

WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Take strict measures to stop encroachment on forests

Speakers urge govt

The second national workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation', organised jointly by the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) and Global Forest Coalition, was held at Cosmos Centre in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The theme of the workshop was 'Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing: Ecosystem approach and threat mitigation.'

About 40 participants from various organisations including UNDP, Sparso, Proshika, Ubinig, Debtec, Shed, Bangladesh Poush, Porosh, and teachers and researchers from Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, IUB and other universities took part in the workshop.

Prof Harunur Rashid, WTB vice-chairman and chairman of Bangla Academy, inaugurated the workshop, while WTB Chief Executive Prof Md Anwarul Islam delivered the welcome address.

D Shahrar Kabir of Independent University Bangladesh and Mamunul Haque Khan of UNDP coordinated the workshop.

The workshop recognised that current forest management practices have two aspects- protective and productive.

The participants discussed pollution impacts, climate change and mitigation of losses due to fragmentation and conversion of land for other uses.

Within the short-term framework, they recommended a total cessation of clear felling.

They also recommended that alternative livelihood/income generation is a critical component of contemporary forest management.

The speakers stressed that targeted revenue demand from the government is counter-productive and not consistent with the ecosystem approach.

They recognised the need to monitor the effectiveness of restoration programmes using suitable indicators.

They also added that assessment of the risk of exotic species to ecosystem prior to introduction was a mandatory step for future introductions.

The speakers recommended

that the Sundarbans mangrove forest should be taken care of with due special interest.

They stressed that regular monitoring and research is needed to understand and adapt to climate change.

They also recommended that forestlands should not be used for other purposes rather than forestry and stricter measures are needed to prevent encroachment and transformation of forestlands to other land-uses.

Prof Kazi Zaker Husain of Dhaka University, Razia Quader of Dharitri, Enam Ul Haque of WTB, nature lover Prof Dwijen Sarma, Naser Khan of Porosh, Sanwar Hossain of Bangladesh Poush, Dr Ferdousi of Debtec, Prof Zahed Uddin Mahmood Khan, Dr Md Mofizul Kabir, Dr Towhid, Prof Mahfuzur Rahman of Jahangirnagar University, Dr Zinnatul Islam of Sparso and Dr Hasan Sajed of Proshika also participated in the discussion.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

BSMMU exams postponed

BSS, Dhaka

All examinations of post-graduate courses of July 2007 academic year of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) have been postponed until August 30 due to unavoidable reasons, said a press release yesterday.

Examinations of the same course scheduled for August 23 was postponed earlier.

Fresh schedule for the postponed examinations will be announced later on. All examinations scheduled to begin on September 1 will be held as per schedule.



PHOTO: STAR

This road at Hazaribagh in the city was badly damaged due to floods, adding to suffering of the road users.

GRENADATE ATTACK ON BRITISH ENVOY

Recording of statements of PWs begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The recording of statements of prosecution witnesses (PWs) in a case filed in connection with the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury will begin at Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal today.

The grenade attack took place at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet after Juma prayers on May 21 in 2004, killing three people and injuring 70 others.

The number of prosecution witnesses is 56, court sources said.

The recording was scheduled to begin on August 14 but it was deferred as the prime accused, Harkat ul Jihad chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, could not be produced in the court on the day.

Additional District & Sessions Judge Ferdous Ahmed framed charges against the four accused in the case on July 31. Later, the

case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

The other accused are Mufti Hannan's brother Mofizur Rahman and Huji operatives Delwar Hossain Ripon and Sharif Shahedul Alam alias Bipul.

Buet admission postponed

BSS, Dhaka

All activities related to post-graduate admission and resumption of post-graduate classes of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Information in this regard will be published in newspapers and made available on the Buet website in due time.

Tk 8.91 lakh more donation to CA's fund

UNB, Dhaka

Eleven more public and private institutions yesterday donated over Tk 8.91 lakh to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood victims.

Those who gave donations are Government MM College, Jessore Tk 1.33 lakh, Gobindaganj Pourashava, Gaibandha Tk 10,124, Chittagong City Corporation Tk 4.31 lakh, Rajshahi City Corporation Tk 1.10 lakh, Barisal City Corporation Tk 44,879, Chittagong Wasa Tk 1.12 lakh, Students of Chatkhil Pachgaon Govt College, Noakhali Tk 3,200, one month's honorarium of seven carbari and headman of a mouja of Kaptai upazila Tk 1,700, Liberty Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Khagrachhari Tk 10,000 and Noakhali Science and Technology University Tk 33,145.

So far, Tk 49,00,03,234 and 230,500 US dollars were donated to the CA's Relief and Welfare Fund until Saturday since August 4.