

CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Develop expertise for strong negotiation at global forums

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should develop expertise both at public and private sectors for strong negotiations at international forums to face the challenges of climate change, said the experts and academics yesterday.

They said designing appropriate adaptation technologies for agriculture as well as for victims of climate change is imperative to make sure that the money received for these purposes is not misused.

This was observed at a panel discussion on 'Climate change and Bangladesh's diplomacy' organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium in the city.

"The country's diplomacy should have three wings- environmental, economic and conventional- to give inputs on what is happening around climate change in the world," said Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Before joining any international

negotiation, the Bangladesh delegation must do homework in consultations with these wings, he added.

The negotiators should come from the high level of the government, he said, adding that it is not appropriate to demand money from here and there.

"We should think of sustainable solution," he said.

Atiq, a winner of 'UN Champions of the Earth Award 2008', said there will be displacement of people and change in food system and these issues must be dealt with utmost priority.

Dr Ainun Nishat, country representative of International Union for Conservation of Nature, said there are a lot of gaps among various ministries and these need to be bridged.

"Let us have a strong team. Whoever represents the country in global forums must have full insights on climate change," he said.

As international negotiations are very tough and intensive, the continuity of the personnel in the government should be maintained to get to the right track of the negotiations and gain benefit from them, said Ainun Nishat, a water expert.

"In any negotiations we have to include several types of expertise. There should be economists, sociologists and obligatorily an international legal expert," said Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Masduzzaman.

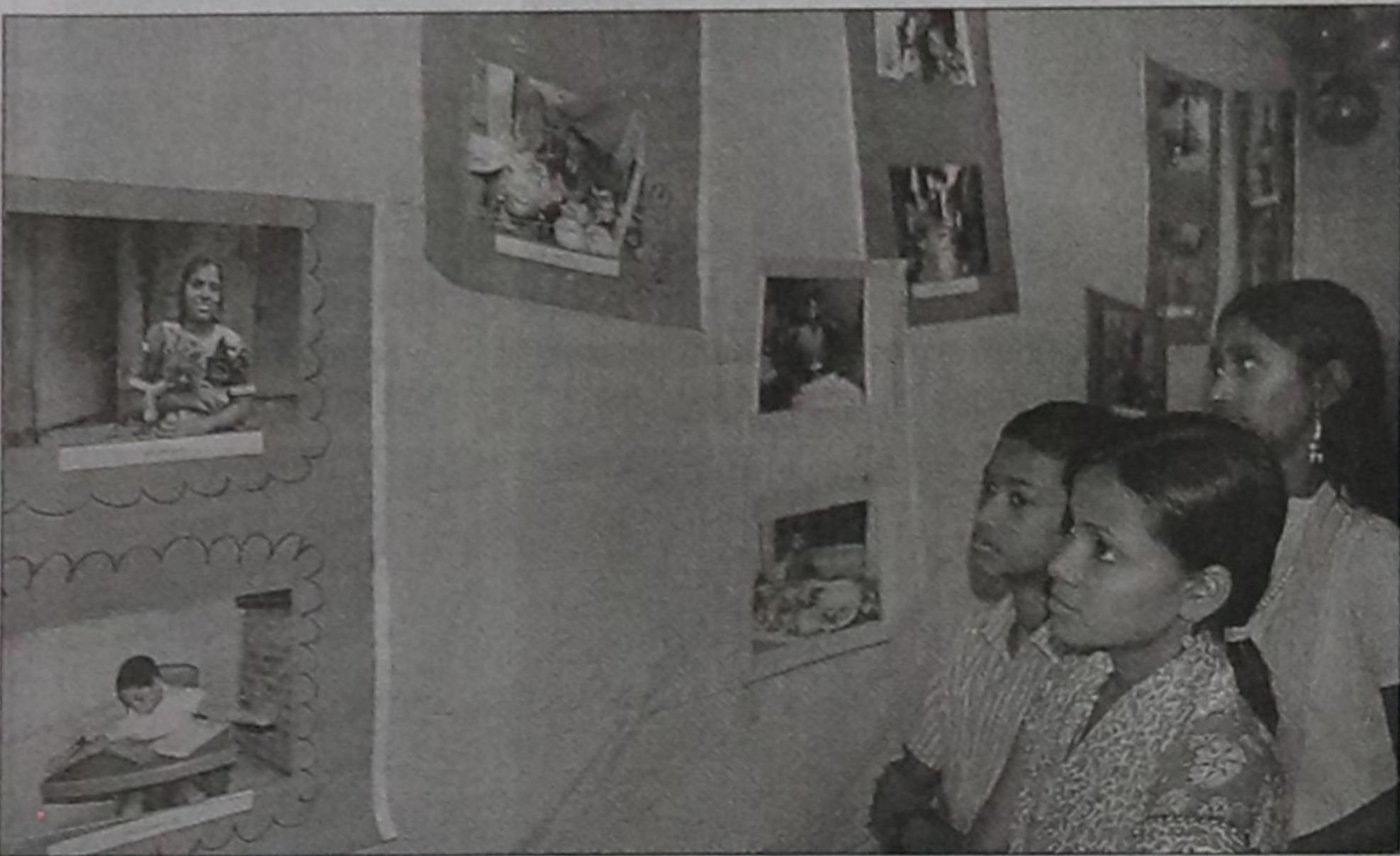
Stating that Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, he said the polluters must pay for the cleanest technologies to be set up in this country.

