

Call to adopt regional policies for pro-poor land reform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called on the respective governments of the Saarc countries to adopt and implement state and regional policies regarding pro-poor land reform and use of water, forest and natural resources.

They also declared to form a regional alliance 'South Asian People's Alliance on Land, Water, Forest and Natural Resources' and urged the members countries to

negotiate with the countries emitting greenhouse gas most in the air for climate change adaptation fund and respectful migration to alternative habitats for the climate refugees.

Civil society members and representatives from non-government organisations (NGOs), indigenous and human rights bodies of four Saarc countries - Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan -- said this at the press conference.

The press conference was organised by Association for Land Reform

and Development (ALRD) to present the outcome of a two-day workshop on 'Access to land, water, forest resources of small land holding farmers, marginalised communities and indigenous people' at the National Press Club in the city.

The people's alliance would continue to speak out in the land reform and rights issues and also keep lobbying with the governments of the Saarc countries, they added.

ALRD Executive Board Chairman Khushi Kabir said the land reform

issue was undermined for long time and we want to raise the issue to ensure the people's rights on land, water, forest and natural resources.

"The issue of land rights was undermined for long time, but we are here to speak out for the rights of people on the land, water, forest and natural resources of their countries. We would start lobbying with the governments of the Saarc countries to raise the issue and come to an consensus regarding it in the next Saarc summit," she said.

Representative from India Rohini Reddy said, "We may come from different countries and cultures, but land-related problems are all the same in the South Asian countries. Our governments have several acts and laws regarding this but there is no implementation of those."

Speakers at the press conference also called on the Saarc countries to give constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

In a written speech, Raushan Zahan Moni of ALRD said the South Asian countries are the worst sufferers of climate change and the governments of these countries should have a common voice at all regional and international forums.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, Incidin Bangladesh Executive Director Ratan Sarkar, representatives from Pakistan and Nepal Mehzebin Khan and Jagat Basnat were present at the press conference.



Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz inaugurates the celebrations of DU Day by releasing balloons on the campus yesterday.

EK CHUMUKEI PEPSI STAR

Eight bag mega prizes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-week-long 'Ek Chumukei Pepsi Star' campaign ended yesterday after selecting eight mega prizewinners at a gala event at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

Of them, Pritom Shil will travel to Barcelona to meet the football star Thierry Henry and attend a beach party.

Seven other winners Debashish Nath, Mojahidul Shiplu, MD Jasim, Sakib Al Faruk, Imran Khan, Sirajul Islam and Shihabuddin will get a chance to feature in a TV commercial starring international football icons like Beckham, Messi, Ronaldinho, Fabregas, Thierry Henry and Frank Lampard.

The eight were selected from 30 juvenile boys and girls through lottery.

The rest 22 contestants will get a chance to visit Cox's Bazar.

Sports and media celebrities attended the function to pick up and declare the names of eight lucky winners.

Ek Chumukei Pepsi Star, a consumer-based promotional campaign, started on May 28.

Six hundred participants were initially selected from over 100,000 participants who were provided the unique codes of the scratch cards distributed throughout the country during the first round of the campaign.

In the second round, 30 contestants were selected for gala event on the basis of their football skills and their general knowledge of football games.

Tejinder Khurana, country manager of Pepsi Foods Ltd, Golam Quddus Chowdhury, executive director, and Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, general manager of Transcom Beverages, were present on the occasion.

Pepsi, one of the most popular soft drink brands in the country, organised the campaign aiming to draw the attention of the youths to games and sports.

Allow non-govt teachers in elections

NFTE urges EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas have urged the Election Commission (EC) to withdraw restriction on non-government teachers contesting the upcoming local body polls.

The EC should incorporate new code into the electoral rules to allow teachers to participate in all elections and return to their previous posts after expiry of tenure at public offices, said the teachers under the banner of National Front of Teachers & Employees (NFTE).

In a statement on Monday, Prof Quazi Farruque Ahmed, chief coordinator of the organisation, said teachers expect that the EC will not take any measures violating the sections of ILO and Unesco convention on the teachers' rights.

He also mentioned two sections of the convention to buttress the argument for allowing teachers to contest the local body elections.

"According to section-80 of the convention, teachers should be free to exercise all civic rights generally enjoyed by citizens and should be eligible for public office," he said.

Referring to section-81, he said, "where the requirements of public office is such that the teacher has to relinquish his teaching duties, he should be retained in the profession for seniority and pension purposes and should be able to return to his previous post or to any equivalent post after his term of public office has expired."

Three held with firearms in city

UNB, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested three people, including a fugitive accused in a murder case, with two firearms at Banianagar in the city's Sutrapur area on Monday evening.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 raided the rented house of Manju Rani and arrested Mohammad Azahar alias Suman, 22, Sanjit Saha, 25, and Mohammad Shahidul Islam, 27, at about 7:00pm.

During the three-hour drive that started at about 4:30pm, the elite force also recovered a revolver, pipe-gun and seven rounds of ammunition from their possessions.

Of them, Azahar is a wanted in Sohrab Murder Case. Sohrab, manager of Hotel Shyama at Nawabpur, was slaughtered recently.



The winners of 'Ek Chumukei Pepsi Star' campaign pose for photograph with the guests at a prize giving ceremony at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday.

The Daily Star NEW ADVERTISEMENT RATES Effective from 1st August-2008			Website For one month	
Display Advertisement	Rate Saturday to Thursday per single col. inch	Rate Friday per single col. inch		
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2. Back Page	US\$ 130 (Per col Inch) 4 Colour.		2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")	US\$ 650 (Per issue).
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APPOINTMENT OF EVENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed Event Management Companies/Firms for conducting two REHAB Housing Fairs to be held at New York & Florida during 2nd & 3rd week of October, 2008. Event Management Company having adequate experience to conduct such type of big event of similar nature will be preferred.

Interested companies are requested to submit their quotation in a sealed envelope duly filled with seal & signature in all pages along with their company profile, copy of certificates of work experiences, copy of previous work order(s), bank solvency certificate, trade license, memorandum and articles of association, TIN & VAT certificate along with 5% earnest money on quoted price in favour of REHAB by pay order.

Terms of reference (TOR) and other information & documents in relation to the two Fairs will be available from 2nd July to 10th July, 2008 during office hour (10:00 am to 5:00 pm) in the office of REHAB, National Plaza, 6th Floor, 1/G, Free School Street, Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205, on payment of non refundable amount of Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand) only for each fair. The interested companies/firms are requested to visit REHAB Secretariat to see some samples of items and for any other queries before submission of quotation(s). The last date of submission of quotation(s) is by 1:00 pm, 10th July, 2008 at the REHAB Secretariat and will be opened on the same day at 3:00 pm in presence of the bidders or their representatives, if any. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-

Ln. Khalid Mohammed Jewel Mollah
General Secretary, REHAB

Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB)