

INT'L OZONE DAY OBSERVED

Call to phase out ozone depleting substance by 2010

BSS, Dhaka

The International Ozone Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world laying emphasis on phasing out of ozone depleting substance (ODS) gases by December 2010, a universal

timeframe under the Montreal Protocol.

Bangladesh has been observing the day since 1995 with other member-countries of the United Nations in the light of the Montreal Protocol, a global treaty to phase out the production and consump-

tion of ODS across the world.

This year's theme of the International Ozone Day was 'Celebrating 20 years of progress in 2007' that commemorates the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in Canada in 1987.

Speaking at a seminar arranged

on this occasion in the city, experts called for sensitising the common people about the gases harmful for ozone layer, a stratospheric layer protecting the earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

They urged the government to take steps for the recovery of CFC gases used in the refrigerators and air-conditioners and strengthening the on-going training programme for technicians of the chilling sector as well as distributing more recovery kits to stop release of the gases in the air.

According to the scientists, the ozone layer protects the planet from ultraviolet radiation, which at high levels poses a number of dangers, including increased risk of skin cancer and cataracts.

The scientists first marked the decline in stratospheric ozone over Antarctica in 1986.

The hole varied between 20 and 29 million sq km in the early 1990s. It was 29 million sq km in September 2000, 27 million sq km in September 2003, and 24 million sq km in 2004.

The highest depletion was found over the North Pole up to 30 percent while over Europe and other high latitudes it varied between five and 30 percent.

The scientists have estimated that the ozone layer over mid-latitude and Antarctic would heal by 2050, if no further ozone-damaging chemicals are released into the atmosphere.

Former Rajshahi city BNP secy sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Former City BNP general secretary (GS) Shafiqul Haque Milon was sent to jail after he surrendered to a court.

Additional Session Judge ASSM Jahirul Haque of the third court sent Milon to jail following his conviction in an extortion case.

Milon had been absconding since the arrest of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor and former BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu.

On August 26, Minu and his 10 cohorts including Milon were sentenced to 13 years and one month imprisonment in Tk 4 lakh extortion case.

Other accused were District BNP Vice-president Nazrul Huda, BNP adherents Mainul Islam, Ranju Islam, Ashraf Ali, Shamsul Haque, Tajuddin Sentu, Babu and Abdullah al Mamun.

Plaintiff Shamsul Alam Khan, a governing body member of Evergreen Model College, lodged the case with Rajpara Police Station on April 21.



Dhanmondi Road No 6 gets stuck in a gridlock at noontime as a number of schools close at the same time, but there is no traffic police to bring the situation under control. The picture was taken yesterday.



Numerous fruits have hit the market on the occasion of Ramadan but their prices are dear. The picture was taken from Purana Paltan in the city yesterday.

\$10m Indian donation for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

India yesterday donated \$10 million to Bangladesh to assist the ongoing relief and post-flood rehabilitation programmes.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh earlier mentioned the donation in a letter to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarti handed over a cheque for the amount to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the latter's office.

Talking to reporters, the Indian envoy said the shipment of food grains New Delhi earlier committed will arrive here in the middle of this month. The food grains will include 40,000 metric tons of rice and 10,000 metric tons of wheat.

The adviser thanked the high commissioner for the noble gesture for Bangladeshi people and said bilateral relations between Dhaka and New Delhi is stabilising through various activities of mutual interests.

He hoped the passenger train service between Joydevpur and Kolkata will start as soon as possible.

The adviser also said they will hold bilateral meeting as well as Saarc council of ministers meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN general assembly session beginning on September 24.

'Form wage board for domestic helps'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for separate law recognising the workers of non-institutional sector as 'labourer' to help increase their productivity.

The discussion titled 'Domestic labour: Modern labour slavery' was organised jointly by Partnership of Women in Action and National Domestic Women Workers Union with the supported of Nagrik Uddoyog at the National Press Club in the city, says a press release.

Prof Farzana Islam presided over the discussion where labour leader Abul Hossain presented the keynote paper.

Gonoshasthya Kendra Chairman Zafnullah Chowdhury, Prof Kazi Mariful Islam of Rajshahi University, and Coordinator of Bhashaner Nari Sramik Unnayan Kendra Jaharna Begum spoke on the occasion.

The speakers demanded formulation of national policy and wage board for domestic helps.

They also demanded recognition of the jobs of domestic helps as productive labour and include them in national income.

Viva voce of 27th BCS begins Sept 23

The viva voce of the rest of the candidates under general cadres of 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) will begin from September 23, a government handout said yesterday.

The viva voce will continue till November 11 and schedule of the examination has already been published in different dailies, the handout added.

The postponed viva voce on September 23, 26, 27, 28 and 30 will be held on September 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 respectively, the handout added.

The respective examinees are being informed through letters, the handout further added.