

Corruption makes coastal dev projects ineffective, say MPs

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The projects for the betterment of coastal areas and their people have become ineffective due to corruption and lack of proper supervision as well

as monitoring, lawmakers said yesterday.

The ministers and MPs at a view exchange meeting also underscored the need for formulating a coastal management board in this regard to resolve problems on priority basis through an integrated approach from every concerned ministry and organisation with active participation of local people.

The meeting under the Programme Development Office for Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (PDO-ICZMP) was jointly organised by the Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) and Coastal Area Resource Development Management Association (CARMA) at a city hotel.

Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest with Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui in the chair.

The minister suggested legislators from coastal areas to supervise the development projects to save about three core people living in the coastal and river basin areas.

He said the development activities of all 29 districts and 47 upazilas of the country's coastal zones is slow due to resource constraints. The budgetary allocation has come down to 3 per cent now from 11 per cent at the beginning of the government's tenure, he added.

Hafiz Uddin said that to prevent the river erosion is costly as it takes about Tk 3 lakh to protect 1 metre basin. Besides 16 parliament members from coastal zones, Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, CARDMA

President Hasna J Moudud, Environmentalist Dr Ainun Nishat, State Minister for Law Shahjahan Omar, State Minister for Finance Shah Abul Hossain attended the meeting.

HS Mozaddad Faruque, director general of the WARPO and Dr M Rafiqul Islam, team leader of ICZMP, made two power point presentations on ICZMP and draft of Coastal Area Development Strategy respectively.

Dr Ainun Nishat, summing up the suggestions of discussants, said coastal management, institutional framework, planning and prioritisation for effective utilisation of resources, proper management for canal excavation, construction of embankment, cyclone shelters, cultivation and ecotourism and alternative employment are essential.

Indian parliamentary team in city

Bss, Dhaka

A parliamentary delegation of India led by its Parliamentary and State Minister for Defence Affairs and Deputy Chief Whip Bijoy Krishna Handique arrived here yesterday on a four-day official visit.

Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad M Fazlur Rahman Aspia, Whip Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal received the delegation at Zia International Airport.

LONDON BLASTS Attackers are terrorists: Morshed

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed yesterday said the perpetrators of London massacre should be treated as terrorists irrespective of their colour, cast, community or religion.

"This is pure and simple that the perpetrators of such a heinous, barbaric and cowardice act should be seen as terrorists. This is a great disaster for all community...we must face it together," Morshed Khan told reporters at his office in the afternoon.

Asked about any information regarding a Bangladesh-born girl missing following the Thursday's incident, he said they have not received any specific information about any girl, but they have "heard" of it.

"Our High Commissioner in London visited various places in East London and talked to many Bangladeshis. He also talked to Tower Hamlet Mayor. We are now trying to get more information," he said.

Asked about the Bangladeshis living in the UK are now in a panicked situation, Morshed Khan said he believes that the global community will realise the matter and people in the UK live in an enlightened society. "Backlash on innocent citizen will be equally unfortunate."



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the opposition Awami League, forms a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to mark the Grenade Tragedy Day.

Obituary

Begum Sophia Ishaque, wife of late Dr M Ishaque, ex-additional secretary, government of Bangladesh, passed away at a local hospital in the city on Saturday, July 9, due to old-age complications. She was 79, says a press release.

She left behind three sons, six grandchildren and a host of relatives.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Block-C Mosque, Lalmatia, after Zohr prayers on Sunday, July 10.

Her qulshwani will be held at her Gulshan residence after Maghrib prayers on Tuesday, July 12.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are kindly requested to attend the qulshwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

New property registration, transfer law challenged

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why the recent amendments to the Registration and Transfer of Property Acts should not be declared illegal and against the constitution.

The rule, returnable in two weeks, came upon a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a citizen challenging the legality of certain amendments to the Acts, which were made effective from July 1.

The amendments made it mandatory for the legal heirs to pay registration fees during sharing of property even inherited as gift and imposing preconditions for transfer.

The petitioner, AK Noor Mohammad, submitted that the provision for compulsory registration fees on gifted property (heba) and ancestral land are guided by the principles of Muslim Sharia Law based on the Holy Quran and Hadith, which cannot be changed or overridden.

Keeping unchanged the Laws of Transfer of Property Act, State Acquisition Act and Civil Procedure Code with regard to transfer of property, the new provisions are not applicable and in violation of fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution, the petitioner contended.



PHOTO: STAR

Six mathematics whiz kids pose for photograph with the guests at a reception at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. They are going to Mexico today to take part in the 46th International Mathematical Olympiad being held from July 9 to 19.

Six whiz kids to take part in Int'l Math Olympiad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six mathematics whiz kids of the country are going to Mexico today to take part in the 46th International Mathematical Olympiad being held from July 9 to 19.

The Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad (BdMO) committee has selected the whiz kids through a series of contests held across the country.

The BdMO organised a press conference in the city yesterday to introduce them to the press.

"I feel proud that our participants are going to take part in such an international contest for the first time. I wish them a grand success and hope they will do their best," said Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, president of the committee.

Prof Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shajalal University of Science and Technology said, "I am very excited that our brightest students are taking part in the International Mathematics Olympiad, the king of all competitions."

"Winning the first prize is not the main thing, but you must make your best effort," he told the young talents.

Motiur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo, also spoke at the press conference.

The six participants are Mahbul Hasan Shanto of Rajshahi, Shariar Rauf Nafi, Tahmid Ul Islam Rafi and Sabrina Tabassum of Dhaka, Syed Mustafa Tahsin of Chittagong and Rafatul Faria of Dinajpur.

They were selected through four-stage competitions from more than 15,000 competitors.

BdMO Vice-President Prof Munibur Rahman Chowdhury of mathematics department of Dhaka University and BdMO General Secretary Munir Hasan will lead the team as leader and deputy leader respectively.

Prof Munibur Chowdhury left Dhaka for Mexico on Thursday to participate in the meetings of the International Jury Board of the 46th International Mathematics Olympiad, the organisers said.

Dutch-Bangla Bank and the daily Prothom Alo have sponsored the BdMO's programmes.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Prof Dr Mohammad Kaikobad, Dutch-Bangla Bank Managing Director Yaseen Ali and Singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu were also present at the press conference.