

Climate demands

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forms, but none sees what is in there for me...where is the money, where are the projects and what is it in for me," she told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview before leaving Dhaka on Monday.

"If you make it tangible, this is what it is about. We have agreed to this. This is about deforestation, adaptation to climate change and sharing technologies. Then you make it very specific and then it might be easier for people to agree on legal form," said Connie.

The former Danish minister for environment and energy came to Dhaka to attend a two-day Asian conference on Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA). Eight Asian LDCs attended the meeting that ended Monday.

GCCA was formed in 2007 with assistance of the European Union (EU) to enhance capacity building of the LDCs and to help so that they have common stance in realising their demands from industrialised countries, the highest contributors to climate change.

GCCA was formed with the LDCs and developing Island States in a context when the money was going to emerging economies for clean development mechanisms, but the LDCs were not getting global attention. The Asia conference of GCCA is a part of the process in the run up to the next Cancun climate conference in November.

Connie Hedegaard, who chaired the climate conference in Copenhagen, said things should be specific on deforestation, adaptation to climate change and cutting of carbon emissions, which will make it easier for a legal accord.

Asked about the experts' apprehension that the legal accord may not be signed in Cancun, she said, "We don't want to turn down the expecta-

Ghana govt

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tournament.

John Martey Newman, President John Atta Mills's chief of staff, said the order was meant to ensure that government business was not disrupted during the competition, which kicks off in Africa for the first time on June 11.

Ghana's Black Stars, one of the continent's brightest hopes, were the first African team to qualify for the 2010 World Cup and will face Germany, Serbia and Australia in Group D.

"The idea is for people to stay here and perform their duties during the tournament," Newman said.

Ghana made their debut World Cup appearance at the last tournament in Germany, and beat the Czech Republic and the United States in the group stage before losing to Brazil in the last 16.

Mills himself is due to be among the dignitaries attending the Black Stars' opening march with Serbia on June 13.

New MPO list

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The ruling party leaders had said then that Shaheed Abul Qasem College in Lalmonirhat, established by BNP leader Asadul Habib Dulu, was on the MPO list but a number of institutions backed by ruling party men were missing.

The education ministry had reviewed the list and dropped Dulu's college from the list. The education ministry later handed over the list to Prime Minister's Education Adviser Alauddin Ahmed for further review.

Alauddin Ahmed followed local legislators' preference over the policy, which was previously used for selecting institutions that would get the MPO facilities, sources said.

On Monday, Alauddin Ahmed finalised the new list of 1,483 institutions, 461 more than the old list. Sources said around 100 institutions that were on the old list have been dropped.

Now inclusion of Alhaj Ahed Ali Biswas Collegiate High School in Pabna, named after the grandfather of Shimul Biswas, personal assistant to BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia, upset many ruling party leaders.

Pabna Awami League leaders said if the list was prepared on the basis of lawmakers' demand then how come Alhaj Ahed Ali Biswas Collegiate High School made it on the list?

Some lawmakers and ruling party leaders expressed surprise over dropping of their preferred institutions from the list. They claimed those are eligible to receive MPO facilities.

The name of another institution that also raised uproar

tion from Cancun, but to try to secure that we will get an ambitious outcome and then secure momentum."

"Because, to be honest with you, if we achieve nothing in Cancun, I would really feel that the international process would risk being destroyed," she added.

Observing Bangladesh's plan to tackle the climate change, she said clean development and climate should be really integrated and that kind of things are very strong here.

On capacity building of the LDCs, she said large counties have adequate capacity for negotiations in the global forums while most LDCs lack people and even cannot join the negotiation meetings. Things then get imbalanced, she said, adding that it is very important that the LDCs have the capacity and human resources for negotiations.

"There is a huge responsibility of the negotiators," Connie said, indicating that in the climate forums things appear to be fine, but many a time concrete issues do not come up for lack of skills.

"But, I would really hope that they construct their negotiations equally," she said.

Asked why most of the industrialised countries are not delivering the \$30 billion pledged in Copenhagen, she said Europe is delivering.

The industrialised countries pledged at the summit in front of over 100 states and so they must deliver, Hedegaard said, adding that America and Japan are preparing for a delivery.

"The European money will be unconditional. No political conditions will be there. But, governance things will be in place," she noted.

