

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Involuntary resettlement of people creates more poverty

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press briefing yesterday identified involuntary resettlement of communities as a major challenge of development projects in Bangladesh, which eventually creates more poverty. They pointed out that a suitable policy, which would ensure efficient land acquisition, proper compensation and resettlement of the communities facing displacement, is necessary to reduce the negative impacts of development projects. The briefing on 'Infrastructural development and people: Challenges of resettlement' was organised by Brac Development Institute (BDI) at Brac Centre Inn in the city. BDI Director Prof Syed Mesbahuddin Hashmi said often acquisition of too much land takes place for development projects. For a country with land scarcity

and dense population, it poses difficulties for communities. The speakers said some 20,000 households would be displaced for the 6.15km Padma Multipurpose Bridge while about 55,000 people would lose their livelihoods. Under the existing law, only those who can provide papers on land get compensation, they added. Prof Hashmi said thousands of people are uprooted from their homes, many lose their livelihoods and communities become scattered for development projects, causing a huge loss of agricultural lands and crops and creating socio-economic problems. A broader perspective considering all of these issues is necessary while assessing the amount of losses and compensation. Chairman of Power and Participatory Research Centre Dr Hossain Zillur

Rahman, also a former adviser to a caretaker government, said development of all sectors in Bangladesh, which is a country with large infrastructural gap, is needed. However, sometimes the projects, which are supposed to help reduce poverty, in fact, push more people down the poverty line. Mentioning Kaptai Dam Project as one of the regretful example of development, he stressed the need for a suitable policy, which would ensure efficient land acquisition to reduce the cost of compensation and its proper monitoring. To ensure just compensation and resettlement, it is also necessary to reduce lengthy bureaucratic process, he added. Media Coordinator Mohammad Jahangir and Development and Management Consultant Tahera Yesmin were present.



Nurserymen, evicted from the footpath near the Shishu Academy in the city recently, sell plants on rickshaw vans in the area yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



Suhrab made envoy to Pakistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed retired diplomat Suhrab Hossain as the new high commissioner to Pakistan, according to a foreign ministry announcement. He succeeds Yasmin Murshed, who returned to Bangladesh in November last year on completion of her tenure as the high commissioner. Suhrab Hossain, a freedom fighter, who joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1973, was appointed on contractual basis. During his long diplomatic career, he served as Bangladesh ambassador to Uzbekistan and Thailand, and as high commissioner to Canada; and in various capacities in Bangladesh missions in Bangkok, Birmingham, Dakar, Ottawa and Paris.

Farooque gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque in a defamation case filed against him for making derogatory remarks about the prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy. Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque passed the order upon a bond of Tk 10,000 with two guarantors after Farroque along with his lawyers appeared before the court and sought bail. On March 24, the High Court directed the BNP leader to appear before the lower court within eight weeks, after refusing his bail petition in the case filed by Advocate Moshirur Malek, president of Bangabandhu Foundation.

Students of city colleges block road

DU CORRESPONDENT

The mathematics students of Eden Girls' College and Dhaka College blocked the Azimpur-Mirpur road yesterday protesting what they claimed 'inclusion of questions in the examinations from out of the syllabus'. Several hundreds of examinees of the two institutions came out of their exam centres two and half hours after the Differential Mathematics test of master's examinations under session 2006-07 of National University had started. An examinee of Eden College said the question paper had no similarity with previous year's questions and it had questions from their syllabus that carried only 10 marks. They submitted an application to the principal asking her to forward it to the exam controller of NU to arrange a fresh examination.

Economic growth must be environmentally sound

Speakers tell discussion on 'Citi Earth Week'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economic growth must be environmentally sound for the sake of survival of human race, speakers at a discussion said yesterday and warned against further manipulation of nature. The climate change is also a threat to the sovereignty of a country, they said. The Citibank NA Bangladesh organised the discussion at its Gulshan office in the city on the occasion of 'Citi Earth Week 2010'. This is a global initiative at Citi to promote environmental awareness among the employees. Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, were present as guest speakers. The Citibank is observing the Earth Week from April 19 to 23 in 105 countries with commitment towards a sustainable future. Dr Atiq Rahman said the climate change has already posed a threat to food security, health security, livelihood security and energy security in the country.

