

Dhaka urges int'l community to help combat poverty

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday asked global community to help people of Bangladesh to fight poverty, mostly triggered by natural calamities in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Bangladesh also asked the global community especially the industrialised developed countries to urgently cutback their dangerous greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change endangering economic growth of the least developed countries like Bangladesh.

"Climate induced disasters are increasing in frequency and severity in Bangladesh. These as well as other climate related phenomena, erratic behaviour of temperature and rainfall pose severe threat to agriculture and food security,

damage of infrastructures, create uncertainties with water availability, endanger livelihood of people," environment Secretary AHM Rezaul Kabir told opening of the UN Adhoc Working Group (AWG) 5th meeting on future commitment of Kyoto Protocol at the climate change conference at UNESCAP.

"These expose people to malnutrition, disease and morbidity and premature death. All these together challenge the ultimate objective of the UN Climate Change Convention and environment-friendly economic growth in a sustained manner," he added.

Kabir, leader of an eight-member Bangladesh delegation, made the plenary statement expressing deep concern that measures and actions to reduce greenhouse gases should not compromise with present and future

food security concerns.

"Bangladesh wants to record its worries on slow progress made in last two years by AWG under Kyoto Protocol on future commitments. We also notice that there is lack of progress to comply with present commitment by the Annex-1 (industrialised developed) countries. Urgency of the issue should be translated into immediate action," he told the conference.

The Bangladesh delegation leader, who successfully led Bali negotiation and United Nations General Assembly thematic debate on climate change last month in New York, said, AWG should agree on reduction commitment without which effective adaptation cannot be designed along with funding and technology deployment.

Bangladesh, Kabir said, believes that to prevent dangerous

anthropogenic climate change, the global average temperature increases much be kept as far below two degree Celsius as possible.

Director General of Department of Environment Dr Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand and PR to UNESCAP Mustafa Kamal, experts Dr Ainun Nishat, Muhammad Rezauddin, Dr Nasir Uddin, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and Mozaharul Alam of Bangladesh delegation actively participated in different sessions and working group meetings of the climate change conference.

The Bangladesh delegation was also very vocal at the G-77 meeting and raised the concerns of LDCs which should be urgently addressed by the UN Climate Change Convention processes.



Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta speaks at a roundtable on 'Constitution and legal process' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Rashed Khan Menon and on his right are Advocate Tawfiq Nawaj, columnist Farhad Mazhar and Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah. Odhikar organised the event.

Police stop JCD meet on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, yesterday staged a demonstration on the Dhaka University (DU) campus after police stopped them from holding a pre-scheduled meeting on the campus.

The scheduled discussion marking the Independence Day, was to be held at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) auditorium of DU at 11:00am.

BNP Chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and BNP Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed were to speak on the occasion.

Police yesterday set up check

posts at all entrance points to the university campus and prevented the BNP leaders from entering.

Enraged JCD leaders and activists arranged a press conference at Madhu's Canteen at 11:30am to protest the police action. They alleged that the police administration had stopped the meeting following pressure from a certain quarter.

The JCD leaders claimed at the conference that they had received formal permission to hold the discussion from the police department after submitting an application to the Dhaka Metropolitan police commissioner.

They condemned the contradictory behaviour of the police department who permitted them

to hold the meeting but prevented it from taking place by not allowing BNP leaders to the venue.

JCD acting president Sultan Salauddin Tuku and JCD DU Unit president Hasan Mamun, among others, spoke at the conference.

After the press conference JCD leaders and activists brought out a procession on the campus protesting the incident and also demanding immediate release of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Joint Secretary Tareque Rahman and JCD central unit president Azizul Bari Helal.

The procession ended at the Aparajeo Bangla where the activists held a protest rally and threatened to go for more demonstrations if their demands are not met.

Set up truth commission for war criminals: Dr Akbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regulatory Reforms Commission Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday said there should be quota system in government recruitment for the children of freedom fighters, no matter whether the option remains in the constitution or not.

Akbar Ali, who was also a former adviser to the caretaker government, also called for setting up a truth commission for war criminals for their trial in line with the proposed truth commission for corrupt people.

"If the Truth Commission can be formed for corrupt people, then why not for war criminals," asked Akbar Ali while speaking at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the city.

"Truth commission has been formed for anti-liberation forces in everywhere in the world," Akbar Ali said, adding that the Truth Commission was not formed anywhere for corrupt people.

Citing the example of South Africa, the former adviser said the government should decide what would be the punishment for war criminals in the truth commission.

"We do not want trial of war criminals to take revenge, we want their trial as they are yet to apologise for their crimes," he added.