"If a coal-based power plant usually requires \$50 million, the cleanest technology will require \$30 million more. The polluters should provide this extra money as grants," he said.

Asaduzzaman said the government must be very cautious about how the developed countries provide the money through multilateral organisations like World Bank or some other means.

"We must find the best way to get it and spend it," he added.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Chairman Prof Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad and BISS Director General Maj Gen (ret) Sheikh Md Monirul Islam also spoke on the occasion.



Children look at photographs taken by underprivileged children at a photo exhibition at the Public Library seminar room in the city yesterday on the occasion of the 90th founding anniversary of Save the Children, world's largest independent child rights development organisation. Country Representative of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark opened the show. PHOTO STAR

Training on assistance to migrant workers begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day training course on 'Building capacity for assistance to migrant workers' will begin at the Biam Foundation in the city today, says a press release.

Manusher Jonno Foundation and Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) jointly organised the training course for officials at Expatriate Welfare Desk and assistant directors of District Employment and Manpower offices.

The objective of the course is to make the Expatriate Welfare Desks at the districts level dynamic and make field level officers aware of the government initiatives to protect the rights of migrant workers.

Ilyas Ahmed, secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment, will attend the inaugural session of the workshop as the chief guest and BMET Director General Masud Ahmed as the special guest.

Proshika chief's son out to create anarchy

Allege officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials and employees of Proshika yesterday alleged that Qazi Rubayat Ahmed, son of its Chairman Qazi Faruque Ahmed, is trying to create anarchy in the head office by his hired goons.

Director Abdul Halim made the allegation on behalf of the staffs of Proshika, country's one of the largest non-government development organisations, says a press release.

He said at around 7.30am, Rubayat along with his cohorts Sheikh Sayed, Motiur Rahman, Abu Syed, Afzal Hossain and Mozammel Hossain hired around 100 people from different slums entered the Proshika office in the name of participating in a workshop.

The Proshika chief's son along with some 16 unidentified outsiders entered the office around 9.00am introducing them as the new recruits at his computer system department.

At one stage, when the officials and employees pressurised them into leaving the place with the help of police, the outsiders left the spot, the release added.

The Proshika staffs also held a protest meeting at around 3.00pm, demanding removal of its chairman for his involvement in corruption, tyranny and nepotism in the organisation.

Kazi Rabiul Alam of the organisation conducted the programme with Director AKM Abdul Haque in the chair.

and vice chairmen of UZs be clearly defined," said Jahangir, who read out the written statement at the press briefing.



Sarwar wins Agrani Bank Child Literary Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rhymer Sarwar-ul-Islam won the Agrani Bank Child Literary Award for the Bangla year 1411 for his book titled 'Muktijuddher Kishore Golpo', says a press release.

Sarwar, a senior sub-editor of the Prothom Alo, has been writing stories, novels and rhymes for over two decades. He has a total of 44 publications to his credit.

The award, instituted by Bangladesh Shishu Academy, carries Tk 10,000 and a citation.

Earlier, Sarwar also received Nurul Kader Child Literary Award for his novel 'Kalo Pari'.

UZ vice chairmen want specific work areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly elected vice chairmen of upazila (UZ) parishad at a press briefing yesterday demanded the government specifically define the area of their activities.

They also placed a seven-point demand, including uplifting the status of vice chairman keeping consistency with that of upazila chairman in order to define the area of work.

"We want that the government gives us a defined area for our work by publishing a notification. We should have a defined area to work as the people have voted us to work on their behalf," said Md Jahangir Alam, vice chairman of Gazipur.

Upazila Vice Chairman Association organised the press briefing at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Other demands include all official documents of UZ must be forwarded to chairman through vice chairman, vice chairman be entitled with the power of dealing financial matter in absence of the chairman, a car be allocated for vice chairman or the car allocated for chairman be eligible for use of the parishad, and vice chairman be made chairman in all the standing committees of the parishad.

