

'Build movement to conserve forestry, protect bio-diversity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of a high rate of forest depletion in the country, speakers at a dialogue yesterday underscored the need for building a social movement to conserve forestry and protect the bio-diversity.

They identified corruption in the government's forest department and lack of proper forest management, population increase, encroachment of forestland, lack of people's awareness and participation in forest conservation and poor legal backup as the main causes for depletion of forests in the country.

Forest and bio-diversity experts, academicians, civil servants, politicians and professionals gave their opinions at the discussion titled "Forestry, Forest Biodiversity and Governance: Looking for a Pro-people Policy", organised by the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD). It was held at the CIRDP auditorium in the city. CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan moderated the dialogue.

In his keynote speech, eminent water resources expert Atun Nishat said the rate of forest depletion in the country is 3.3 per cent against an average of 0.6 per cent in South East Asia.

He also gave a description of the total forest area in the country and identified problems in forest management and prospects of growth of forests. There has been no re-generation of forests for long. Rather, it is decreasing, he said.

Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj said the government is sincere to adopt any policy that benefits the people. He also sought suggestions from experts and members of the civil society for development of forestry and protection of forest biodiversity.

"We will do whatever is needed for conservation of forests and protection of the bio-diversity. If needed, we will formulate new laws," the minister said calling upon the persons concerned to keep this issues above politics.

After the three-hour discussion, the moderator went with the view of Forest and Environment Secretary Sabih Uddin who proposed at least a three-day discussion on the issue to identify the problems and possible solutions.

Former state minister for forest and environment HN Ashiqur Rahman emphasised capacity-building of people who live in and around forestlands. "People's

participation in this regard would bring good result."

Former finance minister AMA Muhiit called for building a social movement to protect forestlands and develop 'social forestry' throughout the country. He suggested that "consolidated habitation" and smooth supply of liquidated petroleum (LP) gas at every habitation would reduce the pressure on forests.

Kaikobad Murder Case AL leader Jacob gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday granted bail to Awami League (AL) leader Abdullah Al-Islam Jacob, an accused in connection with the killing of Jubo Dal leader Morshed Alam Kaikobad.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa passed the order upon a bond of Tk 30,000 with two guarantors.

In its order, the court stated that the charges brought against Jacob were not primarily proved. Moreover, the complainant of the case, did not include the name of Jakob. So, the petition for bail is granted.

The defence lawyers on July 6 submitted a criminal appeal, seeking bail from the judge's court after the rejection order of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM)'s Court, Dhaka.

The judge heard the appeal on Monday and gave the order yesterday.

Kaikobad, 32, an independent candidate in the last parliamentary election from the Bholo-2 constituency, was shot and seriously injured at Motijheel in the city on June 18, and succumbed to his injuries 10 days later at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on June 29.

Jacob was arrested on June 28 on suspicion in connection with the killing of Kaikobad and was placed on remand for two days in two phases.

Prize bond draw results

UNB, Dhaka

The 28th draw of 100-taka prize bonds was held in the city yesterday.

The prize bonds bearing number 0790663 won the first prize of Tk 6 lakh while the bonds bearing number 0718297 won the second prize of Tk 3.25 lakh.

The third prize winning numbers are 0475322 and 0731529 and the fourth prize winning numbers are 0064016 and 0765533. The third prize carries Tk one lakh and the fourth prize Tk 50,000.

Besides, the fifth prize winners will get Tk 10,000 each, said a press release.

Table with 3 columns: Prize number, Prize amount, and Winner name.



Journalists mob Acting Vice-chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider in front of the residence of the VC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday following resignation of VC Anwarullah Chowdhury.

Case against Nasim, Motia Hearing on charge-framing adjourned till Sept 10

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Public Safety Disturbances and Crimes, Dhaka on Tuesday adjourned the hearing on charge-framing against former home minister Mohammad Nasim, former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury and two others, accused in a case filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Judge Mohammad Abdur Razzak adjourned the hearing till September 10 following a time petition by the defence lawyers. The two other accused are -- Awami League central leader Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and city Samik League general secretary Israil Alam.

They were accused of obstructing traffic in the city during a half-day hartal called by Awami

League in January this year protesting price hike of oil, gas and electricity.

Sub-inspector (SI) Moinur Rahman filed the case with Motijheel thana, accusing the four the same day.

SI Mohammad Abdur Matin, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, submitted a charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on March 28.

Following the charge sheet, the four accused were granted bail by the trial court.

The four accused were not present in the court, during the hearing yesterday.

Obituary

Alhaj Abul Hossain, prominent businessman and social worker of Sreepur of Gazipur district, died on Tuesday at the age of 84, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, one daughter and a number of grandchildren.

His qulkhwan will be held at his village home after Juma prayers on August 2.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwan.

Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Md Lutfor Rahman, a tax lawyer of Chittagong, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, quankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at the Chittagong Income Tax Bar Association and at his residence in Chittagong after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

Sircar, Khaleda greet Swiss president

UNB, Dhaka

Acting President Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have greeted Swiss President Kaspar Villiger on the occasion of National Day of his country to be celebrated today.

In a message, Sircar hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

He also wished continued peace, progress and prosperity to the people of Switzerland.

In a similar message, Khaleda expressed her confidence that the existing bond of friendship between the two nations would be cemented further in the days ahead.



Gen Nazmul Amin new envoy to Qatar

BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed Major General Ahsan Nazmul Amin as the ambassador of Bangladesh to the State of Qatar.

