

Riverside units must have zero-waste management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zero-waste industrial management should be introduced in small, medium and large industries to save rivers and other water bodies near them, said speakers at a seminar organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) yesterday.

They also urged that the government makes sure of the set-up and functioning of effluent treatment plant (ETP) in industries.

Sudipti Biswas, assistant professor of Ahsanullah Science and Technology University, in a multimedia presentation at the seminar titled "Zero Waste Industrial Management in Bangladesh: Dholaikhal Experience and More..." held at Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium showed how zero waste industrial management can be materialised in Bangladesh.

She said the basic principle of industrial ecology is that, the by-product of one industry becomes raw material for another. Thus generated waste used in other industrial process eventually leads to zero waste because industrial pollutants do not exit anymore, she added.

Citing an example Sudipti said if a fish farm, a fish processing and a fish-meal industry are located close by then the waste and sludge from the fish farm and the fish processing industry can be conveniently used as raw material by the fish-meal industry.

Industrial area designed with the principles of industrial ecology is known as Eco Industrial Park (EIP), she added.

Bapa president Muzaffer Ahmad who presided over the seminar said waste management plan should be based on

the types of factories and industries.

"If river encroachment does not stop now, one day we will face a huge problem as we will not even have the place for releasing treated water," maintained Muzaffer.

Standing committee chairman of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Shafiqur Rahman urged the government to provide subsidy and keep allocation in the next budget for encouraging industrialists to set up ETP.

Professor of civil engineering department M Firoz Ahmed, professor of Dhaka University Nurul Islam Nazem and project director of waste management of Dhaka City Corporation Tareq Bin Yousuf addressed the seminar, among others.

Flawed list

FROM PAGE 16

names of those who are already under police custody."

He added that he also came to know about another BDR member currently in jail but his name was included in the list of deserters.

Parveena Sultana, wife of Aiyub, son of Sabed Ali of Sayal village under Sadar upazila in Jhenidah, told The Daily Star that after the publication of the list of deserters she forwarded an application to the BDR-DG informing the matter.

She said that her husband was arrested from the Sitalakha building at Pilkhana in February and now he is in Kashimpur jail.

Parveena also said a week into her husband's arrest they visited him in Kashimpur jail on May 11 and March 30.

BDR DG said the mistake might have been made as the mutiny case was filed after their arrest.

Huji men

FROM PAGE 16

militants about their involvement in the gruesome blast that left five persons killed and over 50 others injured.

"We started investigation on a high hope on the basis of some primary information about the link of Huji responsible for many deadly grenade and bomb blasts across the country but finally we did not find enough evidence," said a top CID investigator wishing not to be named.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case CID Inspector Motiur Rahman said, "We're yet to ascertain who were behind the plot and why the blast was carried out."

Motiur who took the charge from the erstwhile IO seven months back also said he had already collected video footages of the CPB rally for screening.

Statements of a number of CPB leaders and those who suffered injuries in the carnage had also been collected, he added.

All hell broke loose on January 20, 2001 as a powerful bomb, believed to have been planted earlier, went off at the rally leaving five people dead and 50 others injured.

The dead were CPB leaders Himangshu Mondol of Batiaghata upazila in Khulna district, Abdul Majid of Rupsha upazila of the same district, Latif Bawani Jute Mill unit CPB leader Abul Hossain Hashem, Khulna BL College unit Chhatra Union leader Bipra Das and Moktar Hossain Badal from Madaripur.

Following the blast CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan filed a case with the Motijheel Police Station saying a group of anti-state conspirators made the attack.

Police arrested 12 people at that time but the CID submitted the final report on December 17, 2003 virtually bringing the investigation to an end.

The arrestees are Shaheen, Didar, Din Mohammad alias Dulu, Mamun, Alamgir, Anwar Hossain, Habibur Rahman, Abul Hossain, Moktar Hossain, Mostafizur Rahman, Moshir Rahman and Shakhawat Hossain.

Arrestees mainly people like street vendors were released later.

