

Rich nations must compensate Bangladesh for climate change

Speakers tell Rajshahi discussion

BSS, Rajshahi

The industrialised and rich nations must compensate Bangladesh adequately to help the country cope with the adverse impact of climate change, speakers at a daylong discussion in Rajshahi city said yesterday.

They said the rich nations are solely responsible for the alarming situation created by the climate change, posing formidable threats to the country's weather, agriculture, irrigation, navigation, ecology, bio-diversity, environment and underground water levels.

The discussion titled "Climate change impact in northwest Bangladesh and adaptive measures" was jointly organised by Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD) and Network on Climate Change, Bangladesh (NCCB) at the conference hall of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The speakers said the situation is now fast worsening due to rise in temperature leading directly to melting of ice, caused by unbridled emission of green house gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro-fluoro-carbons, per-fluoro-carbons, sulphur hexa-fluoride in the developed countries.

The industrialised countries are not taking any step to protect the poor nations constantly facing the most disastrous threats from the global climate change, a phenomenon resulted from the reckless human interventions for eras, they added.

In his address of welcome, ASD program coordinator highlighted the aims and objectives of the dialogue while NCCB Research and Advocacy Coordinator Saudia Anwar described the ongoing activities of her organisation to fight the climate change impact.

Prof Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan of geology and mining department of Rajshahi University presented the keynote paper giving an overview of the present environmental consequences of climate change while Prof Dr Mijanuddin, dean of social science of RU, illustrated the adverse impact on people's livelihood.

The keynote speaker mentioned that the climate change has now caused a major concern for agriculture, environment, ecology, bio-diversity, climatic patterns and even existence of the habitation and civilisation throughout the globe.

In this regard, he viewed that the climate change will raise temperature, sea

level, and frequency and intensity of natural calamities, trigger glacial melting in the Himalayas, decrease availability of fresh water, and compel shift of cropping zones in the country affecting agriculture and food sector.

Most speakers of the discussion said due to lifting of huge underground waters for Boro farming every year, the underground water levels have been marking abnormal falls in recent decades and it might even lower this year.

They emphasised a collective effort of all concerned to address the impacts of climate change and to identify the statistical issues of the environmental and ecological challenges ahead.

Journalists Mustafizur Rahman Khan, Akbarul Hassan Millat, Rashed Ripon, development workers Abdus Samad, Dr Dizendra Nath Sarker, Shawkat Ali, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Saiduzzaman and Project Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation Golam Mostafa took part in the open discussion, among others while Monzur Rashid of NCCB moderated it.

Over 50 experts, researchers and development activists from various disciplines and professions attended the function.



Rajuk demolishes illegal structures at J Block on Road No-20 at Baridhara in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



BDR and Indian BSF hold a DG level border conference at BDR headquarters in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

NHK to broadcast Bangla programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japanese broadcaster NHK is soon to broadcast its Bangla programmes through the various zonal centres of Bangladesh Betar in the country.

A contract was signed between NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and Bangladesh Betar on the matter, and its announcement was made through a city press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Betar Director General AKM Shamim Chowdhury and NHK Director General Makoto Harada signed the contract on the organisation's behalf.

NHK would broadcast its Bangla programmes in the Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Comilla centres of Bangladesh Betar in frequency modulation (FM) band, the press release said.

The state-run radio is to earn \$71,175 per year through this broadcast, the press release said.

As per the contract, Bangladesh Betar officials would get training assistance on engineering, programmes and news from NHK. Also, it said that Bangladeshi and Japanese programme producers would jointly work on producing broadcast programmes.

3 arrested with fake notes

UNB, Narayanganj

Three forgers were arrested along with fake currency notes from Fatula Dharmaganj area in sadar upazila yesterday noon.

Police said on a secret information, they conducted a drive in the area and arrested Shaheen, Ziaur Rahman and Belal along with fake notes worth Tk 10,000 from a field at Dharmaganj Chattalar.

NU 1st year honours exams begin Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first year honours examination-2009 under National University (NU) will begin October 1, says an official handout.

Details of the examinations will be available at all respective colleges under NU and on the NU website at www.nu.edu.bd.

