

New review body to finalise coal policy

Says Prof Tamim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Tamim, special assistant to the chief adviser for power, energy & mineral resources, yesterday said another review committee would be formed very soon to finalise the national coal policy.

"The national coal policy will be formulated very soon but not within one month. We are scrutinising the proposals submitted by the previous review committee. A final committee will be formed very soon to set out rules and regulations of the policy," he said.

Prof Tamim was speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable on 'Development of Bangladesh's

Coal: Strategy & Method' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

He also said that time has come to take a decision on coal extraction because the gas reserve is declining day by day.

"Priority will be given to the national interest during the formulation of the coal policy. The method of mining -- open pit or underground -- will not be decided in the coal policy. The proper method will depend on coal mine. Experts will take the decision on which method will be applied," he added.

Prof Tamim also said that local people will be involved in the process of coal extraction. "A lot of

time has been wasted. We should now take decisions to ensure energy security," he added.

Editor of the Energy and Power Mollah Amzad Hossain presided over the roundtable where Indian IIT Engineer Dr Jayanta Bhattacharya presented a keynote paper.

About 70 percent of the coal produced worldwide today is used for electricity generation, Jayanta said.

Former secretary Quamrul Islam Siddique, Prof Dr Khalil R Chowdhury, Petrobangla Director Moqbul-E-Elahie, Dr Badrul Imam and AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain also took part in the discussion.

Zandal placed on fresh 7-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Mainuddin alias Abu Zandal, operational commander and trainer of the banned Harkatul Jihad (Huji), was placed on a fresh seven-day remand yesterday in connection with a case filed for killing two people in the city's Tejgaon area in April last year.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ehsanul Haque passed the order after detective branch (DB) of police submitted a petition to show Zandal arrested in the case and sought a seven-day remand for interrogation.

In the forwarding report, DB Inspector Forman Ali, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, mentioned that Zandal might be involved in the murder of Ashraf Uddin Bhuiyan, a teacher of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, and Amir Hossain on April 9 last year.

After the hearing, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani granted the petition for showing him arrested in the case and placed him on remand.

Earlier, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced Zandal before the court on completion of his seven-day remand in another case filed for exploding grenades on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004.

In the forwarding report, CID's Assistant Superintendent of police (ASP) Fazlul Kabir, who is also the IO of the case, said Zandal gave important information about the August 21 grenade attacks that were being verified. So, he needs to be confined in jail custody until the investigation completes, the IO added.

Later, Zandal was sent to jail, as CID did not seek further remand for interrogation in the case.

DHAKA-CTG ROUTE Derailment of freight train disrupts rail, road links

UNB, Comilla

Rail and highway communications on Dhaka-Chittagong route were disrupted for about three hours yesterday following derailment of two bogies of a freight train in Comilla.

Railway sources said two rear compartments of the Chittagong-bound freight train from Dhaka veered off the track at the level crossing at Padua Bazar in Sadar (South) upazila at about 10:45am, disrupting communications on both rail and the highway routes.

Railway sources said the train service resumed at about 1:30pm after a relief train had salvaged the wagons.

Shamsuddin made envoy to Kenya

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint AKM Shamsuddin, former secretary to the government, as the high commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya.

Shamsuddin, who was born in 1950, is an electrical engineer.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed exchanges greetings with the people with disability at the inaugural ceremony of 3rd General Assembly and Conference of the Asia & Pacific Disability Forum at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Only elected govt can review BCS quota system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said only an elected government can review the quota system in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination as the present caretaker government has no jurisdiction to do so.

They said the people will not accept any kind of interference in the quota allocated for the children of freedom fighters and that the quota for women, indigenous people and the people with disability should be increased.

The roundtable titled 'Trial of war criminals and conspiracy over the freedom fighters' quota and relevant thoughts' was organised by Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan at the National Press Club with its President Humayun Kabir in the chair.

Former army chief Maj Gen (ret) KM Shafiqullah, Muktiyoddhar Sangsad Chairman Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta), AAMS Arefin Siddique and its General Secretary Dr Anwar Hossain, Ghatik Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir, Women Affairs Secretary of Awami League Dipu

Moni, Muktiyoddhar Abir Ahad, Gulshan Ara Urmi and Faruk Ahmed took part in the discussion.

