



(From left) Novelist Moinul Ahsan Saber, writer Probir Bikash Sarker, former chief adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Prof Anisuzzaman and Japanese Ambassador Masayuki Inoue hold copies of a book titled 'Jana Ajana Japan' (Known and Unknown Japan) at its publication ceremony at Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum in the city yesterday. Japan Centre organised the event.

Take lessons from Japan to ensure food security

Says Justice Habibur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman at a publication ceremony of a book yesterday said Bangladesh should take lessons from Japan's policies regarding agriculture to achieve food security in the country.

Speaking as the chief guest he said, "We can take lessons from Japan's extra care on agriculture for securing self-sufficiency in food to achieve food security in our country."

Japan Centre organised the publication ceremony of the book titled 'Jana Ajana Japan' (Japan, Known and Unknown) by Bangladesh expatriate Probir Bikash Sarker at Sufia Kamal audi-

torium of the National Museum with Prof Anisuzzaman in the chair.

Habibur Rahman said, "We had always listened to the foreign consultants and accordingly focused on production of manufactured goods rather than on agriculture. They advised us that we could buy rice from market. But now we see how hard it is to buy rice from the market."

Lauding the role of Japan for its assistance to Bangladesh's development, he called on both the countries to strengthen the bond of relations between them.

Justice Habibur Rahman said, "Probir Bikash has done a commendable job by writing the book which will let us know about Japan. Every Bangladeshi expatriate

should write about the country in which they are living so that the countrymen can learn many things about that particular country."

Speaking as the special guest, Japanese Ambassador Masayuki Inoue said, "Since the independence of Bangladesh, Japan has been assisting the country in many sectors including infrastructure and education."

"The relations between the two countries are very striking and the base of the relations would be strengthened by exchange of cultures," the ambassador said, adding "Under the cultural agreement between the two countries, a number of students are going to Japan for study and it makes a bridge between the two cultures."

He said, "Both the countries are

undergoing changes like Bangladesh is seeing changes in mobile phone sector and it can be a medium of change in the two countries."

Poet Nirmolendu Goon said Japan has always helped us. A big example of the country's assistance is the Bangladesh Bridge over the Jamuna.

Eminent novelist Moinul Ahsan Saber said the book provides guidelines to help strengthen ties between the two countries.

Former director general of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and National Museum Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, former vice president of FBCCI Dewan S Ahmed and the author of the book Probir Bikash Sarker also spoke at the programme.

MANPOWER EXPORT 'Bangladesh suffers from image problems'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said Bangladesh suffers from image problems abroad due to fraudulent practices by recruiting agencies and brokers, committing crime by workers and irregularities among the government officials, which have created negative impact on the attitude of the labour importing countries.

The government should be vigilant to protect the use of unfair means in dealing with this potentially lucrative export sector, they added.

Titled 'Manpower export and potentials: measures to prevent cheat', the roundtable was organised by Sheba Bangladesh Foundation and Procheta Kalyan Sangstha at the LGED auditorium in the city.

Presided by former adviser ASM Shajahan, the meeting was addressed by TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, economist Atiur Rahman, Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) President Ghulam Mustafa, Sheba Bangladesh Foundation Vice Chairman Prof Abdur Rahim and BSB Foundation Chairman MK Bashir.

Executive Director of Shisuk, an NGO, Sakil Millat Morshed presented a keynote paper.

Prof Muzaffer said there was a time when Bangladeshi labour had earned fame in the international labour market. But this fame is about to go to present.

He called on the government to provide necessary information through website and booklet so that workers cannot be cheated.

He further said though Bangladesh is termed as a moderate Muslim country, it is true that some of our people were involved in militancy in Afghanistan and India, which have made negative impact on the manpower export even in Muslim countries.

The TIB chairman alleged that officials of Baira earned much money by exporting manpower but they had done little for the betterment of the sector and even it did not establish any training centre for the labour.

ASM Shajahan said Bangladeshi labour market abroad might shrink due to fraudulent practices by recruiting agencies and increasing trend of committing crime by the workers.

He said tendency to commit crime has increased among the workers abroad, which has brought negative impact on labour importing countries.

He stressed the need for improving moral character of the workers.

Atiur Rahman said the role of foreign missions abroad is not satisfactory to uphold the rights of our labours abroad, adding that diversification of the manpower market is essential.

Ghulam Mustafa said expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry has turned into a ministry of 'sufferings' for us as many of the officials here are dishonest.

He claimed that manpower export sector cannot flourish due to negative propaganda against it.

He hoped that the country will see a record \$8 billion foreign exchange from manpower export this year.

