

ADR to mitigate sufferings of poor litigants

CJ tells regional workshop

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain yesterday said alternate dispute resolution (ADR), being much cheaper and speedier than the existing legal system, can greatly mitigate the sufferings of poor litigants.

"Increasing expenses of litigation, delay in disposal of cases and huge backlogs in our legal system have virtually shaken the confidence of the people in the judiciary," he said, speaking as chief guest at the concluding session of a two-day regional workshop on ADR.

The chief justice was of the view that the real success of ADR could not be achieved merely by bringing some changes in procedural law and taking some administrative steps for introduction of the same.

He said: "Now there is a need to promote the culture of ADR at community level from the bottom up because the prevalent attitude of the people, including the judges

and lawyers is not so encouraging."

Justice Husain stressed the urgency of creating a regular corps of trained and efficient mediators/neutrals, "relying upon whom the judges or the parties in dispute can comfortably go" for the process of ADR methods.

The workshop, organised by the British Council, adopted a regional action plan and came up with country-specific recommendations for promoting and instituting ADR.

A major focus of the workshop was on training for developing professional mediators and sensitising judges, lawyers, policymakers, litigants and the masses.

Eminent legal experts, government officials, academicians, NGO and civil society leaders from five South Asian countries Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - took part in the workshop.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion on International Women's Day at the party office in the city yesterday.

Wasa customers to get account books

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is going to introduce account books for customers and identity cards for revenue inspectors in a bid to stop harassment of clients, increase revenue and reduce system loss.

Revenue Zone-3 will come under the system in the first leg from March 10, Wasa sources said yesterday.

The source said, the authorities would provide an account book to every customer to stop harassment, particularly from inflated bills.

Revenue inspectors would put in record the water used by the customer and the corresponding bills in the book of account in a particular day of the month.

This will be considered as the final bill for the use of water.

At the same time, Wasa inspectors would be given identity cards to avoid misuse of their identity by any third person.

The customers now stand at 1,15,000 and the system loss is about 40 per cent.

Paris roundtable on sustainable dev begins today

UNB, Dhaka

Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, left here for France yesterday to attend a roundtable discussion of UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The two-day roundtable discussion beginning today in Paris has been organised in continuation of the meeting on 'Water for the Poor' held in Norway on November 4-6.

Ministers of developing countries and high officials of various international organisations will attend the roundtable.

The participating countries will hold discussions on mutual cooperation including removing the water-related problems. Bangladesh will specifically place its viewpoints in the meeting on the adverse effect of India's proposed inter-rivers linking project. The water resources minister who is attending the meeting at the invitation of Norwegian Environment Minister, chairman of 12th session of CSD, is likely to return home on March 13.

1252 more held



UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,252 people, including one listed criminal, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered four firearms, two other weapons and five bullets and filed three cases against three people under the Arms Act.



MAAWS for Global President Golam M Manik presents a model of AIDS virus to Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at a meeting recently while leader of UNAIDS Inter-country Team for South Asia Emelia Timpo looks on.



WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and regions of Jessore and Kushtia till 6pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may rise one to three degree celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 14.4 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.05 pm today and rises at 6:12 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.7	16.6	68	46
Chittagong	33.5	20.0	55	50
Rajshahi	29.8	15.5	62	43
Khulna	30.0	15.6	80	63
Barisal	31.4	16.6	72	61
Sylhet	32.2	17.0	51	36
Cox's Bazar	35.6	18.9	37	52



The UCEP-Bangladesh in association with Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organised a daylong community sensitisation meeting on 'Child protection and participation' at its head office in the city on Sunday. UCEP Executive Director Brig. Gen. (retd.) Aftab Uddin Ahmad inaugurated the meeting.

DHAKA TODAY

Poetry recitation

Alliance Francaise organises a session of poetry recitation under the title 'Printemps des poetes' by seven well-known poets. They are Shamsur Rahman, Al Mahmud, Rafiq Azad, Rabiul Houssain, Al Mujaheedy, Mohammad Samad and Kajal Bandopadhy. Shantha P Gunasekera will accompany the recitation on piano. Venue: Café de l'Alliance Francaise, Mirpur Road. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a Spanish film titled 'Belle Epoque' (1993). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Rotary meting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. A seminar on 'Comparative religion: Influence of Baishnab religion in Bengal' will be held on this occasion. Dr. Joseph Connell, a visiting professor from Toronto University, Canada is the guest speaker. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Telecommunication for disaster management', organised by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), will be held with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room of IEB headquarters, Ramna. Time: 7.00pm.

AMCHAM meeting

American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh will hold a meeting where eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain will speak on 'Political reforms to promote democracy and economic development in Bangladesh. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 12.30pm.

River linking meeting

A meeting of the Citizens Fact Finding Commission on Post Ganges Water Treaty Situation in Lower Reaches of Farakka in Rajshahi and Probable Impact of Indian Mega River-Linking Project on Bangladesh will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Certificate giving ceremony

A certificate giving ceremony, organised by Dhaka Sub-Editors Council and Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIIT), will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: DIIIT auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.15am.

BSD meeting

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) organises a public meeting. Venue: Mukhtangon. Time: 4.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'The Exorcist' (1973). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

CARE seminar

CARE organises a seminar on 'Harm Reduction Approach in HIV Prevention Programme, Bangladesh' with Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: LGED Bhaban auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10.00am.

Award giving ceremony

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) organises a programme in connection with the distribution of 'FPAB Award in Journalism' with Information Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: FPAB auditorium, Naya Paltan. Time: 10.00am.

Condolence meeting

A condolence meeting will be held in memory of Abduhu Mahmood Khan, a former senior member of BCS Audit and Accounts Cadre, will be held. Venue: Audit Complex premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 11.00am.