The CID sources said the final report was submitted, as correct, impartial and reliable pieces of evidence were not available to prove the charges against the arrestees.

Barkat

FROM PAGE 16

Barkat obtained his BSS (honours) degree in political science from Dhaka University in 1951.

He stood second-class fourth. He died while he was a student of master's degree.

Taha had requested for the certificate and mark sheets for a documentary film he is financing.

Answering journalists' questions, the DUVU said the university authorities could have given the certificate earlier but since the student was deceased no initiative was taken.

"Now the university feels proud that they could manage the original certificate with the signature of the then examination controller," he added.

The documentary being filmed is about Barkat's life, his educational life, involvement in the Language Movement and his martyrdom.

The VC said the documentary filmmaker Rokeya Prachi would have the documents for filmmaking and then passed them on to Bhasha Shaheed Barkat Smriti Jadughar to be constructed at Palashi, Dhaka.

Talking to The Daily Star Rokeya Prachi said Taha approached her with the documentary project in February.

The 52-minute documentary titled "Bayannor Michhiley" (in the procession of '52) will be released in June and distributed to all museums, said Prachi.

She also expressed her gratitude to DU for allowing her to have such an old document.

Martyr Barkat's cousin Taha said, "There have been very few activities to commemorate Barkat in Bangladesh. There is a memorial museum in West Bengal, India where Barkat lived in his childhood."

"The idea for the documentary emerged and we requested the certificate for the film and documentation," he added.

Born in 1927 in Babla of Murshidabad, West Bengal, Abul Barkat, nicknamed Abai, was shot dead in a Language Movement procession on Dhaka Medical College premises on February 21, 1952. He was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard.

He was awarded with Ekushey Padak in 2008.

Barapukuria

FROM PAGE 1

Phulbari have launched a negative campaign against Barapukuria mine. Their instigation caused anarchy in the mine earlier this month. They want the mine to be shut down, and they have other agenda in this region," said an official.

Bangladesh imports poor quality coal from India worth more than Tk 2,500 crore every year. Many officials suspect that the importers may contribute to the negative campaign against coal mining in the country.

After the 'successful' movement in Phulbari four years back, this group of people is fuelling a negative campaign in Barapukuria for the last one year as land subsidence became quite visible in several areas, officials said.

As the government's mining project overlooked subsidence and compensation issues when it was approved in the early nineties, the negative campaign influenced the villagers and workers, they noted.

But the present Awami League government responded to this situation in late January. A committee was formed to look into the subsidence issue and recommend how to compensate the affected people.

The MoU signed on May 14-15 by BCMCL officials and affected people is the first step to solve people's negative impression about coal mining.

As per the MoU, both the sides agreed on appointing a Property Valuation Advisory Team (PVAT) comprised of advisers and representatives of Dinajpur district administration. This team would specifically recommend compensation for crop land, commercial and domestic space and housing structures, livestock, school, college, religious structure, graveyard, forestry, road, canal, pond, Eidgah, bridges, electric poles, shallow or deep tubewells etc.

The BCMCL had proposed relocation of the families whose houses have developed serious cracks. But the villagers sought compensation and repair of their houses. The BCMCL will construct eight to 10 tin sheds in the high-risk

Plots in Turag

FROM PAGE 1

riverbank from Amin Bazar Bridge towards Ashulia.

Most of these sand traders were enlisted as illegal grabbers on the list of BIWTA as it had designated only 200 metres under the Bridge for their business.

Everything was 'managed' later as the sand traders are mostly local influential people from both Awami League and BNP. They now claim that they do the business 'legally' as they 'pay BIWTA regularly'.

The BIWTA jetty has been left abandoned now as the Tk 36-crore 'Circular Waterway Project' has failed. Now the jetty is used by some Rab officials as their temporary outpost.

Experts say the Turag along with its floodplain is very important for the capital as it works as the natural reservoir of floodwaters coming from the north through it.

During a walk on the bank towards Ashulia it was seen the grabbers erected signboards of 'ownership' of the riverbank.

Different developers have filled up portions of the floodplain and the riverbank, while some influential local people have encroached upon other.

