

FIRST ASIA PACIFIC WATER SUMMIT IN JAPAN IN DEC

Govts urged to include water in development priorities

UNB, Dhaka

Water experts and programme specialists of international agencies, who met in Singapore last month to plan the first Asia Pacific Water Summit (APWS) to be held in Japan in December, want water to be put in the top bracket of development priorities by governments in the region.

The Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF), a not-for-profit, non-political network, was officially launched in September last year at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila.

The APWF aims at mobilising government, international donor and development agencies and civil society groups to help achieve the UN MDG target 10 of halving the number of people without access to clean water and improved sanitation by 2015.

"What we think is by coming

together we can become a much more powerful force" says Ravi Narayanan, former chief executive of UK-based Water Aid and Vice President of APWF.

"The December summit will actually use our collective clout to try and persuade the heads of governments to give water the priority we think it needs in this region. So by using our own individual and collective energies, we can get them together in one place and tell them that progress is possible, that we have to work together that we can generate the political will" he added.

The Governing Council meeting of the APWF - whose president is the former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and its chairman is Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh - brought together in Singapore a wide array of water and sanitation experts and development planners from

the region and international agencies like UNESCO, UNHabitat, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP and the FAO, as well as the ADB and civil society organisations working in the field.

Reports commissioned by the agencies last year gave a variety of facts and figures to show why water and sanitation should be at the top of the development agenda of the region. A WHO-UNICEF report indicated that 655 million people are still without safe drinking water and 1.9 billion without access to basic sanitation in the region.

The Asia-Pacific region has accounted for 80 per cent of the world's total deaths due to water-related disasters between 2001-2005 according to the international disasters database. A report commissioned by ADB last year - 'Asia Water Watch 2015' - estimated that \$8 billion a year needs to be invested on water and

sanitation in the region in the coming decade to achieve the MDG 10 targets by 2015.

"Water covers all aspects of human activities. Therefore the water is not only the problem of water ministers. That's our understanding and we would like the summit to result in the Head of States understanding the importance of water, and they put water as a number one issue of that country, especially the developing countries" says Hideaki Oda of the Japan Water Forum (JWF).

Le-Huu Ti, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Water Resource Section of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) believes that setting up the APWF is a good start in taking water and sanitation to the top of the development agenda in the region.



Members of the police and paramilitary BDR were deployed at the Amin Jute Mills in Chittagong yesterday to avoid any untoward incidents as one worker was killed in clashes with the police on Thursday.



Officials and employees of British American Tobacco Bangladesh distribute relief among the flood victims in Manikganj.

More organisations distribute relief among flood victims

STAR REPORT

Various organisations continued to distribute relief materials among flood-affected people across the country yesterday.

DU correspondent adds: Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal distributed relief goods, including rice, oral saline and medicines, in different areas of Sirajganj district.

Jatiya Tran (relief) Committee distributed relief among 150 families in Manikganj district. It also provided medical care for the flood victims.

Bangladesh Medical Association distributed relief goods at Keraniganj in Dhaka.

Sagnik, a student organisation, inaugurated an oral saline project on the Dhaka University campus.

Brac also distributed relief goods at Tongi and Gazipur districts as part of its seven-day programme that began on August 7.

Meanwhile, eminent citizens formed a committee on Thursday to coordinate relief activities for the flood victims, said a press release.

At a meeting, the 'Citizens Coordination Committee for Relief' decided to set up a control room at Moni Singh-Farhad Trust office at Purana Palltan in the city to manage the collection and distribution of relief work.

Prof Anisuzzaman presided over the meeting.

Qayyum Chowdhury, Commander Abdur Rouf, Shamsuzzaman Khan, SMA Sabur, Hilal Fayezi, Abu Naser Khan, Numan Ahammed Khan and Chiroranj Sarker were present at the meeting.

Communist Party of Bangladesh yesterday urged all its members to donate their one day's earnings for the flood victims.

At a press briefing, the CPB leaders also urged the affluent people to extend a helping hand to the flood-affected people.

Saudi Arabia UNB reports: Saudi King Abdullah ordered the Ministry of Finance to provide immediate assistance of \$50 million to Bangladesh.

Quoting a statement of the Royal Court on Thursday, the Saudi Press Agency said the aid will also include airlifting of medical relief, basic requirements and food in coordination with the Saudi Red Crescent Society, and cooperation of the humanitarian organisations and the Bangladesh government.

Netherlands Terre des Hommes Netherlands has donated Tk 2.28 crore for emergency relief operation for the flood victims in Bangladesh, says a press release. The funds will be utilised by its partner NGOs - SSS in Tangail, POPI in Bhairab and Kuliarchar, UZ under Kishoreganj district, VERC at Sonargaon under Narayanganj district and SEEP in Dhaka district.

