

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Use wet-and-dry irrigation method in agriculture

Experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately popularise the method of harvesting the best yields with the least consumption of water to tackle the climate change impacts on agriculture, speakers said on Thursday at a workshop in the city.

The wet-and-dry irrigation method can produce optimum yield of rice and wheat by using less water and save energy significantly, Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, executive director of the Centre for Environment and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), said while presenting a keynote paper.

This method is applied with a nine-foot pipe penetrated six feet in the soil and three feet above the surface to check the irrigated water level underground.

Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) and the CEGIS jointly organised the workshop on 'Implementation of Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan' at the LGED Bhawan.

Emaduddin Ahmed, executive director of the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), said crop diversification and growing awam and boro rice with low water consumption and making use of available information are important to face the climate change impacts on agriculture.

Climate change impacts are set to gravely affect the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health and water supply, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen said while speaking as the chief guest.

He stressed river dredging for agriculture, water transport and environment conservation, saying there are 310 big and small rivers in the country. A total of 22 dredgers are working at different rivers.

"I, however, do not like the way the shipping ministry dredges the rivers, as they dump the extracted sand back into the rivers," said the minister.

Md Habibur Rahman, director general of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), said cyclone Aila damaged 47 polders (a tract of low land projected by

dam) stretching over 2000 kilometres of coastal embankment.

Foreign donors pledged a plenty of aid for the Aila victims' rehabilitation but a single penny has not yet been released due to complicated terms and conditions.

The BWDB repaired 42 polders by September.

"We are facing worst situation with three polders in Dakop, Koira and Gabura that we have not yet been able to repair and as a result, 50,000 people are still living on the embankment under the open sky," said Rahman.

"We too have failures, as we could not repair the damaged embankment in time," he said. Around two lakh people become homeless every year due to river erosion.

Muhammad Zamir, chief information commissioner; AYBI Siddiqi, former secretary; and Dr Azharul Haq, former managing director of the Dhaka Wasa, among others, spoke at the discussion chaired by Md Shahidul Hassan, president of the BWP.

Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Atiqur Rahman, an organiser of the War of Liberation and founder president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) city unit, says a press release.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Lutfunnessa Ibrahim STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnessa Ibrahim, wife of late Justice Mohammed Ibrahim, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held in the morning at her residence.

Foods will be distributed among the destitute and wreaths will be placed at her grave at the Banani graveyard.

Majeda Begum STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Majeda Begum, wife of former Bangladesh Bank director Tofail Ahmed Chowdhury, says a press release.

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

Fatema Zaman STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Fatema Zaman, wife of Maj Gen (Retd) Shamsuzza

man, former GOC 9 division and former ambassador to Kuwait, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of her departed soul.

Alhaj Md Turab Ali STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 31st death anniversary of Alhaj Md Turab Ali, father of martyred Shaheed

Engineer Fazlur Rahman and Md Rafiqul Islam Baset, who were killed by the Pakistani occupation forces on April 1 in 1971, says a press release.

Turab Ali was a senior office assistant of High Court.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his village home in Kazir Kandi, Narsingdi after Zohr prayers today.

75 arrested in Rangpur BSS, Rangpur

Police in separate raids arrested 75 people in connection with different charges from various places in the district during 48 hours as of yesterday noon, sources said.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon holds a rally at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to press its 11-point demand ahead of the World Environment Day.

'Rooftop solar systems can ensure uninterrupted power'

UNB, Dhaka

Solar power systems on rooftops of high-rise buildings in urban areas can greatly help ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity that would mitigate the prevailing energy crisis to a large extent, experts said.

"We need a sustainable energy source that can ensure continuous supply of electricity," said Dr Mohammed Ataur Rahman, director, programme on Education for Sustainability, Centre for Global Environmental Culture (CGEC) of IUBAT.

The government should immediately make it mandatory in the building code for the households to install solar systems on rooftops of high-rise buildings for generating solar energy, which has already been mandatory in the West Bengal of India, he told UNB.

Dr Ataur has recently presented a paper at a seminar on 'Solar energy for high-rise buildings in urban areas' at International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT).

Describing solar energy as the ultimate energy source of the lives on the earth having easy solution to substitute the conventional energy sources, he said, all plants and animals are using solar energy trapped by the green plants during photosynthesis. "By trapping solar radiation and converting it to electric energy is

an answer to sustainable energy for Bangladesh."