Saying that the contribution of freedom fighters has not been evaluated properly, Akbar Ali said there should be a paragraph in the constitution mentioning the rights of freedom fighters.

Citing the example of the United

States of America, he called on the government to set up six hospitals specially for freedom fighters.

Akbar Ali, who himself a freedom fighter, called for resisting anti-liberation forces to save the country's independence and sovereignty.

He also said there is no alternative to democracy.

"We do not want such Bangladesh where democracy is absent and that Bangladesh was not also in the dream of freedom fighters," he added.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Shahjahan Kabir, chairman of Bangladesh Nou Commando Association, Khandaker Asaduzzaman, former finance secretary, and Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, chairman of Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad, also spoke.

Sculpture on Liberation War inaugurated at JNU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sculpture, commemorating the War of Liberation, was inaugurated on the Jagannath University campus in the city yesterday.

Vice Chancellor of the university Dr Sirajul Islam Khan inaugurated the sculpture named 'Genocide of '71 and preparation for the Liberation War'.

Renowned artist Rasa, who created the sculpture, teachers, students and officials of the university were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, VC Sirajul Islam said the spirit of the liberation war could not be upheld because of the lack of proper leadership and genuine patriots.

Sculptor Rasa demanded trial of the war criminals.

Rasa created the sculpture during the period from 1988 to 1993.



Blood Transfusion Society executives

Prof Dr Mujibur Rahman and Dr Md Asadul Islam have been elected president and secretary general of Blood Transfusion Society of Bangladesh (BTSB) recently for the period of 2008-10, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Prof Mosharraf Hossain, Prof Md Ansarul Islam, Prof Hosne Ara Begum and Prof Prodipesh Chakraborty -- vice presidents; Dr Shameem Haider -- joint secretary; Dr Nityananda Shil -- treasurer; Dr Mosleh Uddin Ahmed -- organising secretary; Dr Murad Sultan -- science and publication secretary; Dr Md Shahidul Islam -- publicity secretary; Prof Subia Begum -- social welfare secretary; and Dr Abdul Gafur Mondol -- office secretary.

The executive committee members are Dr Joly Biswas, Prof Mosaddek Hossain, Prof Golam Kibria, Dr AKM Shamsuddin, Dr Brindaban Biswas, Dr Munsi Md Habibullah, Dr Hosne Ara Begum, Dr Sayda Chowdhury and Dr Syeda Masuma Rahman.



SAU Debating Society executives

Foyjul Alam Siddique and Nasir Uddin have been elected president and general secretary of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) Debating Society, says a press release.

The full-fledged committee of the Society was formed recently.

The other office-bearers are Md Habibur Rahman and Mehruza Mona -- vice-presidents; Md Humayan Kabir and Ismail Hossain -- joint secretaries; Rifat Ibne Arefin -- organising secretary; Faiguni Majumder -- debating and workshop secretary; Khodadat Hossain -- finance secretary; Arafat Miah -- education and office secretary; Atiqur Rahman -- publicity and publication secretary; Setu Mondal Raj -- information and library secretary; Ibrahim Khalil -- cultural and social welfare secretary; and Nuyeed Mahmud, Arun Chandra and Sabuj Chowdhury -- executive members.

'Form nat'l task force to solve teacher shortage problem'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday urged the caretaker government to set up a national task force for solving countrywide teachers' shortage in educational institutions.

Make good use of time for quick disposal of cases

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin has urged all concerned to make good use of time so that cases can be tried within the shortest possible time.

He was speaking at a discussion organised by Rajshahi Bar Association at the Bar Bhavan yesterday.

The chief justice said number of judges would be raised soon to overcome the problems being faced by the lawyers.

"The coordination between judges and lawyers are essential during trial. If the Bar maintains at least 80 percent of the code of conducts and ethics, an order in lawyers' profession will surely prevail," he added.

Presided over by Bar Association President Mojibur Rahman Talukdar, the meeting was also addressed by District and Session Judge AR Masud, Bar Secretary Nazmus Sadat, lawyers Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury and SM Emdadur Rahman.

Earlier, the chief justice visited different courts.

In the afternoon, he went to the 187-year-old Loknath School where he was a student in 1956.

He also held a meeting with Rajshahi judges at Rajshahi circuit house in the evening. He will visit Natore today.

Six criminals arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested an alleged criminal along with his five accomplices and recovered two revolvers with seven bullets from their possession in the city's Al Nekir Deuri area on Sunday.

