

Tk 46.50cr to fight climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Climate Change Fund Trustee Board has approved nine projects to different government agencies involving Tk 46.50 crore to fight the impacts of global climate change.

The trustee board approved these projects at a meeting at Environment and forests ministry yesterday. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will implement one project on 'Institutional Strengthening of Climate Change Study Cell for Knowledge Generation'.

Three projects will be implemented by department of environment, and one each by Water Development Board, women and children affairs ministry, department of meteorology, Dr Wazed Research Institute of Begum Rokeya University and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

Besides, the meeting chaired by State Minister for Environment and Forests Hassan Mahmud also approved the policy guidelines of Climate Change Fellowship.

Under the fellowship, MPhil students will get Tk 7,000 per month for two years while PhD students will get Tk 10,000 per month for four years to study and conduct researches on climate change and their impacts under environment and forests ministry.

The ministry has a fund of Tk 50 lakh for this purpose. With the help of Rural Electrification Board, the ministry will install solar panel system in 10 upazila headquarters at a cost of Tk 10 crore.

Preserving 34 percent of Tk 700-crore climate change fund as fixed deposit, the board has a mandate of approving different projects of Tk 400.62 crore this year.

Of them, the board earlier approved 25 government projects of over Tk 310.46 crore.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Shabbir Chowdhury and State Minister for Water Resources Mahmudul Rahman and Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman were also present.



CONVENIENT WAY OF SERVING PATIENTS! A staff of Dhaka National Hospital serves food meant for patients using his naked hand, much to their worries for not maintaining hygiene in a hospital, which is the last stop of saving their lives. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Help save a freedom fighter's life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He has dedicated his entire life to singing for the masses, articulating their hopes, despair, rights and protests through his folk songs.

As a valiant freedom fighter, he fought in the front line under Sector 2 during the Liberation War. His cultural movement, which began in 70s, has hitherto been going on.

He stood beside his co-fighters with banners and placards whenever a rightful movement took place in the cultural arena.

All these have made the person a leading cultural organiser who is still involved in the progressive movements with simple qualities.

The person is none but Mahbul Haider Mohon, a noted folk artiste, a free-thinker and president of Kranti Shilpigosthi.

The health of this illustrious person had deteriorated in recent days. He has now been undergoing treatment at a city hospital after suffering from a massive brain haemorrhage on March 27.

Mohon was first admitted to Central Hospital after he had fallen sick and was later shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Presently, the freedom fighter is now undergoing treatment at Shamorita Hospital under the supervision of Dr Din Mohammad.

According to doctors, Mohon needs to undergo a surgery immediately, which involves a huge amount of money. But it is not possible for his family to bear the treatment cost.

So, his family and Kranti Shilpigosthi have made a fervent appeal to affluent people of the society to come forward with the financial aid to save this precious life.

Contributions can be sent to Jahanara Begum, savings A/C No. 34000722, Janata Bank, Green Road branch, Dhaka, says a press release.

Interested persons can also make phone calls on 01731511509 for the same.

Mohon is also an executive committee member of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, general secretary of Gono Sangheet Samunnaya Parishad and president of South Asian Music Society, Bangladesh branch.

'Chronic diseases cause 40pc deaths'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to preventing non-communicable and chronic diseases by creating awareness and living accordingly, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) has launched a Centre for Control of Chronic Diseases in the city.

At the formal launching ceremony of the centre at the SASAKAWA auditorium yesterday, health experts highlighted the increasing trend of chronic diseases, its negative impact on economy and the ways to control the diseases.

The Centre for Control of Chronic Diseases in Bangladesh (CCCD), a Centre of Excellence in the UnitedHealth Group Global Chronic Disease Initiative, is a partnership between ICDDR,B, Brac, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Institute of Development Studies.

National Professor Brit (retd) Abdul Malik, who is secretary general of National Heart Foundation Hospital and

Research Institute, said with control of infectious diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancers the non-communicable diseases are emerging alarmingly.

Quoting the World Health Organisation's (WHO) report of 2002, he said 40 percent death occurs in the country due to chronic diseases and of the chronic diseases 20 percent is cardiovascular.

