



(From left) Managing Editor of India Today Raj Chengappa, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Kunda Dixit of the Nepali Times, Indian columnist Kuldip Nayar, Werner Vom Busch, Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune of India HK Dua, Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu N Ram and President of the Nation Multimedia Group Public Co Ltd Pana Janviroj pose for photograph at the Brac Centre in the city yesterday after a discussion organised by The Daily Star in observance of its 15th anniversary.

Poor nations need billions to fight climate change

REUTERS, New Delhi

A top British environmentalist said on Friday the developing world needed to spend at least \$40 billion more every year to fight climate change.

Last year was the warmest on record across the globe and it was unusually hot in the Arctic, US space agency NASA said last month.

Five of the hottest years since modern record-keeping began in the 1890s occurred in the past decade.

"If the developing world is to have extra resources necessary to modify their investments to make them carbon clean or reduce it significantly, they need extra finance of over \$40 billion each year," Sir Nicholas Stern, adviser to the British government on climate change, told

Reuters.

Scientists say the earth's atmosphere is warming as ever-greater amounts of carbon dioxide are pumped into the air by the burning of fossil fuels to feed coal-fired power plants, smoke-stack industries and transport.

Carbon dioxide levels are now at their highest levels than at any time in the past 650,000 years, Antarctic ice core studies show and concentrations of methane, another powerful greenhouse gas, are rising as well because of agriculture, melting Arctic permafrost and destruction of peat bogs.

Scientists say global warming threatens to create greater extremes of droughts and floods, more intense storms, rising seas and melting glaciers and ice caps.

Stern, who was speaking on the

sidelines of a conference of world environmentalists, scientists and policymakers to discuss sustainable development, said the \$40 billion was less than developing governments are already spending on energy.

Major developing nations such as India, China, Mexico and Indonesia, rely heavily on fossil fuels to power their rapidly growing economies, while Brazil is losing large areas of rainforest each year that can soak up carbon dioxide.

"If you look at it in relation to the energy and electricity bills which the developing world is already running, it would be far cheaper if they invest in cleaner technologies," he said.

"The world as a whole would benefit and save resources."

During a conference session on climate change, speakers said the

world needed to adapt to harsher weather by developing new crops and infrastructure, at the same time making greater efforts to cut emissions of greenhouse gases.

The International Energy Agency says if all the world's governments stick with current policies, global energy needs and carbon emissions will be 50 percent higher in 2030 than 2005.

"Adaptation is a priority now," said Neil Leary, a senior scientist at U.S.-based START, a non-governmental green group.

The Delhi meeting comes ahead of a major United Nations conference on biodiversity to be held in Brazil in March, which aims to reduce the current rate of loss of species, save forests from loggers and stop deserts advancing.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES

Child mortality rate reduced to 2m

CAPGAN Congress begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 8th Congress of Commonwealth Association of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (CAPGAN) begins in the city today to exchange views on the latest inventions and researches on diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition in developing countries.

The inaugural function of the congress will be held at Hotel Sheraton, said the officials of the host ICDDR, at a press briefing at its seminar room in Mohakhali yesterday.

Prof Muhammad Yunus, managing director of Grameen Bank, will be the keynote speaker at the inaugural ceremony where Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain

will be the chief guest and Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, head of Urology Department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, as special guest.

The theme of the congress is "Combating Malnutrition and Intestinal Diseases in Children: Are We Doing Enough?"

Speaking at the press briefing, Dr David A Sack, executive director of ICDDR, said about 500 delegates including 100 scientists are expected to join the congress.

He said Bangladesh has achieved a very good success in last two decades reducing the child mortality rate in diarrhoeal diseases using therapy and vaccines.

Once five million children used to die of diarrhoea each year, which has now reduced to two

million.

Dr Duncan Steele of WHO, Prof Edmund Anthony Nelson, current president of CAPGAN congress, and Dr Tahmed Ahmed, head of nutrition programme of ICDDR, also spoke at the briefing.

Dr Tahmed said the congress will hold 27 scientific sessions, six plenary sessions and more than 100 lectures on common childhood problems particularly on diarrhoeal diseases, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and natural disasters.

The sessions will be held at different halls and seminar rooms of ICDDR.

Dr Ishtiaque A Zaman, head of external relations and institutional development of ICDDR, conducted the briefing.