RCC eviction drive begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) launched its month-long eviction drive in the city yesterday and demolished some makeshift shops and sheds of small businesses while ignoring the concrete structures on the way.

RCC's Executive Magistrate M Sadekul Islam led the drive, with help from Boalia Police Station forces.

The team began the drive around 11:00am yesterday from Bindu Hotel point of Gourhanga crossing on the Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway.

They demolished makeshift tea stalls, signboards, and bamboo-made sheds of mobile phone shops, roadside hotels, motorcycle-repairing shops, hardware stores and electric workshops, and warned them to not work on the road area.

In a notice on Saturday, RCC asked all concerned to remove illegal structures from the roads and to cooperate with the team.

When demolishing a roadside illegal restaurant at Barnali crossing, the RCC employees removed a showcase of food. Locals complained that the officials consumed some of those foods, for which the magistrate rebuked the concerned officials.

The team further demolished a number of

makeshift structures on the 5 kilometers of road joining railgate to Kashidanga bypass in the city.

During the drive, the team, however, ignored the National Life Insurance's office staircase constructed illegally on the footpath and an iron-sheet made shed of a sweetmeat shop there. The team said to have verbally warned the insurance company authorities and the sweetmeat shop owner to remove the structures immediately.

The team also ignored staircases, concrete slopes of houses and business stores, and neon signboards of business shops including a Chinese restaurant on the roadsides around Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban.

Sadekul Islam said the illegal concrete structures could not be demolished due to lack of necessary equipments.

"The formalities for purchasing a bulldozer is almost complete and we will start working with it from the first week of October, said Sadekul Islam adding that, "we will launch drive on the same roads again for removing the illegal concrete structures."

Meanwhile, the RCC launched its month-long drive for developing the city's environment and for cleaning the footpaths for the convenience of pedestrians and vehicles on the roads.



PHOTO: COURTESY

A discussion on the state of literacy in Bangladesh was held at Gulshan Ladies Community Club in the city on September 22 organised by Inner Wheel Club (IWC) of Dhaka North marking the International Literacy Day. Prof Md Shahadat Ali, Prof Anisuzzaman and Acting Vice Chancellor of The People's University of Bangladesh Ahsanul Huq took part in the discussion. Dist Chairman Tahera Muzaffer of IWC Dist 328 and Sophia Kabir of National Representative of IWC Dist 328 were also present. President Mohsena Reza of IWC of Dhaka North represented over the discussion.

Show cause notice served on 230 NU teachers, staff

UNB, Gazipur

Some 230 National University teachers, officials and staff appointed during the BNP regime in 2004 have been served with show cause notice as to why action against them would not be taken, including dismissal from service.

The notice, dated September 23, signed by the NU registrar was served on Sunday and Monday asking them to reply within 10 days.

It said they secured employment illegally in connivance with the then syndicate. NU Deputy Registrar Nurul Amin, who

received the show cause notice, told UNB that the move was taken on the report of a controversial inquiry committee set up by the syndicate. The report was biased and politically motivated.

He said all of them underwent competitive tests and interviews for the job. The administration is trying to render them, who have been serving for long six years, jobless merely for appointment during the BNP regime, he claimed.

Others said they will launch constitutional movement against the politically motivated action of the government.

Varun Gandhi to wed Bengali girl

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Wedding bells are all set to ring for young Indian politician Varun Gandhi who is set to tie the knot with a Bengali girl Yamini.

Varun's mother and BJP lawmaker, Maneka Gandhi, said on Sunday the 30-year-old leader, also of BJP, will get married this year.

Varun is the cousin of Rahul Gandhi, the scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi family and is tipped by many to be the country's future prime minister.

"Varun will get married with Yamini, who hails from Bengal, this year," Maneka, the estranged daughter-in-law of late Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, told reporters in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh.

"All members of the Gandhi family, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul, will be invited to attend the wedding ceremony," Maneka replied to a question.

Varun had attended the marriage of his cousin Priyanka in 1997 as a teenager despite strained ties between the families and Maneka staying away.

Varun represents Pilibhit Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh, home to the Nehru-Gandhi family, and was appointed national secretary by BJP in March. Maneka is also a member of Lok Sabha from Aonla in Uttar Pradesh.

