

Political will needed to solve indigenous people's problems

Speakers tell Bapa roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for political will to solve the problems of indigenous people including the problems prevailing in forest areas of the country.

They said many projects have been taken by the forest department with the assistance of international donor agencies since 50s where the views of indigenous people were not considered at all.

Rather those who opposed the projects were harassed by false cases, and even lost their lives, they added.

The roundtable titled 'Eco park, indigenous people and environment: Madhupur experience' was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city.

Vice-president of Bapa Prof Kazi Modina presided over the roundtable where its General Secretary Mahidul Haq Khan delivered the welcome speech.

Prof Modina called upon people to work unitedly for the welfare of the marginal groups and proper maintenance of environment.

Prof Khondokar Mokaddem

Hossain of Dhaka University (DU) and Prof Farida Khanam of Bangladesh Environment Network presented keynote speech at the roundtable.

Indicating the political solution of indigenous people's problems, Prof Akmal Hossain said it needs changes in state policy after preparing a set of recommendations.

Prof HK Arefin, ASM Atikur Rahman and Dr Mahbuba Nasrin of DU, Executive Director of SEHD Philip Gain, Sanjeeb Drong, Zakir Hossain, Pavel Partho, Dr Abdul Hai Majumder and Mihir Biswas also spoke on the occasion.

Scientists announce cancer drug breakthrough

AFP, Sydney

Australian scientists yesterday said they have developed a cancer treatment which could deliver lethal doses of drugs to tumours without the usual harmful side-effects such as nausea and hair loss.

Research scientist Jennifer MacDiarmid said the cutting-edge technique uses nanotechnology to create particles which directly attack cancer cells with a "lethal payload" of drugs, without flooding the body with toxic chemicals.

Treatments such as chemotherapy typically involve subjecting the patient's entire body to the powerful drugs in order to kill the cancer, causing debilitating side-effects that the new, targeted technique would eliminate.

"Your hair wouldn't fall out, you wouldn't throw up... some chemotherapy is life-threatening in itself," MacDiarmid told AFP.

MacDiarmid said scientists at Sydney-based biotechnology company EnGenelC, where she is a managing director, used a bacteria cell stripped of reproductive powers to develop a particle capable of carrying any chemotherapy drug.

The nano-cell, which is about one-fifth the size of a normal cell, is then tagged with antibodies which are attracted to cancerous tumours. Once the cell hits the cancer, the drug is released directly into the malignant growth.

"There is no other system where you can get so much drug concentrated into a little parcel," MacDiarmid said.

The results of animal trials published this week in the US-based journal Cancer Cell show that the technique has reduced tumours in animals without toxic side-effects and by using only a very small amount of drugs.

MacDiarmid said the treatment could potentially be used on any solid tumours including those in the breasts, ovaries, colon and lungs.

In future, the treatment could allow for the creation of customised drug "cocktails" to be used on patients to counter drug resistance, she said.

Criminal held with firearm, bombs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a suspected criminal with a firearm, three improvised bombs, two bullets and Tk 2 lakh when he went to collect tolls from a medicine market near Mitford Hospital in the capital yesterday.

The arrestee, Mohammad Shaheen, is a member of local criminal gang 'Kamal Group' that blasted three bombs in front of Montaj Market on Thursday night, local traders said.

The gang members demanded Tk 2 lakh from each of at least 10 traders a few days ago, the traders said, adding that when they informed Rab-10 of it, the elite force told one of the traders to agree to meet the gang's demand.

"As Shaheen went to the MS Traders to collect Tk 2 lakh, our men in plainclothes caught him red-handed," said a Rab official.

Rab also seized two mobile sets and five SIM cards from Shaheen, 35. Rab was interrogating him as of 8:30pm yesterday.

Mason dies as brick falls on his head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mason died when a brick fell on his head from the top floor of a six-storied under-construction building in the city yesterday.

Chan Mia, 50, was working outside the building at Lalmatia when the brick fell on his head at around 2:00pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

An unnatural death case was filed with Mohammadpur police.

Four arrested with smuggled medicine

UNB, Joypurhat

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), in a sudden drive, arrested four smugglers with huge Indian medicine from Ramchandrapur in frontier Panchbhi upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the Rab members of Joypurhat camp, raided the house of Akbar Ali of Ramchandrapur at about 1:00am and recovered eight sacks of medicine, worth over Tk 8 lakh.

