

CLIMATE CHANGE

Realise compensation from developed countries

Demand organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations held several programmes in the city yesterday demanding compensation from the developed countries for the consequences of climate change.

Shushashoner Jonney Procharavijan (Supro), also known as Campaign for Good Governance, formed a human chain in front of the National Museum to draw the attention of the world leaders and the countries responsible for carbon emission in the climate summit that started in Copenhagen yesterday.

Speakers at the human chain said the worst vulnerable countries are the island states. It is feared that almost 17 percent of

Bangladesh's land will be submerged due to the sea level rise and almost 30 million will be displaced in the coming 50 years, the speakers said.

Supro also placed some demands at the programme, including realising compensation as grant instead of loan, ensuring that the grant is more than 0.7 percent of the GDP of that particular country, cancellation of the decision of World Bank's supervision in climate change fund management and making the developed countries set a specific goal for reducing carbon emission.

Supro Research Coordinator Mohammad Shahidullah, Bangladesh Bhumihi Samity President Subol Sarkar and Bachte Shikho Nari President Firoza

Begum also spoke at the human chain.

Jatiya Party (JP) in a statement hoped for the success of the Copenhagen climate summit and urged the rich countries to pay attention to countries like Bangladesh, which would be the worst victims of climate change.

Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) in a statement said the countries in the Copenhagen climate summit should come to a consensus to compensate countries like Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Youth in Action on Climate (YAC) held a discussion on the boats at the Dhanmondi Lake yesterday where participants said they are looking forward to see what the world leaders could bring for the coastal countries to combat climate change.



Shushashoner Jonney Procharavijan takes out a procession in the city yesterday to draw attention of the world leaders and the countries responsible for carbon emission at the climate summit in Copenhagen.

Mega plan for new look of Dhaka city

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka is being redecorated as a new look capital city of Bangladesh under a mega plan restoring discipline in the civic life through ensuring effective implementation of the rules and regulations in all types of constructions.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was apprised of the mega plan yesterday through a power point presentation arranged by the Housing and Public Works Ministry and Rajuk authorities at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Under this master plan, a 1528 square kilometer area of Dhaka city under the jurisdiction of Rajdhanī Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) will be built in the light of rules and regulations of a structure plan.

As per the rebuilding plan for the jerry-built metropolis, the total land area of the capital city has been divided into 17 Land Use Zones while infrastructure development has been proposed in the total plan.

The land-use zones include Urban Residential Zone, Commercial Zone, General Industrial Zone, Heavy Industrial Zone, Mixed Use Zone (Commercial-General Industrial), Residential-General Industrial, Residential-General Industrial (Residential-General Industrial), Institutional Zone, Administrative Zone, Agricultural Zone, Flood Flow Zone, Open Space, Rural Settlement Zone, Water Retention Area and Water Body.

4 OSD officials get postings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government yesterday gave new postings to four high officials who were earlier made officers on special duty (OSD).

