

CLIMATE CHANGE

Close monitoring of ADB activities stressed

METRO DESK

Speakers at a consultation yesterday agreed to monitor closely the policies, projects and programmes of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bangladesh.

They evaluated the recently drafted national action plan on climate change, says a press release.

The national action plan was drafted without any public participation especially the vulnerable communities.

The daylong consultation on 'Environment and Climate Change: Role of the ADB in Bangladesh' held at the auditorium of Campaign for Popular Education (Camp) in the city was attended by nearly 40 representatives from NGOs, civil society organisations, academicians, journalists and human rights activists.

The speakers demanded that international financial institutions (IFIs) and northern multinational companies should shed the climate hypocrisy if they want to consider impacts of climate change on people.

The event was organised by VOICE, a research and advocacy organisation based in Dhaka, and Manila-based NGO Forum on ADB, an international civil society network.

While inaugurating the consultation, Ahmed Swapan, executive director of VOICE, said that the climate change issue is related with neo-liberal economic policies pushed by northern donors and international financial institutions especially ADB.

He said that the transnational companies are the major culprits of the climate change.

While explaining the role of ADB in Bangladesh, Dr Avilash Roul of NGO Forum on ADB said that ADB must consider or review its future investment in energy and transport sector in Bangladesh to avoid its hypocrisy on climate change.

So far the ADB has lent the largest amount in the energy sector followed by transport and communication sectors in Bangladesh.

Roul also said that the ADB has

not at all made the climate impact component prior to designing any projects in Bangladesh.

Waheeda Bashar Ahmed from Action Aid-Bangladesh suggested that any climate change strategy must involve vulnerable groups concern, which can't be compromised or negotiated.

Ziaul Haque Mukta, coordinator of Oxfam-International, Asgar Ali Sabri from ActionAid Bangladesh, Iqbal Hossain from Save the Children-UK, Md Hafizuddin from Angikar Bangladesh, Hosne Ara from VSO International, Zakir Hossain from Nargor Uddog, Sajjad Ansari from In Search of Light, Shawkat Ali from SHARP, Abdul Jalil from CDP, Remuna Nurain from Bela and Hasan Mehedhi from Humanity Watch also spoke on the occasion.

The consultation detailed out short-term and long-term strategies to work on climate change. There has been a strategy to bring media into the strategy on climate change in more concrete way.

Jam worsens near New Market

FROM PAGE 16

Afroz said they witness severe traffic jams in the area particularly at Bata Signal since the beginning of Ramadan. "The jams have become so severe that we now walk instead of taking other vehicles," he added.

Locals said rickshaws block the entrances to different alleys first which pretty much blocks all roads in the area. They also said New Elephant Road remains plagued with jams as Eid shoppers going there get off their vehicles on the road slowing down traffic on the already narrow street. Besides, traffic policemen stop traffic on New Elephant Road at Science Lab intersection for more time to allow congestion on Mirpur Road to ease.

Even though community police have been deployed alongside traffic policemen to keep the front

of markets rickshaw-free, swarms of rickshaws were found gathered near the shops with community police struggling to remove them.

"The traffic congestion is created in front of markets as rickshaws wait for passengers after dropping others. It often blocks roads causing jams," said a security guard of Eastern Plaza at Hatirpool.

Rickshaw puller Abdul Aziz told The Daily Star that it took him 45 minutes to reach Road-5 in Dhanmondi from New Market. Usually it takes 15 minutes.

"I charged Tk 60 to come to Gausia from Eastern Plaza," Mishuk driver Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star. Asked whether he charged too much, he said, "What shall I do when it took more than an hour to get there from a place only a kilometre away."

Elephant Road resident Farhana

Public hearing from today

FROM PAGE 1

the Petrobangla proposal.

In the proposal, Petrobangla suggested a variable price hike for its different categories of consumers. The average hike will come to 65 percent.

As per the proposal, Petrobangla, for domestic consumers, suggested raising the gas price to Tk 600 from the existing rate of Tk 400 for a double-burner oven while Tk 550 for single-burner oven against the present rate of Tk 350.

The proposal is for a 50 percent raise over the existing rates for domestic gas users.

