

It's high time to conserve tropical forest: Tariqul Arannayk Foundation launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday said it is high time to act on conservation of the tropical forest and bio-diversity of the country.

He was speaking at the launching ceremony of Arannayk Foundation, a US-Bangladesh joint initiative to develop country's tropical forest resources at a city hotel.

"The alternative method of earning must be found out for millions of people who currently depend on the forest for their livelihood,"he said.

He hoped that the establishment of Arannayk Foundation would help improve the management, conservation and restoration of natural forest.

Speaking at the launching ceremony as special guest, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Harry K Thomas said his country is emphasizing on developing tropical forests as world environment is under threat.

He also hoped that the Arannayk Foundation would be able to preserve and develop the tropical forest.

Arannayk, also known as Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, was created after the signing of an agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and the USA in September 2000.

According to the agreement, Bangladesh can reduce its debt and generate fund for the conservation of tropical forests and its bio-diversity.

Gene V George, chair of Arannayk Board and mission director of the United States Agency for International Development, presided.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary of the ministry Dr Shoaib Ahmed, Executive Director of Arannayk Foundation Dr Z Karim and Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kari also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam speaks at the launching ceremony of Arannayk Foundation at a city hotel yesterday. On his left is US Ambassador Harry K Thomas and on his right is State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury.

1,581 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,581 people, including seven listed criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

Govt to modernise city waste management

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday

said the government has a plan for modernising the existing waste management system in the capital city.

Replying to a question from Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Abdus Sobhan (Pabna-5), Bhuiyan told the Jatiya Sangsad that Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a study on the waste management in Dhaka city.

"The JICA will submit a mega plan to the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at the end of this month," he said. He said after getting the plan, the government with the financial support of donor agencies will implement the programme within the next 10 years.

Govt to propose Joint Regional Institution to combat disasters

PM tells parliament

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said in parliament that the government has a plan to move a proposal at international level seeking to set up a Joint Regional Institution to combat disasters, including earthquake.

"Yes, we have (plan)," she said replying to Mashiur Rahman Ranga of Jatiya Party during the PM's question-answer hour.

Khaleda told the parliament that the recommendations for the move are still at the primary level. "We need to bear in mind that Bangladesh is vulnerable to natural calamities and that's why the government considers the subject of disaster management with utmost importance."

"It is true, there is no alternative to regional cooperation in facing natural calamities," she said.

Due to the havoc created by

tsunami in December last year the issue of managing calamities regionally and taking action on prompt forecasting are being dis-

CPA demolish 32 illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday demolished 32 illegal structures, including shops, on its land in the port city.

The structures were evicted from Jetty No. 5 connecting road, Port Hospital Road and Port Colony area. CPA Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the four-hour drive. Besides, CPA in separate drives in the last ten days since January 30 fined 19 inland cargo vessels Tk 1.5 lakh on charge of evading tax and violation of river transportation rules.

cussed in different international forums with more importance, she added.

"The subject was discussed by the leaders at the 11th and 12th Saarc summit."

The Prime Minister mentioned that Bangladesh played an active role in the recently concluded conference on the reduction of disasters in the Japanese city of Kobe. As a result, the definite recommendation regarding regional cooperation in disaster management was incorporated in the final declaration, she said.

Replying to a supplementary, she said that following the recent natural disasters, the government is considering expansion of the activities of Dhaka-based Saarc Meteorological Research Centre, which at present conducts some research works.