

Involve persons with disability in social development process

Speakers tell roundtable

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said no country can be determined as a successful one unless she performs her duties towards the persons with disability.

They also said that the involvement of persons with disabilities should be ensured in every stage of the social development process in order to materialise the development.

The speakers were addressing a roundtable on 'Right to education for students with disability: Barriers and moving forward to inclusion into mainstream' at the conference hall of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University (DU).

DU Probandhi Chhatra Odhikar Parishad and Action on Disability Development (ADD)

jointly organised the session.

"While seeking admission in educational institutions, physical limitations cannot be treated as incompetence. Like the mainstream students, the students with disability also deserve equal education facilities," said DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz while addressing the roundtable as the chief guest.

Rather, they might have hidden potentiality, which can play a vital role in social development, Prof Faiz said, adding, "That is why, the government, universities and to some extent the corporate world should come forward to provide effective support to the persons with disabilities."

Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury said persons with disability are becoming a marginalised community day by

day because of continuous repression from different sectors of the society.

He stressed the need for involving the persons with disability in the national development process to have an overall impact.

Editor of the daily Amader Shomoy Naimul Islam Khan urged the students with disabilities to be more united for solving the minor problems.

He stressed the need for allotting more space in the media rather than only publishing supplements.

At the roundtable, a number of students with disability at DU shared the problems they have been facing academically and at their dormitories and urged Prof Faiz to solve those.

Students demanded the authorities appoint officials at the university dorms who would read news-

papers for the visually impaired students.

They also demanded removing the official harassment when a visually impaired student goes for selecting a junior student of his or her department to assist him/her during the examination.

They also demanded specific quota for the students with disabilities in the university admission test.

DU Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, President of DU Probandhi Chhatra Odhikar Parishad Abul Kalam Azad, Deputy Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Anisul Haque and ASA University VC Prof Muinuddin Khan also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Country Director of ADD Mosharraf Hossain.



Sri Lankan Home Minister Karu Jayasuriya, left, sees off Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at Colombo International Airport yesterday. The chief adviser was in Sri Lanka to attend the 15th Saarc Summit.

Country needs competent leadership: Gen Moeen

UNB, Kishoreganj

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday underscored the need for electing such leadership in future who will work for national uplift and development of the country's haor areas.

"In the last 37 years, country's haor areas remained neglected in respect of all types of development. Now we will have to put such leadership in power who will work for developing the areas," he said.

The army chief, whose force is working in aid of the interim regime, made the suggestion while addressing a civil gathering at Itna upazila auditorium.

Earlier, the army chief inaugurated a solar power panel set up at the upazila health complex with military finance.

During the visit, General Moeen handed over navy ambulance 'Unisher Doot' to the upazila hospital authorities.

The ambulance will carry patients from the upazila hospital to the district town and even to the capital.

In his address Moeen U said, "Farmers of the haor areas should go for cultivation of a second crop with the mainstream Boro paddy to attain self-sufficiency in food."

He also called upon the fishermen of the haor areas to produce fish with netting method alongside the natural method.

Deputy Commissioner Sultan Ahmed, GOC of 19 Infantry Division Maj Gen AKM Mujahid Uddin, Police Superintendent M Mizanur Rahman and Civil Surgeon Doctor MA Haque were present at the function.

MAYORAL POLLS IN NINE MUNICIPALITIES

AL gets eight, BNP one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League-nominated candidates won eight mayoral posts, out of nine, while BNP-nominated candidate secured one post in the municipal elections yesterday.

Dupchachia Municipality BNP leader Jahangir Alam was unofficially elected mayor of Dupchachia Municipality in Bogra.

Returning officer and Dupchachia Upazila Nirbahi Officer Manirul Huda said Jahangir bagged 4,893 votes while his nearest rival Alhaj Nurul Haque, an independent candidate, secured 2,684 votes, according to a report sent by our staff correspondent in Bogra.

Jahangir, who had been detained in jail for several months on charges of various crimes, including extortion, was released on bail few days ago.

A total of six candidates joined the fray in Dupchachia Pourashava. Of them, AL-backed candidate Ahmedur Rahman Biplab got only 1,091 votes to become the sixth.

Manikganj Municipality Our correspondent in Manikganj reports: Detained Awami League leader Md Ramzan Ali was unofficially elected the mayor of Manikganj Municipality.

Ramzan bagged 16,208 votes while his nearest rival Nasiruddin Ahmed Jadu of BNP got 8,947 votes.