KM Shafiqullah said the government must initiate the process of trial of war criminals.

"List of war criminals are available and they should not be allowed to take part in the election," he added.

Arefin Siddique said the government should start the trial of war criminals as it is constitutional obligation.

"People will not accept any interference in the quota of freedom fighters' children in the name of merit," he added.

Prof Anwar Hossain said the anti-liberation forces are working against the quota system.

He said the district quota is not necessary, but quota for women and the people with disability should be increased.

Urging the government to form a special tribunal to try war criminals, Shahriar Kabir said the next election will not be acceptable if they are allowed to contest it.

Dipu Moni said identification and trial of war criminals is necessary to establish rule of law in society.



Duta General Secretary Prof Dr Anwar Hossain speaks at a roundtable on 'Trial of war criminals and conspiracy over the freedom fighters' quota and relevant thoughts' at the National Press Club yesterday.

Four textile institutes to be set up

UNB, Dhaka

The government will set up four new textile institutes for enriching the country's textile sector and producing skilled manpower.

These institutes will offer three year's course to the students.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting of Labour and Employment Ministry held yesterday with Textile and Jute Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal in the chair.

The meeting was told that the institutes could be established on unused lands of Jute and Textile Ministry in Chittagong, Khulna, Natore and Lalmonirhat districts at a cost of Tk 80 crore.

Textile and Jute secretary M Abdur Rashid Sarker and Labour and Employment Secretary Dr Mahfuzul Haq were present at the meeting.

Japan keen to support clean energy projects

UNB, Dhaka

Japan offered to support clean energy projects in Bangladesh, including nuclear energy.

Chairman of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League Taro Aso MP expressed Tokyo's willingness in this regard when Foreign Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury called on him at his Japanese parliament office yesterday.

Taro Aso, also a former foreign minister, added that "While there were some reservations in Japan about anything nuclear, now the Japanese people are persuaded that the time for nuclear energy has come."

He praised the current reform process in Bangladesh, where "there has been no evidence of severe violence of any kind and no act of terrorism".

He also said that he would work for stronger Japan-Bangladesh links.

Two other Japanese Members of Parliament -- Kousuke Ito and Akihiro Nishimura -- were also present during the meeting.

Earlier, Foreign Adviser Iftikhar Chowdhury held a meeting at the Japan Bank for International Cooperation with its President Koji Tanami and discussed the possibility of Japanese support for the proposed Padma bridge.

The Japanese support to the Padma bridge will hopefully be forthcoming, the foreign adviser told the media afterwards.

He also discussed post-disaster reconstruction with the bank president for which Japan is providing US\$ 60 million in soft loan.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Ashraf-ud-Doula, Director General of Foreign Ministry Shahidul Islam and Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue were present at the meetings, according to a message received from Tokyo.



Dr Jayanta Bhattacharya speaks at a roundtable on 'Development of Bangladesh's coal strategy and method' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for energy and power Dr M Tamim, 3rd from left, was present as the chief guest.

Pvt sector urged to help build knowledge-based nation

DBBL donates Tk 9.73cr for DU research centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent academics and economists at a discussion yesterday said the private sector should contribute more to the development of education and research to help establish a knowledge-based nation.

In the past, all look for public money to establish research centres while the businesses also stayed back from such ventures, but now is the time for businessmen to come forward for nation-building task by financing researches, they added.

At the discussion at DU Senate Bhawan, Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) Yeasin Ali handed over a Letter of Commitment for donation of Tk 9.73 crore to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz for constructing 'Dutch-Bangla Bank Centre for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences'.

Prof Faiz said DBBL has become an integral part of Dhaka University by making a huge contribution to the construction of the research centre.

"This is part of history," he added. The VC said the 11-storey research centre being constructed in between Atomic Energy Commission and Teachers Students Centre will have a research cell and auditorium.

There will also be a museum that

will preserve the history of Dhaka University as well, he said.

