

COPENHAGEN SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE Consensus among victim countries stressed

BSS, Dhaka

As the clock is steadily ticking down towards the final round of negotiation on climate change, experts and environment journalists of Asia and Pacific region in their congress in the city yesterday said the slow pace of progress in the negotiation process might jeopardise Copenhagen summit.

A consensus among the countries, worst or least victims of climate change, is needed for fruitful culmination of the negotiation process taking place over the last two years, they said.

Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in a message in the

congress also expected that the heads of state and government would provide clear political guidance to the negotiators of the coming sessions of the negotiations.

The three-day congress of the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environment Journalists (APFEJ) along with 5th meeting of the World Water Forum of Journalists (WWF) began at National Press Club with the theme 'Reaching Copenhagen climate summit and beyond: Role of media'.

Inaugurating the congress, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder said, developed countries must take a lead to make the Copenhagen summit a success, as mitigation is

the only irreversible solution to climate change.

"No efforts to be taken by the developing or developed world will work if action to reduce the emission is taken as stated by the scientific community," he said.

Danish Ambassador Einar Hebogaard Jensen and Dutch Ambassador Alphons Hennekers, Programme officer of the UNFCCC on Adaptation Festus Luboyer, attended the inaugural session as the special guests.

With chairman of APFEJ and Forum of Environment Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury in the chair, the function was addressed, among others by former Division Chief of UNESCAF Dr

Rezaul Karim, IPCC lead author Dr M Asaduzzaman and Indian journalist Navo Jyoti Thakur.

Journalists from various countries in the Asia-Pacific region and host country Bangladesh are taking part in the congress being held in collaboration with FEJB and MOEF.

Danish Ambassador, as the host of the UNFCCC conference and COP15, described his country's arrangements and said Denmark is preparing to be the host one of the biggest international inter-governmental conference in his country's history.

"But, to make the conference success, we must forge a historic consensus for action," Jensen said adding "Denmark will listen carefully and mediate in the process towards a final agreement".

The Dutch Ambassador said the Copenhagen deal must be an equitable for all parties so that all countries are benefited from successful completion of the summit.

He said proper water management is the single and most important issue for both Bangladesh and Netherlands. Over the years both countries fought for protect land from river erosion, striving against salinity intrusion.

IPCC Lead author Dr Asaduzzaman was in favour of raising the voices of the most vulnerable countries at the current round of negotiation so that all their concerns can be addressed properly at the Copenhagen deal.

Quamrul Chowdhury called for launching a global climate bailout plan with US\$ 1 trillion for adaptation per annum to face adverse impacts of climate change by the most vulnerable countries like LDCs and SIDS. He also asked the journalists to play their role in this regard.

The injured were admitted to the Upazila Health Complex and District Sadar Hospital.

Officer-in-Charge Norendra Nath Sarker of Tetulia Police Station said additional police personnel were deployed in the area to avert further clash.

They set fire to several houses at different villages including Bhazanpur, Buraburi and Devnagar and

also damaged 10 dredging machines.

Superintendent of Police Shahriar Rahman from the spot told The Daily Star that the barricade on the busy highway was withdrawn around 7:00 pm. But the protesters were staging demonstration in the area till filing of this report at 8:30pm.

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Police said general rock lifters brought out a procession from Bhazanpur Bazar at about 11:15am protesting rock lifting with dredging machines and other heavy

One killed, 30 hurt as rock lifters clash in Tetulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

A man was killed and 30 people were injured in a fierce clash between two groups of rock lifters following a protest procession against rock lifting with heavy machines in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Amirul Islam, 45, of Devnagar village of the upazila.

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Doctors form a human chain at the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the killer of Tamanna Haque Munira, a gynaecologist at Mitford Hospital, who was killed by her husband recently.

