10:00 Fashion Police VJ Rick 10:30
Bill Board Profiles 11:00 By
Demand VJ Nonie 12:00noon The
Ride VJ Trey Farley 1:30 Bill Board
Profiles 2:00 Frame by Frame VJ
Sophia 3:00 Big Bang VJ Petrina
4:00 Rewind, VJ Sophia 5:00 The
Vibe VJ Ruby 6:30 Music Update
Tokyo 7:00 By Demand 7:30 VJ
Nonie 8:30 Bill Board Profiles
9:00 Videocon Manga Hai 10:00
Big Bang 10:30 VJ Petrina 11:00
Rewind VJ Sophia 11:30 Billboard
Profiles 12:00noon BFL Oye! 1:00
The Vibe 1:30 VJ Ruby 2:00 The
Ride 2:30 VJ Trey Farley 3:30
Billboard Profiles 4:00 By Demand
VJ Nonie 5:00 Jump Start 5:30 VJ
Rick



6:00am 1994 Compaq Grand Slam
Cup Semi-Final From Munich,
Germany 8:00 Primebodies-8 8:30
Futbol Mundial 9:30 Johnnie
Walker Skin's From Bali, Indonesia
11:30 Watersports World
Series Match 7 Australia 'A' v
England 2:30 Arizona Fall League
Tempa at Peoria 4:00 Primebodies-
10 5:00 WTA P&G Open From
Taiwan 6:00pm 1994 Compaq
Grand Slam Cup Final From
Munich, Germany 8:30 Alique
Trophe D'or 10:00 Volvo World Up
Show Jumpin LA-Burbank Indoor
11:30 Arizona Fall League Tempa at
Peoria 1:30 Watersports World 2:30
1994 Compaq Grand Slam Cup
Final From Munich, Germany 4:30
WTA P&G Open From Taiwan 5:30
Primebodies-10

Zee TV

2:30 HFF: Dhat Teri Ki (Ravi
Vaswani, Kiran Vairale) 5:00
Himgiri Ka Veer 5:30 Daak Dha
6:00 Manasi 6:30 Chitra Darshini
7:00 Manabi 7:30 De Ray 8:00 Teer
Kamaan 8:30 Ek Minute 9:00
Gaane Anjaane 9:30 Banegi Apni
Baat 10:00 Parmpara 10:30
Helpline 11:00 Bazaar Buzz 11:10
Aap Ki Adalat 11:40 Campus 12:10
Commander 12:40 Tol Mol Ke Bol
(Arabic) 1:10 Galaxee 1:40
Infotainment 3:40 Close Down.