

Protect rivers from grabbers to ensure people's right to water

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday urged the government to protect the rivers and water bodies from the grabbers and polluters to ensure people's right to water and livelihood.

Non-governmental organisations Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Nijera Kori, BNPS, CCDB, Bela, INCIDIN-Bangladesh (Integrated Community & Industrial Development Initiative in Bangladesh), said the management policy and legal framework must be focused on people's natural right to water.

water: Management of water and water bodies" at WVA auditorium.

AKM Masud Ali, executive director of INCIDIN-Bangladesh (Integrated Community & Industrial Development Initiative in Bangladesh), said the management policy and legal framework must be focused on people's natural right to water.

Though water is a fundamental element for sustenance of human life, majority of the people are deprived of right to water, he said.

Ensuring safe drinking

water for all by 2011 is an election pledge of the incumbent government, he said.

The shortfall in water supply against total demand will be 56 percent by 2025 in the world, he said citing Global Water Grab: Polaris Institute.

AKM Mozammel Haq, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Land, in his speech as the chief guest said inadequate sewer system of Dhaka was contributing significantly to water pollution of rivers around

Dhaka.

The parliamentary committee led by Mozammel Haq has asked the environment and industries ministries to take measures against river pollutions.

The committee has also proposed to the finance minister that government should set up industrial effluent treatment plants and realise cost from the owners with some mechanism later on.

Today, unfortunately, almost any of the 23 canals across Dhaka city is untraceable, he said, adding that the committee has already instructed the land survey directorate to trace out the original canal areas to go for recovery drive.

He said the government has introduced a new set of rules with effect from June for leasing out water bodies for fishing to the genuine fishermen, not the influential black-moneyed people.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of ALRD and Nijera Kori, who chaired the workshop, stressed the need for coordination among the ministries concerned to conserve the land, water and forest resources.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda spoke at the inaugural session while a good number of NGO activists took part in the workshop.



AKM Mozammel Haq speaks at a workshop at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Khushi Kabir and Shamsul Huda and on his right is Zakir Hossain.

Allow GQ Chy to go abroad HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to allow former BNP lawmaker Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury to go abroad until July 24 for business purpose.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul

Islam Chowdhury also asked Giasuddin to come back to the country by July 24.

The bench passed the order upon a writ petition filed by Giasuddin.

Petitioner's counsel Barrister Masood Reza Sobhan yesterday told The Daily Star that his client has filed the writ petition seeking a HC direction upon the government to allow him to go abroad for business purpose, since the authorities concerned on June 22 barred him at the Zia International Airport from going abroad.

Make NU centre of excellence Academicians urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academicians at a discussion yesterday said the government should take steps to make National University (NU) a centre of excellence in higher education from where well-timed degrees would be offered instead of abolishing it.

A strong corrupt syndicate has gripped the overall NU activities which must be contained, otherwise the problems could not be solved, they said.

They suggested that the colleges affiliated with NU be re-affiliated to different renowned universities of the country and NU should provide master's and higher degrees.

The discussion on 'Prevailing Problems of the National University and Remedies' was organised by Citizens' Solidarity at the Shaheed

Munir Chowdhury auditorium at TSC on the Dhaka University campus.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman said, "I am not in favour of abolishing the university, instead it could be made a centre of higher education. Colleges under the university should be given to the renowned universities of the country and NU should only deal with master's degrees and above."

"National University has its own infrastructure and it could easily be made a residential higher education centre," he added.

The former NU professor said the main problem at NU is corruption and not letting it to be a fully autonomous university.

"There is a strong corrupt syndicate in the university who are doing all the misdeeds there. The syndicate is very strong," he said, adding: "The

undue interference of the education ministry does not let it run autonomously which hampers its activities."

"It is not a realistic thought to abolish the university. It should be upgraded to a quality university for higher education," Prof Rashidul said.

Differing with the people who say the quality of education at NU is lower, he said: "NU students have to go through tough competition across the country in their examinations. In the competitive exams, it is seen that the NU students do well."

Former vice chancellor of NU Prof M Mofakharul Islam said there is a chance to make the NU a centre of excellence. Proper plans and willingness are needed to that end.

The discussion was presided over by Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman, president of Citizens' Solidarity.



PHOTO: PIR

Members of the President Guard Regiment (PGR) and chiefs of the three services pose for photograph with President Zillur Rahman at a function at Dhaka Cantonment marking PGR's 34th founding anniversary yesterday.