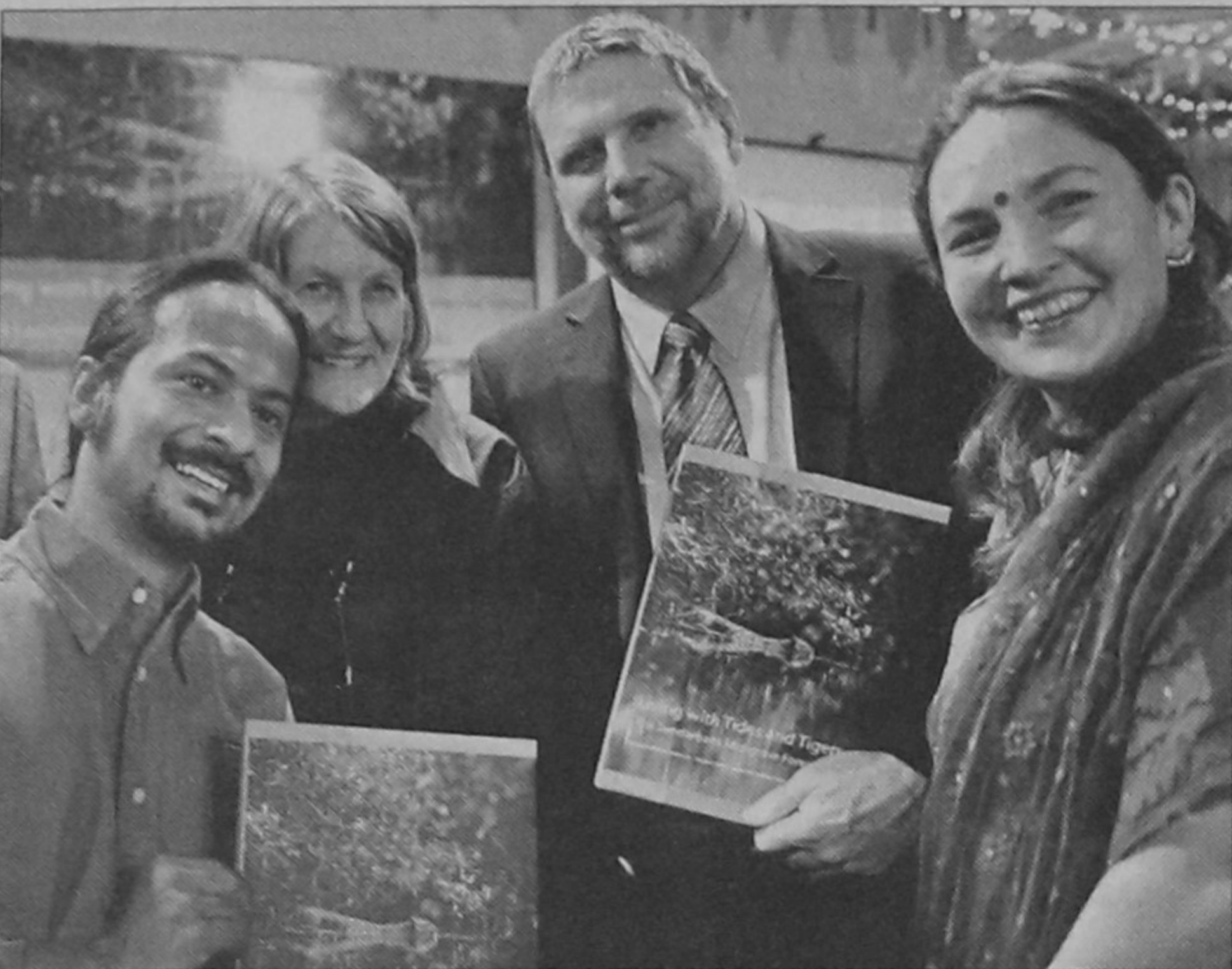
Khandker Anwarul Islam was posted to the cabinet ministry as additional secretary, Mohammad Abu Taher as additional secretary to the energy ministry and Ziaul Islam was made member of land appeal board and Niaz Uddin Mia chairman of National Housing Authority, says a handout.

Workshop on citizens' role in procurement

METRO DESK

A three-day regional workshop on 'Strengthening citizens' engagement in procurement: Reviewing experiences, identifying challenges and exploring opportunities' will begin at the Brac Centre for Management Development at Rajendrapur today, says a press release.

The workshop is sponsored by the Affiliated Network on Social Accountability in South Asia (ANSA) and the World Bank.



(From left) Bangladeshi researcher Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli, German natural scientist Dr Getrud Denzau, Swiss Ambassador Urs Herren and Swiss nature lover Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur hold copies of a book titled 'Living with Tides and Tigers: The Sundarbans Mangrove Forest' at its publication ceremony at Words n Pages at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

Call for protecting fragile ecosystem of Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conservation endeavours to protect the fragile ecosystem of the Sundarbans should be augmented before Bangladesh loses the outstanding natural gem of the world to human greed and exploitation, speakers said at a book launch yesterday.

The book titled 'Living with Tides and Tigers: The Sundarbans Mangrove Forest', a book of photography on the Sundarbans, depicts the beauty of the magnificent mangrove forest through its unique biodiversity, wildlife, various ecological aspects along with the lives and struggle of the fishermen, honey collectors and the other forest dwelling people.

It is the effort of the German natural scientist duo Dr Getrud Denzau and Helmut Denzau together with Swiss nature lover

Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur and her Bangladeshi researcher husband Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli.

Launched with the help of Swiss Agency for Development (SDC), the book features a stunning compilation of 150 photographs taken over 20 years of time. It also shares personal experiences of the authors and provides insightful background information.