They also arrested Akbar Ali, Abdul Khaleq, Sirajul Islam and Saiful Islam in this connection.



The drainage line that runs under the road between Mohakhali and Gulshan 1 in the city remains uncovered, much to the disgust of the pedestrians and commuters, but the authorities have turned a blind eye to the problem. The picture was taken yesterday.

Economic zone to be set up in Sylhet soon

Says foreign affairs adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar

Ahmed Chowdhury has said about one thousand acres of land would be acquired soon to set up an economic zone in Sylhet where expatriate Bangladeshis will be given priority for investment.

The present government is committed to creating an atmosphere for investment opportunities for the expatriates in real sense, he said, adding "We have already started some three specific jobs in this respect, as the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRB) are also coming forward with a new vision".

All these are being done in line with the decisions of the planning ministry as well as the cabinet, he added.

The adviser was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of Hotel Garden Inn in the Sylhet city on Thursday night. Former adviser to the caretaker government Prof Brigadier General (retd) Abdul Malik, Pubali Bank Chairman Hafiz Ahmed Majumder and British-Bangladesh Chamber

of Commerce's Director General Dr Azizur Rahman addressed it as special guests.

Brigadier General (retd) Zubayer Siddiqui, Deputy Commissioner Zamil Hossain Majumder, District Bar association President Abdul Hai Khan, Press Club President Muktabis Un Noor, Sylhet Red Crescent Society's Vice-President Prof ANAA Mahub Ahmed and Lt Colonel (retd) Syed Ali Ahmed also spoke on the occasion. Faruque Ahmed Misbah, managing director of the Man and Company, which owns the hotel, delivered the welcome address.

The adviser said the NRBs remained unattended for long due to lack of scope for their investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

"They are very interested to join hands for development of the country and now we want to create options for them", Chowdhury said, adding the proposed economic zone will provide lands and other facilities for setting up industrial units of different

natures, where the expatriates will be given priority for investment.

Referring to his recent contacts with the different officials of the British government, the foreign affairs adviser said DFID will be involved with the process of setting up a caterers' training institute of international standard in Sylhet soon.

It will be done with a view to meeting the huge demand of semi-skilled and skilled workers for the 12,000 Bangladeshis owned restaurants in the UK. The British-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce has come up with certain proposals for developing the country's linkage with the NRBs, he added.

The runway of Osmani International Airport will be extended to 10,500 feet by June this year, so that wide bodied planes of all types can operate, he said.

Earlier on the day, the adviser visited some prospective sites for the proposed economic zone and the ongoing development works at the Osmani International Airport.

Three fake examinees held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three false examinees were arrested at Kendua and Mohongonj in the district yesterday while they were acting as proxy for their brothers at the Mathematics exam of SSC 2006 under Open University.

The arrestees were identified as Rajon Khan of Kendua poura area and Mohasin and Sohal of Noapara-Sohil Dao village at Mohongonj.

Rajon Khan was acting as proxy for his brother Lalon Khan at Joyhari Spry High School centre at Kendua, Mahasin was acting as proxy for his brother Anwar Hossain at Mohongonj Pilot High School centre while Sohal was acting as proxy for his brother Golap Mahmud at Mohongonj Pilot High School Centre, sources said.

Rape, teasing of teenaged girls condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari, a rights organisation, in statement yesterday condemned rape of a retarded adolescent girl in Akhaura and teasing of a girl by some derailed youths that compels her to commit suicide.

Rina, a class seven student of East Dholaiapur of Shyampur committed suicide on Tuesday following repeated threats and teasing by the caretaker of their house Harunur Rashid and some other local hoodlums.

Meantime, a retarded teenaged girl was allegedly raped by Masud Mia of Purbapara village of Dhorkhar Union in Akhaura.

The statement demanded immediate arrest of the criminals and exemplary punishment to them.

Clash leaves 17 injured

UNB, Sirajganj

At least 17 people were injured in a fierce clash between two rival groups over capturing a land at west Khukhsia village in Kazipur upazila on Thursday.

Local people said a dispute had long been prevailing between two neighbours - Abdur Rashid and Abdus Aziz - of the village over a piece of land.

Supporters of Rashid and Aziz clashed with each other at noon and threw brickbats that left 17 people injured on both sides.

Five killed in road accidents

UNB, Dhaka

Five people, including two children, were killed and 36 others injured in separate road accidents in Faridpur, Sirajganj and Mymensingh in the last two days.