Major Gen Amin was commissioned in the army as an Infantry Officer in April 1971.

He was the Director of Operations and Plans in Armed Forces Division (AFD) of Prime Minister's Office. He was also Defence advisor at Bangladesh High Commission in Pakistan.

Before his present assignment, Gen Amin was Chief of General Staff (CGS) of the Bangladesh Army.

He is President of the Bangladesh Judo Federation.

Biman to confirm return tickets of Hajj pilgrims

BSS, Dhaka

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will confirm return tickets of all Hajj pilgrims of the year 2003 before their departure from Dhaka.

This was told at an inter-ministerial meeting here yesterday with secretary of the Ministry for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Shaiful Islam in the chair.

Acting secretary of Ministry of Religious Affairs Khawja Abdur Rahman, Biman Managing Director Air Commodore M Khairul Alam and other high officials of the ministries and departments concerned were present at the meeting.

The meeting discussed transportation of the pilgrims by different airlines, including the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh

Airlines and Saudi Airlines.

It was told that the Biman would take measures to print special tickets for the pilgrims and that it would not sell the tickets to any agent but the recognised ones.

During a discussion on the number of Hajj pilgrims in the last few years, the meeting was informed that the number of Bangladeshi pilgrims was 30,000 in 1998, 34,000 in 1999, 40,000 in 2000, 46,000 in 2001 and 44,000 in 2002. The numbers also include expatriate Bangladeshis.

The meeting laid emphasis on making comfortable the transportation of the pilgrims to the holy cities of Makkah and Madina and their stay there. It directed the authorities concerned to take all necessary measures in this regard.

Mayor Mohiuddin's ultimatum to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation and Awami League (AL) leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury has given an ultimatum to the authorities for withdrawal of all cases against city AL leaders including him and release of arrested opposition leaders and activists within two months.

Mohiuddin, who has some 'graft cases' against him, gave the ultimatum at a public meeting at the Lalbagh Maidan yesterday.

The general secretary of city unit of the AL warned that if his demand was not met, a greater movement would be launched through formation of all-party action committee in every ward of the port city as was done in 1971.

The public meeting was jointly organised by the city unit and north and south district units of

the AL. City AL President and former minister MA Mannan presided.

The mayor alleged that some high-ups in the government are "conspiring

to destroy" Chittagong port to pave the way for "leaving out the Karnaphuli estuary for construction of a private port." He claimed that he knows all these people and will make their names public, if necessary. The conspiracy will be foiled at any cost, he said.

He demanded that 10 per cent of the revenue earned by Chittagong Customs must be spent for development of the port city.

The meeting was also addressed by AL central leader Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser and Chittagong AL leaders Mohsharraf Hossain, Rafiqul Anwar MP, MA Salam and Moslem Uddin Ahmed.

Heroin worth Tk 1cr seized in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A team of CID (Criminal Investigation Department) police from Dhaka seized one kilogram of heroin worth about Tk one crore from here in Sylhet town yesterday afternoon and arrested a person in this connection.

Police said acting on a secret information, a CID team from Dhaka led by ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman came to Sylhet yesterday morning and prepared an ambush at the Station Road area of the town. A team of CID police of Sylhet also joined the operation.

Around 11:45am, a group of plainclothes CID policemen went

to the Shahjal Enterprise, an importer and wholesale dealer of fruits. There at the shop, the CID team, posing as customers, bargained with a gang of drug-dealers for buying a kilogram of heroin and finally struck a deal for Tk 60 lakh.

At this point, police caught one of the gang members Sirajul Islam who finalised the deal as he was handing over the drug. However, five other accomplices of Siraj managed to escape, police said.

Siraj hailed from village Gekhaha under Jakiganj upazila of Sylhet. A general diary has been recorded with the Sylhet Kotwali police.

RUTA protests police action at DU female hall

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) brought out a silent procession on the campus yesterday protesting 'police excess' in Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) on the night of July 23.

The procession starting from in front of Senate Bhawan, paraded the main thoroughfares on the campus.

After the procession, the teachers held a meeting addressed by Prof. Md Nurullah, vice-president and Dr Mahbubur Rahman, general secretary of RUTA.

The speakers condemned the police raid in the Shamsunnahar Hall and subsequent attacks on teachers and journalists.

They demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for heinous attacks.

O/A LEVEL COACHING advertisement with contact details for Touheed's Academy.

Advertisement for Ahsan Uddin University of Science and Technology.

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি-২০০২-২০০৩

Table listing admission details for various departments including Engineering, Law, and Education.

Advertisement for Monno Fabrics Limited with contact information and address.

Advertisement for Monno Jute Stuffers Limited with contact information and address.

ANNOUNCEMENT regarding shareholder information for Monno Jute Stuffers Limited.

ANNOUNCEMENT regarding shareholder information for Monno Fabrics Limited.

ANNOUNCEMENT regarding shareholder information for Monno Fabrics Limited.

জমি বিক্রয় (Land Sale) advertisement with contact details.

LEGAL NOTICE regarding court proceedings.

VERSUS advertisement for legal services.

Tuition Wanted advertisement for O-level Mathematics.

IMPACT advertisement for educational services.

IBA TOEFL IELTS SAT advertisement for exam preparation.

AAA scholarship award ceremony today advertisement.

Office for Rent advertisement with details.

Study in UK advertisement for University of Hertfordshire.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY advertisement for a manufacturing group.

ADMISSION advertisement for LL.B (HONS), ECONOMICS (HONS), BUSINESS (BBA) (HONS) at University of London.