

SAVING DHAKA FROM FLOODING, POLLUTION

Need for taking pragmatic steps underscored

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for taking pragmatic steps to save Dhaka from recurring floods and environmental pollution by removing their root causes.

They were addressing a seminar on 'Saving Dhaka from flood and environmental hazards' at the auditorium of the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) in the city.

The Department of Civil Engineering of the MIST organised the seminar with department head Brig Gen Habibur Rahman Kamal as the moderator.

Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Prof Dr AMM Safiullah was present at the seminar as the chief guest while Commandant of the MIST Maj Gen Abdul Wadud attended the seminar as special guest.

Buet professors Dr Mohammad Mujibur Rahman of Department of Civil Engineering and M Monowar Hossain Department of Water Resources Engineering and Lecturer at Department of Civil Engineering of MIST Mohammad Shamsuddoha presented separate keynote papers at the seminar.

Prof AMM Safiullah underscored the need for implementing the master plan for saving Dhaka from floods and environmental hazards.

Describing overpopulation as the main hazard for Dhaka city, he said the city's population is increasing day by day creating tremendous pressure on the environment.

"Filling of water bodies in and around Dhaka city causes floods and waterlogging," Maj Gen Wadud said adding "We have to find out ways for solving the problem."

Prof Mujibur Rahman in his keynote paper said unplanned urbanisation is creating major environmental problems, especially in bigger cities and towns.

In Dhaka city the rapid filling of low land earmarked for retention ponds is a major area of concern for the micro-drainage system, he added.

Prof Monwar Hossain said finding solutions to flooding problems requires a comprehensive understanding of the geologic setting of the region and a better knowledge of hydrodynamic processes that are active in water-sheds.

Mohammad Shamsuddoha said in a normal year, 20-25 percent of the country is inundated by river spills and drainage congestion.

Tornado lashes four villages in Chandpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A tornado lashed four villages under Kochua upazila of the district in the early morning of yesterday.

The tornado lasting for five minutes destroyed at least 20 dwelling houses and uprooted a good number of big trees and two electric poles of Palli Bidyut, said the local people.

Ten people were also injured due to house collapse and they were rushed to health complex.

Among the injured there were four children, it was learnt.

The villages, battered by tornado, are Sachar and Rampur under Sachar Union and Joynagar and Naya Kandi under Pathoir Union.

On hearing the news, UNO Syed Nurul Basir and members of the joint forces visited the affected villages and assured the people of extending all possible help from the govt and the administration.

3 arrested with bomb-making materials

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Rab arrested three criminals on police list with bomb-making materials at Benapole's Bhaberber village early yesterday.

They were identified as Firoze, 30, son of Shawkat Member, Miajul Islam Mia, 25, son of Motaz Ali -- both from Goyra village -- and Yakub Ali, 24, son of Idu Aksar, of Bhaberber village.

Following a tip-off, police said a team of Rab-6 arrested Firoze at his house with the two-kilogramme materials and arrested the other two following his confession.

The trio had long been smuggling into the country powerful bombs and bomb-making materials from India and sold them across the country for terror purposes, police added.

The arrested were turned in to Benapole Port Police Station after extensive grilling.

A case was filed with the local police station.

Arrest of DU, RU teachers condemned

RU CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters in Rajshahi in a statement on Wednesday expressed grave concern over the arrest of the five teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities and demanded their immediate release.

They also criticised the government for filing a case against 80000 anonymous students and mass people.

The statement also said that the government failed to curb crime and control price hike of essentials and people have already started to lose faith in the government.

People have also expressed their dissatisfaction over the government decision regarding slum eviction and laying-off jute mills, they added.

Signatories to the statement include freedom fighters Abdul Malek Chowdhury, Shafiqur Rahman Raza, Saidur Rahman, AKM Jahangir, Taibur Rahman, Matin Uddin, Anwarul Islam, Rabiul Islam, Abu Zafar, Gias Uddin, Farhad Ali Mia, Shajahan Mollah, Advocate Abul Hasnat and Advocate Hamidul Haque.



IDLC Finance Ltd Chairman Anwarul Huq and CEO & Managing Director Anis A Khan hand over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in donation to the relief fund for the flood-affected people at his office recently.



Zonta Club of Dhaka III distributes relief materials among the flood victims in Rayer Bazar embankment area in the city recently.



