



Indigenous artistes perform at the Dhaka Wangala 2009 on the Bottomley Homes Girls' School premises in the city yesterday. Wangala is a thanksgiving festival of the Garo people who express gratitude to their god for harvest and also to their well-wishers.

RISING SEA LEVEL

Bangladesh needs \$4.2b to save coastal people

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh needs at least 4.17 billion US dollars for the construction of polders to save the lives of coastal people from sea level rise and storm surge, according to a recent study.

The study reveals that the sea level will rise at least by three metres due to global warming within 2050, sending the present coastal embankments under the seawater if those are not raised by 4 to 6 metres.

The Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) with financial assistance from Denmark conducted the study.

A total of Tk 287,634 million will be needed for works for the adaptation to storm surge and sea level rise -- Tk 99,609 million for raising embankments of coastal polders, Tk 387 million for turfing, Tk 78,659 million for Toe protection, Tk 21,936 million for land acquisition (14,061 hectares), Tk 83,569 million for major protection work (167 kilometres), Tk 81

million for Velivera plantation, Tk 81 million for the improvement of internal drainage system and Tk 332 million forestation, according to the study.

"There will be waterlogging on 18 percent of land in the country's coastal region by 2050 while on 25 percent by 2100 even if the embankments are raised at least by 4-6 metres," the study says.

The study stresses the need for planting trees in the coastal belt to help subside storm surge and thus save lives and assets of the people. "A 600-metre wide forest will reduce the surge level by 50 cm."

According to another study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the sea-level rise will wipe out more cultivated land in Bangladesh than anywhere in the world.

By 2050, rice production is expected to drop by 10 percent while wheat production by 30 percent due to water logging.

Experts fear Bangladesh will suffer most in the near future because of global climate change if it fails to take any effective measures.

Emaduddin Ahmed, executive director of the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and a water expert, told UNB that Bangladesh will face numerous disasters because of climate change and will lose huge properties.

Additional money will be needed for adaptation of the coastal people as 18 percent of the coastal land will go under seawater permanently by 2050, he said. "The people of the region will also experience an acute drinking water crisis, while groundwater in the coastal areas will be contaminated by salinity."

Referring to the geographical situation of the Netherlands, the water expert said though the country is situated under sea level, its people are living there using cross dams surrounding the country and modern technologies.

"Bangladesh will also need to construct high dams in coastal areas using modern technologies. High power pumps will have to be set up to reduce waterlogging to ensure smooth farm activities in this region," he said.

According to him, the rich countries, particularly the western ones, are responsible for the global climate change, as they are emitting huge Carbon dioxide gas harming the environment.

"Bangladesh should draw attention of the world leaders in the ongoing climate change conference in Copenhagen and should seek funds for adaptation," he suggested.

According to UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the global temperature would rise up to 1 degree centigrade in summer and 1.5 degrees in winter by 2050, resulting in sea-level rise by up to half a metre that will engulf 11 percent land in Bangladesh, affecting nearly 60 lakh people along its coastal belt.

Engineer killed in accident at cement factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Ruhul Amin, an engineer of Akij Cement, was killed in an accident at its factory at Ekrampur in Narayanganj yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge of Bandar Police Station Harun-Or-Rashid said Ruhul was severely injured when a roller

from a crane fell on the engineer while some goods were being loaded.

He was rushed to Khanpur 200-Bed Hospital.

As his condition deteriorated, he was being shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Expedite trial of war criminals

Demands Workers Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected politburo of the Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday called on the government to expedite the process of trial of the war criminals.

They also called for a concerted effort to tackle military and terrorism.

The call was made at the first day of the two-day politburo meeting of the party at its office.

Party President and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon presided over the meeting.

The speakers also called upon the people to observe the Victory Day and Martyred Intellectuals Day with due respect.

General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mallik, Bimal Biswas, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Nurul Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan Manik, Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan and Noor Ahmed Bakul were present.

TITAN

Ekti modhur somporko

flora

A range of watches inspired by exotic flowers and embellished with the shimmer of crystals and glimmer of gold. Indulge in one and delight your senses.

Present in 26 countries. © 100 million watches sold worldwide. © The world's fifth largest watch manufacturer-market leader.

Available at: Dhaka: **WORLD of TITAN**: Bashundhara City - 9111440 Ext:101010 • Time Zone: Banani: Iqbal Centre - 9894524 • Dhanmondi: Rifles Square - 9674610, Rapa Plaza - 9144881 • Gulshan: The Weston - 01714 038923 • Mirpur: Mukta Bangla Shopping Complex - 8051816 • New Market: 9662875 • Shantinagar: Concord Twin Tower - 9360664 • Shuvastu Nazar Valley - 01190962599 • Tejgaon: I/A 199, - 8816004-9, Ext-133 • Uttara: Polwel Carnation - 01678007469, North Tower - 8959831 • Barisal: Hemayet Uddin Rd. - 01816830667 • Chittagong: Ameen Centre - 01819321090, New Market - 031630590 • Comilla: Eastern Yaqub Plaza - 01717-090393 • Jessore: M.K Rd. - 01726160981 • Khulna: Clay Rd. Bara Bazar - 041731532 • Narayanganj: Club Market - 7633063 • Rajshahi: Shaheb Bazar, Anam Plaza - 0721810890 • Rangpur: Jahaz Company Shopping Complex - 01190962596 • Sylhet: Al Hamra Shopping Complex - 0821722457. Imported and Marketed by: Kallol Group of Companies, 199, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tel: 8816004-9, Fax: 8802-8826268, email: kallol@kallolgroup.com

1st MALAYSIA-BANGLADESH PALM OIL TRADE FAIR & SEMINAR 2009
Dhaka, Bangladesh

POTS

TODAY
at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel

Hon'ble Minister of Plantation Industries & Commodities, Malaysia
Tan Sri Bernard Dompok will inaugurate POTS-2009

You are invited to **visit the exhibition** from 11.00am - 4.30pm

Exhibition Highlights

- Presence of leading edible oil producing and marketing companies of Bangladesh
- Showcase on development of oil palm plantation in Bangladesh
- Presence of leading edible oil producing and marketing companies of Malaysia
- Presence of a leading supplier of edible oil refining plant

Gold Sponsor: **Sime Darby Plantation**

Silver Sponsor: **citygroup** a quest for excellence

Partner Sponsor: **BEOL** Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited

ORGANISED BY: **MPOC MPOB**

SUPPORTED BY: **Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners' and Vanaspathi Manufacturers' Association**

Talking day-night at low rates is now

ON

Write ON and SMS to 9999 & start enjoying low rates from 12 am to 6pm

GP-GP 49 paisa/minute

Other operators **99 paisa/minute**

And 99 SMS free!

To avail this offer SMS 'ON' to 9999

On → 9999

Stay Close | **grameenphone**

• Enjoy this offer for 7 days followed by each registration • Subscriber can avail the offer multiple times during the campaign period • Free SMS is applicable only for the first registration • Start enjoying the benefits of this offer after receiving the confirmation SMS • 60 second pulse applicable in this offer (12am to 6pm) • This offer is applicable for all Smile, dJuce, Business Solutions prepaid, Business Solutions postpaid and Xplore subscribers • For free SMS balance & validity enquiry, Prepaid subscribers dial *566*2# and Postpaid subscribers write "Check" and send SMS to 4777 • No bonus amount applicable during the promotional hours (12am-6pm) • This offer will continue till 30 December '09 and the last date to register for this offer is 23 December '09 • Charge, VAT and conditions apply

* Valid for GP-GP only