Serve notices

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seek 'guideline' from her in this regard.

"It will be hard for any government organisation to remove those structures as many influential individuals, land developers, and even Dhaka City Corporation and Water Development Board have grabbed those canals. We will therefore seek the prime minister's intervention and guidelines," he added.

On April 20, the parliamentary committee told journalists that it asked the DC of Dhaka to serve notices immediately on more than 1,000 individuals, organisations and establishments to demolish the structures they had built encroaching on 39 canals in the city.

The committee chief said it recommended cancellation of contract with the project developer of government-funded Bhashantek housing project for slum dwellers and low-income people due to irregularities in allocation of flats.

from the ruling party leaders is Golachipa Ideal Junior Secondary School in Patuakhali.

Patuakhali District Jamaat Secretary Prof Shah Alam established the institution, said Kashinath Dutta, district Awami League science and technology secretary.

Ruling party leaders also questioned the inclusion of Shapmari Dakhil Madrasa in Sherpur, the founder of which is a Jamaat-e-Islami leader.

Preferring anonymity, local ruling party leaders of Sherpur told The Daily Star that the local MP did not ask for this institution to be included on the new MPO list.

A number of lawmakers who asked Alauddin to include their institutions of preference on the new list were surprised, as those were not on the list.

In a letter to Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid Monday evening, Alauddin requested the ministry to cancel a condition in the policy, which was earlier followed to select institutions for MPO facilities.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the letter which says a condition that allows inclusion of an institution based on the population of the area was mistakenly included in the MPO policy. The condition creates complexities in selecting institutions for MPO facilities, the letter says.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday declined to make any comment in this regard.

The institutions on MPO list get government subsidy as monthly pay orders to meet a portion of their teachers' salaries and benefits.

Aleya laid to rest

Stern punishment to culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of Aleya Akhter, who died Monday night ending a six-day battle for life, now wants exemplary punishment to the criminals who set fire to her.

The 18-year-old was buried in a graveyard at Mirpur Section-10 in the capital yesterday.

"We will never get back Aleya, and nothing can compensate the loss. If the culprits are punished, it will be consolation for us," Aleya's aunt Razia Begum told this correspondent last night.

Drug peddlers Khokan and Billal poured petrol on Aleya's body and set her afire since she refused to marry Khokan, who is already married.

Locals caught Khokan, beat him up and handed him over to police. Billal was arrested later.

Officer-in-Charge of Pallabi Police Station Iqbal Hossain said they would submit the charge sheet in the case within 15 days.

Meanwhile, Manusher Jono Foundation in a statement signed by its Executive Director Shaheen Anam yesterday expressed deep shock and concern at the tragic death of Aleya.

The foundation demanded stern action against the criminals. It conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Three judges shot dead in China

BBC ONLINE

Three judges been shot dead at a court in China's southern Hunan province by a man armed with a submachine gun, reports say.

Three other judges were injured before the man, who was also carrying two more weapons, killed himself.

Officials told the BBC the attacker was a 46-year-old local man who worked as head of security at a post office.

Correspondents say shootings are relatively rare in China, as few people have access to firearms.

Garment workers

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demand. Traffic on the busy highway came to a complete standstill for almost an hour and a half during the time.

On information, police rushed to the spot and charged truncheons to disperse the agitators, which eventually triggered a violent clash.

Police fired at least 20 teargas canisters and 20 bullets to bring the situation under control.

A huge contingent of police personnel has been deployed in and around the area to avert any more untoward incident.

The authorities of SA Fashion & Apparels Ltd earlier sacked eight of their workers on charge of violating discipline in the factory.

Yesterday was the third day of the workers' demonstration against the termination of their fellow workers.

Climate fund

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Director Ellen Goldstein, UK Department for International Development Country Representative Chris Austin, Danish Ambassador Einar H Jensen, Swedish Ambassador Britt F Hagstrom and Head of Delegation of European Union Dr Stefan Frowen signed the MoU.

The Fund will support implementation of Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for 2009-2018, by supporting vulnerable communities in adapting to greater climate uncertainty and changing agricultural conditions.

The Fund will be managed and implemented by the government of Bangladesh, with initial contributions from Denmark US Dollar 1.6 million equivalent, the European Union US Dollar 10.4 million equivalent, Sweden US Dollar 11.5 million equivalent and the United Kingdom US Dollar 86.7 million equivalent.