Prof Faiz said this will surely be a centre of excellence for national and international intellectuals, researchers and academics.

DBBL MD Yeasin Ali said the bank, keeping in mind that businesses have social responsibility, started such projects since its inception in mid-90s.

He said DBBL Foundation provides scholarships worth about Tk 4 crore a year to talented and poor students, 80 percent of whom hail from the villages.

Of the total scholarships, 50 percent goes to female students, he noted.

The bank has also healthcare services for poor people and responded to the needs of the victims of natural calamities, Yeasin Ali said, adding, "We want to contribute to researches in social and pure sciences, because it has no alternatives to our survival."

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, a noted economist, said there has been a lacking in the finance planning on education, but Dutch-Bangla Bank has opened a new era in the country.

Private bodies are playing significant role for the development of many famous universities like Harvard and Yell, he said, adding, "The DBBL's donation for DU is a

milestone in the history of Bangladesh."

Dr Wahiduddin said it is now the responsibility of the government and others concerned to make arrangements for better education planning and encourage private sector to contribute to the development of research in the country.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said expansion of education and its development require patronisation.

"The universities should not be made only institutes of education, but also of research centre as well," he said laying stress on quality publications in the universities.

DU Pro-VC Dr AFM Yusuf Haider said in the recent times the university has been lacking good researches due to absence of a centre.

With the construction of 'Dutch-Bangla Bank Centre for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences, the university will surely have a vibrant environment for research activities, he noted.

DU Teachers' Association President Prof Sadul Amin, Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid, DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, and former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers Commerce and Industry Mir Nasir Hossain also spoke at the discussion moderated by research centre Director Prof Ahmed Kamal.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd Managing Director Mohammad Yeasin Ali, 4th from left, hands over a cheque for Tk 9.73 crore to Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz for setting up the Centre for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Science yesterday.

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ছড়া লেখো আর ছবি আঁকো

প্রতিযোগিতা - ২০০৮

ছোট বন্ধুরা, আমরা একত্রে উপলক্ষে তোমাদের সবাই খ্রিয় ডানো আয়োজন করছি- 'ছড়া লেখো আর ছবি আঁকো' প্রতিযোগিতা - ২০০৮। প্রতিটি ডানো ৪০০ গ্রাম ইলুস্ট্রাট এবং রেগুলার প্যাকেজ ভেতর পাচ্ছে একটি করে বাংলায় প্রচলিত মজার ছড়ার বই। সংগ্রহ করে ভিন্ন ভিন্ন চারটি ছড়ার বইয়ের একটি সেট। বইয়ের নির্ধারিত পাতায় কল্পনায় সবটুকু উজাড় করে লিখে ফেলা মজার মজার ছড়া আর সাথে আঁকো সাতভর - এর ছোঁয়ায় অনন্য সব ছবি।

দেশের বরেণ্য ব্যক্তির ছড়া আর ছবি আঁকার ভিত্তিতে বিজয়ী নির্বাচন করবেন। আর বিজয়ীদের জন্য থাকছে কম্পিউটার, ২১" রঙিন টিভি, বাইসাইকেল, ডিজিটাল ক্যামেরা, ডিজিটাল ডিস্কনাসারী সহ আকর্ষণীয় সব পুরস্কার। দুটি গ্রুপ থেকে ১০ জন করে মোট ২০ জনকে পুরস্কারের জন্য নির্বাচন করা হবে। এছাড়া আরও ১০০ জনের জন্য থাকছে আকর্ষণীয় বিশেষ পুরস্কার।

তাহলে আর দেরী কেন! আজই সংগ্রহ করে তোমার সেটটি আর ছড়া ও ছবি পাঠিয়ে জিতে নাও আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার!

নিয়মাবলী:

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- আরলা ফুডস ইনিয়েভিয়েন্স বাংলাদেশ ও প্রতিশ্রুত কমিউনিকেশনস - এর সপ্টেম্বর কেউ এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ নিতে পারবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময়ে প্রতিযোগিতার নিয়মাবলী সংশোধন, পরিবর্তন কিংবা বাতিল করতে পারবেন।

আমরা করবো জয়...