

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 poverty line, 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 Kholiuzzaman 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.

Donation will not help alleviate poverty or create a self-reliant nation, he said and stressed the need to create greater employment opportunities.

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

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former advisor to the caretaker government and chairperson of People's Forum on MDGs, said there is a huge disparity in the education sector.

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.

KHALEDA'S CANTT HOUSE BNP to file supplementary petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Moudud Ahmed, a senior leader and counsel of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, yesterday said they will file a supplementary petition today along with the pending writ petition filed by Khaleda challenging the government's second notice regarding allotment of her cantonment house.

Earlier on Thursday, the Supreme Court (SC) Registrar's Office refused to permit Khaleda to swear an affidavit for filing the supplementary petition through her lawyer.

"Refusal of the registrar's office to permit Khaleda to swear an affidavit through her lawyer is an act of injustice and without law. We strongly condemn it," Moudud told the newsmen after a view exchange meeting at the National Press Club in the city.

Swadhinata Forum (independence forum), a pro-BNP body, organised the meeting titled 'Tipaimukh dam: Another Farakka for Bangladesh'.

Moudud said the image of the Supreme Court will be damaged following the refusal of its registrar's office and the people will not take it easily.

The registrar's office has done it being influenced politically, he added.

The BNP standing committee member admitted that there might be militants in the country but his party should not be blamed for patronising militancy.

Asked to comment on Khaleda's recent claim that there is no militant in the country, Moudud said no one could claim so but a particular party should not be blamed for this.

The BNP senior leader also claimed that all high profile militant leaders were captured during the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance government and they were hanged during their rule.

Workshop on online journal publication

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong workshop on online publication of journal was held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan conference room on the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday.

DU in collaboration with International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), UK, organised the workshop for journal editors, says a press release.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the workshop aimed at helping journals to plan online publication. Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid distributed certificates among the participants.

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 Siouk Cumming from INASP facilitated the workshop sessions.

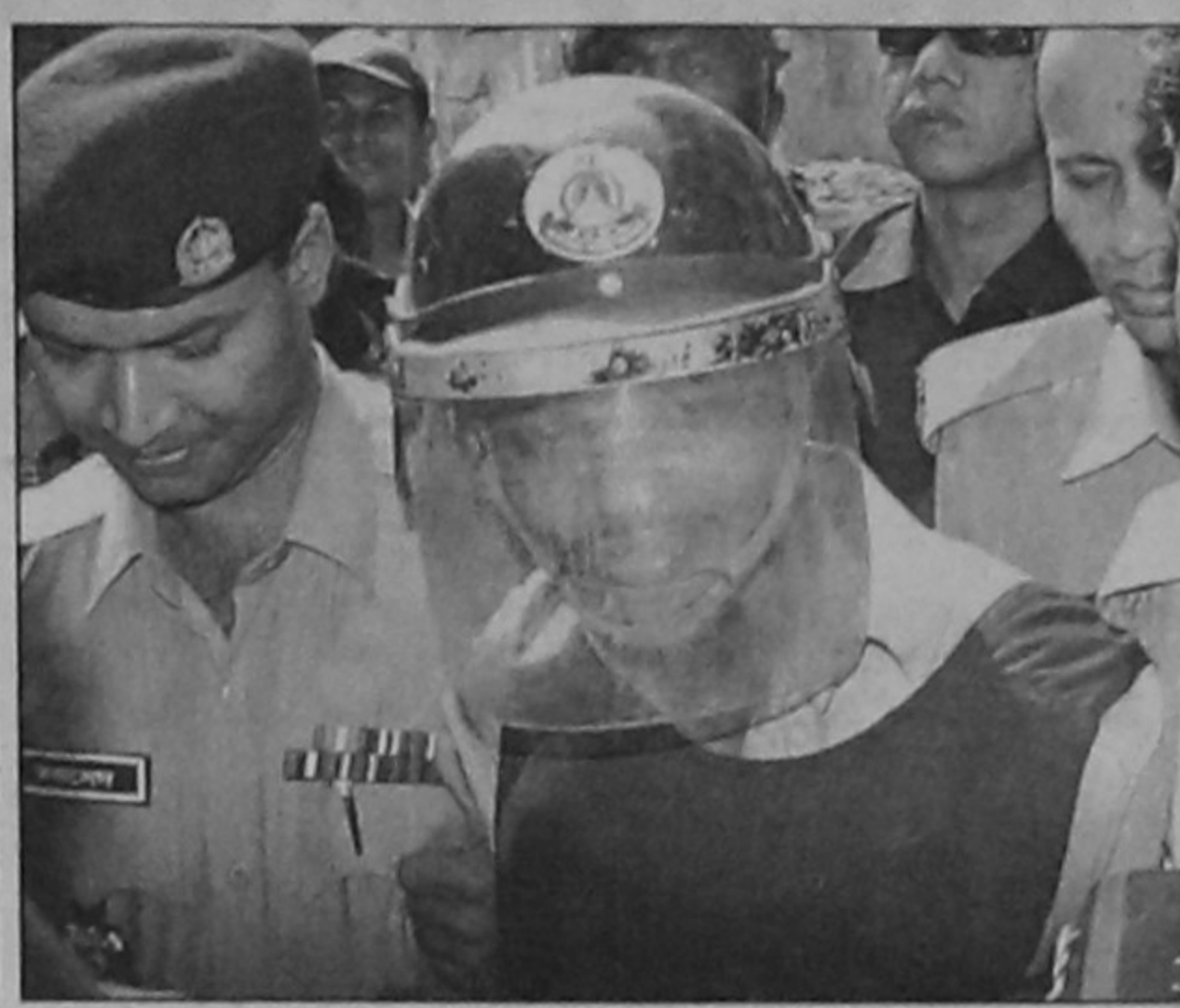
HSTU bldg to be named after Dr Wazed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Regent Board of Haje Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur yesterday decided to name one of its academic building after later Dr MA Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

HSTU has two academic buildings and another will be built this year which will be named after Dr MA Wazed Miah.

