

Call for researches on climate change to face impacts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scholars from home and abroad yesterday called for more collaboration of scientific researches on climate change to face its impacts which are threatening hundreds of millions of people, mostly in the developing world.

"Climate change caused by an increase in temperature is already affecting the low-lying countries. Large parts of our land will be inundated and people will be displaced. There will be food crisis," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural of an international conference on 'Environmental challenges in the new millennium' organised by Association of Humboldt Fellows, Bangladesh at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Humboldt fellows from India,

Pakistan, Uzbekistan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Iran, South Africa and Germany participated in the conference.

The minister said Bangladesh is concerned about climatic change, but needs financial assistance and cooperation in scientific researches between the developed and developing countries to find out better solutions to climate change impacts.

It is a great pleasure that a good number of Bangladeshis have already received education under the auspices of Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation of Germany that promotes international scientific cooperation between the highly qualified scholars, he added.

Around 50 Bangladeshi Humboldt fellows are now engaged in various professions in the country.

Addressing the function, German Ambassador in Bangladesh Holger

Michael said Bangladesh and Germany are working together in many fields in educational and economic sectors.

Lauding Bangladesh's vibrant intellectual scientific society, he said this is a very positive sign for the nation to tackle any crisis.

Holger hoped that the upcoming climate change summit in Copenhagen would reach a deal to help the developing world fight the impacts of climate change.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said it was appreciable that Germany has been collaborating with Bangladesh in enriching the scientific knowledge of the Bangladeshi scientists.

Association of Humboldt Fellows Bangladesh President Prof M Muhibur Rahman, General Secretary Prof Rafiqul Islam, Director of Sponsorship and Network Dr Steffen Mehlich and Dr AMM Saiful Islam Buet also spoke.

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Different bodies continue to hail SC verdict

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations continued expressing satisfaction over the historic Supreme Court verdict on the Bangabandhu Murder case.

Hailing the verdict, leaders of the organisations demanded execution of the verdict in December.

They said the nation finally found relief from a national stigma through the verdict.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) hailed the Supreme Court verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case as a landmark in the history.

"The 19th November 2009 will be remembered as a huge landmark in the history of Bangladesh for the clear and loud message that justice has prevailed," TIB said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB,

said, "It is a moment of regained glory and extraordinary emotion for each one of us. The darkest chapter in the history of Bangladesh will be behind us."

The pride and honour of our heroic struggle for independence that got the most humiliating setback on 15 August 1975 will be at least partially compensated by the fact that in spite of long 34 years of delay, the final steps will now be taken for the killers of the Father of the Nation to face the justice. We are also proud to be able to demonstrate that we are a nation that spares no effort to establish the rule of law," he said.

Demanding execution of the verdict, TIB called upon the countries the fugitive self-proclaimed killers have taken refuge in, to demonstrate that they also respect the judgment and act accordingly.

"We particularly demand

that the United States takes the lead now and demonstrates that they practise what they preach with respect to the rule of law and justice. All host governments must genuinely cooperate with the government of Bangladesh in removing any impediments against early return of the culprits," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote in a statement demanded execution of the verdict before December 16.

Bangladesh Christian Association in a statement welcomed the verdict and demanded execution of the verdict.

The 71-er Sahojugi Muktijoddha Parishad, Bangabandhu Prakoushali Parishad, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Ganotantrik League and Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolan in separate statements hailed the verdict.

Int'l School Dhaka marks founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International School Dhaka (ISD) celebrated the 10th founding anniversary yesterday with a gathering of its former and present students.

ISD was a model international school when it was established in 1999.

The school celebrated its founding anniversary along with the daylong Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Fair 2009, a fundraising event, on the school premises.

Hundreds of students along with family and friends thronged the school compound to enjoy games, music, fun rides and various activities.

A number of corporate houses and fast food joints also had stalls at the fair venue with their products and services along with special offers.

Photographs, wall diaries and other mementoes also adorned the walls and noticeboards for sentimental reasons.

There was also a white elephant stall, popular raffle draw followed by a cultural event in the evening. All proceeds from the fundraising event went to charity.

ISD is an authorised international baccalaureate (IB) world school delivering international education to students from playgroup to grade 12.

Bomb blast in Narsingdi

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A bomb exploded in front of the main gate of the residence of the Narsingdi district Awami League Joint Secretary Habibur Rahman in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said some unidentified criminals hurled the bomb in front of the house at North Kandapara in the town.

However, there was no report of casualties.

DISTORTED HISTORY

BOU to withdraw 3 books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) yesterday decided to withdraw three books of second year of SSC and HSC programmes for containing distorted history, says a press release.

The university decided to withdraw these books as the history of the liberation war was

presented in distorted way in the books 'Civics' of SSC programme and 'Social science'

and 'Civics' of HSC programme.

The BOU administration has

already started the process to

identify the distortion of history

and take proper steps in this connection.

An emergency meeting of

the board of governors will be

held tomorrow.

Comrade Khalequzzaman inaugurates the convention of the city unit of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal by hoisting the national flag at Muktangan in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

15th BCS Forum executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Syed Masum Ahmed Chowdhury (tax) and Munshi Abdul Ahad (agriculture) were elected president and secretary general of the 15th BCS Forum, an association of government officials who joined the civil service in 1995.

