

Protect wetland to save city from waterlogging

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is necessary to ensure proper drainage of rainwater before filling up any wetland or waterbody, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They called for updating as well as strict implementation of the laws related to the protection of wetland and open space to protect the city from waterlogging.

They also laid emphasis on the participation of city dwellers to maintain the drainage system of the city along with the authorities concerned.

The discussion titled 'How to solve waterlogging problem of Dhaka city' was organised jointly by Nagorik Sanghati and Organ Developments Ltd at the National

Press Club in the city.

Kazi Mohammed Shish, former chief engineer of Water and Sewerage Authorities (Wasa), presented the keynote speech at the discussion.

He said no less than 56 crore litres of water drains out from the city every year and of this, 23 crore litres is rainwater and the rest household liquid waste.

But under the existing drainage system, only 60 percent of the total water is drained out from the city, he added.

Kazi Shish said the household liquid waste is increasing every year with the growing number of populations but the city drainage coverage is not increasing at the same rate.

He said the city drainage system

has been designed in such a way that it can drain out in an average 65 millimetres rainfall in six hours.

"So if the drainage system remains properly clean, there is no question of waterlogging during the normal rainfall. But most of the drainage system is clogged with household waste and polythene. So there is severe waterlogging in the city during the monsoon," he added.

Kazi Shish said, "We have blocked all the natural drainage system by filling up 22 big and many other small canals."

The present Wasa drainage system covers an area up to flood protection embankment in the West, Janapath-Rampura-Pragati Sarani-Railway track in the East, Tongi bridge in the North and Buriganga river in the South, he

said.

But the city now needs a drainage network covering 260 square kilometres, but it has only 150 square kilometres, he added.

Dr Moniruzzaman Mia, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said, "If we remain conscious and law obedient we can protect the city from waterlogging."

Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman presided over the discussion which was moderated by Dr AQM Mahbubur Rahman.

Md Asaduzzaman, managing director of Organ Developments Ltd, Sharifuzzaman Sharif, general secretary of Nagorik Sanghati, and Mihir Biswas, member-secretary of Buriganga Bachao Andolon, were present at the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession was brought out from the National Museum in the city yesterday to mark the International Museum Day.

Preserve country's history, heritage for next generation

Experts say at Int'l Museum Day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Museum Day was observed across the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world with a renewed commitment to preserving the country's thousand-year-old heritage for the next generation so that the history becomes a source of inspiration to them.

This year the theme was 'Museum and Universal Heritage'.

National Museum and International Council of Museums (ICOM) Bangladesh jointly organised daylong programmes, including discussion, seminar and view exchanging meeting, to mark the day.

Carrying banners, festoons and placards and wearing white T-shirt, several hundreds official of National Museum and leaders and activists of ICOM brought out a colourful procession at 7:30am from Shahbagh in the city that paraded different city streets.

Secretary to the cultural affairs ministry ABM Abdul Haq Chowdhury inaugurated the daylong programmes organised to mark the day at National Museum in the morning.

"Museums are the mirror of a nation that bridges the past with the present," said Haq.

He called upon the authorities concerned to preserve the objects in the museums that present the thousand-year-old history and heritage of the nation and unveil those before the world community.

Later, a seminar was organised at the auditorium of the museum.

Participants at the seminar pointed out the problems the museums are undergoing and placed recommendations, including training facilities for skilled museum staff, making the young generation interested about museum, fund raising for the museums and making the best use of information technology.

Director General of National

Museum Samar Pal said museums mainly reflect history, society, anthropology, ethnology, politics, religion, customs and folklore of a country.

"Globally, a total of 830 places are identified as 'historical heritages' in 138 countries, including 644 cultural heritages, 162 natural heritages and 24 combined heritages," he said while presenting the keynote paper.

Nurul Haq, director of National Science and Technology Museum, said each objects of a museum contains an independent historic background and cultural heritage.

Additional secretary to primary and mass education ministry Kazi Akhtar Hossain said the ancient culture and the history of Bangladesh shall have to be portrayed before the next generation through the museums.

