

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS 'Involve locals for success'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Major success in facing the impacts of global climate change would not be achieved unless local representatives and people are involved in the process of facing the challenges, said development workers and local representatives yesterday.

As the local representatives, mainly union parishad (UP) chairmen, stay close to people, they understand people's sufferings and can easily unite people to implement a plan, they said at a dialogue.

The tripartite dialogue on 'Increasing the power of local government to face climate change challenges' was organised by ActionAid Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city.

"I can differentiate what kind of environmental challenges have come to my areas in the last five to six years as the effects of climate change and I understand the sufferings of my people," said Berek Mollah, a UP chairman of Kuakata union.

Local leaders called on the government to reconstruct the embankments in the coastal

areas, as the water level in sea and rivers have risen due to climate changes.

Abdul Zabbar, chairman of Shahzadpur union under Sirajganj, said: "Though there are six seasons in the country, the people of my district can experience only three -- winter, summer and rainy seasons."

According to the government statistics, as many as two crore people have become homeless due to river erosion after the liberation war, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, said people themselves are much conscious of their problems and they can bring solution or suggestion to resolve their own problems.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud said the issue of enrolling local representatives in the process of facing climate change impacts would be included in 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan', he added.

KALABAGAN INCIDENT Police yet to arrest attacker Barsha, her parents out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police are yet to arrest Ashraf Ali who held hostage and stabbed his classmate Barsha and her parents at their Kalabagan residence in the city for ransom of Tk 20 lakh and a car early Saturday.

Injured Fauzia Faria Barsha and her parents Aminur Rahman and Rokshana Momtaj are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources said they are now out of danger.

Barsha told reporters that Ashraf took cannabis occasionally and on that night he might have taken it.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shaheen Modal of Kalabagan Police Station said the police raided Ali's residence at Kaliganj in Gazipur yesterday but found only Ali's mother there.

Ali's mother told the police that Ali went to London about three months ago but returned home recently. After his return, Ali did not maintain any relations with the family, she added.



Vehicles lie idly for hours on the line in front of a gas and CNG refueling station at Maghbazar in the city yesterday, adding to the perennial gridlock. Such long line of vehicles is a common picture in the city because of acute power and gas shortage.

DIDARUL MURDER Four arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) police of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday arrested four alleged killers of Didarul Alam, a Youth Department officer of Chittagong, from Kadamtali and Motijheel areas in the city.

The arrested were identified as Saidul Islam, 23, Kana Liton, 32, Lablu, 30, and Alamgir Hossain, 28.

Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of DB South, at a press briefing at Minto Road office said a police team arrested Saidul and Liton from Tushardhara area at Kadamtali.

According to their professional statements, the law enforcers also arrested two other accomplices -- Lablu and Alamgir -- from Fakirapool.

They also seized three sharp knives from their possession, which were used in the killing.

The DB DC said the arrestees confessed that they had killed Didarul in a bid to snatch his belongings in Notre Dame College area.

Didarul, who was recently transferred from Chittagong to Chandpur as a trainer, was killed by the snatchers near S Alam Bus Counter at Arambagh on March 21.

He came to Dhaka by a coach of S Alam Paribahan from Chittagong in a bid to cancel his transfer order as his family was staying in Chittagong.

Changes in judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday brought changes to the judiciary through transfer and appointment of some district judges and additional district judges.

Md Mahtab Hossain, additional district judge of Moulvibazar, has been transferred to Rajshahi; Ranjan Kumar Saha, additional district judge of Chandpur, has been made chief judicial magistrate of Habiganj; Md Golam Mostafa, additional district judge of Naogaon, has been transferred to Joypurhat; and Md Ansar Ali, additional district judge of Joypurhat, transferred to Nilphamari.

Additional District Judge of Sirajganj ABM Nizamul Haq has been transferred to Chittagong; Additional District Judge of Jamalpur Md Shafiqul Islam has been appointed chief judicial magistrate of the same district; the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Jamalpur Md Enamul Bari has been made chief judicial magistrate of Naogaon; and Chief Judicial Magistrate of Naogaon Md Akhter-ul-Alam has been transferred to Dinajpur.