Child development emphasised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation meeting have emphasised overall development and safety of children and juveniles in the National Children's Policy 2010.

The meeting was jointly organised by Disadvantage Adolescent Working NGOs (DAWN) Forum and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at DAM Bhaban auditorium in Dhanmondi on Sunday.

They also stressed building of infrastructure for safe shelter and inclusion of street and slum children of the cities in the draft policy with due importance.

Representatives working on child rights took part in the meeting and made recommendations that will be placed before the women's and children's affairs ministry. DAWN Forum Chairman and Executive Director of DAM M Ehsanur Rahman presided over the meeting.

DAWN Forum General Secretary Shamsun Nahar; Chairman of ATSEC and Director of INCIDINE Bangladesh, A R M Masud Ali; Chairman of CUP, Shaheen Akhter Doli; its Executive Director Mostafa Kaium Khan; Child Rights Forum Director Kafil Uddin; General Secretary of Female Child Advocacy Forum, Nasima Akhter Joli; Director Program Division of DAM, Shafiqul Islam; ActionAid's Helal Uddin; and psychologist Farida Akhtar also spoke at the function.

Road accidents kill five

METRO DESK

At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Bogra, Khulna and Barisal yesterday and on Sunday night.

UNB from Bogra reports: Three people were killed and 10 others injured as a truck ramed into a bus on Bogra-Santahar road at Murail in Kahalu upazila on Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Shaheer Ali alias Babu Ameen of Adamdighi upazila, Hassan Fakir of village Shialsang and Bulu of village Palsun of the same upazila.

Officer-in-Charge of Adamdighi Police Station said the accident occurred when 12 students and three teachers of different schools of Adamdighi upazila headquarters

were returning in a microbus after attending a hand ball competition at Altafunnesa playground in Bogra town at night.

A rice-laden truck hit the microbus, leaving its three passengers dead on the spot and 10 others injured.

The injured were admitted to Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: A man was killed in a road accident at Manikata

under Daulatpur police station at around 1:00pm yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Sheikh Oliur Rahman, 42, general secretary of Khulna city unit of Bidyut Sramik League.

The accident occurred when his motorcycle was run over by a speedy Khulna-bound truck when on his way to the office of the West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited.

He succumbed to his head injuries a few minutes after being rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) for treatment, the on-duty doctor said.

Police sent the body to KMCH morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Barisal says: A boy was crushed to death under the wheels of a speedy coach on Patharghata-Dhaka road in Kataksthal area of Gouranadi upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arif Hossain, 08, son of shopkeeper Amir Hossain.

Officer-in-Charge of Gouranadi Police station Nurul Islam said the highway police arrested the coach driver, Abdul Khalek of Prince Paribahan.

Police seized the bus and handed over the body to relatives.

BREAST CANCER

Khulna patients to get telemedicine from Oct 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A breast cancer service centre in Khulna will provide telemedicine to the breast cancer patients in the city through videoconference from October 2.

Under the Amader Gram Breast Care e-Health Programme, patients will be able to get access to health care from expert oncologists from home and abroad, said speakers at a press briefing in a city hotel yesterday.

Director of Amader Gram Reza Salim said the Amader Gram Breast Care programme aims at providing one stop service to breast cancer patients using information technology. It also will reduce hassles of the patients regarding visit to the different centres at different stages of the disease.

Oncologist Prof AB FM Karim said every year some 15,000 to 20,000 women are diagnosed

with breast cancer in the country. The breast cancer could be cured if the patients are given proper treatment at the early stage of the disease, he said adding that 89 percent of the breast cancer patients seek treatment at an advanced stage.

The specialised centre under the Amader Gram Breast Care e-Health Programme will provide the treatment to the breast cancer patients in the city.

A documentary on the breast cancer prepared by journalist Borhan Kabir was displayed in the press briefing.

Prof Richard R Love, Scientific Director of International Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Dr Syed Mozammel Hossain of Khulna Medical College Hospital and Moshahida Sultana, lecturer of Management department of Dhaka University, among others, spoke.



Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism takes out a colourful procession from TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday on the occasion of the World Tourism Day.

PHOTO: STAR