In the evening, a view exchanging meeting was held where representatives from different museums across the country took part.

President undergoes cataract surgery

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed underwent a successful cataract surgery at Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday.

A surgical team headed by Prof Dr Sheikh MA Mannaf performed the phaco emulsification cataract surgery with intraocular lens implantation on the left eye of the president.

Other members of the surgical team were Prof AH Syedur Rahman, Dr Nazrul Islam, Dr Ziaul Ahsan, Dr Abdur Rakib Tusher, Dr Sharmina Alauddin and Dr Siddique Rahman.

A medical board comprising Prof Hazera Mahub, Maj. Gen. (ret'd) Ziauddin Ahmed, Prof AK Miyani, Prof Md Omar Faruk, Prof AKM Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Prof Jafar Latif, Prof AKM Morshed, and Brig. Gen. Prof Md Sk Bahar Hossain was with the surgical team.

The operation, which began at 9:30am, was successfully completed by 9:55 am, said a Bangabhaban release.

On completion of the operation, the president took rest up to 4:30pm at Birdem and returned to Bangabhaban at 4:40pm.

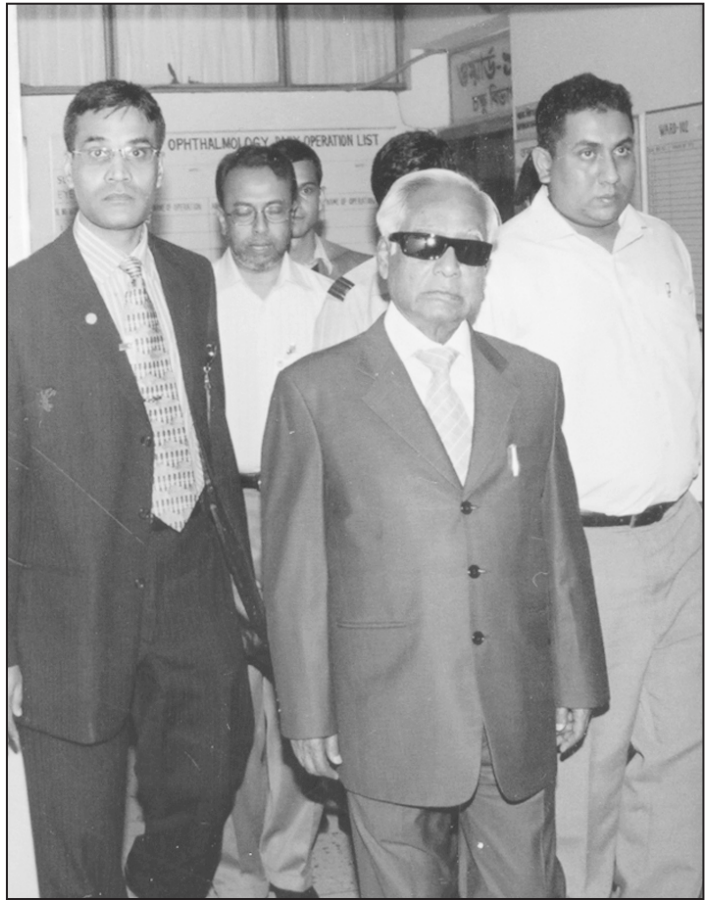


PHOTO: PID

President Iajuddin Ahmed comes out of Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday after a successful cataract surgery.

Empowering poor students with IT skills

Dishari trains over 800 students free of cost

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN, back from Manikganj

With a philosophy of providing a platform for the financially disadvantaged students of IT education that can help them cope with job market, Dishari Basic IT Education Centre continues its efforts relentlessly.

Established in July 2002, Dishari, a concern of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB), trained more than 800 students free of cost at its four centres across the country, the authorities said.

The trainees included rural youths, who are economically disadvantaged, children of farmers, government employees and different professionals.

Dishari got started with Chechua IT centre in Kushtia to spread IT education among the rural youth, especially the children of leaf farmers. Afterwards three more centres have been set up at Moulvibazar in 2003, Manikganj in 2004 and Cox's Bazar in 2005.

