

Create awareness about fresh encroachment on rivers

JS body chairman tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has initiated steps to stop river encroachment but we must develop awareness so that no more encroachment occurs, said Abdul Mamin Talukder, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee for Forest and Environment.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting held in the city's Osmany Memorial Auditorium organised by Department of Environment (DoE) marking the World Environment Day.

"Although we observe the World Environment Day every year, we don't realise the effects of environmental hazards waiting for us," he said adding it's time we seriously thought about saving the environment.

Urging all to save rivers and environment he said, "A few days ago The Daily

Star and Channel 1 launched a campaign titled 'Save Rivers Save Dhaka'. Now all the people of the country need to get united to save rivers."

President of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan Muzaffer Ahmad said the ecosystem is now in danger and we are largely responsible for that.

Ignoring local techniques we have been blindly adopting western methods and technology oblivious of the effect on our environment, said Muzaffer.

"The government has recently made efforts to save the Buriganga but I have been rallying for saving rivers for 15 years. If initiatives were taken then the Buriganga would not be so polluted now," he continued.

He also said the government should not allow industries without measuring environmental impact and should prioritise effluent treatment plant.

Member of the parliamentary standing committee for Forest and Environment Ekabbar Hossain said the government should make effluent treatment plant mandatory for all industries.

Three papers -- 'Climate change and resource in the Haors: problems and duties' by M Mokhesur Rahman, executive director of Centre For Natural Resources Studies, 'Mangrove forest for climate risk reduction' by UNDP Assistant Country Director M Aminul Islam, and 'Food system based on biodiversity can save the world' by Farida Akhter of Ubiniig -- and a documentary on climate change impact on Bangladesh by Sanowar Hossain were presented at the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Md Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury, former director general of DoE.



Dhaka University (DU) Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at an orientation session for schoolteachers at Emmanuelle's Convention Centre in the city's Rifles Square yesterday. On his right are Professor Noman Ur Rashid, Akte Managing Director and CEO Jefri A Tambi and Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman. (Story on page 1)

Book on Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary diseases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launching ceremony of the reference book 'Liver-A complete book on Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Diseases' edited by Dr Mamun-Al-Mahtab and Prof Selimur Rahman of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University was held at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Advised by the Prime Minister Dr Sayed Muddasser Ali attended the programme as the chief guest while BSMU Vice Chancellor Pran Gopal Datta, DGHS Director General Prof Shah Munir Hossain and Prof Iqbal Arsalan, dean of Basic Medical Science of the BSMU were the special guests at the ceremony.



Members of a Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) delegation during a meeting at The Daily Star office in the city yesterday. (Story on page 1)

Use Nepal, Bhutan hydro-power source for Saarc energy security

Says Dipu Moni

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said utilising the potentials of hydro-electricity in Nepal and Bhutan and sharing electricity among Saarc member states can ensure a long-term energy security in the region.

"We must exploit the existing prospects and opportunities for developing regional gas grid, power grid, promoting renewable energy technology and energy diversity," she told a workshop.

She was speaking at the workshop titled 'Achievements, failures and challenges of Saarc' jointly organised by South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) and Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

Presided over by SAFMA President Reazuddin Ahmed, the workshop was also addressed by Foreign Secretary

M Touhid Hossain, Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University, Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner Aiaj M Khan, Political Counselor of Indian High Commission M Subbaray Udu, Consular of Bhutan High Commission Ugyen Dorji, First Secretary of Sri Lanka High Commission Muna Singhe, SAFMA Secretary General Zahiduzzaman Faruque, DCAB President Masud Karim and its General Secretary Imran Alam.

Senior journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

Dipu Moni said sincere efforts are needed to reduce the 'trust deficit' that exists and mires the relations between the countries in South Asia. "For many decades, we have tied ourselves in an adversarial mindset with our neighbours. This has denied us to forge an integrated economic understanding, circumventing political differences," she said.

"We must create an ambience of greater amity, mutual trust and understanding. We hope that economic rationale would triumph over political prejudice for meaningful regional cooperation in South Asia," she added.

The foreign minister said perhaps it is not unjustified that any discourse on Saarc invariably veers towards listing more of its failures and much less of its achievements.

Indeed, she said, "The last few years have been truly remarkable for our region. Riding on the back of sustained GDP growth, the region has witnessed economic and social developments not seen before."

Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner Aiaj Khan said Pakistan will continue its support to advance Saarc to its desired destination while Indian diplomat Subbaray Udu said India is also committed to ensuring the welfare of the people of the region.

SHOOTOUT WITH RAB

Fair probe into death of student demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of Md Jinnah Ali, one of the two students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute killed allegedly in a shootout with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), yesterday demanded a fair investigation into the incident and punishment to the persons responsible for his death.

Jinnah and Mohsin Sheikh were killed in the shootout at Manik Mia Avenue in the city on May 28.

At a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, Jinnah's family members rejected the Rab's version that the two students were killed in the crossfire. They also termed it a planned killing by Rab.

Jinnah, son of late Monirul Islam, a freedom fighter, was admitted to the polytechnic institute under Mukti Joddha quota, said his mother Momtaj Begum.

"I had dreamt that my son would become an engineer, but the law enforcement agencies shattered my dream... It is really unfortunate that Rab called my son a criminal," she said.

Jinnah's brother Humayun Kabir said, "We will file cases against the alleged killer this week."

Jashim Uddin, brother-in-law of Jinnah, read out a written statement at the press conference.

Jinnah was a 6th semester student of mechanical engineering and Mohsin was a final semester student of electrical engineering.

Family members as well as their teachers and other students said Jinnah and Mohsin were members of Bangladesh Chhatra League, but they did not have any criminal records.

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