The criminal was identified as Habibur Rahman, 34, alias Tiger Habib. His accomplices are Mainuddin alias Kutub, 31, Rezaul Karim, 40, Mohammad Liton, 38, Morsalin, 30, and Mohammad Babul, 30.



Members of Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela greet former chief justice Kemaluddin Hossain with a bouquet on the occasion of his 86th birthday at his Gulshan residence in the city yesterday.



UNB, Dhaka

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over the country's six divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest of 17.6 degrees in Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:15pm today and rises at 5:50am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	25.0	69	53
Chittagong	30.3	24.5	77	71
Rajshahi 36.0	24.3	24.5	48	71
Khulna	34.2	24.8	76	65
Barisal	33.5	24.4	83	69
Sylhet	28.4	17.6	85	72
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.3	69	65

160 rail clips recovered, eight more arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Government Railway Police (GRP) yesterday recovered 160 sleeper clips, out of 3,510 clips stolen from the city's Banani and Gulshan areas, and arrested eight more people in this connection.

The clips in three sacks were found abandoned on the bank of a water body at Banani and beside the railway line in Gulshan.

The arrestees were identified as Abu Sayeed alias Kobra, Tanvir Rahman Shishir, Akhter Hossain, Kabir Hossain, Ripon Karmakar, Monwar Hossain, Kajol and Khalil.

Earlier, the police arrested six people who were placed on a two-day remand in the GRP custody.

Acting on their statement, the police arrested the eight other people.

GRP officer-in-charge Mahbubur Rahman said two arrestees, Kabir and Ripon, admitted that they took part in the theft and that Monwar, Kajol and Khalil were the buyers and Kobra, Shishir and Akhter are their accomplices.

He said Swapan who was arrested earlier admitted his involvement but five others denied the allegations.

The OC also said, "The newly arrested people provided important information and we are hopeful that more clips would be recovered and more persons involved in the theft would be arrested soon."

The arrestees confessed that they committed the theft on the night of March 27 and at different times earlier.

EXPLOSION AT ASHUGANJ POWER STATION One unit restored

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The 150-megawatts (MW) capacity Unit-4, one of the three power generation units that were shut down on Sunday following an explosion at Ashuganj Power Station, was restored later the same night.

The other two units --150-MW capacity Unit-5 and 60-MW GT-2 (gas turbine) -- are yet to be repaired to resume power generation.

Engineers and technicians of the power plant are currently working round the clock to restore Unit-5, said Ashuganj Power Station sources adding that at least three weeks will be necessary to repair the GT-2.

Three units of the power plant were shut down on Sunday after a fiery explosion severely burned four people including two engineers of the station.

The injured who were sent to Dhaka in a critical condition are improving, said sources at the plant.

Although the Ashuganj Power Station has the capacity to generate 728 MW of electricity with its eight units, it is now generating only 444-450 MW of power for the national grid.

Absence of proper maintenance has worn down the power plant and any unit can give out any moment, said experts.

M Ataur Rahman, managing director of the power station, said Unit-4 has been restored and station experts are working relentlessly for bringing Unit-5 back to operation shortly.

The three-member inquiry committee headed by Project Director Abdul Khaleque is now investigating the cause of the explosion.

DHAKA TODAY

BCC workshop
Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) organises a workshop on national ICT road map/plan. Venue: BCC meeting room. Time: 10:00am.

Youth festival
The inaugural ceremony of the two-day national youth festival 'Tarun mela, Dhaka 2008' will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar on food security
Institute of Microfinance will organise a

seminar on 'Food security in Bangladesh: Present and future challenges'. Venue: PKSF auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
Society for Development initiatives organises a national seminar on 'Fishing ban: Impact and alternative livelihood'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka
The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

Paban gets 17yrs in arms case

FROM PAGE 1

Judge Mohammad Shafiqul Azam of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-12 handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts in a packed courtroom.

Even though Paban was arrested before on different dates for carjacking and attempted murder of a businessman, this is the first time he has been convicted of any crime.

As the judge announced the verdict, the other convicts who were standing in the dock broke down in tears and rejected the verdict.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence had completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 15 prosecution witnesses.

On October 29 last year, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Paban after raiding a Japan Garden City apartment in the city's Mohammadpur area following information gathered from three of his partners-in-crime arrested earlier.

Acting upon information that criminals were preparing to hijack a taxicab, the Rab first apprehended Anwar and Masud from Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment at Panchabati near Pallabi with two illegal foreign-made firearms -- a

pistol and a revolver -- along with nine bullets and a motorbike.

During interrogation, Anwar and Masud told Rab that they got the firearms from Delwar, who had obtained the arms from Paban's cousin Nahid.

