

# Recession, climate change obstacles to achieving MDGs

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global financial recession, global climate change and epidemic of infectious diseases are all creating obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), speakers at discussion said yesterday.

These issues should be addressed in the upcoming budget as they are pushing more people below the povertyline, they added.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) organised the discussion on 'Towards

Achieving Millennium Development Goals in Bangladesh' at the National Press Club.

The speakers also called for equal distribution of wealth in order to alleviate poverty. Budgetary allocations should reflect the needs of all, they added.

BUP Chairman Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad said wealth is concentrated among only a few. This disparity must be eliminated first.

More allocations should be made for agriculture, education and the protection of the

environment, he added.

Mir Nasir Hossain, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said the upcoming budget should focus on developing skilled human resource and creating jobs.

Ensuring quality education is crucial to achieving other goals, she said, adding that political will is a must for it.

Hafiz Majumder MP, Prof Dr Moinul Islam, former deputy director of Bangladesh Bank Khondaker Ibrahim Khaled and senior journalists Jagul Ahmed and Syed Abul Maksud also spoke.

He also called for promoting industrial and export-oriented sectors.

## Make budgetary allocation to create job opportunities

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should make special budgetary allocation to create employment opportunities for the youths, speakers at a workshop said yesterday.

They said unemployment is one of the root causes of frustration among the youths. As a result, they turn to anti-social activities, including drug addiction.

The government should also form a committee to monitor whether the allocated budget is being used properly, the speakers said at the inaugural session of a workshop on 'National budget and youths' opinions' at IDB Bhavan auditorium in the city.

Youth Ending Hunger, Bangladesh organised the workshop in association with the UN Millennium Campaign to know about the demands of the youths and place recommendations in this regard.

Anir Chowdhury, policy adviser to 'Access to Information Programme unit,

acy from society and volunteerism can play an important role in this regard," he said, adding that the government should act as a catalyst to use the power of the youths.

Economist Prof Anisur Rahman stressed the need to promote community services, instead of individual's interest, to ensure development of the health, education and employment sectors.

Munir Hasan, secretary of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee, presented the keynote paper where he made some recommendations, including giving priority to education, youth's development, skilled labour and ICT, updating the policy on youths and promoting volunteerism.

KAM Morshed of UNDP, Shawkat Hossain Masum, business editor of the Prothom Alo, and Manisha Biswas of UN millennium Campaign also spoke at the workshop presided over by Ashok Biswas, a youth activist.

Prime Minister's Office, said definition of the youth should have to be more clarified in order to utilise the allocated budget.

Underscoring the need for quality education, he said the government should formulate a policy making it mandatory for the newly qualified graduates to engage in teaching at primary schools for one or two years to encourage students to pursue their study.

Dr Baidul Alam Majumder, global vice-president and country director of the Hunger Project Bangladesh, emphasised the need to promote volunteerism and involve the youths in the development activities.

The government and non-government organisations should come forward to promote volunteerism by giving awards or showing honour, which will encourage more youths to be involved in volunteerism.

"We need to launch a social movement to eliminate illiter-

## Try war criminals to avert future political disaster

Speakers say at BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap (dialogue) in Rajshahi yesterday said the government should not delay starting trial of the war criminals to avert political disasters in future.

They observed that those who opposed the country's liberation in 1971 are engaged in militancy and other subversive activities in the country.

The speakers called on the government to ensure employment of underprivileged people in the northern districts and take action against manpower recruiting agencies who are cheating the job seekers.

They also called upon all political parties to be united for combating militancy in the country.

The programme on contemporary issues was recorded at Rajshahi Medical College auditorium in the city last evening. It will be aired on BBC Bangla service today after its news bulletin Probha at

8:00pm and will also be aired on Channel i at 8:00pm tomorrow.

Panelists at the dialogue were Fazle Hossain Badsha MP, Mizanur Rahman Minu, organising secretary of BNP, Rajshahi University teacher ANM Saleh and Mursidha Morshed, project director of Tilotoma, a local NGO in Rajshahi.

Fazle Hossain Badsha assured the audience that the government is pledged bound to try the war criminals.

He said the manpower recruiting agencies employed

are still active in cheating people.

Mizanur Rahman Minu blamed the government for hatching conspiracy against the opposition through delay in the trial of war criminals.

He said many ministers of the government have already proved to be unfit as they failed to face the problems of expatriates and foreign job seekers.

ANM Saleh said the government should develop agriculture-based industries to generate employment.

## 'No recruitment in BDR'

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday requested all not to be confused by any rumour about recruitment in the BDR at different places of the country being spread by a vested quarter.

The BDR, in a press release, said they have been informed that a group of dishonest people illegally extracting a huge sum of money by alluring the innocent people to provide them with jobs in the

paramilitary forces.

It also said that recruitment in the BDR has completely been stopped since the February 25-26 massacre at Pilkhana. Before starting any new recruitment, circular will be published in this regard through media to inform the public.

The BDR also requested all to inform the local police station or BDR Battalion if any dishonest person spread such news of recruitment.

Twenty-four journal editors and editorial members from different universities and research institutions took part in the workshop.

Dr Bimal Guha coordinated the workshop while Siou Cumming from INASP facilitated the workshop sessions.

## Workshop

MRC-MODE Limited organises a seminar on downy demand and its consequences. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 9:30am.

## Seminar

DCCI in collaboration with Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh will organise a seminar on 'Development and potentials of tourism industry of Bangladesh'. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 11:30am.

## Roundtable

Energy & Power organises a roundtable on energy source for power generation. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

## Convocation

The 12th convocation of North South University will be held. Venue: NSU. Bashundhara campus. Time: 11:30am.

## Workshop

Department of Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University organises a workshop on discourse analysis. Venue: DU Senate building. Time: 10:00am.

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	33.3	22.2	64	67
Chittagong	32.0	23.5	80	83
Rajshahi	33.0	22.5	81	72
Khulna	33.5	23.0	63	62
Barisal	34.5	23.8	71	63
Sylhet	33.8	22.4	73	76
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.5	66	73

Temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Jessor.

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City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity percentage

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Rajshahi 33.0 22.5 81 72

Khulna 33.5 23.0 63 62

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