"We believe UZ has an important role to play in strengthening the government. So, we hope the authorities of the chairmen

Traffic sergeant crushed to death under wheels of bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic sergeant was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding bus while he was discharging duty on Mirpur Road in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Abdul Based Talukdar, 36, who hailed from Shoya Dhanghora village under Sirajganj sadar upazila.

Police said he was injured seriously when the bus hit him from behind while he was checking papers of another vehicle on the road in front of Suhrwardy Hospital at around 11.30am.

He was rushed to the hospital where the doctors on duty declared him dead.

The traffic police detained bus driver Rashed, 25, along with his two helpers from the spot.

Police also seized the bus and took it to Mohammadpur Police Station.

Sergeant Based left behind his wife and two sons. One of the sons Rejan is five years old while another son Safuan is only three months old.

He was a resident of Mirpur-12.

Traffic police sources said his elder brother Mohammad Raihan, who was also a traffic sergeant of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), was also crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus while discharging duty in 2000.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun and State Minister Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj condoled the death of sergeant Based and expressed deep sympathy to the family members.



Manab Sheba O Shamajik Unnayan Sangstha in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation and Department of Social Services held a view exchange meeting on 'Improvement of services of Divisional Safe Home for women victims and witnesses' at Bagerhat Zila Parishad Bhaban recently. Lawmaker Habibun Nahar attended the meeting as the chief guest.

PHOTO COURTESY

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY OBSERVED

Number of hepatitis B & C cases on the rise: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of the people suffering from hepatitis B and C viruses has been increasing in Bangladesh and it is time to raise awareness among the people to prevent and treat the diseases which often turn into fatal.

Experts said this yesterday at different programmes organised to mark the World Hepatitis Day with the theme 'Am I Number 12? They also stressed the need to be cautious during blood transfusion and using syringe and needles.

Hepatitis is the major cause of liver disease in the country. The cause of the 43 percent cases admitted to different medical college hospitals with acute hepatitis and jaundice was hepatitis E virus, 22 percent cases by hepatitis B, eight percent was hepatitis A and three percent was hepatitis C.

Though hepatitis A, C and E viruses are not so malignant, hepatitis B and C pose serious threats to human health, said the medical professionals at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

The Liver Centre, Dhaka organised the press conference titled 'The burden of hepatitis B and C in Bangladesh and the role of media in raising mass awareness'.

The major route of transmission of hepatitis B and C is through blood and blood products. The viruses can be transmitted through infected syringes and needles, circumcision, shaving in barber's shop, sexual intercourse and from the infected mother to the newborn child.

Hepatitis B virus causes about 41 percent of liver cirrhosis and 25 percent of liver cancer in the country. Though the vaccine of hepatitis B is very effective to prevent the virus, very few people take the vaccine for lack of awareness, said Prof Mobin Khan, director of the centre.

He further said that in 80 percent cases, hepatitis B is not curable and prevention is the best way to combat the disease. But hepatitis C can be cured

through early diagnosis and treatment.

Former VC of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and professor of Virology department Dr Nazrul Islam said the testing facilities of hepatitis B and C virus should be made available to the country's all public health care centres.

Even the pregnant mothers should be screened and if they are found hepatitis B positive, their children should be given the vaccine of hepatitis B within 24 hours, he added.

Delivering his speech as the chief guest, National Professor Nurul Islam said mass awareness should be created to prevent and treat hepatitis.

Dr Motahar Hossain, Prof AKM Khorshed Alam and Prof Nooruddin Ahmed also spoke,

among others.

Meanwhile, Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said physicians would have to play a leading role in making people aware of the dangers of hepatitis viruses.

To mark the day, the ruling party leader was speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of a rally organised by Viral Hepatitis Foundation Bangladesh.

Lawmakers Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP and Md Murad Hasan were present as the special guests.

Later, an international symposium was held at the LabAid Specialised Hospital. Indian subcontinent's first medical journal on liver titled 'Bangladesh Liver Journal' was also published on the occasion.

Students protest road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University in the city yesterday put up a barricade on Mirpur Road demanding punishment to the bus driver responsible for the road accident that left two of their fellow students injured.

As a result, vehicular movement on the road halted for an hour from 3.45pm, causing severe traffic congestions in the adjacent areas.

Sources said at around 3.00pm, a bus hit two female students of the university while they were crossing the road in front of the university.

The injured, identified as Urmi and Sathi of pure agriculture department of the university, were rushed to Trauma Centre in Mohammadpur.

However, the driver managed to escape with the bus.

As the news spread on the campus, several hundred agitating students took to the street and put up a barricade on the road.

They demanded a foot over bridge in front of the university, punishment to the driver concerned and proper treatment of the injured students.

Officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon Police Station Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star that the students removed the barricade at around 4.45pm after local lawmaker Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal assured them of fulfilling their demands.

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