ALLEGED COMMUNAL HATRED BY DU TEACHER Probe body asks students to give interviews

DU CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee formed to investigate the allegations against Prof Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury, a teacher of political science department of Dhaka University, of spreading communal hatred among the students through lectures in the class, urged the concerned students of his course to give their interviews to the committee.

The students of the course 'Oriental political thought' of the department are requested to appear before the committee on June 10 at 3:30pm at DU Treasurer office to give their interviews.

Students who want to give written speech on the issue are also requested to hand over it to DU Treasurer before the deadline.

On April this year, a group of DU students staged demonstration on the campus accusing Prof Hasanuzzaman of spreading communal hatred among the students by his lectures in the class and referring a highly communal book written by himself titled 'Islamic dress code, primary source and conditions'.

As per demand of the students, a six-member probe committee headed by DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad was formed on April 19 to investigate the allegation.

HISTORIC 6-POINT DAY OBSERVED

Call to release Hasina, restore democracy

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League central leaders yesterday placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and stood in silence for a minute in observance of the historic 7th June commemorating the six-point movement seeking full autonomy of erstwhile East Pakistan.

Leaders of the party's front organisations also placed wreaths at the portrait amidst a renewed vow to free detained AL President Sheikh Hasina and restore democracy in the country.

Zillur said father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had prepared the Bengalee nation for the liberation war through raising the demand of autonomy for then East Pakistan based on the six-point movement.

Our staff correspondent adds: Leaders of Jatiya Ganatantrik League and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday in separate discussions marking the six-point day demanded the government to hold a free and fair election by December.

Awami League leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Begum Matia Chowdhury and Syed Ashrafur Islam led the party activists in placing the wreaths.

On the occasion, national and party flags were hoisted at all Awami League offices across the country.

Acting AL president Zillur Rahman described the 7th June as a milestone in the history of struggle by the Bengalees to achieve the independence of Bangladesh.

"The 7th June is a glorious example of the struggle and self-sacrifice by the people of Bangladesh," he said.

Zillur said father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had prepared the Bengalee nation for the liberation war through raising the demand of autonomy for then East Pakistan based on the six-point movement.

The six-point movement paved the way for the Bengalees' final struggle for independence in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu.

Jatiya Ganatantrik League leaders at a discussion at Dhaka Tax Lawyers Association auditorium urged the government to release Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to hand over power to the elected government.

They said undermining the key spirits of six-point demand and by killing the family members of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman a vested quarter has been trying to make the country into a corrupt and communal country full of exploitation and repression.

The six-point demand showed the way to a mass protest that further led to release Sheikh Mujib in 1969 and resulted victory of Awami League in the election of 1970.

Language movement veteran and former secretary Bahauddin Chowdhury was present as the chief guest while president of Mehendiganj Awami Forum Mizanur Rahman Arzu presided over the discussion.

JSD also organised the discussion at its office where Moinuddin Khan Badal presided over while Syed Zafar Sazzad, Shirin Akhter, Mohammad Khaled and Habibur Rahman spoke.



Awami League Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed speaks at a discussion marking the historic six-point day at the National Press Club yesterday. Old Chhatra League Foundation organised the discussion and reception programme to honour the four key figures of the six-point movement.

Social service deptt needs restructuring

Recommends WB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Social Service (DSS) needs urgent restructuring to remove its incapability of doing social work professionally, recommended a World Bank (WB) presentation at a workshop in the city yesterday.

The presentation identified lack of dynamic and trained workforce, poor utilisation of existing manpower, fund, monitoring and evaluation system, and lack of research and documentation as the key weaknesses of the DSS.

Revealing the imbalanced employee ratio at the DSS, the presentation said among the total number of employees, 22 percent is class four, 67 percent is class three, two percent is class two employee and nine percent is the class one employee.

It further said the DSS seemed incapable in implementing the existing policies and legislations on social welfare, child protection and disability.

The presentation said the DSS spent Tk 136.42 crore under its 11 child protection programmes in between 2004 and 2007 and aided at least 173933 children.

It accounts that on an average, the government spent Tk 78432.5 to provide aid to every child under the programmes.

The workshop titled 'Institutional capacity building of the social welfare ministry and the social service department: Strategic planning' was organised by the Ministry of Social Welfare at the DSS Bhaban at Agargaon.

Brig Gen (ret) MA Malek, special assistant to the chief adviser, attended the workshop as chief guest while Pravesh Kumar, consultant of the World Bank, facilitated the presentation.

Kishoreganj JCD leader arrested

UNB, Kishoreganj

Police arrested a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) from Akhrabazar in the town yesterday.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police raided the area and arrested Masudur Rahman Pallab, vice president of district unit of JCD.

Police said Masud was arrested in an extortion case. He was a listed terrorist and wanted in other charges.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Atiur Rahman and Arifur Rahman.