The 16th Regent Board meeting of the university was held at the HSTU conference room with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr MA Fazel Hossain in the chair.



Detained JMB man Mizan alias Boma Mizan is being taken to the CMM court in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Govt to root out militancy, terrorism: Sohel Taj

BSS, Pirganj

State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj yesterday said that the government is committed to root out militancy and terrorism by showing zero tolerance to establish a peaceful society.

The minister said this while addressing the upazila law and order meeting here at the Upazila Parishad auditorium, chaired by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abu Shaheen M Asaduzzaman.

He said that special short, mid and long-term comprehensive and strategic plans have been adopted to achieve the goals by involving people and engaging all the law enforcement and other agencies to eliminate militancy and terrorism once for all.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken the challenge and would not allow militancy and terrorism to raise their heads again according to its commitment, the minister said.

Each and every militant and terrorist element would be eliminated with the support of the people, he added.

Sohel Taj said that the new national committee for preventing and combating militancy and terrorism headed by him has already started its work and all the concerned ministries would soon take the next steps at the field level.

After getting the instructions from the concerned ministries the UNOs would form union and ward level

BNP meets to finalise dist convening committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top policymakers of BNP sat at a meeting yesterday to finalise its district and city convening committees as part of an initiative to bring about reforms in the party, which suffered unprecedented debacle in the December 29 national election.

Presided over by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the standing committee of the party also discussed

several issues, including the present political situation and the government notice asking Khaleda to vacate the Cantonment residence, to decide the party's stand, meeting sources said.

Held at the BNP chairperson's office at Gulshan, the meeting was continuing when this report was filed at around 11:30pm.

Maruf Kamal Khan, who was the deputy press secretary of Khaleda while she was the prime minister, briefed reporters on the meeting at about 9:30pm.

Without elaborating, he said, "The BNP standing committee discussed the issue of finalising district and city convening committees."

Standing committee members Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Khondaker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed and Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman, among others, attended the meeting.

Earlier in the day, Moudud Ahmed told reporters, "If we can finalise all the convening committees in today's (Saturday) meeting, we would declare the committees. Otherwise it may take two or three days more."

After the debacle in the general election, the party formed six central teams that jotted down feedback from district leaders in February to reorganise itself.

The standing committee later decided to replace district committees with convening committees by April 7, but the task remained unaccomplished.

Meanwhile, Mayor and former chief of Dhaka city BNP Sadeque Hossain Khoka and BNP chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah held an exclusive meeting at the latter's residence at Mahakali yesterday.

They discussed the issue of the top post of Dhaka city BNP, for which Khoka, Hannan Shah and Mirza Abbas, among others, are competing, sources said.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent physicist Prof Dr Muhammad Nurul Alam passed away at his residence at Segunbagich

in the city on Wednesday at the age of 88, says a press release.

Dr Nurul Alam worked with the Atomic Energy Commission for most of his service life.

He left behind his wife Husne Hannan, son Hasan Alam and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow (Monday) to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Syeda Saima Fatima, a resident of Khanbabad

ur Garden at 195/2 Shantibagh and daughter of late Advocate Syed Mohammad Hashim, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at an orphanage in the city today.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

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 Bhawan 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,

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-

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.

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 Probaha 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 Murshida Morshed, project director of Tilottoma, a local NGO in Rajshahi.

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

He said the manpower recruiting agencies employed

during the alliance government are still active in cheating people.

Mizanur Rahman Minu blamed the government for hatching conspiracy against the opposition through delaying 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 Palkhna. 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 any such news of recruitment.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day 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 Jessore.

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	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

DHAKA TODAY

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.

Rajuk set to falter on timeline, again

FROM PAGE 16

Rajuk has so far completed land development works and internal road construction works in six sectors out of 30 under Purbachal project. Although the plot handover was scheduled to start in January, it could not be done due to lack of pillar works of the plots.

"We will start handing over plots from August in six sectors--1,4,11,13,14 and 17 after completing pillar works," said ABM Rafiqul Islam Khan, project director of Purbachal project. "Around 3,000 plots in the six sectors will be handed

over to the allottees, he said.

He said they would try to handover plots of 16 sectors by December while the rest 14 sectors by 2012, the deadline of completion of the project.

The Rajuk is yet to start handing over plots under Uttara 3rd phase though its website says it will start in January this year.

Md Nurul Islam, project director of Uttara 3rd phase, said they have already completed the land development work of sector 15 but they will start handing over the plots by December.

He said road construction work of the sector has been going on to start the handing over process by December.

He said construction works of two bridges have been going on while works of rest of 10 bridges could not start, as the ministry concerned is yet to select the contracting firm to give the job. Eighty seven percent land filling works so far has been completed, Nurul said.

In 1966, Rajuk took Uttara Model Town project and completed in 1992. In first phase, they allotted 6,000 plots of

different sizes on 950 acres of land. It started the work of Uttara extension in 1992 and completed in 1998 in the second phase. Rajuk acquired 438 acres of land and allotted 5,315 plots in second phase.

Rajuk so far has allotted 8,295 residential plots, 550 commercial plots and around 200 institutional plots in Uttara third phase. In 2004, it allotted about 15,500 plots under Purbachal project.

Rajuk had reserved 4,000 plots for the Adibashi and 1,000 for the affected. Of these, 2,823 plots have been allotted.