Golapganj Municipality Our staff correspondent in Sylhet adds: Awami League leader Zakaria Ahmed Paplu was elected mayor of Golapganj Municipality in Sylhet.

Zakaria Ahmed Paplu bagged 5,403 votes while his nearest rival Sirajul Islam Jabbar Chowdhury got 2,412 votes in Golapganj Pourashava mayoral election.

Sitakunda Municipality Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Awami League leader Shafiqul Alam alias Nayek Shafi was elected the mayor of Sitakunda Municipality.

Nayek Shafi bagged 121,707 votes to be elected the mayor.

His nearest rival BNP leader Abul Kalam Azad, the incumbent chairman of the municipality, got 4213 votes.

Police foil DU students' fund raising for Shassato

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled a campaign of some Dhaka University (DU) students to raise fund for the treatment of a cancer-affected student of Mass Communication Department of Rajshahi University (RU).

A group of DU students, mainly from the Mass Communication and Journalism department, were collecting money from pedestrians and passengers of rickshaws from a road on the campus in the afternoon.

A police team led by a sub-inspector forced the students to leave the spot immediately saying that their activity was creating traffic jam on the road.

Police also claimed that someone informed the nearby police station that some DU students had been conducting extortion on the campus.

However, talking to The Daily Star, students alleged that despite repeated attempts to make the policemen understand that they were collecting money to save a cancer-affected student, police forced them to leave the spot.

Students later submitted a memorandum to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz urging him to take immediate steps to stop police harassment on the campus.

Prof Faiz has assured them that he would talk to police high-ups regarding this issue, they added.

Shassato Sotta, a first year student of Mass Communication of RU, has been suffering from cancer Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Fakhruddin returns home

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed returned home from Colombo last night after attending the 15th Saarc summit.

He led Bangladesh delegation to the summit held in the Sri Lankan capital August 2-3.

On the sidelines of the summit, Fakhruddin held bilateral meetings with heads of state and government of the member countries.

Advisers, the chiefs of three services and high officials were present at Zia International Airport to receive him.

REGISTRATION OF PARTIES

LDP to file case against EC for separate rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Col (ret) Oli Ahmed yesterday said his party would file case against the Election Commission (EC) for following separate rules for the registration of newly formed and old political parties.

He said there should be no difference between the newly formed and old political parties for their registration with the EC.

The LDP president was addressing a meeting at the party headquarters at Magbazar in the city.

The meeting was organised to mark the joining of the leaders of different political parties to LDP.

Col (ret) Oli called upon the caretaker government to handover power as early as possible through holding a free and fair election.

He said corruption would increase if an unelected government remains in power for long.

"Many are saying that a new 'Hawa Bhaban' has been created and misuse of power is taking place," the LDP president said.

He also urged the government to withdraw the state of emergency.

"You (caretaker government) will not be able to control price hike of essentials. So handover power to the elected government as early as possible," he said.

"Don't interfere with politics, let politics go on its own direction," he added.

Presided over by LDP Vice-president Abul Kashem, the meeting was also addressed by party Secretary General Jahana Begum, president member Syed Deedar Bakht, and Joint Secretary Shahadat Hossain Selim.

Six illegal structures demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished six illegal establishments at Shahjapur and Gulshan in the city.

"We have demolished six shops following the judgment of the court at Shahjapur near Indian Embassy. We have also demolished the illegal portions of A&W restaurant at Gulshan-2," said Rajuk Magistrate Emdadud Dastagir.

He said the owner of the restaurant extended the restaurant illegally. Aminul Islam, whose father and uncle was the owner of the demolished shops, alleged that the Rajuk team only demolished 50 feet while Rajuk owns 130 feet of the area and the owner of the establishments beside their shop is masterminding this drive.

However, the Rajuk magistrate denied the allegations.

"We did not demolish a small structure on a land behind the shops as it was constructed on private land and their caretakers were living there," said Emdadud.

ACC Act needs more changes

Says Hasan Mashhud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday wondered about the fate of the ongoing drive against high-profile graft suspects if the High Court (HC) cancels the ordinances regarding the amendment to ACC Act 2004.

He was replying to a question what would be the fate of ongoing ACC activities against grafts if the ACC amendment ordinances are cancelled by the HC at a routine press briefing at the ACC headquarters in the city.

The question was raised as the HC on July 13 declared illegal and void the Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Registration) Amendment Ordinance 2008 which had empowered the deputy commissioners (DCs) to recruit Kazis.

