

Shift policy to reduce carbon

Environmentalists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists yesterday urged the government to make internal policy shift to reduce carbon emissions instead of borrowing money from external sources and throwing it around to be gobbled up by corrupt quarters.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) General Secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin told this to a seminar titled '10:10:10 Global Work Party' at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the city.

Bangladesh Information Gateway Ltd organised the event to join the global movement initiated by 350 organisations, an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis.

"Borrowing and spreading money would not help us tackle the global warming issues. We need to borrow in a transparent way, otherwise the country will be buried under piles of debt," observed Matin.

The participants said the natural greenhouse gas absorbers, such as fresh water, non-contaminated soil and forests, should be put in place to combat global warming meaningfully.

A fair was also organised on the occasion, where around two dozens of stalls showcased ways to cut carbon emissions and alternative energy saving tools.

Maasranga TV goes on test transmission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maasranga Television, a concern of Square Group, started its test transmission yesterday morning.

Syed Fahim Munaim, the chief executive officer (CEO) and chief editor of Maasranga, said they have a plan to go for a full-fledged transmission by the end of this year.

They will give equal importance to both the news and entertainment programmes, he said.

Maasranga Television is one of the private television channels that obtained licence recently.



Family members of victims gather at the site where a Savar-bound bus of Baishakhi Paribahan plunged into the Turag river near Salehpur Bazar bridge in the capital's suburb Savar yesterday. Hundreds of onlookers crowd the scene while fire brigade divers continue rescue operations. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL



Kaiser laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard in the port city yesterday.

His first janaza was held on the Ershad Ali High School premises at his village home in Barkhain.

His second janaza was held at Jamiatul Falah National Mosque where hundreds of people from all strata participated.

He breathed his last at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on Saturday at the age of 71.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, IGRD and Cooperatives Minister and AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen, Land Minister advocate Rezaul Karim Hira, Jatiya Sangsad Whip Mirza Azam, State Minister for IGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif, lawmakers Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Nurul Islam BSc, Abul Kashem, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, BNP Standing Committee Member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Jaffar Islam Chowdhury, Chittagong City Mayor M Manjur Alam and former mayor and Chittagong City AL President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury attended the janaza.

BABAR'S TAX EVASION

Hearing adjourned for fifth time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing on charge framing for the fifth time against detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar in connection with a tax evasion case.

Meantime, the same court adjourned the hearing till November 21 against acting editor of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman in connection with a corruption case.

Judge (In-charge) Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-5 fixed November 23 for hearing on charge framing after Babar's lawyer submitted a petition seeking time.

In the petition, Babar's lawyer said following an appeal challenging the legal basis of the case the HC issued a rule upon the government asking why the case against his client will not be declared illegal. The lawyer said he prayed for the adjournment since the rule hearing in the HC is now pending.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against Babar saying that he has evaded Tk 2.65 crore income tax from 1999-2000 fiscal year to 2008-09 fiscal year as director of Master Electronics Industries Limited.

CASE AGAINST MAHMUDUR The hearing on charge framing against Mahmudur was adjourned following a petition submitted by his lawyer. The petition said following a writ petition challenging the legality of the case by his client the High Court stayed the proceeding of the case for six months.

The NBR filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against former Board of Investment Chairman Mahmudur on June 13. He is in detention since June 2 this year.

Earlier, he was sentenced for a six-month imprisonment in a contempt of court charge.

Saverivers, cut carbon emissions

People protest pollution, misuse of the river Bangshi in Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from various organisations and localities joined a campaign yesterday in Savar to protest pollution and misuse of the river Bangshi, to save rivers and to reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

The programme was part of a global campaign to fight climate change, in which around 200 nations joined to press the developed nations to cut carbon emissions on the special binary date 10/10/10 yesterday.

The event focused on the theme, 'Save River, Save Biodiversity'.

Local people, specially the youth, joined the programme spontaneously to

stop pollutants being dumped into Bangshi and to reduce the carbon emissions.

TREE (Training and Research Education for Empowerment), with the help of Environmental Sciences and Management Department of North South University (NSU), Department of Environmental Sciences of Jahangirnagar University, organised the programme.

Addressing the occasion, Farhad Hossain, pro-vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, said, "It is indeed a pleasure to find someone at least taking initiative to save the Bangshi and hopefully the rest will follow this noble cause."

"Rivers are our life and protecting

them is not only a duty but also a responsibility," reminded Prof Ataur Rahman of Mymensingh Agricultural Institute.

Dr ATM Nurul Amin of NSU and Shahid Mallick, CEO, TREE also spoke at the event.

The speakers demanded the developed nations should limit the carbon particles in air within 350 ppm (particle per million), which would ultimately keep the rise of global temperature within 1.5 degrees celsius.

The organisers planted 10 fruit trees on the bank of the Bangshi, now polluted severely due to unplanned industrialisation.

The programme was followed by a cultural event and river cruise, said a press release.

Ad firm manager strangled in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Robbers strangled the manager of an advertising firm at city's Momin Road on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Jobaed Hossain, 55, son of Mohammad Hossain Chowdhury of South Raja Nagar village under Rangunia upazila in the district.

