



Visitors admire photographs at a photo exhibition titled 'Maitri Nepal photo exhibition' that began at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association organised the three-day exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

Strong local govt, social capital vital for climate change adaptation

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said fully equipped local government is imperative along with social capital for climate change adaptation.

Organised unity in society is termed as social power, which, in other words, is social capital.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised the workshop on a study titled 'Gender, Social Capital, Local Government and Climate Change Adaptation in Bangladesh' at a city hotel.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for

Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud said women are more vulnerable to natural disasters, which are more frequent now due to climate change.

It is the local government that can address the needs of the people during a disaster promptly. So, the local government should be strengthened, he added.

Hasan said, "Though it is found that people use their indigenous knowledge during natural disasters, we must have to incorporate science and technological innovations in their indigenous knowledge."

Increasing awareness regarding climate change

variables is also important. Besides the government, the community has collective responsibility, he noted.

"The well-off people in disaster-prone localities can build themselves an infrastructure which could be used as a cyclone shelter. Even the mosques and temples built by the community people can be designed in such a way so that these can be used during natural disasters."

Hasan further said that the people of Bangladesh have created an example of climate change adaptation in front of the global community in Denmark.

"In the Copenhagen conference, we could place the

vulnerability of the people of Bangladesh to the global community. The fate of the climate vulnerable people now depends on our next steps regarding climate change," he said.

"It is yet to be made clear to us how the amount that Bangladesh will receive from the climate fund will be used," said Nilufar Ahmed, representative from the World Bank.

Women and children affairs ministry also has the responsibility to monitor whether the climate-related investments are reaching the women who are more vulnerable than men, she added.

The methodology of the study was shared elaborately at the workshop presided over by Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman.

Dr M Asaduzzaman, Dr Iqbal Alam Khan and Dr Zulfikar Ali of BIDS showed the climate change impacts in Bangladesh, conceptual and methodological scoping and context of the study.

Representatives from ministry of LGRD, educationists and researchers of different organisations were also present.

PILKHANA CARNAGE Court asks IO to submit probe report by Jan 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit its probe report in the Pilkhana carnage case by January 27 next year.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque passed the order as Additional Superintendent of CID Abdul Kahar Akond, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, failed to submit probe report yesterday (December 23).

A total of 2161 jawans of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), including 29 civilians, have been arrested in this case so far.

Of the accused, 2143 have been remanded and 507 confessed to their involvement with the February 25-26 BDR mutiny.

Meantime, a total of 114 BDR jawans had earlier submitted petitions to different courts to let them retract their confessional statements.

2 Wasa staffs suspended for taking bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has suspended its two employees for their alleged involvement in taking bribe.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on December 20 caught red-handed them identified as revenue inspector of zone-1 Md Mizanur Rahman and assistant pump operator zone-6 Md Boshir Ahmed Talukdar.

According to the employee rules 1990 of Dhaka Wasa, taking bribe or taking bribe in connivance with others will be considered as cheating for which Wasa can punish, said a press release.

The employees were suspended following two separate office order signed by Wasa Managing Director Taksim A Khan on December 22.

The authorities also dismissed revenue inspector Wares Hossain Munshi who was suspended earlier.

'Arsenicosis claims 3,000 a year'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday said a total of 3,000 rural people die of arsenicosis every year in the country.

NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation organised the view exchange meeting under the ICBAMP project at its central office in the city.

The meeting was aimed at discussing arsenic crisis and its solution.

At present, 35 to 77 million people live with the direct

exposure to the risk of being contaminated by arsenic while 20 millions are already affected with various skin diseases due to arsenicosis, said Dr Ahmedul Kabir, project manager of ICBAMP.

During 1999-2001, a total of 30,000 patients of arsenicosis were diagnosed in the country while arsenic level higher than the government-fixed tolerable level was detected in 29 percent tube-wells, he added.

Later, the number of arsenicosis patients stood at 24,000 in 2008 as per the statis-

tics of health services department.

ICBAMP project has worked to create awareness of arsenicosis, find alternative source of safe drinking water and provide medical services to the vulnerable people in 1,768 villages under 35 upazilas of 20 districts, said SMA Rashid, executive director of NGO Forum.

A total of 57,482 villages under 271 upazilas are affected with arsenicosis at different severity, executive director informed the meeting.

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