

CURBING MIGRATION TO CAPITAL Speedy transport service to & from Dhaka stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a symposium yesterday said speedy and subsidised transport services to and from the capital would help curb unrestrained migration to Dhaka.

This would also help residents of other districts to go to their workplace and return by the end of the day, they said.

The symposium titled "Population Management and National Development: Prospects and Challenges" was held at Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University (DU) in the city.

DU Department of Population Sciences organised the symposium in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The speedy transport will help residents of other districts to go to their workplace and return by the end of the day

"This would help rural people earn urban income while living in villages, strengthen rural development and reduce pressure on urban housing and related services," said Prof Dr AQM Mahbub from DU Department of Geography and Environment.

Speakers at the programme said the enormous population in the country is a mixed blessing.

Prof Ahmad Neaz of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) said, "More population means larger exports of manpower, more annual remittance and cheaper labour force."

"But it also means more poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and low access to information."

While Bangladesh is the seventh most populated nation in the world, it is also the most densely populated with 1,142 people living in every square kilometre, 25 times the average density of all countries, the speakers said.

However, population is unarguably a major building block for development activities in any country, they said.

"More than 35 percent of the country's population is below 15 years of age. For Bangladesh, this is a big demographic bonus," said Prof AKM Nurun Nabi of the geography and environment department.

But this window of opportunity will last for a short time and must be taken, otherwise this young population could turn out to be a disaster for the nation, he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said education is the best contraceptive for population management.

He stressed on the need to bring more people under the education system as a means to manage population related problems.

UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh Arthur Erken and DU Prof Dr Barkat-E-Khuda and Dr Ferdous Arfina Osman also spoke at the programme.

End racial discrimination Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to formulate specific law to eliminate racial discrimination and establish equal rights in the society.

They also demanded involvement of the people of Dalit and excluded communities in the national development policy to change their fate.

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Dalit Parishad, and Antyaja Parishad jointly organised the seminar styled "Dalit-Harijan communities in national development policy" at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Meghna Guha Thakurta, executive director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, said the government should take short-term and

long-term plans to rehabilitate the Dalits.

She also suggested the education ministry to issue an executive order so no Dalit children encounter difficulties in getting admitted to schools and colleges.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University urged the government to include the topics of eliminating racial discrimination in the textbooks at primary and secondary level.

Reading out the keynote paper, Bangladesh Harijans Oikya Parishad Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das placed a 10-point demand including formation of Dalit Commission and making an anti-discrimination policy.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Director Rina Roy moderated the function attended by a number of Dalit people from across the country.

'Govt's tobacco policy contradictory'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Tamak Birodhi Jote, an alliance of anti-tobacco organisations, yesterday termed the government's tobacco policy "contradictory" and a "double standard".

They made the comment at a news conference at Jatiya Press Club where Adv Syed Mahbabul Alam, secretary of the platform, presented the keynote paper.

Syed Mahbabul said, "The government has enacted Tobacco Control Act to protect public health, but did not increase duty on bidi in the budget. It is contradictory."

"The government's steps to raise anti-tobacco awareness and reluctance to

increase duty on tobacco products shows its double standard policy", said Rafiqul Islam Milon.

The Jote leaders demanded alternative jobs for bidi workers so the bidi factory owners cannot oppose any increase of duty on bidi in the next fiscal year.

They also demanded increase of supplementary duty up to 15-20 percent over cigarette and a duty of Tk 2 over per packet of bidi.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) chairman Abu Naser Khan, Pratyasha general secretary Helal Ahmed, and Ubinig executive director Farida Akhter, among others, also spoke.

চকোলেট স্বাদে মচমচে কুকি

- উচ্চ মানের প্রাকৃতিক ফাইবার
- সম্পূর্ণ প্রাকৃতিক উপাদান
- দারুণ সুস্বাদু
- স্বাস্থ্যকর
- সব বয়সের উপযোগী

প্রস্তুতকারক
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গাজীপুর, বাংলাদেশ

বাজারজাতকারক
টাটকা বাসকেট লিমিটেড
বাড়ি ৬০/এ, রোড ১৬ (পুরাতন ২৭)
ধানমণ্ডি, ঢাকা ১২০৯

**রবি'র নাছোড়বান্দা নেটওয়ার্ক
ছায়ার মতো আপনার সাথে**

আপনি যেখানেই যান
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সারাক্ষণ আপনারই সাথে

রবি নেটওয়ার্ক সংক্রান্ত তথ্য এবং অভিযোগের জন্য
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