Speaking at the launching ceremony held at Words n Pages in Gulshan, Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur said the natural defence mechanism of the Sundarbans is under constant threat from illegal timber collectors, poachers, encroachers, increasing salinity etc.

The purpose of the publication is to increase knowledge and raise awareness about the Sundarbans along with depicting its magnificence, she added.

The Sundarbans, shared by Bangladesh and India in the Ganges delta, is the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest. The forest covers about 10,000 sq km of which about 6,000 are in Bangladesh territory.

Swiss Ambassador in Bangladesh Urs Herren said losing the coastal protection is going to have an adverse effect on Bangladesh.

"This book will remind us of what we are going to lose if we do not promote conservation effort," said the envoy.

Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, country representative of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), termed the book a welcome addition to the efforts of saving the mangrove forest.

He said research on the Sundarbans is very limited and this book could have a great academic value.

22 BDR men appeal to let them retract confessional statements

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two BDR members yesterday appealed to a Dhaka court to let them retract their confessional statements given earlier in connection with the BDR mutiny case.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque kept the petitions into the case file.

In the petitions, the BDR jawans mentioned that they were forced to give confessional statements due to inhuman torture inflicted on them when they were taken on remands.

Earlier, 77 more BDR members filed appeals before separate Dhaka courts to let them give permission to retract their confessional statements.

A number of BDR high officials, including director general, were killed during the carnage at the BDR headquarters on February 25-26 left.

Criminal Investigation Department of police had so far arrested 2088 BDR members and civilians for their alleged involvement with the carnage.

Of them, 2071 were remanded while 507 gave confessional statements.

BCL men beat 2 JCD activists at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) beat up two Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The injured JCD activists are KM Mahbubul Alam Shyamol, a master's student of public administration, and Abu Kawser, a student of law department. The victims were admitted at medical centre of the university.

BCL activists of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall assaulted Kawser on the central library premises at around 12:00pm while some BCL men of Multijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall assaulted Shymol at same place at around 2:00pm.

JCD leaders claimed that some 'unruly' BCL men attacked their activists without any instigation.

Birth anniversary of Sarada Devi today

METRO DESK



Today is the 157th birth anniversary of Sri Sarada Devi, says a press release.

On the occasion, the Ramakrishna Mission in the city will hold daylong programmes today.

The programmes include aratrika, devotional songs, special puja and reading from the scriptures in the morning.

A discussion on 'The life and ideals of Sarada Devi' will be held at 5:30pm, with Rowsan Jahan Sathi, MP, as the chief guest.

A musical performance by eminent artistes will be held at 7:30pm.

Action against traffic rule violators from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will take tougher action against the violators of traffic rules from today with special drives on 12 spots, including the city's Tongi Diversion

Road, Mirpur Road and VIP Road.

On the eve of the launching of the special drives, DMP high officials and transport owners held a meeting yesterday evening at DMP headquarters. The transport owners assured police of cooperation in this regard.

DMP officials said 12 deputy police commissioners will remain on the spot to supervise the traffic control.

According to DMP, all the vehicles must have to follow the lane system under new traffic rules.

RECEPTION TO FAO AWARD WINNER SHYKH SERAJ Pvt sector urged to help develop agri sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's food security may be threatened anytime unless the authorities pay attention to researches and development of the agriculture sector, said noted media personality Shykh Seraj yesterday.

Massive investment is required in the agriculture sector, which is not possible only by the government. Private sector should come forward, said Seraj, who was accorded a reception by Barrister Rafique ul Huq at Hotel Lake Shore in the capital.

Shykh Seraj, director (News) of Channel i, won AH Boerma Award by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for 2008-09 for his contribution

to agriculture through media over the last three decades.

Speaking on the occasion, Seraj said salinity, mostly in the coastal belt, has become a serious threat to the country's agriculture. Eighteen to twenty percent of the coastal area may also be submerged due to climate change, he said.

Therefore, continuous research and development of agriculture is an urgent need, Shykh Seraj said, adding that no development can occur keeping the 11 crore people mostly living in the rural areas out of national plan.

"I think in the countries like us, television could be used more for development than entertainment," he said, recalling his initial days when he

started focusing on agriculture and rural development issues on the television.

FAO Representative Ad Spijkers said Shykh Seraj has set an example by putting special emphasis on agriculture, which could be followed by others.

Technology is important, but reaching that to the farmers is more important, he said.

