

International Earth Day celebrated

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and North South University (NSU) yesterday jointly celebrated the International Earth Day.

The main objective of the Earth Day programme was to promote ecology and encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the daylong programme on NSU campus in the city.

The programme was organised to create mass awareness among the participants and common people for a cleaner environment, says a press release.

Ambassador of Japan Tamotsu Shinotsuka, Ambassador of Korea Taiyoung Cho, Chairman of Board of Directors of NSU Foundation Azim Uddin Ahmed and NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz G A Siddique were present on the occasion.

The programme emphasised on the theme of reduce, reuse and recycle of waste materials.

The organisers arranged waste art competition, music show, fashion show and arranged booths to display environment friendly items.

A large section of people including students attended the programme.

Channel i, Radio Foorti and The Daily Ittefaq were the media partners of the programme.

Referring to the increased frequency of recent disasters and natural calamities, the state minister highly praised the joint cooperation and initiatives taken from Koica, Jica, and NSU volunteers for organising this event.

Ambassadors of Korea and Japan in their speeches mentioned about their countries experiences of environment movement for sustainable development.

They said Japanese zero waste movement and Korea's new village movement started with clean up programme for improving the environment.



Strong tidal surge during the last couple of days eroded most of the dam of Parki sea beach of Anwara in Chittagong, posing a threat to an adjacent road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

COX'S BAZAR SEA BEACH

'Take integrated bid to save natural beauties'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar stressed the need of integrated efforts of all ministries to save the natural beauties and ecological balance of Cox's Bazar Sea Beach, the world's longest natural sandy sea beach.

The seminar on "Preparation of Development Plan for Cox's Bazar Town and Sea-Beach up to Teknaf," a project of Urban Development Directorate (UDD), was held at the city's Bangladesh Institute of Planers (BIP) auditorium in the city yesterday.

UDD organised the seminar to present final report on the plan of the project. Prof Dr Nurul Islam Nazem gave a power point presentation on the report at the seminar with Housing and Public Works (Development) Joint Secretary Zillur Rahman was in the chair. Sheltec Consultants Ltd prepared the report

after surveying about 80,000 acres of Cox's Bazar, Mahashkhali and Technaf municipality and St Martin Island, including Cox's Bazar city to Technaf sea beach area.

and visitors of the area.

Speakers said the government should not only publish gazette notification of the proposed plan but also should take necessary

Development plan has been taken to revitalise economic, social and cultural opportunities available in the Cox's Bazar region by conserving gifts of nature and environment for the inhabitants as well as the visitors

The purpose of the plan is to revitalizing economic, social and cultural opportunities available in the region by conserving gifts of nature and environment for the inhabitants

steps to implement this project.

Urban experts said the real estate companies are setting up high-rise buildings on the sea beach violating the environment law.

This illegal structure will severely harm the ecological balance of the sea, they fear.

They warned that unless the people stop building concrete buildings after grabbing lands of St Martin Island, it will totally lose its natural beauties and tourists.

Participants of the seminar also urged the government to form a high powered body to co-ordinate the projects of different ministries under the supervision of Prime Minister's office to compile the development activities of the area.

Experts also stressed the need of inclusion of way out to deal with natural disasters in the master plan of the project.

BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Mia, Director of Urban Development Directorate AZM Tazul Islam, Cox's Bazar Municipality Mayor Raz Behari Das and Architect Ismail also addressed the programme.

Road crashes kill 5

METRO DESK

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in Gopalganj, Faridpur and Mymensingh yesterday.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reports: An under age nasimon driver was killed when he fell down under his running nasimon, locally made three-wheeler, while he was turning the vehicle at Moksudpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Sujon Mridha, 12, son of Liakot Mridha, of Daserhat village of Moksudpur upazila.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: Two women were killed as a Mymensingh-bound mini truck hit them from behind while they were standing beside Mymensingh-Tangail road at Dholadia yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Rahima Khatun, 65, wife of Jamshed Ali and Sofia Khatun, 35, wife of Abdul Barek of Dholadia.

Police seized the truck but its driver fled away.

Our Faridpur correspondent says: Two motorcyclists were killed when a speeding truck hit a motorcycle on Dhaka-Barisal highway at Joarer More of Bhanga upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Bakkar Molla, 22, of Bibirkandi village and Mostafa, 22, of Rasulpur village of Faridpur.

Minister-cum-teacher!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud will take classes on environmental science every Monday evening at North South University, says a forest ministry press release.

Earlier, the state minister took similar classes at East West University.

He said teaching is a noble job and he continues to do so following the university's proposal.

Mentionable, Dr Hasan completed his post graduation on environmental science and took his PhD degree on Environmental Chemistry from Limburg University of Belgium in 2001.

Present correct history before young generation: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has urged historians, freedom fighters, writers and civil society members to come forward with their responsibility to present the correct history of the nation before the young generation.

"Our young generation doesn't properly know the long history of the War of Liberation. At different times, history has been presented in distorted or fictional ways," Zillur said.

The president made the remarks while speaking at the function marking the 43rd anniversary of the Historic Agartala Conspiracy Case, at the city's IDEB Bhaban yesterday. The Historic Agartala Case Evaluation Council

organised the function.

The Agartala Conspiracy Case, a case framed by the Pakistan Government in 1968 during the Ayub regime against Awami League chief Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was a milestone event in the period leading up Bangladesh's independence.

The case saw Sheikh Mujib as the principal accused, along with some former as well as serving army officers and civil servants, of a conspiracy to secede East Pakistan from Pakistan, with the help of the government of India.

Addressing the function, Zillur said the historic Agartala Conspiracy Case inspires the nation deeply to be imbued with patriotism, and teaches

the legitimacy of protest against injustice.

He said, "It's our responsibility to inform the young generation of the correct history of the nation. I urge the historians, freedom fighters, writers and civil society to take up the responsibility in this regard."

The function saw crests of bravery bestowed upon those who stood accused in the case, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Deputy Speaker Col (retd) Showkat Ali.

Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, a cousin of Bangabandhu, accepted the crest from the president on behalf of Bangabandhu and his family members.

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