

Metropolitan

Proper implementation of law needed to protect environment

Environment campaigners yesterday underlined the need for proper implementation of the laws to protect environment and ensure people's rights to live in a pollution-free atmosphere, reports BSS.

Speaking at a seminar on "Advancing the Cause of Environment: The Indian Experience," environment experts, activists, lawyers, judges said the judiciary and the media can play an important role to ensure pollution free environment and raise people's awareness about ecological degradation.

They also suggested working out an environmental strategy to stop the rot presenting a range of hazards to people's health and habitat.

Held at the CIRDP auditorium, the seminar was organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and UNDP. M C Mehta,

advocate of the Supreme Court of India, attended it as key speaker while Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh as guest of honour and Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests Syed Marghub Murshed as special guest.

BELA Chairman Prof K A A Quamruddin conducted the seminar as panel chairperson while the director of the organisation Syeda Rizwana Hasan read out the written speech of Justice G B Patnaik of India, the chief guest of the seminar.

Giving an overview of the environmental scenarios of India, Mehta said India achieved tremendous success in controlling all kinds of environmental pollution in recent years as the courts were very active in implementing environmental laws.

"The Indian courts immediately respond to petitioners

who lodge cases against polluters, seeking justice for ensuring pollution-free environment," Mehta said. He said India was successfully cutting air pollution and environmental hazards and saving the picturesque Tajmahal from destruction caused by environmental degradation.

"We have been successful in stopping disposal of industrial waste in the Ganges river and ensuring the management of hospital waste as the Indian courts warned the concerned authorities to stop waste disposal in open places which is dangerous for public health," he said.

Mehta, recipient of a number of prestigious awards for his outstanding contribution to social work and environment, called for integrated efforts of the government and people of Bangladesh to save its environment, saying Bangladesh's environment was alarmingly

polluted that raised concerns. Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman said the environment issue should be the prime agenda of the country as the global environment was getting warmer.

"Protection of environment and safeguarding of the economy should be the integral part of the government development agenda," he said.

Justice Rahman called the government to ensure environmental rights of the people. He also urged the authorities to protect the Buriganga from quick degradation wrought by widespread tannery waste disposal.

Justice G B Patnaik in his written speech placed emphasis on growing awareness among the people about the hazards of environmental pollution.

Mayor reiterates demand for 'Metropolitan Govt'

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif has reiterated his demand for formation of "Metropolitan Government" for ensuring better civic amenities to over one crore inhabitants of the capital, reports BSS.

He said this while speaking at the Annual Conference of Uttara, Sector-one Kalayan Samity at Uttara Club Hall Room Friday night.

Among others, local ward commissioner of the city corporation Dr Hafizul Islam Khusum, former MP Advocate Delwar Hossain and acting president of the Samity Lt Colonel (ret'd) Mostafa Kamal Uddin Bhuiyan spoke on the occasion.

The mayor said establishment of Satellite town is required to reduce huge pressure of migrated rural people on the capital city that has already created additional demand for civic amenities.

Referring to the local demands, he said water stagnation would be removed and drainage system and new roads would be reconstructed soon. He said makeshift shops selling contrabands in Uttara would be removed within 15 days.

Hanif also gave assurance to expand the area of local graveyard to fulfil the long standing demand of the people.

Kalim Sharafi to receive Sheltech Award today

The Sheltech Award 1999 will be distributed through a function at the VIP lounge of National Press Club today, reports UNB.

Eminent singer of Tagore songs and cultural personality Kalim Sharafi will receive the Sheltech Award 1999.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will attend the function as chief guest while Sheltech Chairman Tapan Chowdhury and Director Kutubuddin Ahmed as special guests. Dr Towfiq M Seraj will preside over the function.

Sheltech Private Limited, one of the country's top builders, confers an award to a distinguished personality every year. The Sheltech Award '98 went to poet Shamsur Rahman.

SSKOP call not to work on May Day

Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) has called upon the people working in newspapers and news agencies not to work on the May Day, which is a public holiday, reports UNB.

The SSKOP leaders also urged the newsmen to observe a four-hour work stoppage from 10 am to 2 pm on April 30 in all newspapers and agencies to realise the nine-point demand.

The call came from separate meetings of the SSKOP held yesterday at the office of daily Jugantar, The Independent and Prothom Alo.

BFIJ leaders Amanullah Kabir, GM Yakub Akhtar Ahmed Khan, MA Aziz and DUJ leaders Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, among others, addressed the meetings.

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President stresses need for nutritious food

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has urged all concerned to make a concerted effort in making the people aware of the need of nutritious food, reports UNB.

"Malnutrition problem is a severe health hazard and children, adolescents and mothers are the main victims of malnutrition," said the President in a message on the eve of "National Nutrition Week" beginning today.

Termining the week's theme - Nutrition in Adolescence - as appropriate, he said adolescence is the time for building a good health for every man and woman.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed wished for overall success of the programme undertaken in observance of the week.

Climate change to be faced unitedly: Holzman

US Ambassador John C Holzman yesterday called upon Bangladesh to play its card to bring both developed and developing nations in the productive and realistic climate change negotiation by pursuing a win-win approach for facing the threat of global warming and sea-level rise unitedly, reports BSS.

He was addressing a seminar on "Climate change: How to face it" organised by Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at the National Press Club.

Environment Secretary Syed Marghub Murshed, Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan MP and Director of Department of Environment Mohammad Rezauddin also spoke. FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam

Chowdhury presided. Holzman emphasised the need for approaching the climate change problem in a more positive way as all countries have a stake here.

"We all need to face this problem collectively for a better life. You have to play your role to draw USA and other developed countries to productive dialogue. USA is not alone emitting green house gases. Developing countries like China and India are also emitting. There is a huge willingness on the part of the people of USA to resolve this problem of global importance," he said.

The US Ambassador said his country along with different US agencies, research organisations and NGOs are now addressing the climate change problem in three-pronged approach.

Marghub Murshed described climate change as a global problem and said it should be resolved globally and Bangladesh will do its best so that things would not get worse.

Dr. Moyeen Khan said global warming is the most alarming environmental development of our time and it is a process to which Bangladesh as a country contributes to the least but could be affected the most.

He suggested redirecting a fraction of the trillions of dollars in war efforts to the protection of our planetary interests for a more peaceful, harmonious and climatically favourable world.

Earlier, members of FEJB brought out a colourful procession from the National Press Club to mark the Earth Day 2000.



US Ambassador Jhon C Holzman addressing an Earth Day seminar yesterday at the National Press Club, organised by Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB).

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Food
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16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000
Memo No. IDTS/2M-1/95 (part-4)/536 Dated: 10-04-2000

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Tender offer should be dropped in the tender box kept in front of Room No. 531 at 5th floor of Directorate of Food by 2-30 PM of 15-05-2000 and the tender box & technical offer will be opened on the same day at 3-00 PM at the office chamber of Director, Inspection, Development & Technical Services Division in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers/tenderers' representatives. The tender committee reserves the right to reject or accept any tender without assigning any reason.

Md Habibur Rahman
Director
Inspection, Development & Technical Services Division
Directorate of Food, Dhaka.

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