Asked why BIWTA is not taking any action, an official said, "We are preparing a list of the encroachers." The official did not elaborate and requested to remain unnamed.

Earlier, BIWTA evicted several small and big illegal installations including a kitchen market established by Manowar Hossain Dipjal, local BNP leader and ward commissioner who is in jail now on corruption charges.

However, the authorities could not conduct any eviction drive along the banks since 2007.

Official sources say BIWTA evicted 394 encroachers between 2001 and 2007 from the banks of the Buriganga and Turag. The sources however could not say how many of those encroachers have returned to their previous state.

Local resident Jahangir Mia said the Turag was an affluent and wide river just two decades ago.

"Now the river has so narrowed that two boats cannot go side by side," he added. Ironically, Biswas group, a developer filling up the floodplain on the other side of the river, has put up a signboard that reads "Biswas Lake City".

area of Moupukur village.

They agreed on developing a mining city.

The affected people would be helped to form a cooperative and allowed to run modern fisheries in the subsidised area. As the land would subside further, this could be converted into an attractive tourist spot, which would contribute to local development in future, sources.

The BCMCL would relax its rules to give priority to the affected people in offering jobs at the mine.

Ctg mayor

FROM PAGE 16

auditorium in Chittagong yesterday morning.

The three-time elected mayor said some newspapers published reports criticising him and his activities only to increase their circulation.

"I do not bother about them, I rather enjoy such reports," said the mayor.

He claimed that only five to 10 percent people of the country read newspapers while the rest are illiterate.

"These people, who are unable to read newspapers, are always with me," he said.

BankUnited

FROM PAGE 16

deposits of 8.6 billion dollars as of May 2.

The new BankUnited will assume 12.7 billion dollars in assets and 8.3 billion dollars in nonbrokered deposits, the statements said.

"The FDIC and BankUnited entered into a loss-share transaction and will share in the losses on approximately 10.7 billion dollars in assets covered under the agreement," it said.

The agreement is expected to "minimize disruptions" for loan customers as they will "maintain a banking relationship," it said.

BankUnited will recapitalize the institution with 900 million dollars in new capital.

BankUnited, FSB is the 34th FDIC-insured institution to fail in the United States this year, and the third in Florida. The last bank to be closed in the state was Riverside Bank of the Gulf Coast, Cape Coral on February 13.

BankUnited is the second biggest US bank failure during the current financial crisis triggered by a home mortgage meltdown, after the collapse last July of Indymac, a California mortgage bank.

The FDIC insures deposits at the nation's 8,305 banks and savings associations.

BNP units

FROM PAGE 16

BNP standing committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Moudud Ahmed earlier told journalists that the committees would be announced by last week.

When asked about the party's failure to announce district committees, Khandaker Mosharraf last evening told The Daily Star, "The committees have been finalised but I don't know the reason for the delay. Does it take a week to type the list?"

Party's Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy said those involved in the decision-making process know the reason for the delay in announcing the committees.

Party insiders said resentment among district-level leaders spread due to frequent changes in names for the posts of conveners and joint conveners of many district committees.

"Many field-level leaders are now in the capital to persuade top party leaders to include their names in convening committees. Some are even trying to reach a deal with top leaders," a district-level leader told The Daily Star preferring anonymity.

A district unit general secretary said the move to form convening committees inspired the party men but now they are worried about the standing committee's slow pace of work.

Earlier, the BNP standing committee decided to announce the convening committees after dissolving all district committees by April 7. But it failed to implement the decision.

Later, the committee sat several times and finalised the names of conveners and a few joint conveners for district convening committees.

But it could not announce the names due to unhealthy competition among the party's top leaders who are trying to establish control over the committees.

Four ministers, 2 whips now in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four ministers and two whips of parliament went to Khulna yesterday on a two-day tour and held separate talks with the lawmakers of Khulna district, government and port officials and party workers.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, state minister for Labour and Employment Begum Mannujun Sufian, whips Sheikh Abdul Wahab and Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury are visiting the southwestern district.

