

BANGLADESH MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE Adaptation measures a must: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change though the country is the least responsible for carbon emission and global warming, said the experts at a conference in the city yesterday.

They said the country badly needs adaptation measures in the backdrop of its vulnerability.

The two-day international climate conference titled 'Climate change impacts and adaptation strategies for Bangladesh' was organised by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) at its auditorium.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Buet Vice-Chancellor Prof AMM Saifullah said South Asia is the region most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Citing an assessment of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he said Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change and it needs adaptation strategies to tackle its vulnerability.

Prof Saifullah said sea-level rise, depletion of sweet water sources, floods and droughts are some direct consequences of climate change set to

adversely affect life and livelihood of huge population at Bangladesh's coastal areas.

Prof Habibur Rahman of civil engineering department at Buet said per capita carbon dioxide (CO2) emission rate in Bangladesh is 0.2 tons per year while it is 20 tons in the industrialised world.

Though the developing world represents three-quarters of the world population, it is responsible for only one-quarter of the fossil-fuel carbon emission, he added.

Prof Rahman said the USA alone is responsible for 23 percent of the total fossil-fuel carbon emission to atmosphere while Bangladesh emits just 0.06 percent.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Advocate Mostafizur Rahman said the reckless extraction of natural resources and negligence to nurturing of nature has led to present alarming state of global climate.

He regretted that some of the developed nations that are mainly responsible for carbon emission and global warming have not yet ratified the climate treaties and protocols accordingly.

He said Bangladesh government has recently formed a

climate change strategy and action plan with focus on food security and disaster management.

Participants from home and abroad including the United Kingdom, Germany, Pakistan and Nepal are scheduled to present 30 papers at the conference.

Jatiya Kabita Utsab begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'Joy Janatar Joy Kabitar', Jatiya Kabita Utsab began on the Dhaka University Central Library premises yesterday.

Poet Syed Shamsul Haq inaugurated the three-day festival organised by Jatiya Kabita Parishad by hoisting the national flag while Parishad President Habibullah Siraji chaired the programme.

Poet Aslam Sani read out the obituary reference at the inaugural ceremony. This year the festival is dedicated to eminent poets Khaleda Edib Chowdhury and Samudra Gupta.

Syed Haq said that if the culture of democracy sustains, the practice of poetry, art and culture would not face any hindrance.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said one can sense the change the country has experienced, a change that inspires such non-communal programmes.

A number of poets from India are also attending the festival.

Partha Raha said, "It is a great experience to be among people who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of their mother tongue."

"All these days we have read Manik Bhandopadhyay's words 'Kabi Chhara Joy Briha' (Victory is nothing without poets) in print, but here at the festival we can feel what does this mean," he added.

Poet Robiul Hussain, convenor of the festival, said that the Parishad is not an institution rather a platform to bring together poets from home and abroad.

He demanded February 1 be declared as Poetry Day.

He also urged the government to provide a piece of land for Kabita Bhaban, which would be a centre for the poets, and sending poets as ambassadors or cultural representatives to other countries that can help establish a healthy cross-cultural communication.

The festival will remain open from 10:00am to 9:00pm.

BCL MEN CLASH AT REUNION



Activists of different units of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed with each other over a trifling matter during its reunion in the city's Paltan Maidan yesterday, leaving 20 people injured. (story on page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



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Poet Syed Shamsul Haq inaugurates the Jatiya Kabita Utsab by hoisting the national flag on the Dhaka University Central Library premises yesterday.

Condition of Gaziul Haque improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The physical condition of language movement veteran Gaziul Haque improved much and he might be released from the hospital in a day or two, relatives of Gaziul said yesterday.

Rahul Gazi, son of the language hero, told The Daily Star that he can see his eyes and respond to various queries, though he cannot talk.

Following a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the physicians said he had a minor stroke. That's why, his condition was deteriorated.

However, apprehending further complexities, they decided to provide him with intensive care at Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Gaziul, who recently stepped in to 82 years, was admitted to the city's Square Hospital on February 11 and had been suffering from diabetes, heart disease and old age complications.

Invest more in potential sectors

President urges Chinese investors

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged Chinese investors to make more investment in Bangladesh's different potential sectors by enjoying various incentives offered by the government and thus bridge the bilateral trade gap.

He also emphasised establishing direct road-link as well as increasing frequency of direct air traffic between the two countries to further increase trade and bilateral relations.

"Massive Chinese investment will significantly reduce the existing trade imbalance between Bangladesh and China," he said when outgoing Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qingdian made a farewell call on him at Bangabhaban.

President expressed his satisfaction over the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two countries.

Mentioning Chinese gov-

ernment's support for constructing five friendship bridges and Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre here, he expressed the

hope that the relations would further grow from strength to strength.

Zillur underscored the need for providing more

Chinese scholarships for Bangladeshi students as well as expanding the student exchange programmes between the two countries.

Zheng Qingdian apprised the president that the Chinese government is considering building two more friendship bridges in Bangladesh over the river Meghna and the Gomti.

He said the Chinese government would provide cooperation in establishing a rail-link between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

The envoy hoped that Bangladesh would go towards its desired development goals under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Mohammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Hawlader were present.

Udayan guardians protest fee hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundreds of guardians of Udayan High School and College yesterday staged a demonstration in front of the institution on Fuller Road in the city yesterday protesting the skyrocketing tuition fees and other additional fees.

They said that most of the guardians are unable to pay the newly charged additional fees especially session fees Tk 2000, monthly tuition fee Tk 300 and re-admission fee Tk 1,000.

Besides, the authorities have also charged illogical additional fees in the name of development, class test, diary, identity card and syllabus.

The guardians under the banner of Udayan College Students Guardians Forum and Citizen Rights Movement observed a sit-in from 8:00am to 10:00am demanding realisation of their seven-point demand.

They said that they would continue the agitation programmes until their demands are met.

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