The World Bank will provide technical support for implementation by government and ensure that due diligence requirements are met.

Upon signing on behalf of the government, Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan noted that this sets a good example for development partners to align to the highest priorities of Bangladesh and provide additional resources to address climate change as pledged in Copenhagen last year.

"Given the magnitude of our adaptation and mitigation needs, we hope these initial contributions will encourage support from other partners," he added.

Hero comes home

FROM PAGE 1
"People of Bangladesh had a dream," said Musa in his very first reaction at the airport, "that someday someone will hoist the national flag at the top of the world's highest mountain.... I fulfilled the dream."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent Musa a bouquet.

Zahid Ahsan Russell, chief of parliamentary standing committee on youth and sports ministry, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, and Channel I Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar were present among others.

Bilkis Begum, the proud mother of the triumphant son, was sleepless all these days. She was in panic and praying for her son's safe return. "At last I am happy as my son is back to my lap."

"Musa proved that youth of Bangladesh can do anything if they want," said the Daily Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman who was waiting at the airport to receive Musa.

In an open-roof Jeep, the mountaineer, already showered with flowers, left the airport waiving victory.

Musa paid a visit to The Daily Star, where he works as a sub-editor. He also went to the offices of Prothom Alo and NACB.

At the Daily Star, Musa shared some of his experience from the expedition also adding the newspaper was one of the sources of inspiration for the voyage.

The editor of the daily, Mahfuz Anam congratulated him on his triumph.

Three Sherpas, who helped Musa conquer Everest, also arrived in the city in a regular flight. Musa invited Som Bahadur Sherpa, Kailash Tamang and Lakpa Nuru Sherpa to visit Bangladesh with him, as they reached the base camp.

No tolerance

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Manik was a security guard of Anjuman Market at Reazuddin Bazar in Chittagong; he was also an accused in a theft case.

"We are oath bound to protect the right to life of the people as per the constitution. As long as we are here, we will maintain zero tolerance for custodial deaths," Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a senior judge on the bench, told lawyers and government law officers present in the courtroom.

The court directed the government through the attorney general's office to be careful, so no person dies in law enforcers' custody due to physical torture.

It also directed ruling Awami League lawmaker Abdul Matin Khasru, and Additional Attorney General Murad Reza to convey its anxiety over Manik's death to officials concerned of police and other government departments.

The court issued the directives after a post mortem report stated that injury marks were found on Manik's body.

During the hearing, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Muniruzzaman was standing before the bench in connection with a contempt of court ruling against him.

The bench on May 23 issued the rule against him for not complying with its May 12 order that had asked him to appear before it to submit a report on the steps taken following Manik's custodial death.

The court had sought the report in response to a public interest litigation filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in connection with the death.

The CMP commissioner yesterday morning appeared before the court, and offered his unconditional apology for not appearing before it on May 23.

He told the court that his office suspended the police personnel responsible for the death. The court then dropped the contempt charge against Muniruzzaman.

It also dropped the same charge against Sub-inspector Yunus Mia of Kotwali police station of Chittagong, since he had already been suspended, and a murder case had been filed against him in connection with Manik's death.

The bench fixed July 29 for further order in the case.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru argued for Muniruzzaman, while Additional Attorney General Murad Reza, and Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam

"Musa has proved that we can win anything," said columnist Syed Abul Maksud, who went to the airport.

"Musa has taken us to the highest height," said Enam Al Haque.

Speaker of parliament, Abdul Hamid, praised Musa through a press release.

Wife Soraban Tahura, sister Ayesha and Brother-in-law Capt Rashidul Hasan, also the co-pilot of the flight, flew to Kathmandu in the morning to bring Musa back home.

Scaling the Everest on May 23, Musa descended to base camp on May 25 and reached Kathmandu on May 27.

MUSA MEETS PM HASINA
Musa Ibrahim, who has scaled Mount Everest as the first Bangladeshi, met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gonobhaban last night.

Earlier in the evening, Musa returned home completing his 55 days' expedition.

Welcoming the golden boy the premier said Musa has proved that Bangalee can do everything.

"We feel proud of Musa, we greet him. His parents and wife Sharaban Tahura Rimi have inspired Musa all the way," Hasina said and raised slogan of "Joy Bangla" holding up his hand.

