

Metropolitan

Seminar on library legislation Need for modernising public libraries emphasised

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday emphasised on the need for modernising and expanding the country's public libraries and establishing a central data base to face development challenges of the 21st century.

The speakers also said that allocations for libraries were quite insignificant. They called for increased funding and equipment like computers, facsimile machines, and internet facilities for public libraries.

"We have to go ahead with our limited resources," said Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, while inaugurating the day-long seminar on "Library Legislation in Bangladesh," organised by the National Book Centre, at the Central Public Library auditorium yesterday.

The seminar was also addressed, among others, by M Osman Gani, director, Jatiya Grantha Kendra, Mansur Musa, Director General, Bangla Academy, M A Syed, former Education Secretary and current Chairman of Rupali Bank Ltd.

Quader said that his ministry had a plan to develop the library system in the country. "I am ready to work according to your suggestions," he said, adding the experts should formulate effective policies which are easy to implement. He also informed the seminar that the budget to improve libraries could be increased to at least Tk one crore, from Taka 65 lakh.

Some 100 librarians from across the country participated in the seminar to discuss the proposed draft "Library Act".

M A Syed said, researchers of the country faced various difficulties while carrying out

their work. "Gathering information from the country's libraries is tough," he said, adding that a central data base should be established to quicken research work. Syed suggested developing district and local libraries to help readers build up their knowledge base.

Later, A F M Badiur Rahman, Director, Department of Public Libraries, Shamsul Islam Khan, President, Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB), and Hashi Siddiquee, Director, Archives and Library Directorate, presented papers in the working session, chaired by M A Syed. The discussants at the session were, A K M Abdur Nur, former president of LAB, Suraiya Begum, Chairperson, Department of Library and Information Science, Dhaka University, Sultan Uddin Ahmed, a specialist of Bangladesh Education Information and Statistics Bureau, Zaki Uddin Ahmed, library advisor of BIRDEM, Dr Fazlul Alam of DU Library, Mohammad Nurul Islam, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Mohi Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director, University Press Limited (UPL), and Mostafizul Haq of Shahjiba Prakash, S M Mannan of Dhaka University Library and Information Science Department, Nilufar Yasmin of BIDS Library, Ghazi Shamsur Rahman, a lawyer, and Harun-ur-Rashid of Community Development Library, took part in an open discussion.

The discussants urged the government to promulgate and implement the 'Library Act' and to set up an autonomous body for the proper functioning of the Act.



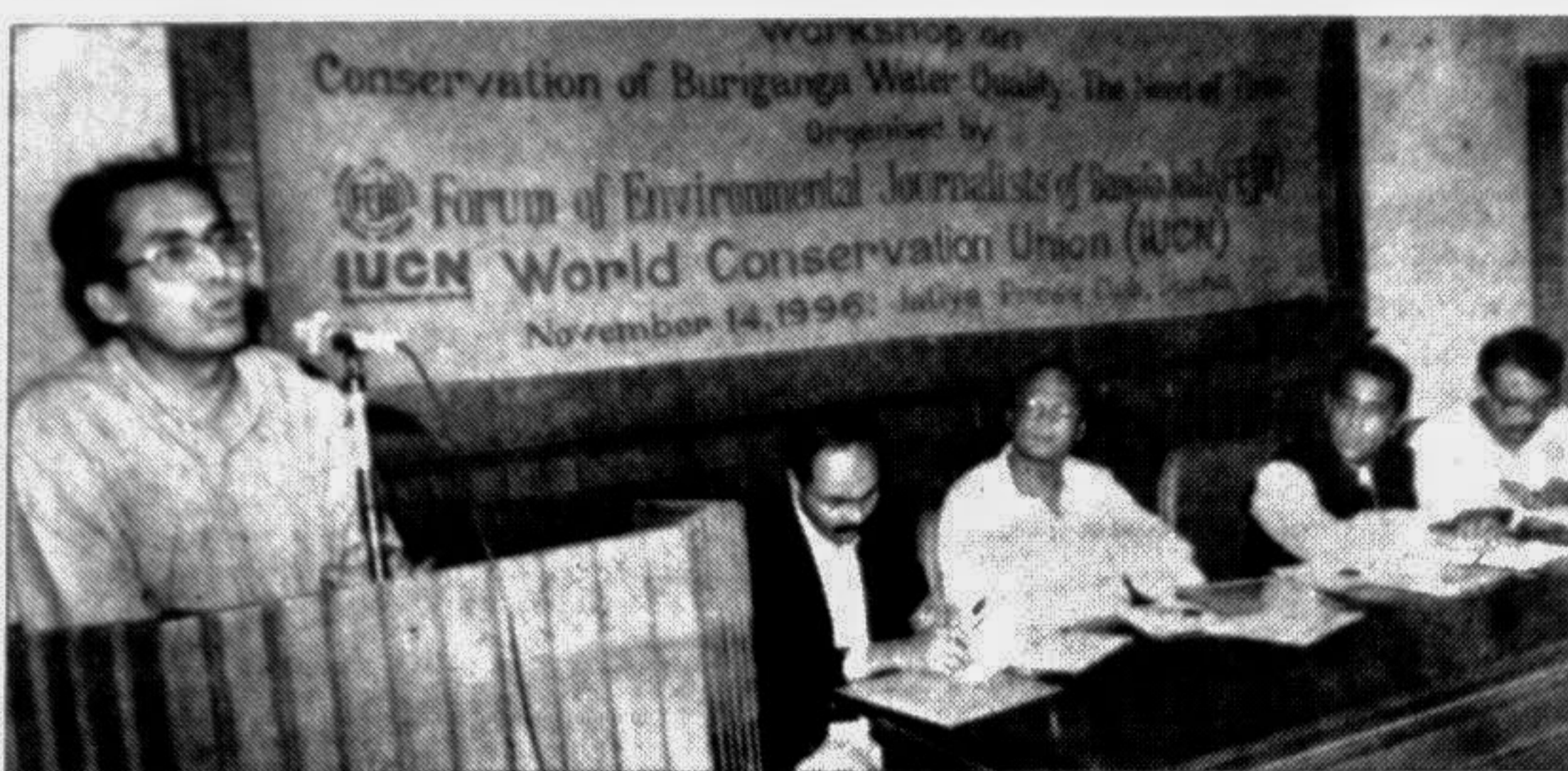
A seminar on library legislation in Bangladesh was organised in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Weather Dry weather may continue