Meanwhile, Judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Satyendranath Ghosh has been made district and sessions judge of Rangamati.

The changes were made in consultation with the Supreme Court, said a release of the law ministry.

Teachers call off work abstention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BCS General Education Association, Government Teachers' Training College and Government Alia Madrasa yesterday withdrew their work abstention programme as the killers of Prof Harun-Or-Rashid had been arrested, says a press release.

They announced the work abstention, which was scheduled to start today, protesting the killing of Prof Harun-Or-Rashid, an associate professor of Sylhet Government Girls' College.

Huge crowds feast eyes on arms, ammunition display

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The military hardware exhibition draws a huge interest of hundreds of people every day, giving them an opportunity to feast their eyes on arms, ammunition, artillery, warships and fighter aircraft on display.

The visitors at the exhibition looked excited at the explanations on operations of weapons, survival and army tactics, techniques and terms from respective service personnel.

The Military Hardware Exhibition-2010 began on March 26 at the National Parade Ground, adjacent to the old airport, and is likely to continue till March 31, said officials of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), which made an arrangement for print

and electronic media journalists to visit the exhibition yesterday.

"I really felt thrilled after learning different aspects on military heavy tanks, mortars and commando operations. I would have missed a lot if my cousin did not brought me here," said Priota, a college girl, who visited the fair the same day.

Apon Islam, a Dhaka University student, said: "I learnt a lot and knew many things what the military activities are. I've deep respect for our armed forces."

Maps and informative charts of the stalls and details of various weapons were much appreciated by the visitors.

The army pavilion showcases tanks, artillery guns, 60 mm mortars, anti-aircraft cannons, anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles on display.

Most students flocked to the paramilitary stall showing their interest in the arms, survival techniques and gears put on display.

Rabbits, pigeons, turtles and various kinds of reptiles have also been put on display, as these species are the only food most commandos find for survival in deserts or in uninhabited combat zones.

Besides the army pavilion, the grandly decorated air force with various types of fighter planes and navy pavilions with a replica of BNS Bangabandhu also attracted the crowds.

The air force pavilion had a number of miniature planes, missiles and aircraft models like A-5, PT-6 and F-16 on display.

Souvenirs are being sold at a few stalls at the exposition venue.

DU students block road for uninterrupted power supply

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Sir AF Rahman Hall at Dhaka University yesterday put up a barricade on the road connecting Nilkhet and TSC intersections and set fire to woods demanding uninterrupted power supply at the hall.

The agitating students left the scene as members of the proctorial body and police rushed to the spot.



The 1st convocation of Southern University was held at the Engineers Institute auditorium in the city yesterday. Minister for Primary and Mass Education Dr Afsarul Amin was present.

Convocation of Southern University held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 1st convocation of Southern University was held at the Engineers Institute auditorium in the city yesterday with due festivity.

Minister for Primary and Mass Education Dr Afsarul Amin presided over the convocation, which began with a rally at 11:00am.

The minister expressed satisfaction over the education programme in the country.

"If we can provide quality education in this competitive

world, we will be able to develop skilled human resources for the development of the country," he said.

Prof Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam delivered the convocation speech while Vice Chancellor Prof AKM Nuruddin Chowdhury and Chairman of the foundation Khalilur Rahman also spoke.

Vice Chairman of the foundation Liakat Ali Chowdhury, Members Abdus Salam, Shafiq Uddin, Prof Kamal Uddin, Nurul Afsar and Abdus Salam were also present.

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DOUBLE MURDERS AT BUS COUNTER Two suspects arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more persons have been arrested on suspicion of their involvement in the double murder at the ticketing office of Soudia 5 Alam Paribahan at Arambagh in the capital on March 16.

The arrestees were identified as Md Sajib Shikder, 22 and Al-Amin, 18.

Al-Amin confessed that he was involved in the murders, and Sajib had supplied the machete with which they killed the two, Rab said.

Two other suspects -- Mohammad Ahsan Ullah Robin and Mohammad Sohel -- were arrested on March 23.

Rapid Action Battalion made the arrests.