"We can face the climate change challenges with the help of technology and we might play a leading role if we can work in a proper way with accountability. This could be an opportunity for us," he said. "So, we have to go for climate-smart development," he added. Delivering the welcome speech, Mamun Rashid, Citi country officer - Bangladesh, said that the Citibank does not finance any projects that pollute the environment. "We do not provide finance to ship breaking yards and tannery industries as part of our commitment towards the clean environment and sustainable development," he said. Mahfuz Anam said that the human race, despite being a part of nature, is manipulating the environment since the beginning of the civilisation. It is time to change the attitude towards nature and not to manipulate it anymore, he added.



Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, speaks at a discussion organised by Citibank NA Bangladesh at its Gulshan office in the city yesterday on the occasion of 'Citi Earth Week 2010'. The discussion session focused on environmental awareness and how business units innovate green solutions. PHOTO: STAR

Papua New Guinea keen to recruit Bangladeshi workers

UNB, Dhaka

The visiting Labour and Industry Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mark Maipakai, has shown interest to recruit a large number of Bangladeshi workers. Maipakai, who led a seven-member delegation, met with acting secretary of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Dr Jaffer Ahmed yesterday and made an informal proposal to recruit Bangladeshi workers for Papua New Guinea's infrastructure and gas sectors. Emerging from the meeting, Dr Jaffer told that Maipakai said they would propose formally soon after forming a joint company comprising of the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Bangladeshi community in Papua New Guinea to recruit Bangladeshi labourers. Maipakai said huge manpower is needed for the infrastructure and gas sectors of Papua New Guinea. Dr Jaffer said Bangladesh

would set up six more labour wings in its missions in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Sudan, Italy and Japan. This will raise the number of Bangladesh's labour wings to 19 abroad. At present, only about 500 Bangladeshis work in Papua New Guinea, whereas over 10 lakh Chinese, three lakh Sri Lankans and two lakh Indians work there. The population of Papua New Guinea is only six million.

social welfare, and health ministries, Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) and its chairman and secretary and the controller of examinations (Cadre), the judicial service commission and its chairman and secretary, the director general of the directorate of health, and the national disability welfare coordination committee and its chairman and secretary have been made respondents to the petitions. The petitioners prayed to the court to issue a rule upon the respondents to explain why the provisions of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Age, Qualification and Examinations for Direct Recruitment) Rules 1982 preventing the candidates with disabilities from appearing in the BCS and BJS examinations should not be declared unconstitutional. Advocates Shahriar Shakir, Qazi Zahid Iqbal, Taufiqul Islam and Nusrat Jahan appeared for the petitioners, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam represented the government.

BCS, BJS EXAM CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES HC order on writs April 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) will pass orders on April 25 on two writ petitions that sought directions from the court upon the government to allow the candidates with disabilities to sit for Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) and Bangladesh Judicial Service (BJS) examinations. An HC bench of Justice Md Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and Justice Naima Haider fixed the date after concluding the hearing on the petitions yesterday. Four human rights organisations -- Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Action on Disability and Development (ADD) and National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW) -- and Swapan Chowkidar, a lawyer, and Ridwanul Hoque, a teacher of law faculty of Dhaka University, jointly filed the petitions on April 19. The secretaries to the establishment, law,

social welfare, and health ministries, Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) and its chairman and secretary and the controller of examinations (Cadre), the judicial service commission and its chairman and secretary, the director general of the directorate of health, and the national disability welfare coordination committee and its chairman and secretary have been made respondents to the petitions. The petitioners prayed to the court to issue a rule upon the respondents to explain why the provisions of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Age, Qualification and Examinations for Direct Recruitment) Rules 1982 preventing the candidates with disabilities from appearing in the BCS and BJS examinations should not be declared unconstitutional. Advocates Shahriar Shakir, Qazi Zahid Iqbal, Taufiqul Islam and Nusrat Jahan appeared for the petitioners, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam represented the government.