Firoz Salauddin Rajib, community relations executive, corporate regulatory affairs (Cora) and also project manager of Dishari said the BATB established Dishari in support of its commitment to be a development partner of the country and to support the government's emphasis on IT.

Dishari introduced executive batch for different professionals and government employees in 2005, aiming at developing the skills

of existing jobholders in the community such as journalists, local government employees and others.

"Any computer-illiterate and financially disadvantaged can take the course at Dishari's regular course after taking part in an admission test, while professionals can take the course in Dishari's executive batch," Firoz said.

A group of journalists on Thursday visited Dishari's Manikganj branch situated in the Bat's Manikganj Leaf Office at the invitation of the authorities.

Currently, the 17th batch of 12 students is completing the two-month basic course at the Manikganj centre, Shamim Haider, trainer of the Dishari Manikganj said.

Trained instructors demonstrate basic operation of computers and Microsoft Office and other basic applications that are frequently in use. Students are also taught fundamental English. Passing at least SSC is a prerequisite for admission at Dishari.

"All the students have access to individual PCs during the classes. The centre also has a library for the students," Shamim said.

He said many of their ex-students are doing well in the job market, while many other students got inspired to take advanced IT course.

Hosne Ara Akhter, one of the 17th batch students, who completed her MA in Bangla from a college in Manikganj, said she was impressed with the method of the course.

Shofika Sultana and Md Ayyub Ali, two ex-students of Dishari of 4th batch here, now working at Leaf Office after completion of the basic course. Shofika is working as IT operator, while Ayyub as barcode entry operator.

"The thing is not like that we train them up and leave them, rather along with the basic course, we enhance their confidence that they have the ability to do better," Shamim said.

Five CAAB employees jailed for taking bribes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced five employees of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to two to six days' imprisonment for taking bribes from a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger at Zia International Airport.

The five -- Iqbal Bahar Bhuiyan, Shahjalal Patwari, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Sheikh Ansar Uddin and Mohammad Shamsuddin -- were handed over to the Airport police at 12:15am today.

The police said the five employees found that the passenger, Shahabuddin, was carrying Tk 68,000 in his bag when it was put in the scanning machine. But they let him go after he bribed them.

Later, the joint forces arrested the five and produced them before the mobile court at the airport.

Finance adviser to attend ESCAP confce

BSS, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Adviser Dr AB Mirza Mohammad Azizul Islam left Dhaka yesterday for Kazakhstan to attend the 63rd annual conference of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).

He will lead a three-member Bangladesh delegation at the four-day conference beginning at Almaty tomorrow.

Obituary



Syed Shamim Ahsan, former secretary and grandson of Sir AF Rahman, passed away at his Baridhara residence in the city yesterday, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife.

Syed Shamim Ahsan, chairman of SMC, joined the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1961 and retired in 1994 as the health secretary. He also served as the managing director of Bangladesh Biman. He was also the founder-president of Baridhara Society.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baridhara Baitul Atiq Central Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today.

His qulhwani will be held at the same mosque after Asr prayers on Monday.

Death anniversary



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Elias Ahmed Chowdhury, an organiser of the War of Liberation and a former lawmaker.

Madaripur-1 constituency, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Dattapara Jam-E-Mosque after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Prof QAIM Nuruddin

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Prof QAI M Nuruddin, doyen of journalism education in the country and teacher of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Dhaka University, says a press release.

On the occasion, destitute will be fed after Zohr prayers and doa mahfil will be held after Asr prayers.



PHOTO: STAR

Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu, mother-in-law of Tarique Rahman, and his wife Dr Zubaida Khan Rahman come out of Dhaka Central Jail after meeting Tarique in the room of senior jail superintendent yesterday.

Inefficiency main bar

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profiling this year include 23 paternity disputes, 25 rape cases, two related to immigration, three for murder and one for dead body identification. About 40 cases were brought for DNA profiling last year.

THE PROJECT

Danish aid agency Danida and Bangladesh government jointly set up the laboratory under the "Multisectoral Programme on Violence Against Women" project.