Rab-3 hunted down Al-Amin at Porabari in Konabari area of Gazipur on Saturday. And on information given by Al-Amin, they arrested Sajib at Tilpapa in the capital's Khilgaon area the same day, Rab sources said.

Rab-3 Director Lt Col Mamun Mahmud Firoz Chowdhury led the operation.

The two killed at Arambagh are Ilias Kanchan Payel, 18, an employee of the bus company, and Abu Sufian, 40, a mobile phone accessories trader at Sundarban Square Market in the city's Fulbaria.

Quoting the arrestees, Rab members said a row between Ilias and Al-Amin over some stolen bottles of drinking water had led to the double murder.

The elite crime busters recovered Sufian's mobile phone from Sajib.

Show documents on proclamation of independence by Bangabandhu

Delwar asks AL
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday asked the ruling Awami League to produce documents on proclamation of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the nation to prove claims in this regard.

He also referred to a book by late Dr Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and claimed, "Wazed Miah said that he along with Sheikh Haisna had heard the proclamation of independence by Ziaur Rahman."

Addressing a discussion marking the Independence Day, Delwar said, "It's true like 'Dhruvo Tara' (the North Star) that Zia proclaimed independence. Even Sheikh Mujib never claimed to be the proclaimer of independence. The issue has already been settled, but Awami League is now trying to create a confusion about it."

Jatiyatabadi Sechhasebak Dal organised the discussion at the Mahanagar Natyamancha in the city.

Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Shamsuzaaman Dudu, Fazlul Huq Milon, Shirin Sultana, Mir Sarafat Ali Safu, Abdul Hye Shikder and former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Dr Enamul Huq also spoke at the discussion presided over by Shechhasebak Dal President Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel.

Eco-friendly river water treatment plant at arsenic-prone Baroghoria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brotee, a national-level non-government organisation, has installed an eco-friendly river water treatment plant at arsenic-prone Baroghoria union under Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila to ensure pure drinking water for local people.

The NGO has installed the plant to treat the water of the river Mahananda to provide pure drinking water for 1,200 families of Chamagram, Laharpur and Laxmipur where arsenic and iron make water unfit for human consumption.

The villagers would be able to get pure water from the plant by paying Tk 100 to Tk 120 per month. What they need is to take connections from the pipeline network set up along the main roads of the villages.

The pilot project has been implemented under a public-

private partnership. The plant uses a Slow Sand Filter (SSF) machine to purify the river water after sedimentation and filtration in Up-flow Roughing Filter (URF) technology.

Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive director of Brotee, said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporter's Unity in the city yesterday.

A total of 150 families have already taken connections from the plant to get pure drinking water, she added.

Sharmeen said Social Development Foundation of Finance Ministry assisted Brotee to install the plant, which has a production capacity of 3,00,000 litres of water a day.

Baroghoria was first identified as an arsenic-affected area in 1993, but no initiative was taken to make the area arsenic-free. So, Brotee took a step to provide safe drinking water in

the localities, she added.

The 15-year project was launched to help the local people's access to safe drinking water, said M Masud, director of Brotee.

Prof Amir Hossain Khan, chief scientist of Plasma Plus Research Laboratory, and Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, also spoke at the press conference.

Prof Amir, also a consultant scientist of Brotee, said: "I have visited the project area and examined about the quality of the water of the plant. The good side of the plant is that it does not need to use any chemical to purify water, which is really good for health."

Dr Atiq said this eco-friendly plant would be installed in other villages where pure water crisis is so acute due to arsenic and other contamination of water.

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- Registrar for ICU/Anaesthesia/Radiology/Obs. & Gynae.**
Education & Experience:
• MBBS with Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in concerned specialty & at least 2 year's experience in related field in a reputed hospital
- Must have valid Registration with Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council

- Valid Registration with Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council
- Resident Medical Officer for Obstetrics & Gynaecology**
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Age & Other Requirements:

- Not more than 30 years
- Good analytical & presentation skills

Interested candidates are requested to apply by no later than April 4, 2010 with an updated CV and a recent photograph to: Human Resources Division, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Plot 81, Block E, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka - 1229
Or email your CV (along with the photograph) to: recruit@apollodhaka.com