Leaders of stranded Pakistanis call on Hasina

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Two separate delegations of stranded Pakistanis called on Awami League president and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday afternoon.

The leaders of the stranded Pakistanis informed the opposition leader about their problems, complaints and demands.

Sheikh Hasina listened to them attentively and assured them of providing all sorts of assistance in this regard to solve the prevailing problems.

Sayedeh Sajeda Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan, Abdur Rahman, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, Advocate Sahara Khatun, BM Mozammel Haque, Abu Sayed Al Mahmud Swapan, Aminul Islam Amin, among others, were present.

6th Convocation of AIUB today

The 6th Convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre today, says a press release.

A total of 600 graduate students in computer science, computer engineering, BBA and MBA will be conferred upon their degrees at the convocation. The Chancellor of the University President Professor Iajuddin Ahmed will confer the degrees. Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruq MP will attend the convocation as the convocation guest.

Former President of Philippines Fidel V Ramos will attend the occasion as the convocation speaker. Vice Chancellors of different universities, renowned academicians, distinguished personalities and foreign dignitaries will also be present at the convocation.

Fidel V Ramos will pass a busy schedule in Dhaka.

During his stay, he will call on the president and the foreign minister. He will attend a series of meetings arranged by the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, Philippines Embassy, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and the Chairman of the University Grants Commission Professor Dr M Asaduzzaman and former president of FBCCI Abdul Awal Mintoo.

He will also attend a press conference in the Philippines Embassy today, visit the Savar National Memorial, hold discussions with eminent business leaders, meet the Filipino citizens in Bangladesh and talk to the media. He will leave Dhaka for Manila on February 8.

Husband throws acid on wife for dowry

UNB, Jhenidah

A young housewife suffered severe burn injuries as her husband allegedly threw acid on her in Beparipara area of the town on Wednesday.

Locals said Rezaul Karim threw acid on Bulbuli Khatun, 18, daughter of Mahatab Sheikh of Dariapur village in Sadar upazila, as she reported local police about torture on her by her husband and other-in-laws for dowry.

Bulbuli got married to Rezaul, son of Adiluddin Malita of Rupsha village in Haringkundia upazila, about one year ago. Rezaul demanded Tk 10,000 as dowry their during the marriage.

She failed to meet the demand as her father had died only after three months of her marriage. As a result, Rezaul used to torture her frequently.

Bulbuli was rushed to the Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Another report from Brahmanbaria adds: A minor boy suffered serious burn injuries as his uncle allegedly threw acid on him at Teknagar village in Nasirnagar upazila Thursday.

Injured Saiful Hossain, 7, son of Salim Hossain was rushed to the Sadar hospital.

Local people said Salim Hossain and his brother Amir Hossain had a longstanding enmity over their paternal property.

Locals said as a sequel to a recent quarrel between them Amir called Saiful out of their home at noon. He later took him to the bank of the Bag river and threw acid on him, leaving him critically injured.

Two bodies recovered in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Two unidentified bodies, including a woman, were recovered by police here on Thursday night.

Police recovered the body of a woman, aged about 35, at Doleswar Tawler ghat at 10:00pm.

In another incident, local people found the body of a man, aged about 26, floating on the river Buriganga on the same night and informed the police.



Removal of 'controversial' Election Commissioners demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sylhet Division Development Action Council at a meeting yesterday demanded reform of the EC and removal of 'controversial' election commissioners in order to ensure free and fair election.

They threatened to stage a sit-in in front of the Election Commission on February 12, if their demands are not met.

They were speaking at a unique protest meeting called "lying protest" at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city with founding president of the organisation Advocate Abed Raja in the chair.

Expressing concern over the ongoing anti-democratic activities across the country, he said, "Through 'lying protest', we want to sensitise the leaders of ruling party that they are sleeping, they should wake up and take necessary initiatives."

They also demanded ouster of the law minister for interfering in the independence of judiciary.

They slammed the government for the mass arrest of the Awami League (AL) leaders across the country.

They also called upon Muslims all over the world to boycott Danish products protesting publication of caricatures of Prophet Mohammad (SM) in an insulting manner.

General Secretary Ibrahim Khalil and Joint Secretary Syed Khalilur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

BONEWS, Dhaka

At least 10 people were killed and over 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and Chaitapahabganj on Friday.

