

WB plans int'l fund to fight deforestation

AFP, Washington

The World Bank is planning an international fund of at least 250 million dollars to fight deforestation, which contributes to global warming, a bank official said Monday.

The targets for the fund are all countries that have significant rain forests, Werner Kornel, senior technical specialist in the carbon finance unit, told AFP.

That includes countries in Latin America, Central Africa and Southeast Asia, especially but, mainly, significant carbon-dioxide emitters such as Brazil, Congo and Indonesia, he said.

The program "will be performance based, so a country will only receive funds after it was measured and verified that the emissions were

reduced," said Kornel.

"That could be a historical deforestation rate that has been reduced in future and this difference is the difference that will be paid," he said.

Deforestation, which advances at a rate of five percent per decade, is responsible for 20 percent of the total annual carbon dioxide emissions -- or three billion tonnes of CO2, according to a World Bank report released in late October.

"We have been requested by the G8 (group of industrialized nations) to design the facility (funding program) but this is something that we have been working on already for some time," said Kornel, who said Bank officials hope to launch the program at the next major UN Climate Conference in Bali, Indonesia, in December.

The Bali conference is aimed at setting up a framework for an agreement that would succeed the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

The fund will include public and private donors, Kornel said.

"The Bank is not putting money, it will be carried by investors and donors," he said.

"There are companies that are already investing in climate change activities and forestry, that shows very huge interest," he said.

Kornel said the Bank "would only declare it effective whenever we have everything together."

Forests provide 47 million jobs worldwide, according to the World Wildlife Fund, and cover 30 to 40 percent of the earth's land area.

Hasina offers prayers at Bangabandhu's grave

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina offered special prayers at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday.

After Asar prayers, the AL chief attended a milad at the mosque of Bangabandhu Samadhi Soudha Complex and prayed for salvation of the departed soul of father of the nation.

AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury and party leaders Col (ret'd) Faruque Khan and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and Hasina's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were accompanying her.

HC order on Wonderland Park stayed

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for 45 days the High Court order asking the authorities concerned to remove all the establishments of Wonderland Amusement Park in the city's Gulshan area.

On May 24, the High Court, upon a public interest litigation writ petition, filed by local resident MA Reza, ordered the authorities of Wonderland to remove all the establishments of the amusement park within six months.

The vacation chamber court of Justice M Joydul Abedin passed the order following a government application, as it preferred leave-to-appeal against the High Court order.

Tk 10 lakh more support for cancer hospital

Social Welfare Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Nurun Nahar Ahmed yesterday donated Tk 10 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, says a press release.

Nahar, also a freelance photo-journalist, handed over a cheque for the amount to President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the Mission Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Atwo-bed cabin of the hospital will be named after his late husband Moizuddin Ahmed and Nahar. Her daughter Rehnuma Ahmed and other officers of the mission were present at the ceremony.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam said the construction work of the 13-story hospital building is progressing very fast. The construction of the 9th floor (in addition to two basements) is undergoing now.



A schoolboy wades through knee-deep water at Kutubpur near DND embankment in the city on his way to school yesterday. The area went under water due to heavy rain for the last two days.

Low quality foreign university branches 'selling' degrees

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of different degrees. "We published the list of unauthorised foreign university campuses so that new students do not fall down the tube of illegal institutes," he said.

Nazrul also said the UGC will reinvestigate the black listed institutes considering the plight of innocent students who had already been admitted to those and spent several academic years there without knowing about the hoax.

However, the authorities of some of the claimed branches of foreign universities urged the government to enact new rules regarding such institutes so that low quality educational institutes cannot operate while quality institutes do not face any trouble.

education. But the UGC should re-examine my institute because we provide quality education and the government should enact new rules so that false educational institutes cannot operate," he told The Daily Star.

Prof Assaduzzaman, former chairman of the UGC, said the black listed foreign university campuses do not have any course curriculum or their own teachers. "They carry out academic activities hiring teachers from other public and private universities but offer different degrees including PhD and MBA," he said.