Jobaed worked at Surface, an advertising firm, in city's Jamal Khan area and used to reside in the office of Future Image, a digital printing firm.

Kotwali police said robbers

broke into the office of Future Image at Momin Road and strangled Jobaed.

The miscreants took away a laptop computer, a digital camera and Tk 1,700 from the office, he said.

In the morning, office staff found the door open and Jobaed lying on the floor with a lungi tied to his neck.

"We found a stamp paper containing information of a village arbitration inside Jobaed's bag. We will quiz the staffs and his relatives in this connection," said police.

'Start debate to prohibit death penalty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A debate should be started to prohibit death penalty and the government could stop its execution before deciding on it, Professor F Bellivier, deputy secretary general of International Federation for Human Rights said yesterday.

Poor and illiterate people mostly suffer from death penalty than the rich people as they cannot afford good lawyers and lack legal knowledge, she observed at a press conference held in the capital by Odhikar, a local human rights organisation.

Odhikar organised it to mark the seventh world day against the death penalty and its sixteenth founding anniversary.

Prof Bellivier also said there is no mention in the international laws that the death penalty should be prohibited but the use of it should be very limited.

Currently 58 countries still have death penalty in their laws, she said.

"It is dehumanising that a prisoner in Bangladesh executes another prisoner. If the

death penalty exists, then there should be trained and appointed people," she said.

"We, the International Federation for Human Rights, are against capital punishment and especially mandatory death penalty for any particular crime when judges don't have any other option than to sentence death penalty."

Odhikar and International Federation for Human Rights jointly published a report styled 'Bangladesh, criminal justice through the prism of capital punishment and the fight against terrorism'.

In the report they recommended the justice system and the national human rights commission should be strengthened.

Professor CR Abrar, president of Odhikar said Odhikar is also against death penalty and the organisation keeps watch over the government's activities. Its monthly human rights report helps people to understand the human rights situation in the country.

"The government will be more responsible if the people are aware of their rights," he said.

IGP says law and order satisfactory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandkar yesterday claimed that despite some 'sporadic incidents' like the one in Natore, the law and order across the country is satisfactory and under control.

He was briefing the media at the police headquarters on security arrangements for Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus.

The IGP said as the law and order is now better than in the past, the number of puja mandaps in the country this year has risen to around 26,000, which is about 4,000 more than last year's.

"The killing of Boraigram upazila chairman (in Natore) was a sporadic and unexpected incident. But the overall law and order is under control of the law enforcers, and is satisfactory," he said.

The police chief said 35,000 police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel will

be deployed during the puja that begins on Wednesday across the country.

Security has been arranged for three phases-- pre-puja, puja and the day of immersion of Durga.

On the posting of two inspectors in each police station, Hassan Mahmood said this step was taken on the basis of rules and regulations to ensure better investigation, which is one of the major tasks of police.

The police authorities recently decided to post two inspectors in each police station across the country. Senior inspector will perform as officer-in-charge of the station.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has already posted one more inspector each in 24 police stations in the capital.

The press briefing was also attended by Director General of Rab Moklesur Rahman, DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque, deputy inspector generals of all ranges and high officials of intelligence agencies.



Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shimki Shafi, mother of Kazi Salauddin, president of Bangladesh Football Federation, passed away at a city hospital on Saturday due to kidney ailments at the age of 77, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons, one daughter.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held after Asr prayers at Azad Mosque in Gulshan tomorrow.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard.

Achiya Raza Chowdhury

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Achiya Raza Chowdhury, wife of ASM Habibullah, former chief news editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), passed away at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 62, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, one son and four daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at primary training institute ground at Shankipara in the district after Zhor prayers. Later she was buried at Gulkibari graveyard.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Dr Shafi Ahmed Sultan, says a press release.

He died at a hospital in Tennessee in the USA on this day at the age of 62.

On the occasion, the Holy Quran recitation programme and a milad mahfil will be held. All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:36pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54am.

Country's highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 21.0 degrees at Jessore.

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	31.5	23.2	73	77
Chittagong	29.5	24.0	88	83
Rajshahi	33.2	23.0	86	87
Khulna	31.8	22.8	83	79
Barisal	31.6	23.6	71	87
Sylhet	32.9	23.5	81	81
Cox's Bazar	30.6	25.0	96	89

STREET CHILDREN PERFORM DANCE AT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AUDITORIUM AT AGARGAON IN THE CITY YESTERDAY ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD CHILD DAY ORGANISED BY PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT RISK PROJECT, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY AND UNICEF.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
Dhaka Transport Communication Board (DTCB) will arrange a workshop. Venue: Govt Science College, Tejgaon. Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar
Stamford University and Yes Group will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: Siddheshwari campus. Time: 10:00am.

Meeting
Tannery Workers Union will arrange a meeting. Venue: Tannery More, Hazaribagh. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable
Sushasoneer Jonno Nagorik will arrange a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
Bangladesh Navy will organise a seminar. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30am.