Congratulating Shykh Seraj, Rafique ul Huq said this is the first time any individual from Bangladesh achieved the FAO award, which has brought pride for all in Bangladesh.

Channel i Director Faridur Reza Sagar also spoke at the programme while journalists, business leaders and civil society members were present.



Barrister Rafique ul Huq hosted a reception in honour of media personality Shykh Seraj on his winning the prestigious AH Boerma Award of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at a city hotel yesterday. The photo shows Shykh Seraj, director and head of news of Channel i, receiving a bouquet from Barrister Rafique at the reception.

Dhaka to ratify Rome Statute of int'l court before March Foreign minister tells ICC president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) before March to become a state party, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said during a meeting with the ICC president in the city yesterday.

The ICC, with its seat in The Hague, is a treaty-based international judicial body to try the crimes of very serious nature, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression, to uphold human rights and democracy.

ICC President Sang-Hyun Song came on a mission to persuade Bangladesh to join the ICC within March 10, 2010 so that the country can join the Review Conference in May.

The foreign minister expressed the government's commitment to ratification, said Dr Ahmed Ziauddin,

convener of Asian Network for the ICC, who attended the meeting.

Responding to the government's desire to bring the trial of war crimes committed during the war of liberation in 1971 under the ICC jurisdiction, ICC President Song said that it was not possible under the present Rome Statute.

However, Bangladesh could propose an amendment in this regard only after it becomes an ICC member.

Earlier in the day, a rights group Odhikar and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) jointly organised a workshop on the 'Ratification of the Rome Statute by Bangladesh' at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

"The ICC has no room to intervene in war crimes committed in 1971," said Sang-Hyun Song while speaking at the workshop.

The judicial system and

legal experts of Bangladesh are adequate with considerable competence and knowledge to deal with the war crimes of 1971, he said.

Justice Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury said the ratification of the Rome Statute by Bangladesh will prevent those having ambition to grab the state power extra-constitutionally.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director, Transparency International Bangladesh, said that ICC has not played its due role in Iraq, Afghanistan and Georgia.

Law Commission Chairman Justice Md Abdur Rashid also spoke at the workshop.

Bangladesh signed the Statute in 1999. A total of 110 countries have ratified it so far. ICC was adopted in July 1998 by 120 countries and the Rome Statute came into force on July 1, 2002 with ratification by 60 countries.

Tk 681cr project to improve quality of higher education

UNB, Dhaka

The government has started implementing a Tk 681 crore project to ensure quality higher education in the country.

Under the five-year 'Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project' that began in May, three key sectors -- extension of internet connectivity, modernisation of library facilities, and increase of training and researches facilities for university teachers -- will be developed.

This was disclosed when a seven-member delegation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) led by its Chairman Prof

Nazrul Islam submitted the UGC annual report to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, President Zillur Rahman underscored the need to expand applied education studies such

as science and technology in the country so that the people could be properly educated and involved in nation-building activities. "Nowadays, development is impossible without the study of science and technology," he said.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 7:30am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 12.0 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga.

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	27.6	16.1	77	59
Chittagong	26.7	17.3	83	71
Rajshahi	26.5	12.8	97	75
Khulna	27.5	14.7	92	77
Barisal	28.5	14.0	90	95
Sylhet	26.8	16.8	90	85
Cox's Bazar	29.0	18.0	87	81

One killed in city road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and 10 others were injured as a bus fell into a roadside ditch due to reckless driving in Pallabi embankment area in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdus Salam, 35, an employee of Styling Garment at Ashulia.

Police said a bus of Ananda Paribahan fell into the ditch, leaving Salam dead on the spot.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Saarc Agriculture Centre organises a seminar on 'Challenges of agriculture in Saarc region' to mark the Saarc Charter Day. Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

The Witness organises a roundtable to pay tribute to the memories of Begum Rokeya. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Painting exhibition

A three-day painting exhibition of students of School for Gifted Children will begin. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

National Institute of Local Government (NILG), Bangladesh and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), India will jointly organise a workshop on 'Local governance and decentralisation'. Venue: NILG auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

SME Financing Fair

The inaugural ceremony of SME Financing Fair will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 11:30am.

View exchange meet

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) organises a view exchange meet on the draft of the law on the rights of the persons with disabilities. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Conference

Bangladesh Dalit Forum and ActionAid Bangladesh will jointly organise the National Conference of the Dalits 2009. Venue: Public Library. Time: 10:00am.