Form DND Unnayan Kartripakkha to end public suffering

Residents urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) area at a press conference yesterday demanded the government to form an autonomous 'DND Unnayan Kartripakkha (DUK)' to end the suffering of the people.

They called for forming DUK that would be similar to Rajuk and through which the government will be able to accelerate the development of the DND area.

The speakers said this at the press conference organised by DND Development Forum (DDF) at the National Press Club in the city, adding that the people have

been suffering from last 30 years due to the government's lack of initiative to solve the problems of the area.

The 57-kilometre DND area was brought under irrigation project in 1960. For the reason, a huge number of people from different areas came to the DND area for their livelihood and started to build houses in the area.

As the number of people has increased over the years, they gradually began to make residences on the agricultural land without any planning and without proper drainage and sewerage system that further lead to water logging.

The speakers also called on the government to cancel the DND Irrigation Project to turn the area a modern city through the intervention of DUK and to ensure citizen's rights of the people in the area.

Chairman of DDF Dr MA Nasir, while presenting a keynote paper, said currently some 20 lakh people are living in the DND area. But every year they have been facing severe water logging which could be removed through proper drainage system and by setting up powerful pumps.

"Every year print and electronic media exposes the pitiable condition of the people in this area, but the government is yet to take any action regarding this," he said, adding that it leads the environment of the area to deteriorate further.

As the streets are unplanned, there is no lamppost and as soon as the dark approaches, the roads become insecure for the pedestrians. Even the industries, which were set up without any plan, pour industrial wastes and worsen the environment of the area, the speakers added.

They demanded a permanent solution to the water logging situation that would irk them as soon as the rain comes and to improve the environment with the DUK intervention.

DDF Adviser Shakur Nasir, Dr Mohammad Sadrul Amin, Vice President Farida Akhter and Secretary General Shamsuddoha also took part.



DND Development Forum Chairman Dr MA Nasir speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Forum Secretary General Shamsuddoha and on his left is Vice President Farida Akhter.

OIL, GAS EXPLORATION Evaluation of bids under 3rd round by June 15

UNB, Dhaka

Petrobranga is likely to complete evaluation of the bids received under the 3rd-round international bidding for much-awaited exploration of oil and gas by June 15, official sources said.

Under the latest tendering process--undertaken at a time when the country is passing through severe energy shortages-- Petrobranga received 22 bids for 15 offshore and deep-sea blocks from 7 international oil companies (IOCs) on May 7.

Earlier on February 15, the state-owned energy and mineral corporation had floated international tender to lease out country's gas blocks in the offshore areas, divided into 28 blocks in two categories. Of them, eight are shallow blocks and the rest 20 deepwater blocks.

Shortly after receiving the bids, the Petrobranga officials had said that they could complete the evaluation of the bids within three weeks. But they failed.

About the delay, a top official said the delay was because of change of some members of the committee on

request from different ministries whose representatives are on the panel.

Now, he said, the evaluation is being carried out targeting June 15 as the deadline.

The 7 IOCs who participated in the bidding are US-based ConocoPhillips, Australia-based Santos International, Longwood Resources, Korea National Oil Corporation, Contrack Service Ltd, Tullow Bangladesh and CNOOC of China.

Of the bidders, ConocoPhillips has submitted the highest four bids for eight blocks, followed by Santos with three bids submitted for 6 blocks.

Longwood offered two bids for three blocks while Korea National Oil, Contrack, Tullow and CNOOC have given tender for one block each.

Bangladesh invited tender for the first round gas block bidding in 1993 while the second round in 1997.

The country is experiencing a shortage of about 100 million cubic feet (mcm) of gas per day against its demand for 1900mcm.

Apart from the official record, there is huge hidden demand for gas from the industries.

Experts believe the shortage will be widening in the days ahead as there is no certain possible way to increase the production volume amid a growing demand.

Industry, power and fertiliser sectors are suffering a lot for the gas shortages. And they believe the country will experience severe energy crisis after 2012.

The existing gas reserve is estimated around 8.0 trillion cubic feet (tcf), which would hardly meet the energy demand up to 2015.

It has been estimated that to meet the energy demand up to 2025 around 24 tcf gas would be required.

Against this backdrop, the 3rd round bidding was invited, but Petrobranga officials said it would take at least 8 years to get gas from new discoveries under this international block bidding.

According to energy ministry, the country will be required to invest at least US\$8 billion for development of the hydrocarbon sector to meet the future demand.



Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre and Bangladesh Network on Small Arms with the support of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication and International Action Network on Small Arms bring out an anti-arms trafficking procession in the city yesterday. (Story on Page-2)