Musa in his reaction said, "I'm really delighted. I want to share the joy with all."

"Bangladeshi youths will surely bring more success in future, if they're given inspiration," said Musa.

He thanked all as his victory has been considered as the victory of Bangladesh.

Senior leaders of the Awami League and grand alliance were present on the occasion.

CONTENT REMOVAL No response yet from Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

B a n g l a d e s h
Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) yesterday sent another e-mail to the Facebook authority regarding removal of "offensive contents" from its site.

This is BTRC's fourth attempt to get attention of the authority.

In the earlier attempt, BTRC submitted an appeal on Monday using the website's automatic 'abuse reporting' tool to remove the offensive contents.

But, the appeal brought no response as of yesterday evening.

Addressed to Facebook's Communications, Marketing and Public Policy VP Elliot Schrage and Policy Consultant Mozelle Thompson, the mail requested an urgent attention to the issue.

"BTRC has been trying to contact Facebook, Inc management on issues which have been covered in the forwarded mail. The first mail was sent on Saturday at 9:22pm and then it was sent on Sunday, at 2:39pm due to the delayed delivery problem of the first one," read the email.

"We seek your urgent attention for deletion of the said groups. We have followed the usual procedure to report abuse on the contents," it added.

According to the website's policy, Facebook would reply within 24 hours time period in response to reports of abusive contents. Upon investigation, the website authority makes a determination whether the content would remain on the site following its terms of use.

As the telecom regulator did not receive any response till yesterday, the BTRC officials had decided to send another email.

BTRC officials said they would restore access to the site as soon as the contents are removed.

Cheating

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three batches by the flights of Jet Airways, Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Emirates, said officials at the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

They stayed at the after they were rescue by the Liberian authorities.

The Bangladeshis peacekeepers had provided them makeshift shelters, as they became helpless because there is no Bangladesh embassy in Monrovia, said a release of Inter-Service Public Relations Directorate.

These jobseekers went to Liberia in different times, but they were arrested early March, said an official of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

BMET Director General Khorshed Alam Chowdhury told The Daily Star that five to six recruiting agencies had processed visas of 20 Bangladeshis and the rest of them collected visas at their own effort.

"The visas were false and so they did not get jobs there," he said.

The recruiting agencies paid for return tickets for 20 victims while BMET from the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund paid for 19 others, he said.

"As they return home, we shall investigate the case," Khorshed said.

The Bangladeshis have returned safely following consistent efforts by the foreign affairs and expatriates' welfare ministries.

Bangladesh Peace Keeping Contingent in Liberia as well as International Organization of Migration also supported the repatriation effort, says a foreign ministry release.

Online newspaper from Monrovia allafrika.com on April 7 reported that the Bangladeshis were trafficked to Liberia by a Liberian company, Talk Fushion Napcy (Lib.) Inc. The head of the company is reportedly arrested.

Five Bangladeshis and four Liberians who were allegedly involved in the trafficking were also arrested in Liberia.

According to Liberia's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, the Bangladeshis entered that country through the Roberts International Airport (RIA) amid huge security presence.

Liberian Labour Minister Tiawon Gongloe said the men were made to pay huge sum to the alleged perpetrators, under the guise that Liberia is booming and that they could be employed with huge financial benefits.

A case has been filed with Sadar Police Station.

Amar Desh shut

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Hasmat Ali, in writing, notified the DC office in March that he is no longer willing to be the publisher of the newspaper. However, as of yesterday, Amar Desh was published with Md Hasmat Ali's name as the publisher of the newspaper in the printer's line.

After cancellation of the declaration, over 200 policemen went to the Amar Desh office at Karwan Bazar. The journalists of the newspaper staged a sit-in at the entry points of the office to prevent policemen from entering.

The police also went to the press of Amar Desh at Tejgaon to stop publication of its today's issue but journalists of the daily said they were able to print its first edition.

Meanwhile, hearing rumours that police are going to arrest Mahmudur Rahman, around 100 BNP and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders including Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdus Salam, Khairul Kabir Khokan and Sultan Salauddin Tuku gathered at the Amar Desh office to stop the arrest. They chanted anti-government slogans and tried to get to the 10th-floor Amar Desh office. Police, however, stopped their attempt.