"20 to 25 percent of the adult population has hypertension and 10 percent has eschismic heart disease for inactive lifestyle, smoking and bad food habit," he said adding, "As the treatment of chronic diseases are very expensive, we should try to prevent and control the diseases."

He also asked the ICDDR,B authorities to work in collaboration with other organisations that have been working on these issues for greater benefit of the society.

While speaking as the chief guest, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services Prof Shah

Monir Hossain said that the government is yet to know exactly the burden due to chronic disease.

He also said that 65 percent of health budget is spent for communicable diseases, but non-communicable diseases are getting less attention.

"Though we have good infrastructure at primary healthcare level, very few steps have been taken to prevent the chronic diseases at this level," he said adding that the programme that is run by the DGHS is also very weak.

"People need more information and we should come forward by creating awareness and giving information on risk factors," he added.

Dr Alejandro Cravioto, executive director of ICDDR,B, Dr Simon Stevens, executive vice president of UnitedHealth Group of USA, Dr Richard SW Smith of UnitedHealth Group Global Chronic Disease Initiative and Dr Tracey Lynn Preez Koehlmoo, project coordinator of CCCDB, also spoke.

Storm leaves 1,000 injured in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

More than 1,000 people were injured when a severe storm swept through Pabna district at 5:00pm yesterday.

Padma and Jamuna char areas are the worst affected where kutcha houses were blown away or razed to the ground.

The victims including women and children were injured in house collapse and flying saucers. Hundreds of trees were uprooted, electric poles twisted, extensive damage caused to standing boro crop and litchis in Sadar, Iswardi, Sujangara, Bera,

Chatmohar and Atowari upazilas.

As the electric supply disrupted with the beginning of the storm, the entire affected area remained in darkness till 8:30pm.

Details of damages from the affected upazilas are awaited.

Another report from Chapainawabganj said one Monimul Islam, 16, rice mill worker, died as a wall collapsed on him during the storm that swept through the district at 4:00pm.

The storm lasting about 10 minutes damaged kutcha houses and standing crops.



Sher-E-Bangla's 48th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 48th death anniversary of Sher-E-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his grandson AK Faiyzul Haq Raju's residence (House 32, Road 6, Block C, Banani) in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Different organisations have chalked out a number of programmes to mark the day.

Bangladesh Awami League will hold a doa mahfil praying for salvation of the departed soul.

In a statement yesterday, AL urged its activists and associate bodies to observe the day with due solemnity.

Bangladesh Sannskritik Jote and other organisations will also place wreaths at his grave.

Abdus Samad Azad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of former foreign minister and Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad, says a press release.

To mark the day, Quarkhwan will be held at his Kalabagan residence in the morning while a doa mahfil will be held at Kalabagan Lake Circus Mosque after Zohr prayers.

The Abdus Samad Azad Foundation will hold a discussion at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the city at 5:00pm tomorrow.

Besides, district AL units will also hold discussions and doa mahfil to mark the day.

Umme Salma Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Umme Salma Khatun, mother of

Dhaka city unit Awami League leader and cultural personality Salahuddin Badal and lyricist Shafat Khayam.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at her Wari residence after Maghrib prayers today and food will be distributed among the destitute.

Befitting reply in next elections

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP stalwart Moudud Ahmed yesterday hit back at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent remark, saying that the inhabitants of Bhola will give the premier a befitting reply in the next election.

He made the remarks at a briefing at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the city upon his return from the Bhola-3 constituency.

Meanwhile, the PM on Sunday said the people of Bhola in the by-election had given a befitting reply to the politics of conspiracy of BNP.

The BNP standing committee member said the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two other commissioners should resign voluntarily if they have minimum sense of

self-esteem. "The prime minister will soon get evidence that popularity of her government has lessened deeply," he said, adding that she will also feel how people of Bhola hate her government.

"They [CEC and two election commissioners] have completely failed to perform their jobs in holding a free, fair and neutral election in Bhola-3 constituency. Therefore, they should resign immediately."

The BNP senior lawmaker said his party would take a decision later centrally if Bhola by-poll was not cancelled.

Moudud, also a former law minister, explained, what he claimed, different incidents of attacks and threats to voters, BNP activists.

Mugger beaten to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger was beaten to death by locals while he was trying to snatch money from a CNG-run three-wheeler driver at Bhashantek in the city's Kafrul area early yesterday.