Liaquat Ali, Executive Committee Member-in-Charge of Administration of Uttara Club Limited, hands over a cheque for Tk 5,00,000 to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for the flood victims at his office recently.



(From left) Alumgir Hossein of VSOB, Canadian VSOB volunteer Jonathan Larocque, and Kenyan VSOB volunteer Pius Mbaya distributed relief among food-affected people at Tarash in Sirajganj recently.

7 killed, 43 injured in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Seven people were killed and 43 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday in the last two days.

A Correspondent in Gazipur reports: Three people were killed and 25 others injured when two buses collided head-on at Zirani in Gazipur on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday night.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately.

Vehicular movement on the busy highway came to a halt for about an hour following the accident that took place at around 8:20pm leading to a long queue of stranded vehicles on both sides of the road.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: A woman was killed and 15 others were injured in a road accident at South Keraniganj on Dhaka-Mawa link road yesterday.

The victim was identified as Morsheda Begum, 45.

Three of the injured Rahim Mian, 35, Rita, 22 and Mousumi, 8, -- were undergoing treatment at Mitford Hospital. Rest of the injured were admitted at different local clinics, police said.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver of a Mawa-bound passenger bus of

Balaka Paribahan lost control while boarding on a bridge and fell into a roadside ditch.

Our Correspondent at Mymensingh adds: A fish trader was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Digarkanda in Mymensingh Sadar in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Lal Hossain, 45, son of late Abdus Sobhan, hailing from Shallah in Sunamganj district.

Police and local sources said the accident took place when a fish-laden Dhaka-bound van from Netrokona skidded off the road and turned turtle, killing Lal Hossain on the spot and injuring two others critically.

The injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The body was sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent at Jhenidah

adds: A motorcyclist was killed and his fellow rider injured in a road accident at Shailmari Bazaar in Jhenidah yesterday.

The victim was identified as Harun, 30, of Bhatoi village at Shailakupa in the district while the injured is Abdur Razzak.

Sources said the motorbike lost control while giving side to a human hauler and rammed a roadside tree, killing Harun on the spot.

Abdur Razzak was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital while the body of Harun was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent at Chandpur adds: A man was killed in a head-on collision between two auto-tempo at Chikunia village at Shahraati on Chitosi-Mudaforganj road on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Md Mostafa, 37, hailing from Roghunathpur village.

SOCIAL OPPRESSION

Most rural adolescent girls fall victim

Speakers tell seminar

About 1.5 crore adolescent girls are deprived of the development programme of the country while majority of the rural adolescent girls become victims of child marriage, polygamy, divorce and social oppression, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar titled 'Empowerment of adolescent girls to become agents of social transformation' jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Nari Maitre with the support of UNESCO was held at the Mission Bhaban auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Programme Specialist (Education) of UNESCO, Dhaka Hassan A Keynan was present as the chief

guest at the seminar presided over by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam.

The keynote paper was presented by Rafiqul Hasan, deputy director of the Research and Advocacy Division of DAM. The address of welcome was delivered by Research and Advocacy Division (DAM) Director Prof Dr Ahmadullah Mia while Nari Maitre Executive Director Shaheen Akhter Dolly delivered the introductory speech. Prof Mahfuzur Rahman of Dhaka University deliberated on the importance and impact of the project.

Deputy Executive Director of DAM M Ehsanur Rahman and Mahfuza Rahman, programme officer of UNESCO, also took part in the discussion.

Cambridge int'l edn conference tomorrow

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in association with the British Council will host a daylong international education conference titled 'Global Best Practice' for principals and head teachers at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

The conference will be opened by Ann Puntis, chief executive, University of Cambridge International Examinations, and will be attended by principals, senior teachers, academicians and representatives from CIE and the British Council.

The conference will provide an excellent platform for delegates to build upon their expertise in the field of international education. The conference will cover three aspects, each demonstrating how CIE and its partners are playing a role in bringing best practice to education in Bangladesh.

In the morning plenary session, Ann Puntis will be joined by leading practitioners from Bangladesh, including Dr Monzoor Ahmed, director, Institute of Educational Development, Brac University, who will speak on 'Professional Development for Teachers'.

Yasmeen Murshed, chairperson, Scholastica will address the subject of 'Globalisation of Education'.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, will express his thoughts on 'The Educational Challenges in the 21st Century'.