Sources said Matia Chowdhury exchanged views with the leaders of local Awami League at party office in the evening. She was also scheduled to hold meeting with the officials of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts of her ministry at the local circuit house last night.

The shipping minister held a meeting with the high officials of Mongla port authority and port users at the circuit house in the afternoon. This meeting was followed by a view exchange meeting with the lawmakers of Khulna district on issues related to the development of Mongla port.

Whip Sheikh Abdul Wahab will attend a rally to be organised by Sramik League attached with the West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd at Boira Bidyut Bhaban today. Noor-e-Alam will visit Mongla port today, as he is the chairman of parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry.

Other ministers also held separate meetings. All the four ministers and two whips will visit Mongla port today at different times.

Clarification

FROM PAGE 1

at the board meeting as mentioned in the report. "In order that the review made by the board does not miss any pertinent and substantial point... the board during its discourse heard the project consultant and the tender evaluation committee."

There was exchange of opinions on the technical and commercial aspects.

The GTCL also denied that the energy ministry in March had decided to go for the lowest bid of \$150 million of Korean company Hyundai.

Differing with another part of the report, the GTCL said the bidding process allowed seeking clarification from bidders after opening bids.

On the issue of re-scheduling of the GTCL board meeting to May 9 instead of May 7, the clarification pointed out that it was not related to the change of the chairman of the board, but it was done because preparation of documents for the meeting took additional time.

It added that all the board members made the decision together and it was not true that some members of the board were trying to reject the bid with a negative attitude.

Our reply

The 10-member tender evaluation committee, which gave their recommendation for the compressor project on May 4, has categorically recommended considering the bid proposal of Hyundai and declared the other bidder non-responsive. The recommendation was quoted verbatim in the story.

It was the GTCL board, not the evaluation committee, which declared both the bidders non-responsive. If both were unanimously found to be non-responsive, making the decision would have been simple and the board would not have to take accounts of the consultant and other officials. In fact, because of a clear difference of opinion between the tender committee and some board members, the compressor issue was discussed for more than two hours at the May 9 meeting.

In March, The Daily Star had covered the energy ministry's meeting on the gas compressor and pipeline issues. The ministry did not deny the content of the report.

On re-scheduling the meeting, the fact remains unchanged that the chairman of the board was hurriedly changed on May 4 coinciding with May 6 notice of the re-scheduling of the meeting.

Finally, the fact that there was a major difference of opinion lies recorded in the tender evaluation committee's recommendation and the board's decision.

Manmohan sworn in

FROM PAGE 1

administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Manmohan and his cabinet in a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi last evening.

Manmohan is the first prime minister since the country's post-independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru, to return to the office for a successive term.

Those sworn in yesterday along with the prime minister are senior Congress leaders Pranab Mukherjee, AK Antony, P Chidambaram, Sushil Kumar Shinde, S Jaipal Reddy, Kamal Nath, Vayalar Ravi, Meira Kumar, Murlidhar, Kapil Sibal, Ambika Soni, Anand Sharma, SM Krishna, M Veerappa Moily, and Ghulam Nabi Azad, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee.

The names of senior Congress leaders HR Bhardwaj, Arjun Singh, and Saifuddin Soz, who were ministers in the previous government, did not find a place among those inducted yesterday.

Congress-led UPA won 262 seats in the 543-member parliament, just 10 short of the 272 needed for a working majority. The alliance quickly garnered pledges of support from independents and other parties like Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) to take its strength to 322.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a release that yesterday's exercise will be followed in the next few days by an expansion of council of ministers including other cabinet ministers, ministers of state with independent charges, as well as other ministers of state, which will give due representation to allied parties.

The portfolios will be distributed by early next week, according to government sources.

Mamata Banerjee is the only cabinet minister from her party while five are ministers of state. Congress offered two cabinet posts to Trinamool Congress, but Mamata was content with only one, apparently because she did not want anybody else from her party to be on a par with her stature.