Dr Ataur said solar energy has been used by humans for thousands of years and ancient cultures used energy from the sun to keep warm by starting fires with it. "They also kept their homes warm through use of passive solar energy," he said, adding that buildings were designed so that walls and floors collected solar heat during the day and released same at night for warmth. Nearly 300 megawatts of power can easily be generated from solar energy to feed the hungry national grid if solar power systems are installed on rooftops of some 20,000 multistoried buildings in Dhaka, he said.

Dr Ataur said solar energy is one of the most important energy sources of the present world. He mentioned that with the development of technology for a modern life, especially for running the industries, transportation, domestic appliances, agriculture, health, education and research, food storage and transportation, and recreation, the demand for energy is experienced at an increasing rate.

Rapid urbanisation and concentration of population in the cities have created manifest crises such as energy, water, pollution, waste management, sanitation and natural disasters like floods, cyclones, drought, earthquakes and melting of glaciers of the mountains and Polar Regions causing rise in sea level, he said.

Hectic campaign for Ctg polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League lawmaker Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury at a meeting yesterday urged all to cast votes for AL-backed mayor candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury to turn Chittagong a healthy and environment friendly city.

He also urged the leaders and activists to keep unity and work actively for ensuring the victory of Mohiuddin in the June 17 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election.

Akhteruzzaman, also AL (south) district unit president, was addressing the view-exchange meeting at the Nagorka Committee office with people hailing from southern region of Chittagong and living in the city.

Earlier in a street meeting at Moha ward in the afternoon, Mohiuddin called upon his supporters to remain alert against any conspiracy of snatching votes. "Vote snatchers are again in the field. We have to foil any attempt to hijack the votes."

AL leaders Abdus Salam, Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury, Mohra Nagorka Committee President Abu Taher, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Mohiuddin also spoke at several street meetings at Korbaniganj, Miakhan Pool, Ishak Pool at Bakalia. Mohiuddin's wife Hasina Mohiuddin carried out mass contact in different areas of Patharghata in the morning in support of her husband.



AL-backed mayor candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and BNP-backed candidate M Manjur Alam Manju exchange greetings at a view exchange meeting at the Muslim Institute auditorium in the port city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Manjur's campaign BNP-backed and Chattagram Unnayan Andolon candidate M Manjur Alam Manju yesterday carried out electoral campaign stressing to develop Chittagong as a violence and anarchy-free city and rid the dwellers of waterlogging.

During his mass contact in west, east and south Bakolia (CCC ward no 17, 18 and 19) area, Manjur said absence of measures to develop drainage or remove waterlogging cause a huge area of Bakolia going under water after a little downpour.

Manju sought votes to help flourish potential small and cottage industries accelerating economic growth and developing Bakolia as a water-logging free area.

Earlier, he held a view exchange meeting with leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations from No 2 Jalalabad Ward, met people of Harijla Residential Area and those from Shajila community at his North Katolli residence in the morning.

BNP Chittagong city unit Vice-President Shamsul Alam, General Secretary Dr Shahadat Hossain, Jatiya Party leader Noor Mohammad Khan and other leaders of BNP-led four-party alliance, among others, accompanied Manju. He was holding a meeting with people of the Hindu community, exchanging views and seeking votes at Mehediabagh residence of his main election agent and BNP Chittagong city unit President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury.

Besides, BNP Standing Committee Member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman and Vice-Chairman Morshed Khan also carried out campaigns for Manju throughout the day.

Envoy to Germany presents credentials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany Mosud Mannan presented his credentials to Federal President Dr Horst Kohler at Bellevue Palace in Berlin on May 28.

During the credential presentation ceremony, the ambassador conveyed to Dr Kohler the warm greetings of President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In response, the federal president conveyed his regards to the president and the prime minister of Bangladesh, said a foreign ministry press release.

He assured the ambassador of all support and cooperation from him and the German government in his efforts to enhance friendship and cooperation between the two countries during his stay in Berlin.

Mannan briefed the president on the socio-economic developments in Bangladesh.

CAT ACCA Charterred University College advertisement with details on admission, courses, and contact information.

Queen Mary College advertisement featuring a large logo, text in Bengali, and a list of facilities and services.

SEGA ZAMAL FOUNDATION advertisement with contact details and a list of services.