

Climate change may put ecosystem at risk

World Bank study on Bangladesh says

BSS, Dhaka
Impact of climate change in Bangladesh may put its ecosystem and bio-diversity at the greatest risks.

The management of ecosystem in Bangladesh exists only as a concept and the institutions involved in handling this vital sector lack the needed capacity," says a World Bank study on Bangladesh: Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

The study report of July, 2001 pointed out several key risks to ecosystems and bio-diversity to be caused by the combination of high sensitivity to climate changes and low possibility for anticipatory adaptation measures.

The risks include low flow in dry season resulting in further salinity of the Sunderbans, lower groundwater tables and river inflows, substantial drought and desertification in some sensitive

parts in north-west Bangladesh.

Other risks are higher temperature leading to accentuating depletion of organic carbon from the topsoil threatening the endemic species and higher water temperature that may change water conditions. Increased stress on ecosystems will reduce their resilience to changes or climate variability in terms of the bio-diversity loss and lower agro-ecological productivity, the study said.

To protect the threatened ecosystem and bio-diversity, the study has suggested various measures including general activities to protect the ecosystems as a whole and the targeted activities to save the threatened species in particular.

Introduction of integrated ecosystem planning, management of mangrove ecosystems in the Sunderbans, management of protected areas and 14 ecologically

critical areas, establishment of migration corridors as well as buffer zones are some of the possibilities against the impacts of climate change.

Other measures are massive afforestation along the coastal green belts and strengthening various studies on risks from climate change to endemic species and ecosystems in Bangladesh, the study said.

"Introduction of integrated ecosystem planning and management will reduce institutional fragmentation and focus on protecting a variety of species and natural systems together with their users," observes the study. Protection of the Sunderbans is a must, it added.

Sumangal Mohathero passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Sumangal Mohathero, a leading Buddhist Monk and President of International Meditation Centre for Buddhist Brotherhood died of a cardiac arrest in the city on Friday night at the age 67, family sources said.

Sumangal Mohathero, better known as Pranodip Barua, was a freedom fighter and an artist of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the liberation war in 1971.

He was also the president member of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad.

Son of late Phani Bhusan Barua, a noted lawyer and former member of the then Pakistan Constituent Assembly, Pranodip left behind five brothers and three sisters.

His body was taken to Chitagong for cremation.



Visitors admire a dress at a boutique exhibition that began at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday. The exhibition will continue till June 4.

Adjust tuition fees to allow poor students

Minister urges pvt universities

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk yesterday urged the management of the private universities to adjust their tuition fees to allow poor and deserving students to afford to pursue higher education in the institutions.

Addressing a freshers' reception of the East West University here, he said more facilities for the wards of the middle income group parents should be created to dispel the notion that the private universities are "the rich men's clubs".

The minister hoped that philanthropists would come forward to set up more excellent private universities, to supplement the services of the public universities.

Founder Vice Chancellor of the university Dr Mohammad

Farashuddin and some new students spoke at the function at the National Museum Auditorium. Vice Chancellor Dr Monwarul Islam presided.

Speaking as the chief guest, he said the BNP government in 1991 materialised the concept of private universities with a spirit that there would be no conflict but harmony between the private and the public universities.

Dr Farruk said it is true that investment in the educational institutions will not give any quick return, but one should not forget that society would be immensely benefited through this as well.

The minister said now a days the universities are no more regarded as mere seats of higher education and research works.

Master plans for 3 NARS instts reviewed

BSS, Dhaka

The governing body of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) at a meeting yesterday reviewed the five-year master plans of three research institutes under National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

Sugarcane Research Institute, Fisheries Research Institute and Tea Research Institute under NARS prepared the master plans for conducting research in their respective fields.

The latest position about approval of amendments to BARC service rule was also discussed.

Kader Siddiqui proposes greater alliance led by Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Janata League (BKSJL) Bangabir Kader Siddiqui has called upon the people to launch a movement against the misrule of the BNP-led coalition government.

He said people of the country are now hostage to black money, corruption, insecurity and wide-spread violence.

Kader Siddiqui was speaking at a press conference organised by his party at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

He said the present government has failed to provide security to the public although it was their election-pledge to the countrymen.

Kader Siddiqui said the country needs an honest leadership under which it can march ahead towards the path of peace and progress.

Criticising the Awami League for boycotting parliament, he said people voted them to go to the Jatiya Sangsad to place their demands in the House.

In this context, Kader Siddiqui expressed his solidarity with a

recent call made by Dr. Kamal Hossain, president of Gano Forum, to save democracy by curbing crime and violence.

He proposed a greater alliance under the leadership of Gano Forum chief to launch a united movement.

Terming Dr. Kamal Hossain as the symbol of honesty, the BKSJL chief said the nation needs a leader like him to uphold the country's image.

Replying to a question he said Bangladesh was never a communal country and criticised them who tried to establish a bad image of the country before the world community.

Advocate Bazlur Rahman, general secretary of the party, read out a declaration in the press conference.

It expressed concern over the increasing repression on women including rape, killing and acid-throwing.

The declaration urged the members of the civil society for raising their voice against all social vices and political hypocrisy of the big parties.



President of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Janata League Kader Siddiqui speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.



Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdul Hamid speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday.

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