Fraud case filed against Proshika Chair Wadud

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A fraud case was filed against Proshika Chairman MA Wadud, its Executive Chief Officer Mahbub-ul-Karim, and 12 others with a Dhaka court yesterday. Momtaz Begum, a member of Proshika Housing Project, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court accusing them of misappropriating Tk 3.17 lakh between December 12, 2005 and January 18, 2010.

The other accused are Proshika Vice-Chairman Abdul Matin, Treasurer Masrul Ul Islam, directors Sirajul Islam, Abdur Rob, Sirajul Huq, Altaf Hossain Talukder, and Mahbul Alam, deputy directors Kamrul Hassan Kamal and Azizul Haque Kabir, central coordinator Khorshed Alam, divisional coordinator Taslima Begum and area coordinator Humayun Kabir. After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque recorded statement of the complainant and did not pass any order on the issue. In her complaint, Momtaz mentioned that she along with seven others deposited a total of Tk 3.17 lakh to the Proshika Housing Project on different dates sometime between December 12, 2005 and January 18, 2010. But she had earlier come to know that Proshika Chairman Qazi Faruque was sacked from his post on May 24 last year and the accused in collusion with others had misappropriated crores of taka from different projects like the complainant's project. Later on July 26 last year, the complainant went to Proshika Pallabi Unnayan Kendra to know about her project where divisional coordinator Humayun Kabir asked her to communicate with his head office. He also asked her that they had earlier transferred the savings of housing project to the head office. The complainant also said that she had gone to the Proshika head office where the accused told her not to proceed with it again.

Fresh bid to torch CU bus

Student held, strike continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a Chittagong University student in the port city's Aturer Depot area foiling a bid to damage yet another teachers' bus of CU yesterday. Officer-in-Charge of Panchlaish Police Station Nobo Jyoti Khisa said arrestee Jahangir Mian is a 3rd year student of CU Physics department. Jahangir was nabbed while he and some other youths were throwing brickbats at the bus around 10:30am. The rest had managed to flee the law enforcers. The OC suspects the arrestee to be an activist of CU

unit BCL. Tuesday morning, Chhatra League activists torched a CU teachers' bus near Sholoshahar of the city. They also stopped university bound shuttle trains and other public vehicles to obstruct students from going to the CU campus. Police caught eight BCL men in connection with the arson attack Tuesday evening. However, Bangladesh Chhatra League still continues the indefinite strike demanding the arrest of persons responsible for three murders in recent weeks and resignation of CU vice chancellor. The strike was called Friday

evening following the assassination of BCL activist Asaduzzaman. The 2nd year Accounting student was stabbed dead on the previous night. CU VC Professor Abu Yusuf said, "I can't talk to the masked students, who are involved in criminal activities like setting fire to teachers' bus." He is always ready to sit with the "real representatives" of BCL, said the VC. Meanwhile, Sub-inspector Abu Al Mamun, who was in charge of Panchlaish PS in absence of its OC on Tuesday, was closed to the Dampara Police Line at night for failing to protect the teachers' bus.

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Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in two envelope systems from authorized dealers /business partners/ genuine manufacturers for supply, installation and implementation of server, operating systems, database and closed rack in the following categories:

1. RISC/Itanium Server (IBM / SUN / HP).
2. Intel Xeon Server (IBM/SUN/HP/ Dell) and Closed Rack

The participating vendors may quote for all categories or any number of the categories. The vendors should quote for all the items in each category. Partial offer within any category will not be accepted.

The tender schedule with detailed specifications and terms & conditions will be available from the Information Technology Division of the Bank during the office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. up to May 05, 2010 against payment of Taka 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) in the form of pay order favoring Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited.

The quotations have to be submitted in the Tender Box at the IT Division on or before May 06, 2010 by 4:00 p.m. and will be opened on the same date at 4:10 p.m. in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, if any. The technical and financial evaluation of the offers will be made later on.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers, in part or full without assigning any reason.

Head of Information Technology