

Address climate change issue as nat'l crisis

EU envoy urges political leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

European Union Ambassador Stefan Frowein yesterday said it is now a crucial time for the national parliament of Bangladesh to have a debate on climate change and address the issue as a national crisis.

He called on the political leaders to collaborate and come forward with the issue to find an effective solution to the problem that would be appropriate for the present context.

The envoy said this as the chief guest at a mock parliamentary debate on 'Bangladesh should not seek compensation for climate change but seek the right to migrate to rich countries for 20 million climate refugees' organised by Muslim Aid and Debate for Democracy at the National Press Club in the city.

Stefan said, "With the Copenhagen summit going on, this is a crucial time to have this debate."

"The EU is standing shoulder to shoulder with Bangladesh on the issue of climate change," he said, adding that EU would assist

Bangladesh in facing the challenges of climate change.

The envoy hoped that Bangladesh would succeed and realise its dream of becoming a self-sufficient developed country by 2021, saying that EU would offer its assistance to the country in achieving that dream.

At the debate, students from Dhaka University, Holy Cross College and United International University formed two teams -- the ruling party and the opposing party.

They debated on the passage of a bill proposed by the ruling party that aimed at migrating 20 million people to rich countries as climate change refugees.

"The mock parliamentary debate created much excitement and enthusiasm about such an important topic that the real parliament could not," said Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie MP as the special guest.

"The timing of the debate has also been crucial, especially as the developed countries have paid little or no attention to the proposals we made at the Copenhagen

summit," he said.

Also speaking as the special guest, Zunayed Ahmed Palak MP said climate change is currently the most-talked-about global concern.

"The political parties in our country should realise that this problem would not just affect the ruling party or the opposing party, but it would adversely affect both and everyone else in the country as well."

"Both the government and opposition leaders should come forward and jointly seek a solution to this problem," he said.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiran moderated the debate and played the role of the speaker at the mock parliament.

"Studies have shown a slight rise at sea level would cause 15 to 17 percent of the country's land to go under water. Millions of people would be gravely affected by this catastrophe," he said.

"Therefore, the notion that people can be migrated to developed countries as climate change refuge can be

proposed as a strategic demand in Copenhagen," he said, explaining the topic of the parliamentary debate.

Chairperson H Fadlullah Wilmot, country director of Muslim Aid, praised the debaters and hailed their arguments as detailed and counter-arguments as detailed arguments that the higher authorities may consider.



Artists perform at a drama festival at Rabindra Sarobar in the city yesterday. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) organised the event to mark International Women Repression Prevention Week 2009.

JCD, BNP men beaten in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Unknown miscreants severely beat up a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist and a BNP leader at Sonagazi in Feni on Thursday night.

They broke a hand and a leg of JCD activist Nizam Uddin, 23, and beat up Nurul Karim Shilpi, 40, a BNP leader of Sonagazi.

Nurul was beaten up while he was returning from his shop.

On the other hand, Nizam was beaten by some six to seven unknown miscreants while he was returning home from Sonagazi at 8:00pm. He is a second year student of Feni Computer Institute.

They underwent treatment at hospital.

Ctg BNP hails Khaleda, Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Different groups of Chittagong city unit of BNP organised separate rallies and took out jubilant processions yesterday hailing Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman for being re-elected chairperson and senior vice-chairman.

The group loyal to former minister Abdullah Al Noman held a rally on the Zila Parishad premises at around 4.30pm. BNP leader and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal divisional president M Nazim Uddin presided over the rally.

Speakers at the rally urged the people to raise movement against misuse of present Awami League-led grand alliance government. They also demanded cancellation of all false cases against Tarique Rahman.

Another group loyal to BNP city unit Convener Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury held a rally at the city BNP office at Nasiman Bhaban at 5.00pm.

Leaders and activists loyal to former foreign minister Morshed Khan also organised a rally in the city's Bahodderhat area.

Call to change lifestyle to prevent cardiac diseases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called on the people to change their food habit and lifestyle as well as to do exercises in order to check cardiac diseases.

The press conference was organised on the occasion of the 2nd Dhaka Heart Rhythm Summit at a city hotel.

The summit aimed at sharing on management of cardiac rhythm disorder by using implantable devices jointly organised by Vitatron pacemaker, Medtronic and Popular Pharma.

The speakers briefed on implantable pacemakers serving different purposes of cardiac disorders with an aim to create awareness among the working cardiologists and medical students.

In his welcome speech, Rupesh Nagda from India told the summit about the history of assembling a pacemaker as the additional support for a heart with required rhythm back in 1953.

Technology has reached its height now, he said, adding that pacemakers are now internally implanted with different features according to the particular needs of the patients.

In Bangladesh, the rate of pacemaker implantation is very low and death from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a common phenomenon. In this context, it is time to inform doctors as well as patients about the merit of pacemaker, he noted.

Director of National Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases (NICVD) Prof AKM Mohibullah as the chief guest said prevention of cardiac disorders is crucial despite setting up of pacemakers, and patients should have to take preventive measures at every step of a disease.

Setting up of pacemakers is a kind of prevention of sudden cardiac arrest, he mentioned.

Cardiac problem occurs at different levels ranging from chronic heart failure which occurs when the heart is unable to pump enough blood to sustain adequate circulation in the body's tissue, sick sinus syndrome which is a specific kind of slow heart rate, and sudden cardiac arrest which is a sudden loss of heart function.

Dr Nazir Ahmed, senior consultant of National Heart Foundation Hospital, Dr TS Kler, executive director of Escorts Heart and Research Institute, New Delhi, also spoke.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amena Khatun, mother of columnist and businessman Saleh Ahmed Tita, passed away on Thursday at the age of 85, says a press release.

She left behind two sons, four daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Banani graveyard yesterday.

A milad mahfil will be held at Saleh Ahmed's residence at 41 Eskaton Garden road after Asr prayers on Monday. Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Kamruddin Ahmed, founder-proprietor of Mohiuddin & Sons, a book dealer and publication house, says a press release.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

SM Khalilur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of SM Khalilur Rahman, father of SM Delwar Hossain, member of Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association (CRAB) and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence (Sikdar Villa, House-1, Road-9, Block-B, East Rasulpur, Kamrangirchar) in the city after Asr prayers.

Death anniversary of 5 martyrs

METRO DESK

Today is the 39th death anniversary of four martyred brothers -- Mukarram Hossain Mukul, Mansur Hossain Manju, Mastaque Hossain Anju and Mosharrar Hossain Ranju -- and their brother-in-law Yusuf Ali, says a press release.

All of them embraced martyrdom during the liberation war in 1971.

On this occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the destitute at Hossain Nagar Baitus Mozammel Jame Mosque at Savar EPZ Link Road.

Advertisement for Dhaka Today featuring various events like Roundtable, Discussion, Seminar, and Workshop with details on dates, times, and venues.

Large advertisement for 'Jagor Gaan' (Jagor Gaan) featuring a list of songs, artists, and contact information for purchasing the album.