

Introduce green economy to cope with climate impacts

Says eminent environmentalist Dr Atiq Rahman

UNB, Dhaka

Considering the country's extreme vulnerability to the effects of climate change, an integrated green economy system needs to be introduced to cope with the challenge.

The suggestion came from eminent environmentalist Dr Atiq Rahman, whose accomplishments in the field were recognised by the UN in 2008.

"Although the developed countries are highly responsible for increasing global warming, the developing countries will have to initiate adaptation programme from their own resources by introducing an integrated green economic system," he told the news agency in an interview.

A green economy is an economy or economic development model based on sustainable development and knowledge of ecological economics.

Defining the green economy system, Dr Atiq said the total process of the country's economy will have to be brought under an integrated process where external and internal cost of production will be included.

Now the country's industrial sector has been disposing the industrial wastes and toxic substance without managing these, which poses a great threat to ecosystem, water bodies as well as environment, he said.

He stressed the need for installing Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) in all industries to save the country's environment apart from facing the impacts of climate change.

"Three matters will have to be taken into consideration in setting up a new industry. These are social audit, financial audit and environmental audit," he said.

Dr Atiq, also executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS), a think-tank, said the people involved in the production process will have to introduce green economy system.

"We can't do anything that destroys our rivers, water bodies and ecosystem."

About the global warming, he said the carbon emission rate is less than 0.3 tonnes per head in Bangladesh while this rate is 20 tonnes per head in the USA, nine tonnes in South Africa and Germany, five tonnes in China, and 2.8 tonnes in the developing countries.

"The developed countries will have to reduce carbon emission absolutely to save the globe environment."

On a recent report by UK-based Maplecroft on climate change, the eminent environmentalist said it is well known by now that Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to the climate change. Although the government has allocated a small fund in the budget, work on the adaptation projects remains stalled.

The Maplecroft report says around 191,637 people have died due to natural disasters over the last 30 years in Bangladesh. Cyclones alone account for 167,178 of those deaths.

Dr Atiq, a member of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), said there is no way out without taking adaptation programme in Bangladesh as the damage has already been done here.

About the ongoing Cancun Climate Summit, he predicted that no fruitful outcome will emerge from the conference for vulnerable countries as the developed countries have not kept their pledges till now.

Dhaka city Jamaat ameer re-arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DB police yesterday re-arrested Dhaka city Jamaat-Islami ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan from the Dhaka Central Jail area soon after he was released from the jail.

Sources said a team of DB police picked up the Jamaat leader around 2:30pm. Rafiqul was freed after over one month of imprisonment.

The cause behind the arrest could not be known.

The jail Senior Superintendent Towhidul Islam told The Daily Star that the Jamaat leader was freed from the jail on bails in two separate cases filed with New Market and Dhanmondi Police Stations.

Rafiqul was arrested from his Mirpur residence on the afternoon of November 24.

He got anticipatory bail in six separate cases filed on charges of obstructing police in discharging their duties and hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

Meanwhile, Jamaat's acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam condemned and protested the arrest of the city unit Jamaat chief and announced countrywide demonstration programmes at all district headquarters today.



The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports holds a rally in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding no leasing out of gas blocks and a ban on extraction of coal by open-pit mining.



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Parishad lights candles in front of Shikha Chirantan at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city yesterday to pay tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the month of victory.

Burn victim dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the people receiving burn injuries during the torching of Gokunda union BNP office at Mostofi village of Lalmonirhat sadar upazila on early hours of November 30 died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Mostofa Islam, 45, a resident of Mostofi village of district.

Four people received burn injuries as the office was ransacked and set afire allegedly by ruling Awami League men.

DMCH burn unit doctors said at least 57 percent of Mostofa's body was severely burnt.

He died while undergoing treatment after being admitted to DMCH in the afternoon of November 30, they said.

The other three injured are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

Discharge duties for rule of law Chief Justice urges women judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday urged the women judges to discharge professional duties, defying their social impediments, for establishing rule of law and justice in the society.

People of the country have confidence in the judges and courts, and that is why they come to the court to get justice, he said.

Justice Khairul was speaking as the chief guest at the 21st annual general conference of Bangladesh Women Judges Association (BWJA) at the Judicial Administration Training Institute in the city yesterday.

He said the judges should not be sentimental in any manner while performing their judicial duties to uphold the people's confidence in the courts and judges.

The judges' mindset should remain on the facts and laws in passing verdicts in any cases, added the chief justice.

"You will have to be a judge whole-heartedly so the litigants get confident about getting justice." If the judges become sentimental, injustice will take place instead of justice, he said.

He advised the judges to dispose of cases and pass orders on the basis of documents, laws, and

above all their consciences, also mentioning that that the judges may err as they are humans.

The CJ said the women judges by their own talents and qualities have to graduate to higher positions.

He asked them to dare the challenge and study much to build up their confidence and knowledge.