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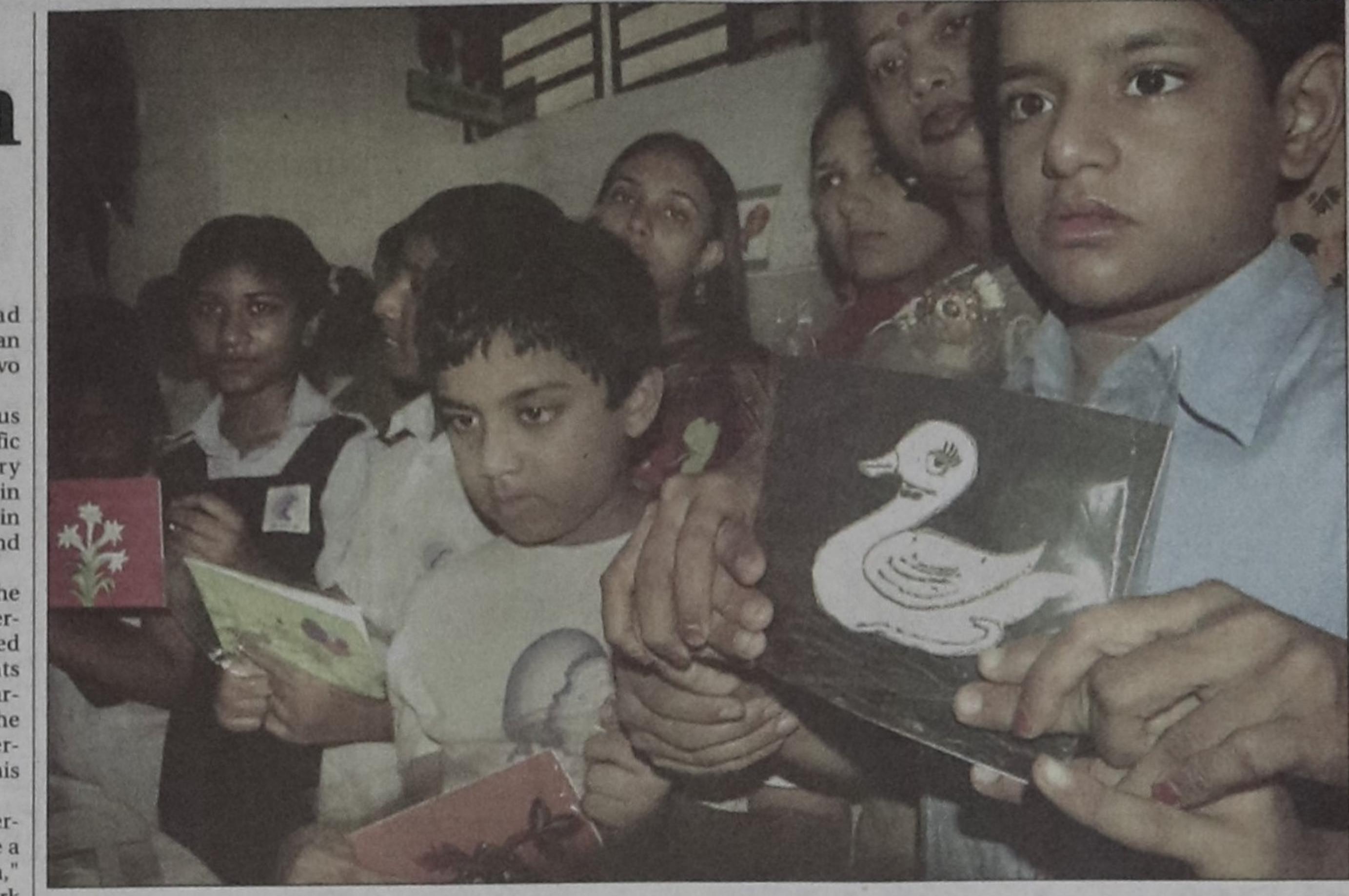
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WANTED



Autistic children display their artworks at a two-week Eid fair at Kanon of Pisciculture Housing Society at Shyamoli in the city yesterday.

PHOTO STAR

'Save Boral, Chalan Beel'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded steps to remove all the illegal embankments on the Boral to navigate the river and save Chalan Beel, the largest water body in the northern region.

They focused on the real picture of Chalan Beel region, urging the government to remove the illegal embankments to help regain the normal flow of the river and save the water body as well as its ecological balance.

Lawmakers, upazila chairmen, NGO personalities, political leaders and cross-section of people from 10 upazilas in the Chalan Beel region took part in the seminar jointly organised by Bangladesh Parishib Andolon (Bapa) and Save Chalan Beel Movement at Chatmohar upazila auditorium.

They vowed to save both the lifelines of the northern

districts.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on land ministry AKM Mozammel Haque MP spoke at the programme as the chief guest, while lawmaker from Pabna-3 Md Makbul Hossain, lawmaker from Nator-4 Prof Abdul Kuddus were present as the special guests.

Chatmohar Upazila Parishad Chairman advocate Samuddin Kabir chaired the discussion.

Mozammel stressed the need to remove the illegal embankments built on the Boral to make the river navigable.

Amzad Hossain Milon, chairman of Tarash upazila parishad, ABM Abdus Sattar, chairman of Raiganj UZ, Mohammed Ali, chairman of Gurudaspur UZ, Joint Secretary of Bapa also spoke.

The speakers said Chalan Beel region is one of the largest productive regions of the country. There are 12 rivers and

several tributaries here. Boral river is one of the largest rivers of Chalan Beel region. But the river has lost its heritage.

The river originated from Charchhat point of the Padma river in Rajshahi.

One crushed under wheels of train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

One person was crushed under the wheels of a train at Nasratpur rail crossing near Shaistaganj Railway junction on Sylhet-Akhaura section yesterday.

The victim was identified as Salamatullah, 25, of Kodaltoli village under Habiganj sadar upazila.

The accident occurred when he was trying to cross the rail line while the crossing the point.

Chaos in N'ganj BNP founding anniversary programme

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The 31st founding anniversary programme of BNP and member collection campaign of the party in Narayanganj ended amid clamour, chaos and scuffle yesterday.

To observe the day, the district BNP organised a discussion at municipality auditorium in the town.

The chaos sparked when two groups of Sramik Dal joined the function with separate procession.

Later, two female leaders of the party started scuffling centring getting on the stage.

Meanwhile, Jubo Dal leader Ekramul Kabir of Fatullah thana unit and Sarkar Alam of sarkar thana unit started fighting due to their previous rivalry.

Later, the situation came under control with the interference of senior leaders.

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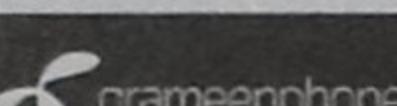
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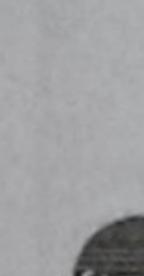
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