JCD, Shibir clash at Sylhet Polytech Instt: 10 injured

UNB, Sylhet

At least ten students were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Sylhet Polytechnic Institute on Thursday night.

Campus sources said the activists of both the groups had an altercation in the dining room of Surma Hall at about 9:00pm over a trifling matter.

One hour later, the Shibir activists with the help of some outsiders swooped on the JCD men that led to a clash between the two student bodies.

The outsiders also ransacked the hall superintendent's room and some other rooms of the students.

BSF guns down Bangladeshi in Tentulia

UNB, Panchagah

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Tentulia border yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Zia, 35, of Tentulia crossing. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and local sources said the Indian border guards of Haftiaganj camp opened fire on a group of Bangladeshi cattle traders when they were returning home from India.

Zia died instantly while the other traders managed to flee. The BSF troops took away the body. BDR strongly protested the killing and asked its Indian counterpart to return the body.

Four cops suspended in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Four police constables of Mongla Police Station were suspended yesterday on charges of violating discipline.

They are Abdul Gani, Jahangir Hossain, Abdur Rashid and Mohammad Shah Ali.

Police Super AKM Shahidur Rahman said that punitive action against the four cops was taken as they were found violating discipline during inspection of the police station.

The four constables were sent to district police lines.

15 injured in clash over land dispute

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people were injured in a clash over a piece of land at Mather village under Mohanpur in Rajshahi yesterday.

Among the injured, Yasin, Nasima and Afzal were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while Wazid, Sabjal, Sirena, Jalal, Firoz and Aurongo were admitted at Mohanpur Health Complex.

Sources said the clash occurred when Idris, an influential figure of the area, along with his accomplices went to encroach a piece of land that belonged to one Yasin Ali. Both the groups swooped on each other with bamboo sticks that injured at least 15.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

4 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and 22 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Satkhira and Faridpur yesterday.

UNB reports: A grocery owner was crushed to death under the wheels of a bus at Pallabi in the city yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Belayet Hossain Manik, 30.

Police said Belayet was going to his shop at Mollah Market in the area at about 8:00am when the bus ran over him at Mirpur-12 bus stand, leaving him critically injured.

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



Mamun still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enamul Haque Md Al Mamun, a government employee, went missing one year ago, but his family members could not track him down as yet.

Mamun, chief assistant of BTB at Mohakhali wireless transmission region, went out of his home at Indira Road in the city's Farmgate area for a morning walk on August 10 last year and has remained missing since then.

In a press release, the family members alleged that although they had filed general diaries with Tejgaon Police Station more than once, the police did not take any effective measures to find out Mamun. Indifferent attitude of the police has also disappointed them, they added.

Many people have also tried to cheat the family members during their efforts to search for Mamun, the family members said, adding that they asked for police action against the frauds, but to no avail.

Mamun, the eldest son of late Lt AM Ataul Haque, a freedom fighter and acting chief of Bangladesh Navy after independence, is a bachelor.

His mother Begum Fazilatunnessa and other family members, who are eagerly waiting for his return, have requested those knowing his whereabouts to call at 01711177609.

15 shops burn down in Chandpur fire

UNB, Chandpur

Some 15 shops burned down in a devastating fire that broke out at Dumuria Bazar in Kachua upazila on Thursday.

Local people said an electrical short-circuit at a shop sparked off the fire, which soon engulfed adjacent shops.

Fire fighters brought the blaze under control after one hour of frantic efforts with the help of local people.

The shop owners estimated the loss at about Tk 50 lakh.

A case was filed with Pallabi Police Station.

Our Correspondent in Satkhira adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured, three of them seriously, in two separate road accidents.

The dead were identified as Abu Daud Gazi, 30, son of Golam Bari Gazi of Jabakhali in Shyamnagar, and Amena Begum, 70, wife of Samsur Rahman of Pachcha village in Keshabpur, Jessore.

Quoting local people, the police said a Satkhira-bound pick-up carrying fish traders from Khulna fell into a ditch at Binerpota in the morning, leaving Abu Daud dead on the spot and ten other fishermen injured.

The fish traders were returning home after selling fish in Khulna, police said.

In the other accident, a

Satkhira-bound bus from Khulna ran over Amena Begum while she was crossing the road at Madanpur bazar in Tala. She died on the way to Satkhira hospital.

Amena Begum came to her relative's house at Madanpur on Wednesday.

A correspondent in Faridpur reports: A driver of an auto-tempo was killed in a collision between a bus and his vehicle at Maligram in Bhanga on Dhaka-Khulna Bishwa road at about 6:00am.