Police arrested autorickshaw driver Zahirul Islam and his brother Mohammad Mamun on charges of beating alleged mugger Ripon, 24, to death.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Delwar Hossain of Kafrul Police Station said masked young man Ripon and his two associates waylaid the driver near his house at Bhashantek Balur Math around 3:30am and tried to take away Tk 350 from him.

Hearing his scream, the driver's family members came out of the house and managed to catch Ripon but his two associates ran away.

In a fit of anger, they beat him up mercilessly and injured him critically that led to his death.

The OC said they arrested the two brothers in connection with the murder of the youth.

Deceased Ripon came out of jail recently after serving imprisonment in a mugging case, he added.

News in Brief

2 killed in wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two construction labourers were killed and four others injured as a boundary wall of a plot collapsed on them at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Md Ishak, 34, and Abdul Malek, 35 while the injured are Abdul Baset, 25, Abul Kalam, 25, Billal Hossain, 35 and Milon 28.

The injured are undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

BCL men beat up 2 students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up two general students at Dhaka University yesterday.

The injured were identified as Mustafizur Rahman Adnan, a third year student of geography, and Munna, a fourth year student of marketing.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe injuries to their bodies.

Campus sources said a group of BCL activists including Rasel, Apu, Mohammad, Nazmul and Anwar of Shahidullah Hall beat up Adnan and Munna in Curzon Hall area around 4:30pm as Rasel was forcefully stepped off a university bus on Sunday. Students forced him to step off the bus after Rasel stalked a female student travelling in the same vehicle in Kakral area of the city, a friend of a victim said.

The BCL activists beat up Adnan and Munna in revenge for Sunday's incident, he added.

2 alleged hundi trader held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police detained two alleged hundi traders with around Tk 42 lakh from the city's Ramna area yesterday.

The detainees were identified as Pankaj Roy Chowdhury and Pradeep Chowdhury. On information, a DB team picked them up while they were returning to Tantibazar with the amount from Gulshan at around 5:00pm.

However, family members of Pankaj claimed that Pankaj is a honest trader and he made the money by doing business.

NU exams deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The honors third year final examination under 2008 academic year and honors part-3 (special) under 2007 academic year of National University have been rescheduled to be started from May 17 instead of May 12, says a press release.

The new schedule of the examination has been sent to the respective colleges. For further information, people are requested to visit www.nu.edu.bd

Teachers' exam certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The certificates of the successful candidates of the fifth Non-government Teachers Registration Examination held in 2009 under Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) have been sent to the district education officers across the country.

The successful candidates can collect their certificates from respective offices of the district education officer, says a press release.

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

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

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 5:27am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuandanga and lowest 19.6 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

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	35.1	28.5	65	63
Chittagong	31.8	23.0	73	79
Rajshahi	36.8	26.5	80	75
Khulna	35.5	28.5	70	57
Barisal	34.5	28.0	68	66
Sylhet	27.5	19.8	84	91
Cox's Bazar	35.0	27.0	69	75

Anniversary
A cultural programme will be held to mark the 65th anniversary of Victory in Great Patriotic War of Russian People. Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture. Time: 6:00pm.

Workshop
Local Government Department and UNICEF will jointly organise a workshop on rules regarding birth and death registration. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar
National Council of Women with Disabilities organises a seminar on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Ubining will hold a discussion on tobacco production and food deficit in the context of budget 2010-2011. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Entries for ASF Media Award invited

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) will award journalists for contribution to journalism regarding acid violence during 2008-09.

The ASF Media Award 2008-09 will be given in six categories and the winners get a certificate, a crest and Tk 30,000 each, says a press release.

The categories include best newspaper report, feature, photograph, television report, documentary/magazine and feature.

Interested journalists will have to submit a copy of bio data along with the main copy of the printed report/feature, a CD of the report/documentary/magazine/feature with the date, time and headline of the news or programme.

For photographs a 10-inch width and 12-inch length photograph and the main copy of the printed version should be sent to the organiser.

All the documents should be sent to this address: Executive Director, Acid Survivors Foundation, house-12, road-22, block-k, Banani, Dhaka. Interested applicants should write the category on their applications.