Among the 56 foreign university campuses, 21 institutes are set up in Dhanmondi area, five in Uttara, four in Bannai and the rest are in Mohammadpur, Gulshan, Motijheel, Kalabagan and Lalmatia in the capital. Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi cities also have their shares of such problematic institutes for higher education.

International Centre for Higher Studies, Institute of Law at Dhanmondi, Perdana College of Malaysia, Environment, Agriculture and Development Services Ltd (EADS) at Dhanmondi, Bhuiyan Academy at Dhanmondi, World Institute of Business & Technology (WIBT) at Dhanmondi, Foreign Education Services Bangladesh at Khilgaon, Australasia Institute of Business Technology at Banani, Global Institute of Resource Management (GIRM) at Dhanmondi, Progressive Meritocracy Ltd at Uttara, International University at Uttara, James Cook University at Dhaka, University of Ballarat at Nayapalton, Royal Roads University at Banani, University of Honolulu at Dhanmondi, Cambrian College Canada at Gulshan, University of Newcastle at Dhanmondi, The Law Tutors at Dhanmondi, British School of Law at Gulshan, Soft-Ed Ltd at Dhanmondi, Atlantic National University at Jigatola, University of Luton at Dhanmondi, Dhaka Centre for Law & Economics at Dhanmondi, University of North America at Banani, University of Wollongong Australia at Banani, Assumption University (ABAC) Thailand at Topkhana Road, Pitch Blend University of Science & Technology at Uttara, Central Institute for International Technology at Dhanmondi, Neural Systems Limited at Satmasjid Road, Daffodil Institute of IT at Kalabagan, SAFS International at Dhanmondi, Asian Centre for Management and Information Technology at Banani, SRGB-AEC Centre for Business Studies at New Eskaton, CAT ACCA Preston University at Banani, Bhuiyan Institute of Technology at Dhanmondi, IBCS PRIMAX Ltd at

Dhanmondi, Bangladesh Institute of Arts Design and Technology at Uttara, and Victoria University, USA at Dhaka.

Illegal foreign university campuses outside Dhaka are Institute of Business and Information Technology at Zindabazar in Sylhet, Unique Computing at Rajshahi, Victoria University, USA at Chittagong, Panama University at Khulna, Australian National University at Khulna, Institute of Management Technology and Research (IMTR) at Chittagong, and West Cost University of Panama at Khulna.

Four law institutes filed a writ petition with the court and the High Court on May 16 stayed for two weeks a decision taken by the UGC to declare the four private law institutes illegal. The institutes are Bhuiyan Academy, Newcastle Law Academy, Dhaka Centre for Law and Economics, and British School of Law.

The High Court however did not issue any rule on the UGC to explain the legality of the commission's decision to declare 56 private universities including the four law institutes illegal.

Besides, High Court on May 30 issued a rule upon the UGC to explain why four educational institutes--Bhuiyan Academy, New Castle Law Academy, Dhaka Centre for Law and Economics (DCLE and British School of Law (BSL)--- in its public notice as illegal universities should not be declared unlawful.



Social Welfare Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Nurun Nahar Ahmed hands over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the Mission Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Punishment to abductor of Kalpana demanded

Hill Women's Federation yesterday demanded of the caretaker government to make public the investigation report of abduction of its former leader Kalpana Chakma and exemplary punishment to the abductor.

On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Kalpana Chakma abduction, the Federation Central President Sonali Chakma at a statement yesterday also demanded withdrawal of Operation Uttaran from the hill districts and stoppage of all sorts of repression, including violence against women.

Hill Women's Federation leader Kalpana Chakma was abducted on June 12 in 1996 before the 8th parliamentary election, but her whereabouts is yet to be known, she said at the statement.

The then government was forced to form an investigation

committee following pressures from home and abroad, but the investigation report is yet to be made public, Sonali Chakma noted.

Leader of the federation, an organisation representing the hill women, said the present caretaker government has taken a number of steps against corruption of the country, but is yet to take any measures against those who repressed and is still continuing the same on the people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

"Lt Ferdous, abductor of Kalpana Chakma, is in the job without any disruption, while taking advantage of the emergency, army patrolling and tortures on the hill people have been intensified. As a result, the people in the area are living under threat," the statement added.