The HC in its order also observed

that the president of the country cannot promulgate ordinances on issues other than those related to polls during the caretaker government rule.

"If any such order comes from the higher court we cannot anticipate now what would be the result of this cancellation. The order would also have effect on other government institutions and in that case we have to think about the matter from a wider perspective," said the ACC chief.

The ACC has formulated a fresh draft for bringing more amendment to ACC Act as it deems necessary to make ACC activities more perfect and effective, he added.

"From our experiences during last one and a half years we have identified some weaknesses in the Act and we have already prepared a draft for further amendment. The draft will be placed before the gov-

ernment as soon as possible," said Mashhud Chowdhury.

After the anti-graft drive was launched, the ACC has so far made at least six amendments to its Act.

The amendments were made to have the ACC self-governed, bring anti-money laundering activities under the schedule of ACC, make changes in its recruitment rules, and empowering ACC to arrest a suspect or seize necessary documents.

"The ACC would definitely face difficulties if the ordinances are cancelled," said an ACC official seeking anonymity.

The ACC chief said the annual report of the commission is almost complete and it would be sent to the government within this month.

It will be published in both Bangla and English languages with recommendations at the end of each chapter of the report, he added.

Tarique sued for tax dodging

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammad Azizul Haque recorded the complainant's statement, took the charges into cognisance and directed the jail authorities to produce Tarique before the court on August 7.

The judge said he passed the order as the charges brought against Tarique under the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 were found to be true.

In her complaint, Samia mentioned that Tarique concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 10,747,125 from the NBR department.

Tarique repeatedly gave false information to the income tax department about his real income and expenditure, the complainant said.

In his income tax return, Tarique did not show Tk 432,500 spent for registering 10 kaths of land at the Bashundhara residential project in the name of his daughter Jaima Rahman.

Tarique also concealed balance of Tk 7,708,056 deposited in his name at

different banks from fiscal years 2003 to 2006, Samia said.

In his income tax return, Tarique did not give information about his 2.1 acres of agricultural land at Shaikanda in Bogra and Tk 20 lakh deposited as FDR with the Dhaka Bank Banani Branch in the name of his daughter Jaima, the complainant added.

Tarique, accused in 15 other cases including graft and extortion, was arrested from his mother's cantonment residence on March 7 last year.

BRIBERY CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, BABAR

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) counsel advocate Anisul Huq to submit the medical reports of Tarique Rahman to it by August 7 for examining those.

An HC bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad also asked the prosecution not to run during the period the proceedings of the case filed for taking Tk 21 crore in bribe to cover up the murder of Bashundhara Group director Humayun Kabir

Sabbir.

The order came during the hearing of the petition filed by Tarique for quashing the case proceedings against him.

Tarique's counsel barrister Rafique-ul Huq told the court that his client is seriously ill and he should be granted bail on medical grounds.

However, Anisul Huq told the court that the jail authorities have already taken steps to provide Tarique with medical treatment.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem filed the bribery case with Ramna Police Station on October 4 last year against six people including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar.

The ACC pressed charges against Tarique, Babar and six others in the case on May 6.

The case is pending with the special court of Judge Shahed Noor Uddin at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Complex.

Tarique filed the petition with the HC on May 25 for quashing the case proceedings against him and getting bail.

Wildlife vanishes for wrong management

FROM PAGE 1

renowned wildlife expert, for days through some of the country's prime forests, it dawned on us that the forest department is neither capable of preserving the forest nor is it able to conserve the wildlife.

Dr Khan, from his worldwide experience, then suggested some new mechanisms that might save the both - forest and wildlife.

He said the IUCN has an international commission for protected areas through which it has categorised the world's natural reserves and forests into four categories. Under the first category falls the huge nature reserves ranging from 100 square kilometres to a couple of thousand square kilometres, where public access is very limited or zero. Here public interaction is kept to a minimum level. National parks are always managed scientifically by a body under a wildlife conservation entity.

In the second category comes the wildlife sanctuary where people's activities may be allowed within buffer zones. The core zones are kept for scientific studies and proper management.

In the last category falls the game reserves such as elephant reserve like that in Teknaf where people can go and see the animals on a regular basis up to the core zone.

And then comes the public parks which are open to people all the time and are managed by the wildlife entity.