The installation of the new government, almost a week after Congress returned to power with resounding victory in general elections, came hours after talks broke down between Congress and DMK, the regional party ruling southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Congress did not agree to DMK's demand for the number of ministerial posts and portfolios, said senior DMK leader TR Baalu yesterday morning after two days of hard haggling between the two parties, and DMK chief M Karunanidhi flew back to Chennai.

DMK was demanding nine cabinet positions, while Congress was willing to concede only six.

Congress was understood to be opposed to Karunanidhi's choices for ministers in the new cabinet, which included two senior party leaders Baalu and A Raja, whose performances in the previous government had left Prime Minister

Manmohan unhappy.

However, DMK is widely expected to eventually join the government, with talks set to continue after the ceremony while both parties reassess their stands.

"We are not at all worried. We are friends," Baalu said.

Congress General Secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad is expected to travel to Chennai today in a bid to mollify Karunanidhi.

Swine flu

FROM PAGE 16

"Countries with a more robust health system will be able to cope with the (increased) demand" created by an outbreak, but other countries may not do so well, Hall said. She declined to identify any country.

She warned that any vaccine to the new virus would not be available until August, at the earliest.

The WHO said Friday there have been 11,168 cases of influenza A(H1N1) worldwide with 86 confirmed deaths.

Meanwhile, global health chiefs warned on Friday that swine flu could soon hit much harder in the world's poorest countries and its spread in Asia was in danger of accelerating with the change of season.

As scores more new cases were reported in countries ranging from the United States to Japan, the head of the UN's World Health Organisation said A(H1N1) was proving to be "subtle, sneaky virus."

The Philippines became the 42nd country to report a case of A(H1N1) and Europe took stringent measures to stop the outbreak in its tracks, including the closure of high schools in Rome and quarantining of soldiers in Spain.

The WHO's latest figures put the overall number of infections worldwide at 11,168, including 86 deaths, an increase of 134 on the previous day's tally.

While the vast majority of cases have been in Mexico and the United States, the latest developments heightened the prospects the WHO could declare a fully-fledged pandemic after already having warned that one is imminent.

Officials have said they will raise the alert level from five to the maximum six only when it is clear there is sustained community transmission in a second region outside the Americas.

Speaking on the last day of the WHO's annual conference, the organisation's director general Margaret Chan said poor countries which had escaped the worst of the virus could yet find themselves in the eye of the storm.

"Countries especially in the developing world, where populations are most vulnerable, should prepare to see more than the present small number of severe cases," Chan said.

"The strength of a country's health system will make the biggest difference in sickness and survival during an influenza pandemic," she added.

Although Asia, home to more than half the world's population, has yet to experience any deaths from swine flu, the growing number of cases has evoked painful memories of the 2003 SARS virus, which killed more than 800 people.

China - which bore the brunt of SARS - recorded its sixth case of swine flu on Friday.

The number of confirmed A(H1N1) infections in Japan rose to 307, but authorities there eased some of their measures aimed at controlling the spread of swine flu, saying the virus was not as virulent as feared.

"The new influenza has strong similarities to seasonal flu," Health Minister Yoichi Masuzoe told reporters.

Officials at the Manila-based WHO Western Pacific office meanwhile warned that as the southern hemisphere was about to enter its influenza season, the "factors that contribute toward the spread of (ordinary seasonal) influenza will also enable the spread of A(H1N1)."

The Australian government invoked sweeping powers which would allow for the closure of schools and public places by upping its pandemic threat level as the number of confirmed swine flu cases there reached 12.

A 10-year-old girl became the country's first case of human-to-human transmission after contracting the disease from a classmate who fell ill upon returning from a family holiday to the United States.

Two teenagers, one in Melbourne and another in Adelaide, were also diagnosed with the virus without having travelled overseas or come into contact with an identified case, prompting Canberra to escalate its pandemic management plan.

Spain also tried to stop the virus in its tracks by quarantining soldiers at a military school near Madrid after 11 of them fell ill with suspected cases of the virus.

And Italy's health ministry ordered two high schools in Rome closed after four students were found to have contracted the swine flu virus while on a recent trip to the United States.