Arrested Mahmudur Rahman was brought down from the building around 4:00am today and the BNP and Chhatra Dal leaders chanted anti-government slogans as he was put into an unmarked police vehicle.

On Hasmat Ali not willing to be the Amar Desh publisher anymore, the Dhaka DC said, "The previous publisher submitted his application with an affidavit." The DC office, in March, informed Hasmat Ali through a letter that the office has accepted his affidavit. The DC, however, could not say the exact date the affidavit was submitted and accepted.

Meanwhile, Mahmudur Rahman, the acting editor of Amar Desh, in a letter to the DC office in March said he wanted to be the publisher of the newspaper.

After getting the application, the DC office asked the Dhaka Special Branch (DSB) of police to give a report on Mahmudur Rahman whether he is eligible to be the publisher of the newspaper, said Mohibul.

"We have received a negative report from the Special Branch today [yesterday], the DC said.

When asked, on what grounds the DSB gave a negative report, the DC said they mentioned several reasons including that there are 31 cases filed against Mahmudur Rahman.

"We had been waiting for the report of the Dhaka Special Branch since Mahmudur Rahman filed an application as an aspirant publisher of Amar Desh. But when we received the negative report from the Special Branch today [yesterday], We cancelled the declaration of the paper as it has no publisher," said the DC.

Mahmudur Rahman is the former energy adviser of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government and is known as a close ally of BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia.

Around 7:00pm last night, Hasmat Ali, elder brother of Mosaddak Ali Palu who is an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia, filed a case with Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station against Mahmudur Rahman for using his name as the publisher of the newspaper.

In the case statement, Hasmat Ali said he sold all the shares of Amar Desh Publications Ltd to Mahmudur Rahman last year and the shares were handed over to Mahmudur Rahman.

He said he resigned from the post of publishers on October 11 last year and the resignation form was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka district.

He said Mahmudur Rahman continued publishing his name as Amar Desh's publisher.

He said during this time at least 30 cases were filed against the daily and he was implicated as the accused in all the cases. He said this tarnished his social image and incurred financial loss.

The Daily Star twice called Hasmat on his mobile phone, which a woman picked up. She said Hasmat left home leaving his phone at home. She then hung up.

Tejgaon Industrial Police

Station Officer-in-Charge Omar Faruq told The Daily Star that the case was filed under sections-419, -420 and -500 of CrPC in connection with cheating Hasmat Ali and violating section-7 of Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973.

Article-5 of the act is regarding publication of newspapers. It says, "No newspaper shall be printed or published except in conformity with the provision of this part and unless the subsists an authenticated declaration in respect thereof."

MAHMUDUR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Acting editor of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman yesterday afternoon held a press conference at the newspaper office where he claimed that members of National Security Intelligence (NSI) kidnapped the publisher of the newspaper Hasmat Ali from his house.

The former energy adviser to BNP-Jamaat government termed the incident a government conspiracy to shut-down the newspaper that focuses on corruption of the ministers as well as human rights violation of the government.

He said NSI kidnapped its publisher around 9:00am yesterday and released him at 2:00pm after taking his signatures in two papers, addressed to the deputy commissioner of Dhaka and officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station.

"The paper addressed to the DC reads I, Md Hasmat Ali, is no longer the publisher of the Amar Desh newspaper. The newspaper is being published using my name. I am requesting to take legal action against the move," Mahmudur Rahman quoted Hasmat as saying.

He claimed that the Dhaka DC was not giving the nod to his application to become the publisher of the newspaper.

"The DC informed me that he can't give permission following an objection by higher authority of the government," Mahmudur said.

Building tumbles

FROM PAGE 1
Leakage in gas pipes and snapped electricity cables made the rescue work risky, said the deputy commissioner.

Several dwellers of three nearby houses said they came out hearing a loud noise and saw the five-storey building falling down slowly on the three houses.

Most residents of the five-storey structure escaped unharmed while many dwellers of the tin-shed houses remained trapped under rubble.

Bharat Chandra Biswas, a deputy director of the fire brigade, said he saw a woman trapped under rubble but she was not seriously injured.

Four others along with the woman remained trapped under the debris, said Bharat who was leading the rescue operation.

Locals said Abbasuddin, a retired driver of the General Post Office in Dhaka, owns the building and his son Dalim Mia maintained it.