

Development crucial for ethnic people to build inclusive society

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development activities must reach ethnic minority communities for building an inclusive society and ensuring true democracy in the country, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

"If Bangladesh is to realise its full potential, its all citizens must have equal rights and be able to contribute to its development. It is our obligation to ensure that we reach those who are marginalised and excluded. We must aim to build an inclusive society," said Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac.

"The small ethnic groups together constitute less than two percent of the

total population of Bangladesh. For true democracy and inclusive development, this numerical insignificance should not in any way be marginalised."

The seminar titled 'Access and equity: Issues and challenges for rural development,' organised by Brac in association with Australian High Commission, was held at Brac Centre in the city.

Chakma Raja Debashish Roy said, "Indigenous people are disadvantaged and excluded from development activities and policy making. The government and NGOs must work together to ensure rights of the indigenous people."

Mick Gooda, a descendant of aboriginal Gangu people of Central Queensland and social justice commis-

sioner of Torres Strait Islanders, presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

Mike is now in Dhaka since March 27 on a five-day visit to the country.

Four other papers titled 'Indigenous access to services', 'Managing the environment and natural resources for the benefit of indigenous communities', 'Economic development of indigenous communities' and 'Maintaining indigenous culture and tradition, including bilingual education' were also presented at the seminar.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin and Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee were present at the opening ceremony of the programme.



Mick Gooda, aboriginal and social justice commissioner of Torres Strait Islanders, speaks at a seminar organised by Brac in association with Australian High Commission at Brac Centre in the city yesterday. On his right are Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee, Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin.

Qulkhwani

DU CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Nurul Islam Khan, a former secretary and father of Deputy Editor of The Daily Star Sharier Khan, will be held at his residence at House # 14, Road # 2, Block # D, Section # 2, Mirpur in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers of Nurul Islam Khan are requested to attend the ceremony and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

He passed away due to old-age complications at a city hospital on Monday at the age of 75.

Samiur Rahman Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Samiur Rahman Khan, son of former prime minister and chief minister Ataur Rahman Khan, will be held at his residence at 500/A, Road 7, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Samiur Rahman passed away on Monday at the age of 60.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Syeda Rokeya Begum

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Syeda Rokeya Begum, daughter of Hazrat Shah Sufi Syed Dayemullah (RA), the 6th Sajjadanishin Pir of Azimpur Chotto Dayera Sharif, will be held on Dayera Sharif premises after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away on March 23 at the age of 53.

For more than a decade she had been the Mutawalli or chief administrator of the Sufi Nuruwllah (RA) Waqf state of the Dayera Sharif. She left behind her mother, two daughters and four sons.

Relatives, admirers and the followers of Chotto Dayera Sharif are requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

BCS EXAMS

Visually impaired man serves legal notice on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visually impaired man and three human rights organisations yesterday served a legal notice on the government, seeking reply within seven days as to why the man would not be issued an admit card to sit for the BCS examinations.

The three organisations -- Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Action on Disability and Development and the aggrieved person issued the legal notice to the secretaries of establishment ministry, law and parliamentary affairs ministry and social welfare ministry, PSC chairman, secretary and examination controller, says an ASK press release.

The notice said if steps are not taken within the period, legal action will be taken against the notice receivers.

The notice mentioned that visually impaired Swapan Chowkidar passed LLB and

LLM from Dhaka University in 2008 and 2009 and then got enrolled in Bangladesh Bar Council as a lawyer after passing written and viva examinations.

It also said Swapan applied for the 28th BCS (Bangladesh Civil Service) examinations, but he was not issued with the admit card. He then wrote repeatedly to the prime minister to bring the issue to her notice, but failed to get any response from her.

Recently Public Service Commission issued a circular for the 30th BCS examinations where some criteria for physical fitness are set which will be an obstruction in getting a job for a physically impaired person, said ASK.

The legal notice also said the set of criteria is totally inconsistent with the articles 40, 27, 15 and 20 of the constitution and through this Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act was not followed.

PM condemns terrorist attacks in Russia

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has condemned the terrorist attacks on the metro system in Moscow and expressed her deep shock at the loss of lives in the attacks.

Two explosions in the Moscow's jam-packed subway system during the rush hour of passengers killed more than 40 people on Monday.

"I learnt with deep shock the news of the terrorist attack in the metro system of Moscow and the unfortunate loss of so many innocent lives," said Hasina in a message to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin yesterday.

She said Bangladesh always denounces terrorism in all its manifestations.

"We extend our deep condolences and sympathy to the people of the Russian Federation for this loss and stand in support and solidarity with the people and government of the Russian Federation," said the message.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 24th death anniversary of Justice Syed Muhammad Hussain, former chairman of Bangladesh chapter of International Law Association and Amnesty International, says a press release.

Justice Hussain was also a former general secretary of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts and the then Pakistan Arts Council.

His publications include a book titled 'Banglar Katha'. He was awarded 'Swadhinata Padak' (posthumous) in 1998 in recognition of his contribution.

Matin Uddin Ahmed

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Matin Uddin Ahmed Barabhuiya, independent director of Dhaka Bank and founder managing director of Shahjalal Islami Bank, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence at Banani after Juma prayers.

Amin Laskar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Amin Laskar, former president of Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist, and founder of Saarc Chamber of Commerce, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at Baridhara DOHS Mosque after Maghrib prayers.

Sabrina Arjumand Tina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Sabrina Arjumand Tina, a third year student of Dhaka City Dental College, says a press release.

She was the daughter of Md Tahir, former additional divisional commissioner of Dhaka, and Monoara Tahir.

