

CLIMATE CHANGE

Copensation for affected states demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists denounced the uncertainty in making a just climate deal at the ongoing Copenhagen summit.

They demanded mandatory reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for both the rich and the poor nation and direct financial assistance for vulnerable countries like Bangladesh, says a press release.

They said these at rally at Shahbagh in the city in solidarity with the worldwide anti-climate change demonstration. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the event.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad regretted the divide among the rich and the poor countries, small island countries and emerging economies, including India, China, South Africa and Brazil.

Speakers said that though the industrialised nations,

including United States, Canada, European Union and Australia, are the major greenhouse gas emitters, underdeveloped countries like Bangladesh and small island countries have to bear the worst consequences of climate change.

But the industrialised countries do not appear to meet the 5 percent carbon cut by 2012 as bound by Kyoto protocol, they said.

They demanded direct financial aid for affected countries instead of carbon trading and technology to cope up.

Bangladesh has to institute a transparent mechanism to utilise any foreign aid along with its internal initiatives to protect the rivers and soil from pollution and depletion of forests to adapt and combat climate consequences, they said.

Representatives from different civil society organisations took part at the rally.



Artists of Geetanjali, a cultural organisation, sing at a programme marking the Victory Day at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. Nahar Jamil, Salma Akbar, Sajed Akbar, Promod Dutt, Sofia Zakaria, Subah Akbar and Ahmed Ziaur Rahman performed in the musical event.

'Frame decentralisation policy to establish autonomous local govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Governance Advocacy Forum, a platform for 35 NGOs, yesterday demanded that the government formulate a comprehensive national decentralisation policy with a view to establishing an autonomous local government system, a press release said.

The demand was placed at a press conference marking the inauguration of a 'Campaign for democratic decentralisation and autonomous local government' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

In a written statement, the forum leaders said: "The government has formulated a number of laws on the local

government. Although these laws have some positive aspects, MPs and bureaucrats have been given control of a number of components."

"In order to establish an effective decentralisation, the government needs to hand over the total authority to the local government bodies and ensure transparency as well as accountability of these bodies," read the statement.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Akmat Ali Mia of Governance Coalition and Mohsin Ali, executive director of Wave Foundation, spoke at the event, says a press release.

The forum also placed a 13-point demand, including for-

mation of a national decentralised policy involving areas of administration, finance, politics and economy, participation of local government bodies in decision-making and implementation, relieving MPs of their responsibilities as advisers to the Upazila Parishad, allotment of a certain portion of the national revenue for the local government bodies and direct election of women representatives at all levels of the local government.

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2 walkie-talkie sets recovered, one arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-3) recovered two walkie-talkie sets with DMP frequency and some other electronic goods from a house at Kamrangirchar in the city yesterday.

Police Mohammad Raquib Hasan, 30, a tenant of the first floor of a two-storey building owned by Hazi Shaheeb in Thuta Mosque area.

Rab sources said they arrested Raquib from his house and according to his statement recovered the walkie-talkie sets with the frequency used by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), one VHF set, 10 mobile sets and 23 Yaba tablets.

With the help of walkie-talkies and the VHF set he used to track the police conversation and movement while committing crimes, Rab sources said, adding that Hasan was also involved in illicit drug trading.

While contacted Lt Col Mamun Mahmud Firoz Chowdhury of Rab-3 told The Daily Star that Hasan and his seven cohorts used to sell Yaba and make his illicit business safe using the VHF walkie-talkie sets.

He said the walkie-talkie sets did not belong to police but capable of using the frequency used by the DMP.

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