Prevailing dry weather may continue over the country except chances of early morning fog at a few places over country's northern part in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met office said night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. The country's highest temperature was recorded 31.5 degree Celsius at Chittagang and Cox's Bazar and the lowest 14.2 degrees at Rajshahi. The sun sets today at 5:13 pm and rises on Saturday at 6:15 am.

Korean envoy calls on Speaker

Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Jong Kyou Byun yesterday called on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his Parliament office, reports UNB. The Korean envoy exchanged views with the Speaker on matters relating to mutual interest of both the countries. Byun assured of providing ambulance, pathological and dental equipment for the development of Parliament Medical Centre.



Forum of Environment Journalists, Bangladesh and IUCN — The World Conservation Union, organised a workshop on 'Conservation of Buriganga Water Quality — Need of the Time' at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak (seated 2nd R) was present as the chief guest. —Star photo

Photo exhibition on Liberation War

Muktijoddho Jadugar has organised an exhibition of photographs by noted Indian journalist Amiya Tarafdar on Bangladesh's Liberation War, reports UNB.

Amiya Tarafdar will attend the inaugural function and describe his experience during Bangladesh's independence war in 1971 at the Muktijoddho Jadugar auditorium in the city at 5 pm Saturday.

His photographs had sparked the world about the Pakistani junta's barbaric torture on Bangalee nation. One of his photographs, bodies left on a rickshaw, had become the symbol of massacre in 1971.

WP hails passage of Indemnity (Repeal) Bill

The Workers Party hailed the passage of Indemnity (Repeal) Bill by Parliament, reports UNB.

The standing committee of the party politbureau in a meeting Wednesday termed the Indemnity ordinance black law and said it had been prevailing as a reminder of the politics of killing and conspiracy in the country.

Meanwhile, Muktijoddho Poribar Kalyan Samity also congratulated all members of the Jatiya Sangsad for passing the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill.

'1.5 lakh die of cancer each year'

Discussants at a workshop in Barisal yesterday identified smoking and chewing tobacco products as the main causes of cancer, reports BSS.

About 1.5 lakh, out of 2 lakh, cancer patients in the country die each year, the workshop was told.

The day-long workshop titled "Orientation of opinion leaders, 96" was aimed at creating greater awareness among people about the danger of cancer.

Organised by Bangladesh Cancer Society, Dhaka, the workshop was attended by 40 officials, educationists, teachers, imams and journalists.

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Nat'l workshop on 'edn system of Bangladesh' Nov 22

By Staff Correspondent

A national workshop on "Education System of Bangladesh in the Light of Dr Quadrat-Khuda Education Commission Report" will be held at TSC auditorium, Dhaka University, on November 22 under the aegis of Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association, says a press release.

Education Minister A H K Sadek is expected to be present as chief guest at the day-long workshop, which will be inaugurated at 9:30 am.

Split into five working sessions, discussions at the workshop will focus on topics including, education policy, curricula, examination methodology, job regulations of teachers and financial aspects of education.

PhD conferred

The authorities of Dhaka University have conferred PhD degree on two scholars under Arts and Science faculties, reports UNB.

The conferment was made at a meeting of the Syndicate yesterday with Vice-chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The conferees are : S A M Monwar Zahan of Chemistry Department and Sultana Nigar Chowdhury of History Department.

New BASA executives

By Staff Correspondent

The biennial election of the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association (BASA) was held on November 10, says a press release.

The office bearers elected unanimously for the year 1997-98 are: Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Prime Minister's Secretary, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Secretary of Jamuna Bridge Division, M Azizur Rahman, Joint Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry and Abdul Matin Khan, Joint Secretary of Establishment Ministry (vice presidents), A Z M Akramuzzaman, Director, Directorate of Sports, Ministry of Sports and Youth, (secretary general), Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan, Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary and Begum Suraiya Khan Reza, Senior Assistant Secretary of Establishment Ministry (deputy treasurers) and Md Ibrahim Hussain Khan, Prime Minister's Assistant Personal Secretary, A S M Ali Kabir, Secretary of National Sports Council, and R A M Obaidul Moktadir Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Personal Secretary (joint secretaries general).

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09 Uttara Colour Lab, Kushi Center, Uttara, Dhaka	44 Mita Colour Lab, Shahab Bazar, Rajshahi	

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