At one stage Justice Khairul said, "Not writing much on the pending cases is good."

Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, a senior judge of the Appellate Division, said the judges have to change their mindset and litigants have to be conscious to establish justice.

He requested the chief justice to take steps to solve the judges' problems regarding their habitation, library, and conveyance.

Justice SK Sinha, another Appellate Division judge, said the lower court judges have to enforce the laws impartially and effectively through their judgments so people can accept the judgments.

Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, a senior High Court judge, and BWJA Secretary General Sharmin Nigar, among others, spoke at the programme chaired by its President Kaniz Aktar Fatema.

Banning communal politics urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamprodiyekota-Jangibad Birodhi Mancha yesterday at a district representatives meeting demanded of the government to speed up the process of the trial of war criminals and ban communal politics.

The meeting held at Mukti Bhaban in the city's Purana Bhatan decided to hold rallies in the next January and February to realise their demands.

The Mancha will hold a national rally involving all the like-minded parties in the capital.

They will submit memorandums to the prime minister and the governor of Bangladesh Bank to hold the terrorists' source of money.

Central leaders of the Mancha Nur Mohammad Talukdar, Pankaj Bhattachariya, Ziauddin Terq Ali, Nazmul Haque Prodhan and Nur Ahmad Bakul spoke at the meeting.

Solo exhibition of Hamiduzzaman begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-day long solo exhibition of sculpture and watercolour by Artist Hamiduzzaman Khan begins today.

The exhibition titled "Time and Beyond" will be held on the premises of Galleri Kaya at house no 20, road no 16, sector-4 at Uttara in the city.

A total of 34 paintings and sculptures made in acrylic, watercolour, wood, stainless steel and bronze will be showed.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm.

Former minister and Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Anwar Hossain Manju is supposed to inaugurate the exhibition while the Director of the American Center Lauren H Lovelace will be present at the inaugural ceremony.

Unite against government Urge pro-BNP professionals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP professionals yesterday voiced for united movement to resist what they termed the "fascist government," alleging that the ruling party is oppressive to the opposition party and violating people's basic rights to speech and justice.

Awami League, which introduced a one-party rule in 1975, is again trying to do the same by repressing those speaking the truth and protesting injustice, they said at a roundtable titled 'Democracy, human rights and press freedom'.

Fearing police harassment and arrests, many leaders and workers of the main opposition BNP are on the run, they said.

Energy Solutions of Bangladesh, a private research organisation, arranged the discussion at the National Press Club in the city to mark completion of six months of the daily Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman's imprisonment.

Speakers criticised the court's fining Mahmudur of Tk 1 lakh and imprisonment, which is, they said, much more than fixed in the law.

Dr Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, suggested amendment to the contempt law and recruitment process of the judges so that none linked to any partisan politics could join the judiciary.

Whoever speaks the truth or expresses different views contrary to the government's are facing trouble from the ruling party, said national professor Talukder Moniruzzaman.

Journalist Shafiq Rehman, who presented the keynote speech, said the government is totally intolerant to the opposition party's views.

Rehman said right to justice, a fair living, education, privacy, safety, job security and health are the basic human rights in Bangladesh, but all of these rights are denied today.

People are dying in police custody and on the streets, but justice still remains elusive, he added.



Bhasha Matin's anniversary of birth observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 85th birth anniversary of language movement veteran Abdul Matin was observed yesterday.

Different organisations rendered warm greetings to Abdul Matin with wreaths at his residence and cut a cake to mark the day.

"We do not like to celebrate the birthday with much festivity. That is why very few people know about his birthday," said a family member of Abdul Matin.

Early in the morning, Shadhinata Forum greeted him and prayed for his sound health and long life. In the evening Bhasha Smriti Rakha Parishad greeted him at his residence.

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Linking Young Minds Together

Advertisement for Star Campus magazine, highlighting its focus on young minds and campus life.

'Implement laws for the challenged'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Laws related to the challenged people should be implemented and transparency and accountability maintained in all the allocations directed to them, speakers demanded at a discussion yesterday.

They said balanced development is impossible without the special needs people who make up 10 percent of the society. So involvement of the people in the mainstream development programme is necessary.

Training, education, and friendly equipments and environment for the challenged people can help the implication, said a press release.

NGO Shomonnay Parishad, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Shacheton Nagorik Shomaj, Savar and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Savar district unit jointly organised the programme to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons yesterday.

The discussion was held at the office of Village Association For Social Development (VASD) in Savar.

The organisations also brought out a procession from Upazil Health Complex through Dhaka-Aricha Highway to the thana bus stand.

VASD Executive Director MA Samad, members of Shocheton Nagarik Samaz and Gobindra Acharjya, TIB Programme Manager Al-Amin-Mian, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Joint Secretary Savar district unit Shamsunnahar Rashid and TIB Area Manager Md Atikur Rahman spoke at the discussion among others.