The metered domestic consumers will have to pay Tk 208 instead of Tk 130 with a price increase of 26.81

percent. Similarly, Petrobangla proposed to increase gas price for commercial users by 26.08 percent, meaning a per-unit 1000 cubic feet or 1 mcf price will go up to Tk 291.59 from the current price of Tk 233.12.

For the industrial consumers, the proposed per-unit price is Tk 182.25, up from the present rate of Tk 148.13, with a 23.03 percent raise. The same rate will apply to tea estates.

For captive power plants, the new rate is proposed to be Tk 182.25 per unit, up from the present rate of Tk 105.59, by a 72.60 percent raise.

The Petrobangla proposed Tk 93.73 per-unit as gas price for the Power Development Board (PDB), independent power producer (IPP)

and small power plant (SPP) instead of Tk 73.91, with a 26.81 percent raise.

For fertiliser industries, the new rate is envisaged to be Tk 93.73 instead of Tk 63.41 per-unit by a raise of 47.81 percent.

Presenting the price-hike proposal, Petrobangla Chairman Jalal Ahmed said his organisation's cumulative deficit on account of undercut gas supply to international oil companies (IOCs) is about Tk 2000 crore.

If we don't raise gas prices, Petrobangla will have to go bankrupt shortly, which will ultimately make it unable to go for further exploration," he said to justify the merit of the government move in the interim period.

The War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFCC) condemned the attitude of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) with the Election Commission (EC) regarding the reform proposals.

Former lawmaker Saidul Haque from Brahmanbaria is also an accused in the case.

The IO appealed to the court for issuing arrest warrant against Obaidul Karim and the order to attach his properties. Earlier, Saidul Haque was granted bail by the High Court.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the charges brought against the two were primarily proved and they should be brought under trial.

The commission filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Obaidul Karim following a prayer submitted by the IO of the case, as he had been

absconding since the case was filed. The court fixed September 29 for the hearing of the case.

On Sunday, ACC Deputy Director Abdul Karim, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet in the CCM Court in the case filed against Obaidul for irregularities in importing a car and evading tax on its purchase.

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arrested in the case on Saturday following a petition submitted by the investigation officer (IO) Sub-Inspector Mainuddin of the police station.

On September 19 this year, victim's wife Minara Akhter of Munshihathi of Kamrangirchar area filed the case against Pintu and five of his accomplices with Keraniganj Model Police Station for committing the offence.

Other accused are Pintu's accomplices Jubo Dal leader Shaju, 25, Zahiruddin, 32, Gaffar, 35, Naim, 35, and Delwar, 36.

According to the case statement, the complainant mentioned that Pintu, the prime accused in the case, had appointed her husband Sohel on

Business Reporters' Network formed in Jeddore

METRO DESK

The Business Reporters' Network (BRN) was formed in Jeddore yesterday to help the media and the enterprises understand business issues better.

Thirty correspondents of national print and electronic media and reporters of local dailies interested in business journalism joined the network, says a press release.

The concept of BRN is first introduced in Bogra that is now actively highlighting local business issues, their problems, possibilities and success.

The positive results in Bogra inspired the formation of the BRN in Jeddore under an initiative of MRDI supported by Catalyst. MRDI will act as the secretariat of this newly formed network.

Under this initiative, training on business journalism for BRN-members will be arranged. Besides, dialogues with business bodies and field visits to different enterprises will be arranged with an aim to know their problems as well as to pick up success stories which might inspire others.

It is expected that the BRN interventions and some other on-going projects of MRDI will help improve business-media relations and contribute to the growth of business especially small and medium enterprises in the country, the release added.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over

Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said in a forecast adding that the day temperature might remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 22.3 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage		
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	31.8	25.0	85	83
Chittagong	31.5	25.0	79	83
Rajshahi	32.0	25.0	85	98
Khulna	31.5	25.5	83	92
Barisal	32.5	25.2	83	93
Sylhet	34.2	24.5	81	69
Cox's Bazar	31.6	24.6	81	85

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The boy's family has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Sabina Yasmin and Shamsuna Akbar, Savings Account No. 34117663, Sonali Bank, Kakrail Branch, Dhaka.

Interested person can also call at 01710886166 to contact his family members.

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