Discharge duty with sincerity President asks PGR members

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the members of the President Guard Regiment (PGR) to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity and competence, showing highest loyalty to the leadership.

"Remember that the sacred responsibility entrusted upon you by the nation as well as the country is very prestigious and dignified," he said while he was addressing the PGR Darbar at Shaheed Capt Hafiz Hall at the PGR headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment marking its 34th founding anniversary yesterday.

The President said he was

impressed to see the integrity and devotion, and above all the sense of discipline and professionalism of all PGR members in performing their duties.

Terming the PGR duties as prestigious but risky, Zillur said the range of duties of the PGR has increased with the demands of time and members of the regiment also increased accordingly.

"My all-out cooperation will continue in further strengthening and modernising this regiment," he said.

The president recalled the contribution of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to establishing the PGR in 1975 with a view to

ensuring security of the VIPs of the country. The smart PGR members are recruited from the Bangladesh Army, he said.

He said the responsibility of ensuring security for the head of state along side the head of the government has been bestowed on the PGR following the establishment of parliamentary democracy in the country in 1991.

Zillur lauded the PGR members for sincerely carrying out their challenging tasks to achieve the professional excellence.

"I firmly believe, you will uphold the standard of this prestigious regiment in future as well," he said.

He expressed his profound respect to the greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for his outstanding contribution in achieving independence.

He paid deep homage to the valiant freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the country's independence.

Zillur also recalled the contributions of those members of the PGR who made immense sacrifice to promote the regiment to the stage.

Chiefs of the three services, and high military and civil officials were present on the occasion.

Tributes paid to Dr Alauddin Al Azad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people from all walks of life paid their last tribute to renowned poet and writer Dr Alauddin Al Azad by showering flowers on his coffin at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

The coffin of the veteran writer, who died at his Uttara residence in the city on Friday night after suffering from various old-age ailments at the age of 77, was brought to the Shaheed Minar in the morning.

Politicians, cultural personalities and activists, teachers and students converged on the area to bid adieu to him.

On behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, former state minister Obaidul Kader paid respect to the poet, Education Minister Nuriul Islam Nahid, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique also paid their last respects.

Former prime minister and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia expressed profound shock at Azad's death. In a condolence message, she said the outstanding writings of Dr Azad have enriched Bangla literature.

The poet's wife Prof Jamila Azad and his relatives also paid last tribute by laying wreaths on the coffin.

Different organisations, including Jatya Ganatantrik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolan, Writers' Foundation Bangladesh, Bangla Academy, Jahangirnagar University, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, and Dhaka University Journalists' Association also condoned the death.



PHOTO: STAR

People from all walks of life pay their last respect to writer Dr Alauddin Al Azad at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Change of Timing of Written Test for the position of Management Trainee

Timing of the written test for the position of Management Trainee (MT) of United Commercial Bank Ltd. has been changed due to unavoidable circumstances. Now the written test will be held at 4.00 p.m. instead of 9:30 a.m. on the same day, i.e., 10th July, 2009 at Teachers' Training College & Dhaka College. Inconvenience is regretted.

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- The dresses and other items sent for the album are returnable.
- The dresses and other items must be handed over to The Daily Star by July 14, 2009.
- Per entry fee Tk. 200/- (minimum 3 entries for each participating house)

সাধারণ ফ্ল্যাটে নিঃসঙ্গ নয় বাস করুন টাউনশীপে

রূপায়ন টাউনশীপ। মতিঝিল থেকে ১০ মিনিটের দূরত্বে। ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ লিকে রোড সংলগ্ন উইগেডে। রয়েছে আধুনিক নগর সভ্যতার সুবিধাদি, যার মধ্যে হেলথ কেয়ার, স্কুল, খেলার মাঠ, মসজিদ, কমিউনিটি সেন্টার ও ডিপার্টমেন্টাল স্টোর। এই স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ টাউনশীপে আপনার পরিবারের সার্বজনিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে রয়েছে একটি সুদৃঢ় নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা।

প্রথম ডাউন পেমেন্ট ও ইউটিলিটি চার্জসহ সর্বনিম্ন মাত্র ৪ লক্ষ ১৪ হাজার টাকা থেকে সর্বোচ্চ মাত্র ৮ লক্ষ ৯৪ হাজার টাকা দিয়ে চাবি নিয়ে উঠে পড়ুন নিজের ফ্ল্যাটে, বাকিটুকু ২০ বছরের কিস্তিতে।

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