Following their statement, Rab arrested Delwar the same day from Pallabi. Delwar admitted that he had collected the firearms from Nahid. He also said that the firearms belonged to Paban -- who often rented those out to criminals.

The Rab later to captured Paban from an apartment at Japan Garden City.

It was also stated in the case statement that the accused formed an organised armed gang led by Paban and carried out criminal activities throughout the city.

After investigation, Sub-Inspector Khairuzzaman of Pallabi Police Station pressed charges against Paban and others on November 21 last year.

On Tuesday, the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court issued arrest warrant against Paban for his involvement in a carjacking case.

Additional Public Prosecutor

Kabir Hussain appeared for the state while advocates TM Akbar and Mohammad Hannan defended the accused.

MORE CASES AGAINST PABAN
Paban is accused in at least a dozen criminal cases including drug dealing, land grabbing, carjacking and extortion. His gang is known as "Batash Bahini" (wind gang) in Manikganj.

Paban was arrested two times before, but was released on bail. In February 2005, police arrested Paban from near his house at Armanitola in the capital for vandalising a phone-fax shop and creating panic by firing at the shop owners.

On September 12, 2005, four cases were filed against Paban and one of his brothers, Dablu, with Ramna Police Station for forcefully taking possession of a large number of stores at Motaleb Plaza of Hatipul.

The Detective Branch of police arrested Paban with a stolen Toyota Premio from Bailey Road area on June 7, 2006.

Paban and three others hijacked the vehicle from its owner at gunpoint in the Motijheel area in the capital on October 13, 2005.

Fresh reshuffle in admin

UNB, Dhaka

A number of joint secretary-level officials have been transferred and given new postings in the latest reshuffle in the administration.

Joint secretary of the home ministry M Mujibur Rahman has been made project director of the Housing Project of Chief Adviser's office, project director of non-government primary project AKM Amir Hossain made director of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, OSD M Ershad Hossain of establishment ministry made executive director of Nazrul Institute, and executive director of Nazrul Institute M Abul Kashem made a member of Bangladesh Tea Board, Chittagong.

Besides, OSD Sarder Abul Kalam of establishment ministry has been transferred to textile and jute ministry at the same post, director of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Ahmed Ullah has been appointed joint secretary of education ministry, joint secretary of education ministry AZM Shafiqul Alam made joint secretary of home ministry and director of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) M Fazle Rabbi made joint secretary of housing and public works ministry, said an official handout.

Industries ministry's joint secretary Muhammad Mostafa made DG of Jute Department while DG of the Jute Department Bhuiyan Shafiqul Alam appointed DG of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, OSD Nasiruddin of establishment ministry made MD of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) and DG of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Kamrul Hasan made project director of Palli Pragati Project.

Talks begin on demarcation of maritime boundary

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day technical-level discussion on demarcation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar began at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Director of Myanmar National Hydrographic Centre Commodore Maung Oo Lwin is leading a 10-member delegation at the talks while Additional Foreign Secretary MAK Mahmood is leading an 18-member Bangladesh side.

A three-member delegation led by Additional Foreign Secretary MAK Mahmood went to Myanmar on January 24 and proposed holding a bilateral meeting. Later, the two sides agreed to hold technical-level discussion.

Obituary

Col (ret'd) Md Shafiq Ullah Bir Pratik, a freedom fighter and treasurer of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), passed away at the CM Hospital at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, says a press release.

His quikhwani will be held tomorrow at 7:00pm on IUBAT premises.

Fakir Shafiruddin Ahmed

Fakir Shafiruddin Ahmed, a freedom fighter and founder of Mirpur Thana Awami League, died of heart attack in the city yesterday at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, eight sons and daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His quikhwani will be held on April 3 after Asr prayers at his residence at Mirpur Section 10.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Shahriar Kabir and Kazi Mukul of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee and Sheikh Anwarul Haque of Bangladesh National Awami Party have condoled the death of Fakir Shafiruddin Ahmed.

Malik Sobhan

CU CORRESPONDENT

Malik Sobhan, a lecturer of Ramu Degree College in Cox's Bazar, passed away due to brain hemorrhage at Dhaka Metropolitan Hospital yesterday at the age of 35.

He was the founding general secretary of Chittagong University Journalists' Association (CUJA).

He left behind his mother, four brothers, five sisters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He will be buried at his village home at Eidgah Maizpara in Cox's Bazar at 1:00pm today.

Cuja President Ehsan Jewel and Joint Secretary Nurshadul Haq expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.