Selima Jalal

METRO DESK



Today is the third death anniversary of Selima Jalal, a social worker and wife of late freedom fighter and diplomat Sheikh Ahmed Jalal, says a press release.

Her family members requested all to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Raushan Ara Begum, mother of eminent artist Monirul Islam, passed away at a city hospital on Wednesday at the age of 96, says a press release.

She left behind her six sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried beside the grave of her husband Yusuf Ali Patwari at her family graveyard in Chandpur town after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Doa mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A milad and doa mahfil seeking salvation of the departed soul of Begum Hamida Chowdhury will be held at Azad Mosque at Gulshan in Dhaka and at Kadam Mubarak Mosque in Chittagong after Asr prayers today.

Hamida Chowdhury, wife of politician and social worker late LA Chowdhury, died at the Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka on February 23. She was 77.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers munajat after inaugurating solar panel system at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Political will a must to stop HR violations

Say speakers at book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday stressed the need for developing a political will to stop human rights violation.

Only forming human rights commission and enacting laws will not be enough to stop human rights violations, political will is necessary, said former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Emajuddin Ahmed at the programme at the National Press Club in the city.

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro published the book that contains its Annual Human Rights Report-2009.

The report addressed issues like political violence, killing without trial, BDR mutiny, agriculture and land rights and rights of labourers, workers and Dalits.

Saying that the practice of violating human rights has been continuing since independence, Emajuddin suggested the victims should raise their voice.

Veteran journalist Ataus Samad said those who work on human rights issues keep silent during some "special time".

Newsgathering and publishing have become very tough, he said, adding that nowadays there is no certainty that a journalist will be able to return home safely after collecting information.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud said repression on journalists that started after 9/11 has become severe now.

Mahmudul Haque, member of the editorial board of the publication, presented a summary on the report while Prof Borhan Uddin Khan also addressed the programme.

'Women yet to get recognition for contribution to agri sector'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost 80 percent women of the country are directly or indirectly involved in agricultural activities, but they do not get the recognition they deserve, speakers said at a seminary yesterday.

Bangladesh Women Scientist Association (BWSA) organised the seminar on 'Women in Agriculture: Position, Relativity and Experience' at the Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Addressing the seminar, BWSA President Prof Shahida Rafique said women should be seen as development associates and their contribution to the economy should be recognised.

Ten renowned women in the field of science were honoured at the seminar for their contribution.

They are Dr Malika Al Razi, (posthumous) founder of BWSA, Begum Rizia Haque, (posthumous) for domestic agriculture management, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, first female vice president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union, acclaimed physicist Prof Kamrunnessa Begum, Lailun Nahar, architect of the Nagar Bhaban, Prof ZN Tahmidia Begum, first female chairman of Public Service Commission, eminent chemist Dr Rowshan Jahan Mannan, noted zoologist Prof Shamim Ara Ahmed, veterinary scientist Momena Begum and renowned physicist Dr Dilara Siddique.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique urged women scientists to conduct researches that would be helpful for the marginalised.

"Development must be brought to the agriculture sector to ensure the overall socio-economic development. Women have contributed a lot to agriculture over the decades. Their contribution should be recognised," he said.

Speaking as the Guest of Honour, Prof Afrozi Yunus of Jahangirnagar University said women should be given equal rights in the inherited properties and they should be given priority while providing agriculture loans.

VACANCY



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Academic Qualifications: Minimum Masters Degree in Accounting or Finance or MBA with major in Accounting/Finance with at least two first divisions/classes and no third division/class. Candidates with CA/CMA/CPA degree will be preferred.

Experiences: At least 15 (fifteen) years experience in teaching or administration or financial management in any well-known university/large organization including 8 (eight) years in the professorial rank or senior most position in Finance/Accounts Department. The candidate having experiences of teaching with administration and/or financial management will be preferred.

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will supervise and monitor university finance and accounts and suggest the Porichalona Porshod/Board of Governors on financial matters as per Private University Act, University Statutes and the directives of the competent authorities from time to time. He will assist the Vice Chancellor in planning, implementing and administering the financial and accounting matters and in preparing the budget of the University and the University Foundation. This is a four-year term appointment and subject to approval of the Honorable Chancellor.

Age limit: Not above 55 years.
Salary and Benefits: Attractive salary package & benefits will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Exceptions: Any of the above requirements may be relaxed for exceptionally deserving candidate.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Those who applied for the position earlier need not apply further.

The position sought must be clearly stated on the envelope. Please apply with detailed CV with a passport size photograph and copies of all certificates and transcripts by 15 April 2010 to:

The Chairman
Board of Governors, NSU Foundation
NSU Campus, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229.
e-mail: chairman@northsouth.edu

TODAY

Award giving ceremony

The winners of HSBC - Kali O Kalam Literary Award will be handed over the awards. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

Seminar

Banglalion WIMAX for Digital Bangladesh' on the sidelines of the BCS Digital Expo 2010. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable

Save Environment Movement organises a roundtable on the workers of the ship breaking yards. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

A discussion will be held to mark the 32nd death anniversary of Principal Ibrahim Kha. Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave, which is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore and Chuadanga, may continue.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Met Office said in a forecast, adding that day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:14pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 40.7 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest of 17.5 degrees in Sylhet.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.1	27.5	76	60
Chittagong	30.2	23.6	83	83
Rajshahi	40.7	26.0	86	33
Khulna	36.6	27.2	76	60
Barisal	34.3	27.3	79	76
Sylhet	27.4	17.5	86	72
Cox's Bazar	32.0	27.2	82	83