The election was held following a reunion of the association held at a city hotel on November 14, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are: treasurer -- Md Khurshid Alam Patwari (audit); vice-presidents -- Shafiqul Azim (administration), Md Munirul Islam (police) and Shafiqul Alam Talukder (postal); joint secretary general -- Shahidul Alam Limon (health) and Khalequzzama (public works).

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 7:18am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.5 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.5	18.8	67	58		
Chittagong	29.2	22.4	81	66		
Rajshahi	27.5	16.3	70	50		
Khulna	28.0	19.5	-	76		
Barisal	28.1	18.5	95	93		
Sylhet	29.0	18.0	76	77		
Cox's Bazar	30.5	23.0	91	87		

Musical soiree

Bangladesh Performing Media Centre organises a programme of Bangla songs of old days. Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Memorial meeting

Samajik Protirodh Committee organises a memorial meeting marking the 10th death anniversary of Poet Sufia Kamal. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bright prospect for soybean farming in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh could meet 40 percent of its soybean oil demand by producing soybean locally, as there is a bright prospect for its farming.

"There is a bright prospect for local soybean production and we could meet 40 percent of our local demand of soybean oil if proper government support is available," said an official at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

The project could meet 29 upazilas of 16 districts. The districts are Barisal, Bhola, Faridpur, Patuakhali, Meherpur, Jessor, Rangpur, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Tangail, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Chandpur, Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur. Of these, the bulk of the production came from Laxmipur followed by Noakhali and Barisal.

The project is jointly being implemented by the DAE, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA).

Under the project, farmers and field-level workers are imparted training on soybean cultivation. "But, this is not enough, we think more and more farmers need to be brought under the programme and we cannot do that for lack of fund."

In the 2009-10 season, he said, some 50,000 hectares of land will be brought under soybean cultivation with a production target of 90,000 metric tonnes under a five-year Integrated Soybean Project.

He said the country's total demand for edible oil is around 13 lakh metric tonnes per year. Of the amount, 1.5 to 2 lakh tonnes come from mustard oil while the rest is met with imported soybean oil and palm oil.

"If the government support is available, 7-8 lakh hectares of lands in char areas could be brought under soybean cultivation from where 17-18 lakh metric tonnes of soybean could be produced. With this, around 40 percent of soybean oil demand could be met," M Abdul Awal Mollah, project director of the Integrated Soybean Cultivation Project, told UNB.

In the 2009-10 season, he said, some 50,000 hectares of land will be brought under soybean cultivation with a production target of 90,000 metric tonnes under a five-year Integrated Soybean Project.

He said lack of government interest and publicity, instable market price and unwillingness of industrialists are the major barriers to soybean

cultivation in Bangladesh.

Awal said City Group of Industries, the country's major edible oil refiner, supplies around 3.5 lakh tonnes of oil throughout the country every year for which they mostly depend on import.

The project covered 29 upazilas of 16 districts. The districts are Barisal, Bhola, Faridpur, Patuakhali, Meherpur, Jessor, Rangpur, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Tangail, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Chandpur, Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur.

"We can meet the soybean demand of the edible oil refineries and the poultry feed makers by boosting soybean production," Awal added.

Highlighting the bright prospect of soybean, especially in the forms of soymilk, soy meat, soy nuggets, soy sauce, textured vegetable protein (TVP), Awal said, "Soymilk could be sold at Tk 15 per kg if private entrepreneurs come forward to set up processing mills."

He said they are trying to increase the yield capacity, which is now 1,700 kg per hectare.

Encouraged by the fair price of his produce, Shahidul Islam, a farmer in Laxmipur, now plans to bring two acres of land under soybean cultivation this year from one acre last year. "I sold a maund of soybean at Tk 1,200 on average last year. But the average price was Tk 800 the previous year," he said.

On Thursday night, some officials of the information ministry faxed a message to JTV on

Thursday afternoon, stating that the television authorities applied to the government for a no objection certificate (NOC) on October 8, which is under consideration. But JTV started its test transmission before receiving the NOC, which is illegal, the faxed message said.

On Thursday night, some officials of the information ministry faxed a message to JTV on Thursday afternoon, stating that the television authorities applied to the government for a no objection certificate (NOC) on October 8, which is under consideration. But JTV started its test transmission before receiving the NOC, which is illegal, the faxed message said.

In fact, JTV got NOC on February 5, 2002, but the then government cancelled the NOC and BTRC frequency on March 10, 2004, he added.

JTV then filed a writ petition with the High Court and later with the Supreme Court. Both the courts gave their verdicts in favour of the television, Nurul Islam said.

Finally, BTRC allocated broadcasting frequency on November 20 last year and asked JTV to go for test transmission within a year, he said, adding that the television started its test transmission on October 15 this year.

"But it is unfortunate that the government took the action on the basis of a false document. We do not need to apply again for any NOC as the BTRC said. They cooked up the application only to foil our courageous efforts," Nurul Islam said and demanded an enquiry into the matter.

He, however, said that he believes the policymakers in the government have no idea about such a conspiracy. "The vested quarters in the government might be afraid of us, as we pledged to speak against corruption."

He also said JTV officials went to Badda Police Station to file a general diary in this regard, but the police refused to record it.