

Call to fight climate change unitedly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday said there is no alternative but to face the climate change challenges unitedly to save valuable lives and properties as well as to protect them from environmental hazards.

They said this at the leadership orientation for the members of parliament (MPs) on climate change organised by People's Empowerment Trust (PET) and All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in association with ministry of Environment and Forest and Oxfam International at a city hotel.

Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) Chairman Dr Kazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad said united effort is a must to fight the climate change impacts which are destroying lives and properties as well as brings environmental hazards.

He stressed that the government should formulate a specific policy to deal with the climate change and its impacts on our livelihood immediately.

Talking about the major rules of parliamentarians to face greenhouse effect and resultant climate change, the BEA boss said, "Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country to be destroyed due to climates

change impacts across the globe. So, lawmakers should be aware of the issue."

Presiding over the orientation, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali said a general discussion on climate changes and its impact could be discussed at any coming parliament session.

He asked the MPs to submit a notice for holding the discussion in the parliament on climate change which has become the most pressing global crisis, especially for the poorest countries like Bangladesh.

KAM Morshed, assistant country director of UNDP Bangladesh, in his presentation on 'Climate change impact: The role of international community' said MPs could put the issue on the table and make it a priority, enact supportive legislation, press for budgetary allocation and oversee its implementations.

Lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "Climate change issue could be turned as a national security issue. So, early response would be wiser for us to fight climate change."

Abdul Momin Talukder, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on environment and forest ministry; Shawkat Momen Shajahan, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on agricultural ministry; Sayedul

Hoque, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on food and disaster management; AKM Mozammel Hoque, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on land ministry; Abdur Razzaque, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on water resources ministry; and Deepak L Xavier of CBGA India also spoke.

Policy Officer of Oxfam Khalid Hossain, Director General (in-charge) of the Department of Environment Billal Hossain and Programme Manager of its Climate Change Cell Abu Mostafa Kamal Uddin presented three papers on climate change and its impact on livelihood.



Workers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) demolish illegal structures on the river Turag at Kamarpara in Tongi yesterday.

Ex-KCC mayor Tayebur released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Former mayor of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Sheikh Tayebur Rahman was released from Dhaka Central Jail on bail on Tuesday night.

He was arrested on the night of November 2 in 2007 from his residence at Gulshan in Dhaka in connection with an extortion case.

SM Hafizur Rahman, a suspended official of Khulna City Corporation (KCC), filed the extortion case.

There are some 16 cases against Tayebur Rahman.

According to his wife Laila Rahman, the ex-mayor has got bail in all extortion and other cases, including corruption.

Tayebur was convicted in two extortion cases but acquitted in an arms case.



Bangladesh Krishak Samity forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding 10 percent more allocation in the budget for the agriculture sector.

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