

'Formulate policy for urban points'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and urban planners yesterday called for formulating a comprehensive policy for the urban points across the country, as more and more people are likely to move toward townships in the future as a result of climate change.

The authorities may consider setting up the industrial or economic zones outside the cities and decentralise administrative and economic activities and other facilities to reduce pressure on the cities, they said at a seminar on 'Climate change and climate

refugee: Urbanisation problems and remedies'.

Association of Environmental Scientists and Curzon Hall Club '72 in collaboration with Alliance Francaise de Dacca and World Meteorological Organisation organised the seminar at Novo Convention Centre in the capital.

"Waterlogging, river pollution, solid waste disposal, urban heat and water crisis are the major challenges for the authorities," said University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam in

his keynote.

Rural poverty, river erosion and employment opportunities in the urban points are the reasons why people move to the cities, he said, adding that in future climate refugees will move to the cities in greater numbers.

Association of Environmental Scientists Convener Prof AHM Mustafizur Rahman said besides food security, the environment of the cities is a crucial issue to be dealt with seriousness.

The authorities are now more aware of the urban planning, but

scientific planning should be implemented not only in the mega cities, but also in other small townships, he said.

Prof Mustafizur of Dhaka University said, "Suppose you extend Dhaka city, but you don't have the infrastructure to dispose solid or liquid wastage, environment will surely be affected."

He said there is not adequate space in Dhaka, so the authorities may consider high rise buildings, but at the same time it has to be able to provide utility services like electricity, water and sewage facilities.

Shujan Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and Rafiqul Islam of Curzon Hall Club '72 also spoke.

Pahela Falgun celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pahela Falgun, heralding the arrival of spring, the king of all seasons, was welcomed by the city dwellers with flowers, poems, songs and dances yesterday.

The residents of Dhaka attired in traditional dresses started pouring into the streets since morning to exchange pleasantries with their near and dear ones on the first day of Bangla month Falgun.

Every year people of the country celebrate the day to welcome the 'season of flowers'

symbolising youth, vigour and love.

The residents of the city thronged the Battala of Dhaka University, the book fair at Bangla Academy and the Bakultala of Fine Arts Institute to enjoy the songs and dances of spring. The Fine Arts Institute kicked off its daylong programme at 6:30am at Bakultala which was crammed with people as of 9:30pm.

Touhid and Sumi, a newly married couple, came to Dhaka University campus to celebrate the day. They said this is a day which is celebrated by the Bangalee nation spontaneously from the core of their heart.



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and Brac University Vice Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury jointly inaugurate the Reunion-2009 of the Buet Alumni Association by releasing balloons at Buet playground in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)



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