Indo-Bangla initiative to save Sundarbans urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cross-border management is crucial for the survival of the Sundarbans and that of the communities dependent on the world's largest mangrove forests in the face of climate change, conservationists said at a discussion in the city vesterday.

Saleemul Huq, senior fellow of Londonbased International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), said Bangladesh and India have to take a collaborative approach to save the Sundarbans through adaptation with the changing climate.

Delhi-based environmentalist group Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Dhaka-based Coastal Development Partnership (CDP) jointly organised the programme in Biam auditorium while releasing a study report on the Sundarabans, a world heritage site.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, a noted environmentalist, said man-made assaults with incompatible development interventions and lack of

governance already have alarmingly ruined the forest, a storehouse of natural resources. "Let's stop harming the Sundarbans".

The communities of Bawali (wood collector), Mowal (honey collector), fishermen and farmers, who traditionally used to extract Sundarbans resources for livelihood, are fast losing ground.

In the Indian territory, the Sundarbans lost 250 square kilometres of land including agricultural land in past 80 years due to erosion, said Aditya Ggosh, senior coordinator of the CSE, who wrote the report.

The Sundarbans is a natural sink more efficient than the Amazon forests to absorb atmospheric carbon, he said.

Chandra Bhushan, deputy director general of CSE, said high rate of land subsidence and increase in temperature of the sea surface are causing sea-level rise.

Sea-level rise by 25 centimeters would devour 40 percent of the 10, 000 square kilometres Sundarbans, said Jahangir Hasan Masum, executive director of CDP.

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Discussion

Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting

Jatiya Press Club will hold its additional general meeting. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers

Convention

Association will hold its convention. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

Shushashoner Jonno Nagarik (Sujan) will organise a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Convention

Indigenous Community and Environment of Sylhet will hold its convention. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 3:00pm.

Rally

Sampradayikata-Jangibad Birodhi Mancha will hold a mass rally. Venue: Before Shishupark, Shahbagh, Time: 3:00pm. Roundtable

Child Rights Governance Assembly and Save the Children will hold a roundtable. Venue: Biam auditorium, Eskaton, Time: 10:00am.

Rally Gono Oikya Committee will hold a mass

Women FFs demand recognition



Matia Chowdhury poses with other guests at a reception in Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the **National Museum in** the city yesterday. Ekattorer Jatri, a socio-cultural organisation, arranged the programme in honour of the women freedom fighters.

Agriculture Minister

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of women freedom fighters yesterday demanded proper recognition to their contribution and sacrifice in the 1971 war of liberation.

They said women are always depicted as the victim of repression and torture in the liberation war, but many women played vital role in the war through direct participation. So women fighters should be given due respect and recognition, they added.

The demand arose at a reception programme of women freedom fighters styled "Ekattorer Nari" organised by Ekattorer Jatri, a socio-cultural organisation, at the National Museum.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury

liberation war, but their contribution is not reflected in the history. "As a nation, it is our first and fore-

most duty to try the war criminals to pay the debt we owe the martyred", she said, adding that the war crimes trial will surely be held. Former army chief Lt Gen (retd)

Harun-Ar-Rashid termed the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) as "lame horse" and said the trial procedure should be speedier. Saying that it is not possible to com-

plete the trial of all war criminals by one ICT, Harun, also the secretary general of Sector Commanders Forum, demanded strengthening the ICT and Speaking as the chief guest, increasing its number. Veteran freedom fighter Kakon Bibi

said, "My soul will not be at eternal peace after death if I cannot see the trial of war criminals in my life".

Another war hero Forkan Begum, who launched guerrilla warfare in 1971, demanded conferring of "Bir Uttam" and "Bir Protik" status on 100 women freedom fighters.

A total of 14 women freedom fighters yesterday received honour for their contribution while Matia Chowdhury received a special honour as an organiser of the liberation war.

Freedom fighter and columnist Harun Habib presided over the programme, which was addressed, among others, by Liberation War Museum trustee Dr Sarwar Ali and Jahangirnagar University's Prof Jebunnesa.

Ctg GPA-5 achievers quadruples in JSC exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

JU teachers'

JU CORRESPONDENT

today

assoc election

The election of Jahangirnagar

University Teachers'

Association (Juta) will be held

The voting will start from

9:00am and continue till

1:30pm at the university club

A 15-member executive

body of the association will

without any break.

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Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Chittagong witnessed a rise in the number of GPA-5 achievers, standing at 2,176 from last year's 528, in Junior School Certificate Examination-2011 yesterday.

The pass rate of 72.65 percent is also an increase from last year's 70.26 percent.

From 1,079 institutions, from which 1,24,260 students took part, 52 achieved 100 percent pass rate.

In a merit list by the board, Khastagir Government Girls' High School topped with 83.78 points (193 GPA-5 achievers).

Faujderhat Cadet College came next securing 83.06 points (37 GPA-5 achievers) while the third was Chittagong Collegiate School with 80.64 points (178 GPA-5 achievers).

Cox' Bazar district saw a 75.10 percent pass rate, Rangamati saw70.11, Khagrachhari 66.70 and the Bandarbans 63.80.

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