

Exert political will to protect bio-diversity

Conservationists tell seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Conservationists from home and abroad yesterday said that downstream ecological livelihood would be damaged if mountain eco-system and upstream water bodies were destroyed.

They urged all concerned to exert highest political will to protect rich biodiversity for safe livelihood.

They were addressing a seminar on 'Bio-diversity, Water and Climate Change' organised by Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) and Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh at the FEJB conference room here.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Chairman Syed Marghub Murshed spoke at the seminar as chief guest and head of IUCN, Asia Biodiversity Dr Balakrishna Pishupati, IUCN country director Dr Ainun Nishat, Beret Werner from Norway and Shafiqul Islam of UNICEF addressed the seminar with APFEJ and FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

Marghub Murshed said that people across the globe were victimised as the governments and international bodies could not take adequate measures to protect the

highly sensitive ecological equilibrium.

Dr Balakrishna Pishupati, an India born bio-diversity expert, said downstream ecological livelihood would be damaged if mountain eco-system and upstream water bodies were destroyed.

"River basin commissions in different regions of the world have been functioning. But it is unfortunate that river basin commission in South Asia, specially covering Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan, could not be set up only because of political barrier," Dr Ainun Nishat said, adding that the political goodwill is missing.

Locks worth Tk 1.25cr seized in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The customs officials from AIR (Audit Investigation and Research) branch here yesterday confiscated iron locks worth around Tk 1.25 crore imported under false declaration.

Sources said one MM Enterprise of Lalkhan Bazar of the port city imported 75,540 dozen locks in seven containers from China.

The customs officials concerned broke the containers of the consignment brought under the invoice of 94 tons of locks on Sunday.

The containers were found to contain locks weighing 133 tons, 39 tons more than the declared quantity.

Blast at Shahjalal shrine condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned Friday's deadly bomb blast at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet that injured British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury among 70 people and killed three.

The bomb attack has tarnished the image of the country, said the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) in a statement.

It also demanded stern action against the attackers.

Protesting the bomb blast, Chittagong Social Development Forum (CSDF), a local NGO network, blamed the Sylhet district administration for not arranging proper security measures for the Bangladesh-born British envoy.

It demanded proper investigation into the bomb attack.

The Jatiya Jubo Sanghati also demanded punishment to the attackers.

Sylhet Division Development Action Council will form human chains in Dhaka and Sylhet demanding punishment to those involved in the bomb attack.

Azad to exchange views today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent writer Prof. Humayun Azad will exchange views with the teachers, students and officials of Dhaka University at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at 11:00am today.

Prof. Azad will also visit the scene where unidentified criminals stabbed him on February 27 night.

Ctg Mohila AL observes hunger strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong unit of Mohila Awami League (AL) yesterday observed a daylong token hunger strike at the local press club premises protesting the widespread repression on women by the coalition government, price hike of essentials and alarming deterioration of law and order.

Around one hundred activists of women front of city AL, started the hunger strike at 10:00am and continued till 4:00pm.

At a rally during the strike, they also vowed to go for a vigorous agitation if the repression on their activists is not stopped and price of essentials does not fall soon.

