

## Incorporate environmental issues into city's dev process

### Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop have underscored the need for incorporating environmental issues into the city's overall development process to enhance the quality of life of its dwellers.

The workshop titled 'Strategic Environmental Assessment of Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan' was held at a city hotel on Thursday to disseminate the objectives of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The government has proposed the SEA for Dhaka Metropolitan area to shed light to complex interactions between environmental, social, economic and institutional factors linked to urban planning and development.

World Bank is supporting the government in framing the draft SEA, and Rajuk would be the implementing agencies.

Terming the urban planning of Dhaka a 'quagmire' of poor planning process and plans, Dr AK Ghosh, senior environmental specialist, said low level of environmental awareness among sectoral and local planners and very limited efforts to achieve real public good were evident in the urbanisation process.

Stressing on bringing other actors like the utility service providers on board, he further said as Rajuk is active in the development of commercial areas like shopping centres and malls, it very often overlooks the planning guidelines and encroaches on environmentally sensitive areas.

AHM Rezaul Kabir, secretary to environment and forest ministry, laid emphasis on regional consensus on environmental issues and said a strategic plan to this end may act as baseline policy for future planning of the city.

Lauding the timely approach of the government, Zhu Xian, country director of the World Bank, said as urban plans are being formulated for six regions of Dhaka Metropolitan area, it is considered to be an ideal time to undertake an independent assessment about the possible environmental consequences of the implementation of such plans and build corrective measures wherever required.

MA Qasem, director general of LGRD, laid emphasis on coordinated and concerted efforts by all the concerned institutions.

ASM Rashidul Hai, secretary to housing and public works ministry, KAM Haroon, chairman of Rajuk and Nayeema Khatun, project director of SEA also spoke on the occasion.

Debanjan Bandyopadhyay, team leader, made a presentation on draft SEA report.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors flip through books by Prof Humayun Azad at a book fair that began at Cheragi Pahar Mor in Chittagong yesterday. Batighar, a book store, organised the three-day fair to mark the third death anniversary of the writer.

## 'Fearless writer never fails to point out truth'

### Probe into attack on Humayun Azad urged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a book fair yesterday urged the government to carry out thorough investigation into the heinous attack on Prof Humayun Azad of Dhaka University and his mysterious death in Germany to bring the culprits to book.

The three-day book fair was inaugurated in the port city yesterday to commemorate the 3rd death anniversary of Prof Azad, a renowned writer and intellectual.

Latifa Kohinur, wife of late Humayun Azad, inaugurated the book fair organised by Batighar, a bookshop, on its premises at the city's Cheragi Pahar Moor.

Latifa said the criminals could stop the writings of Humayun but his books would surely inspire the inquisitive readers.

He will be ever remembered for his contribution to Bengali language and for some pioneering works in different branches of Bengali literature including poetry, novel, story, criticism and teenage literature, she

added.

The speakers said a study of Prof Azad's books could help identify the culprits involved in the attack which resulted in the death of the writer of free thought on August 12, 2004.

They said the fearless writer was always vocal and never failed to point out the truth in his instant writings at any crisis.

Resident Editor of the Prothom Alo Abul Momen, writer Begum Mushtari Shafi, Osman Gani, owner of Agami Prokashani that published most of Prof Azad's books, Prof Masud Mahmud, journalists Omar Kaiser and Rashed Rauf, Sharifa Bulbul and Dr Azad's daughters Mauli Azad and Smita Azad spoke on the occasion.

Dipankar Das, owner of Batighar, delivered the address of welcome while Poet Kamrul Hasan Badal moderated the inaugural function.

The fair will remain open from 10:00am to 8:00pm daily till August 19.



PHOTO: STAR

The Badda-Gulshan link road has long remained in very bad shape, causing suffering to pedestrians as well as passengers, but the authorities have turned a blind eye. The photo was taken yesterday.