Five DNA screening laboratories were set up at five divisional towns

across the country under the first phase of the project, which is likely to end this year. About 15 staffs are working at the Dhaka laboratory while four staffs are working at the divisional laboratories each.

The cost for DNA test of each sample is Tk 5,000 while the final profiling is conducted at the DMCH laboratory.

Awareness building and training programmes involving different groups of professionals, including the police and lawyers, are arranged under the project.

The second phase of the project will aim at expanding the facility at the district level, sources said.

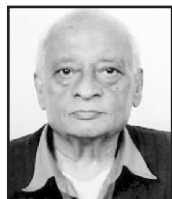
A piece of evidence goes through three stages of testing -- DNA screening, DNA extraction, and DNA analysing -- for the profiling. Sophisticated machines like genetic analyser and polymerase chain reaction machine are used for the tests.

"If the government wants to take the facility to the people, the national budget should have specific allocation for the sector," said Sharif Akhteruzzaman, national technical adviser at the Dhaka DNA profiling laboratory.

"The facilities of DNA technology could not be extended to victims due to lack of a comprehensive government plan and the law enforcers' diminutive knowledge of it," he added.

The laboratory authorities claimed that although they had difficulties in using the technology in the beginning, they can handle any case now with 100 percent efficiency and accuracy.

Qulhwani



Qulhwani of Fakhru Islam Khan, a cultural organiser, film producer and journalist, will be held at his residence at House # 1/2, Block # C, Apartment Shaptak, at Lalmatia in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Fakhru Islam, father of former director of Shilpakala Academy Amirul Islam Khan Bulbul, passed away on May 12.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the qulhwani.

WEATHER TODAY				
Thundershowers likely				
UNB, Dhaka				
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.				
Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.				
Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 23.2 degrees at Bogra.				
The sun sets in the capital at 6:36pm today and rises at 5:14am 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	34.4	26.5	73	55
Chittagong	32.7	24.5	71	77
Rajshahi	36.4	25.1	75	93
Khulna	34.5	26.0	72	65
Barisal	32.6	25.5	80	78
Sylhet	33.3	25.1	85	65
Cox's Bazar	31.7	25.5	74	76

Two bodies recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of an unidentified woman and a newborn baby in the city yesterday.

The body of woman wearing white T-shirt and jeans was found in a paddy field at Matual Mirdha Bari in Jatrabari.

Her hands and legs were tied with rope and a scarf was also tied around her neck, the police said.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, the police recovered the decomposed body of a newborn from a water body in Tejaon Industrial Area.

Sources said locals informed the police after they saw the body floating in the water body.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Prof Samad new VC of Prime University



President and Chancellor of the Prime University Iajuddin Ahmed has appointed Prof M Abdus Samad as vice chancellor of the university, says a

press release.

Before his new position, he had been dean, Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology.

Prof Samad is the vice president of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI) and founder executive member of Bangladesh Electronics Society (BES).

Appeal for help



Syed Golam Mostaque, 42, an officer of United Commercial Bank Ltd, has been suffering from liver cirrhosis since last two years, says a

press release.

A liver transplant is the only way to save his life, and for this around Tk 4 million is now required immediately for his operation in India.

His family has already spent a large amount of money for his treatment and is now unable to manage such a huge amount.

So Anjuman Ara Begum, wife of Golam Mostaque, has appealed to affluent people of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No 112200109343,

United Commercial Bank Ltd, 58 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Fair & Lovely, Faria Lara Foundation ink deal

Fair and Lovely Foundation will continue to empower women economically through education by continuing the "Supplementary Education Programme" for the third year running, says a press release.

The Foundation has signed an agreement with the Faria Lara Foundation on Thursday in this regard. These two organisations have worked together to improve the lives of rural women in the country.

On the occasion, Rakesh Mohan, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd and Anwar Hossain Khan, senior vice president of Faria Lara Foundation have signed on behalf of their respective organisations.

The programme was initiated in Banna upazila of Barguna district in 2005.