Of them, eight people, including a college principal, were killed in separate accidents at city's Khilgaon, Bangabazar and suburban Dharmatala.

According to police, Principal MA Taher, 65, a resident of Sipahibagh in the city, was crushed by a truck when he was returning home by a rickshaw at about 7:00pm. The rickshaw puller, who could not be identified immediately, also faced the tragic death in the accident.

Moreover, another person was killed in an accident at city's Bangabazar in the morning.

Witnesses said some ten other pedestrians were also injured in the accident.

Dhamrai correspondent reports: At least five passengers were killed and over 50 others injured when two buses collided head on at Chhilmupur in the evening.

Witnesses said the collision took place between a bus bound for Aricha and another bus carrying a bridal party bound for Dhaka from Dhamrai.

All the five people died on the spot while the injured passengers

were rushed to different local hospitals and clinics, witnesses said.

Cox's Bazar correspondent adds: Two motorcycle riders were killed when a pickup van rammed their vehicle at Ziddabazar while they were on the way to Chokoria.

One of the motorcycle riders was identified as Anisur Rahman Chowdhury while another was yet

to be identified.

Chaitapahabganj correspondent adds: A ten-year-old boy identified as Humayun Kabir Isha, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Gomastapur in the district.

The victim, son of Jagat Miah, was a student of class four.

Pigeons to monitor air pollution

REUTERS, London

A flock of pigeons fitted with mobile phone backpacks is to be used to monitor air pollution, New Scientist magazine reported on Wednesday.

The 20 pigeons will be released into the skies over San Jose, California, in August.

Each bird will carry a GPS satellite tracking receiver, air pollution sensors and a basic mobile phone.

Text messages on air quality will be beamed back in real time to a special pigeon "blog", a journal accessible on the Internet.

Miniature cameras slung around the pigeons' necks will also post aerial pictures.

The idea is the brainchild of researcher Beatriz da Costa, of the University of California at Irvine, and two of her students.

They have built a prototype of the

pigeons' equipment, containing a mobile phone circuit board with SIM card and communication chips, a GPS receiver, and sensors capable of detecting carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide.

"We are combining an air pollution sensor with a home-made cellphone," da Costa told New Scientist.

The team is planning to squeeze all the components onto a single board small enough for the birds to carry in a backpack, New Scientist said.

The pigeons will take to the air at the Inter-Society for Electronic Arts' annual symposium in San Jose on August 5.

The data they send back will be displayed on the blog in the form of an interactive map.

Poor struggle in shadows of India's richest city

REUTERS, Mumbai

When authorities cleared the way for a multi-billion-dollar facelift of India's richest city last year, Mohammed Allahjan lost his home and then a daughter.

"The bulldozers razed our home. We were left watching," he says, his tin-walled hovel among the thousands of shanties flattened to make way for a cleaner, swankier Mumbai.

Allahjan's family has lived in makeshift plastic shacks ever since the demolition eight months ago. His youngest daughter, 11, died from jaundice six weeks later as the family lived on the pavement in central Mumbai, in the shadow of glistening new office buildings and shopping malls.

"We lost our homes because the city is being spruced up. So, Mumbai will be for the rich only," said Sudesh Gawali, a resident of

sidewalks.

"Two completely different worlds exist side by side in Mumbai," said Parth Shah, president of a New Delhi-based think tank, Centre for Civil Society. "If there is unbelievable opulence on the one hand, there is also poverty and squalor."

"SLUMBAI"

The poor live in hundreds of garbage-filled slums without safe drinking water, proper sanitation or health services, leading the Indian media to dub the city "slumba".

Yet Mumbai has more cars than most Indian cities, more cinemas, malls and amusement parks and more of its citizens fly off for vacations, an unthinkable luxury for most Indians.

"It's a difficult life, particularly because we know there are rich people who live very differently," said Sudesh Gawali, a resident of

Dharavi, Asia's biggest slum, a two-square-km patch of land occupied by about a million people.

His two-room shack is occupied by another family of six who share one toilet and a kitchen, like many other homes in Dharavi.

For decades, these thickets of hovels have sprouted illegally on government land, offering cheap accommodation to streams of economic migrants coming to Mumbai to escape countryside poverty.

The influx is on the rise, stretching