In Faridpur, two members of a bridal party were killed and another injured yesterday afternoon.

Local sources said a brick-laden truck rammed into a motorcycle carrying three riders at about 3:30pm at Mohishala village in Boalmari, killing two on the spot and injuring one.

The dead were identified as Babul Biswas, 25, and Hafizur Biswas, 35, of Garakhola village in Madhukhali upazila.

Seriously injured Mithun was admitted to Modhukhali Hospital.

The three were leading the bridal party, which was going to Shottasia village in the upazila.

A case was filed with Boalmari thana.

Police seized the truck, but the driver and helper managed to escape.

Sirajganj

A man was killed and 35 people, including a staff reporter of Bangladesh Television, were injured in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Police said the first accident took place at 12:00 noon as a bus overturned at Sarutia in Sadar upazila, killing an unidentified man and injuring 30 other people.

In the second accident, a truck rammed into a microbus carrying journalists of BTV and Press Information Department (PIB), on the connecting road of the Jamuna Bridge at about 5:00pm, injuring five.

The journalists were returning to the capital after covering a

programme of Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury.

Fifteen people injured in two road accidents were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and local clinics.

Condition of five injured people, including BTV reporter Pervez Hasan, was stated critical. They were shifted to Dhaka.

Mymensingh

Two children were crushed under the wheels of a microbus at Akua Bangarpol in the district town on

Thursday.

The victims were identified as Papia, 4, and Sakib, 3.

Police and witnesses said the Fulbaria-bound speeding microbus from Mymensingh town ran over the two children who were standing on roadside at about 11:00am, leaving them critically injured.

They were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.



Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury inaugurates a month-long exposition of apparels based on 'Kalmakari', an ancient form of hand-painted art, at Nagrodola at Dhanmondi's City Tower in the capital yesterday.



WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places in Khulna and Rajshahi divisions in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave sweeping over the regions of Ishwardi and Khulna division may continue, Met Office said in a forecast.

It also said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi and lessore and the lowest of 23.6 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.

The 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	35.3	27.4	68	71
Chittagong	34.5	25.8	73	71
Rajshahi	35.8	24.3	78	72
Khulna	36.5	26.0	69	58
Barisal	34.2	25.5	69	--
Sylhet	29.5	23.6	98.7	7
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.2	65	76

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 30th episode of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 5:45pm today.

Awami League leader Abdul Hamid, BNP leader Ashraf Hossain, former secretary Waliur Rahman and Prof Dilara Chowdhury will feature the four-member panel for this week's Sanglap, says a press release.

Masud Hasan Khan of BBC Bangla Service will moderate the Sanglap, jointly organised by BBC World Service Trust and BBC Bangla Service.

The Sanglap programme will be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 7:30pm tomorrow and on Channel i at 8:00pm on Monday.



Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah speaks at a seminar styled 'Permanent solutions to waterlogging and salinity in the southwestern region, including Bhabadaha' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bhabadaha Pani Nishkashan Sangram Committee, Jessore organised the seminar.

DHAKA TODAY

ASF Media Award 2006

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) will give away ASF Media Award 2006. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 6:30pm.

Inauguration

The inauguration of Dhaka University Management Club (DUMC) will be held. Venue: Conference room, Faculty of Business Studies. Time: 9:00am.

Book launch

The launching ceremony of 'The history of railway in the East Bengal 1862-1947', authored by Dr Deenak Sohoni Kabir and published by Academic Press and Publishers' Library, will be held, followed by a discussion. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

The first episode of a series of roundtables titled 'Discovering health', jointly organised by Health 21, The Daily Star and North South University, will be held. Venue: The Daily Star office. Time: 10:50am.

Freshers' reception

A reception ceremony for the freshers of Summer Semester 2007 of Southeast University will be held. Venue: Seminar hall of the university. Time: 10:00am.

Artisans' gathering

ECOTA Fair Trade Forum organises an artisans' gathering. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Int'l Nurse Day

A discussion will be held on the occasion of the International Nurse Day. Venue: Dhaka Medical College auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

The Weekly Financial Mirror in collaboration with Dhaka Ahsania Mission will organise a discussion on 'Creating public awareness about the scourge of cancer in Bangladesh'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Channel I, Saptahik2000 and ActionAid Bangladesh will jointly organise a discussion on 'Fish preservation and the voice of the fishermen'. Venue: LGED seminar hall. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 7:30pm.