According to the police, the Khulna-bound bus of Swarna Paribahan collided head-on with the auto-tempo, killing the driver and injuring 12 others.

Workshop on gender issues ends

A two-day workshop on 'Gender sensitisation programme' ended in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University (DU) with the help of Royal Netherlands Embassy and Institute of Social Studies (ISS) organised the workshop in participation of 16 DU students of nine departments.

The workshop aimed at apprising the students about different important gender issues like equality, violation against women and female empowerment.

Women and Gender Studies Department Chairman Ayesha Banu inaugurated the workshop while Tania Haq, a lecturer at the department, moderated.

Nat'l Legal Aid Council to provide legal aid to victims in 20 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Legal Aid Council would provide legal aid to the victims of underprivileged sections in 20 districts of the country.

This was stated by the acting President of the council Advocate Abdullah Hossain Bachchu at a meeting at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city yesterday.

The council will also provide social and legal security to the victims of human rights violation by inspecting the fact immediately.

Vice-president of the council Advocate Abdul Gafur, Advocates Farid Ahmed, Syeda Lutfa Ara and Dabir Hossain and Chief Executive of Gono Sahajya Sangstha Dr FR Mahmud Hasan also spoke at the meeting.

Four bombs recovered in Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday recovered four powerful bombs from Daudkhali village at Sharsha in Benapole.

Action on a tip-off, police raided the house of one Abdur Rahim, a cattle-trader, and seized four bombs from his cowshed.

However, Rahim went into hiding sensing police presence.

Obituary



Rezaul Karim, former managing director of Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city late on

Thursday night at the age of 69, says a press release.

His kulkhwani will be held at a mosque at Sector-3 in Uttara after Maghrib prayers on Sunday.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Death anniversary



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Dr Syeda Firoza Begum, a renowned gynaecologist, says a press release.

A doa mahfil, Qurankhwani and food distribution among the orphans has been arranged at her village home at Chandina in Comilla.

M Wazed Ali Miaji



Today is the seventh death anniversary of M Wazed Ali Miaji, a renowned footballer, sports organiser and one of the

founders of Dhaka Wanderers Club, says a press release.

He received a number of awards at home and abroad.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, his family members have organised Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and distribution of food among orphans.

Different sports organisations and clubs will also hold memorial meeting and milad mahfil.

Monir Uddin



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Monir Uddin, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

His family members have requested all his friends, well-wishers and relatives to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Rabeya Hashem



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Rabeya Hashem, wife of former chief engineer of Water Development

Board Hashem Mia, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Ramna thana mosque (Maghbazar) after Asr prayers.

Her relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

WEATHER TODAY. No change in temperature likely. UNB, Dhaka. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 37.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangpur and Ishwardi and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Khepupara. The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in celsius Humidity in percentage Morning Evening Dhaka 35.9 28.0 74 61 Chittagong 31.3 24.5 80 77 Rajshahi 36.8 27.6 69 71 Khulna 35.7 28.5 86 65 Barisal 35.0 26.0 89 80 Sylhet 36.2 28.2 78 74 Cox's Bazar 32.2 24.6 83 77

DHAKA TODAY. TIB Roundtable: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Nagorik Udyog will jointly organise a roundtable titled 'Inimitable youth will certainly curb corruption'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am. HRPB Seminar: Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) organises a seminar on 'Judicial reform and independence of judiciary'. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association Building. Time: 10:00am. Premiere: The premiere of 'Mastermoshai', based on the life of eminent journalist Santosh Gupta, will be held. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 5:00pm. Prize giving ceremony: The prize giving ceremony of a victory day essay writing competition organised by Etcetera Bangladesh Private Limited will be held. Venue: ETC Dhanmondi. Time: 11:30am. Book launch: The launching ceremony of three books by poet Zahurul Islam will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:30pm. Liberation War Museum programme: Abu Syed, brother of martyred freedom fighter Md Abu Saleh, and Shariful Islam Bablu, who narrowly escaped death during the War of Liberation, will recount their experiences of 1971 for the young generation. Venue: Butchers' Den, Mirpur. Time: 5:00pm. Orientation: An orientation programme for the freshers of Fall-2007 session of Stamford University will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am. Certificate distribution ceremony: Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will distribute certificates among the participants of a training course on 'Leadership qualities: Development and management'. Venue: IDEB, Kakrail. Time: 5:00pm. BCCI Seminar: The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) will jointly organise a seminar on 'Corporate governance'. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 3:00pm. INSA Roundtable: Imagine a New South Asia (INSA) organises a roundtable titled 'Indigenous people's right to mother tongue and culture'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm. Rotary Dhaka North West: The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:00pm. Rotary Dhaka Central: The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.