Under the 1973 Wildlife Act, some reserve forest areas were declared as national parks and sanctuaries but since then no management structure was put in place. No specific people were put in charge of these individual sanctuaries or parks. They were all put under the umbrella of supervision by territorial divisional forest officers (DFOs).

"The territorial DFOs are too much involved in managing the forests and producing revenue for the government. They have no time for

wildlife management," pointed out Dr Reza Khan. "The sanctuaries have not been marked yet with markings on trees or lanes as is the practice in other countries."

Pablikhali sanctuary is one of the oldest wildlife sanctuaries. In 1981, ten pairs of white-winged wood ducks were present in this and the neighbouring forests. This duck variety is one of the rarest species deemed to be also critically endangered worldwide.

A few dozen pairs are left in Assam, Myanmar and Indonesia. The total world population of the duck is less than 1,000.

"Today, none of the ducks are found in Pablikhali as they have either been killed or their habitation was destroyed with the felling of tall trees above 30 feet."

The same fate was experienced by the crab-eating macaque which once roamed from Whykeong to Teknaf in the coastal mangrove forest on the bank of Naaf river. During 1980s the forest department allowed the fisheries department to take over this area for shrimp cultivation. In exchange, the forest department was supposed to get some areas for wildlife reserve or bird sanctuary elsewhere from the ministry of fisheries and land administration.

"Immediately after taking possession of the land, the fisheries department leased out the land to private entrepreneurs who chopped off the forest and forced the macaques to leave Bangladesh for Myanmar," Dr Khan said. "For the forest department's actions, the country lost the monkey and the forest as well. Biologically the monkey variety was important because it represented the western most limit of the species that ranged from Indonesia to Bangladesh."

The Madhupur forest is another example of how wildlife disappears under the nose of the forest department. From 1970s up to 1980s several hundred capped langurs and almost an equal number of rhesus macaques and barking deer were present there.

Currently, these animals are seldom found in the forest where deer have totally disappeared.

"Among the larger birds we had lesser adjutant stork, grey headed fishing eagle, brown wood owl, crested honey buzzard, crested serpent eagle and several other species of day time and night time birds of prey that used to be seen regularly in Madhupur," Dr Khan said.

Now they cannot be sighted anymore in spite of the fact that a portion of the forest was declared as national park, proving management failure.

The irony of Madhupur forest is that one Bangla newspaper reported that there are so many monkeys at the forest that they are regularly being run over by buses on the Mymensingh road. Based on such assumptions, the ministry of forest and the Moll Enterprise of the USA entered into an agreement to take loads of monkeys from Bangladesh for research in the US. Finally, under pressure from the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) and local environmentalists who raised the issue at international forums and the local media, the Bangladesh government scrapped the agreement.

"So to change the situation, we must create a separate wildlife department equivalent to the forest and environment departments," Dr Khan said. "When the environment department was separated from the forest ministry, it had far fewer man-power or budget than the wildlife circle that the present forest department has. The forest department should allocate fund for the wildlife department taking into account the sanctuaries and national parks and game reserves it has created. And also the environmentally critical areas declared by the environment department without taking into cognation of the existing wildlife act. The wildlife department should have its own

recruitment policy and separate cadre service."

The wildlife department should take possession of all the wild animal parks, sanctuaries, safaris and zoos and anything belonging to wildlife. Also the department must take charge of management of conservation of biological diversity (CBD), CITES convention of international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. They will have to upgrade the old wildlife act, form a wildlife advisory committee with representatives from zoologists and other professions concerned with wildlife.

"People wanting to get inside the sanctuaries or parks to have a look at the wildlife will need to take permission from the wildlife department for some fees," Dr Khan said. "The department will serve as field research station for all the universities and other research organisations. This will generate earnings for the department as well."

The forest department and wildlife department will have to be modernised and its rangers need to be better equipped with firearms and training. All people living in the buffer zones must be involved in the management of the sanctuaries as guides, forest department employees, guards etc.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mustafizur Rahman Chowdhury, a theatre artist and former director of Nityachakra, passed away at Square Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 53, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, four brothers, one sister and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Nityachakra and Bangladesh Group Theatre expressed their deep shock at this death.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 23.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:30am tomorrow.

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	31.8	27.0	77	75
Chittagong	32.3	25.9	72	83
Rajshahi	33.6	26.9	83	77
Khulna	33.2	26.6	73	95
Barisal	32.0	26.6	74	83
Sylhet	29.2	23.0	98	81
Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.5	73	76