

Invent green tech to tackle climate change

Prime minister urges scientists

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon scientists to conduct more research on inventing local green technologies to tackle the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change.

She said this after inaugurating the "Designated Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements" at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) in the capital.

Hasina mentioned that food items, drinks and drugs will be tested in the newly opened institute while prescription on quality control will also be provided to industries.

In this regard, she also urged chemical analysts and researchers to bring the quality of local products up to international standard.

She also called upon scientists, researchers, teachers and students to conduct sustainable research and apply those while ensuring the highest productivity of industries and the services sector with the use of information technology.

Stressing the need to make researches more fruitful considering the country's socio-economic development aspect, she also suggested researchers to conduct more applied research apart from basic research.

"We need sustainable research so that innovations become affordable and people can apply those to increase their agricultural and industrial production.

"It will also enhance the standard and scope of services and ensure the maximum utilisation of local resources," she said.

Hasina noted that the institute will help entrepreneurs compete in the global market under the present world of globalisation.

There will also be the scope to test machineries of other laboratories and institutions. "As a result, people will get standardised products and services and I hope the market for exports will expand," she said.

She mentioned that BCSIR was modernised and its research capacity was enhanced with the introduction of some world class laboratories there.

Inventions of BCSIR, including the arsenic and formalin detection kits, arsenic removal filter, biogas plant and high quality stove, gained popularity and helped improve the living standard of the masses, she said.

Considering the growth of the popula-

tion and economy and decrease of farm land, fodder fields and sanctuaries, emphasis must be given on the production of sufficient nutritious food, accommodation and ensuring sound health for the populace, she added.

She also called upon researchers to consider these things while selecting the contents of their research.

Hasina recalled that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established BCSIR in 1973 to bring the country's renowned scientists together and invent sustainable technologies for scientific research and industries.

She said Bangabandhu established Agriculture Research Council and simultaneously set up national institutes to conduct sector-wise research on paddy, jute and fisheries.

Hasina mentioned that after assuming power in 1996, her government had enacted laws to set up 12 science and technology-based universities, most of which are already running.

She said her government had also introduced donations and fellowships on conducting research in science and technology but the "successive BNP-Jamaat government stopped those."

"After assuming power this time, we have reintroduced those," she said.

Hasina said her government is emphasising on inventing sustainable technologies and strategies so that agro-based industries flourish while encouraging the setting up of agro-processing industries.

She urged all concerned, scientists, researchers, farmers and entrepreneurs, to work in unison in building a hunger and poverty-free, peaceful, modern science and technology-based "Sonar Bangla" by 2021 as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafese Osman chaired the function.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the ministry Al-Hajj Md Dabirul Islam, lawmaker Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Secretary to the ministry Dr Abdur Rab Hawlader and BCSIR Chairman Dr Ahmed Ismail Mustafa also spoke on the occasion.

Later, Hasina visited the institute's laboratory and went through different methods and products innovated by BCSIR scientists.



Workers constructing a stage before BNP's Naya Paltan office in the capital yesterday. The BNP-led 18-party alliance is scheduled to hold a rally here today to declare its next course of agitation programmes demanding restoration of the caretaker government system.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Rickshaw-puller dies as train hits him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-puller was killed as a train hit him at Mohakhali in the capital yesterday.

The victim is Md Rana alias Sentu, 26.

Sirajul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Kamalapur Government Railway Police Station, quoting witnesses said a Tongi-bound train hit Sentu while he was crossing the rail tracks around 11:00am.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe head injuries where he died around 12:30pm.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

CID official reiterates Tarique's link

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack cases yesterday completed cross-examining a CID official who had said that BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman had assured the attackers of a safe passage after they carried out the attack.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Abu Hena Md Yusuf reiterated that detained Harkat-ul Jihad al Islami chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, while on remand in Ramna Batamul blast cases, had told him about Tarique's assurance.

The CID inspector, a prosecution witness, said this while being cross-examined by Advocate Abul Kalam Md Akhter Hossain, a state appointed counsel for Tarique, in connection with the grenade attack cases.

Defence lawyers of 10 other accused, including BNP lawmaker Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad and Mohammad Hanif, owner of Hanif Paribahan Ltd, also cross-examined the witness.

Later, Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 fixed June 17 for the next hearing of the grenade attack cases.

Twenty-four Awami League leaders and workers, including Ivy Rahman, were killed and 300 others were injured in the grenade attack on an AL rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

The attack was aimed at assassinating AL President Sheikh Hasina, the then leader of the opposition. Hasina narrowly escaped death.

Two cases, one under the explosive substances act and the other for mur-

der, were filed following the incident. Earlier, counsels of 29 other accused, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, had completed cross-examining the witness.

Of the 52 accused in the cases, Babar, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and 24 others, who are now in custody, were produced before the court yesterday.

Six other accused, including former inspector general of police Ashraf Huda, were also present at the court.

Another accused, former Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor Ariful Islam Arif, now out on bail, could not appear before it due to his illness.

Tarique and 18 others have been shown absconding in the cases.



Rickshaw-pullers take a break amid unbearable midday heat, parking their vehicles on the road adjoining the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Indo-Bangla enclave people at Mamata's door

UNB, Cooch Behar

A section of the residents of Indo-Bangladesh enclaves in Cooch Behar urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to intervene to solve their longstanding problems like lack of pure drinking water, healthcare facilities, education and road communications.

Addressing the chief minister, they handed over a memorandum to Trinamul Congress MLA and party's Cooch Behar district president Rabindra Nath Ghosh, reports The Statesman.

In the memorandum, the enclave residents stated that their problems remained unsolved even after signing of a few agreements, aimed at easing problems of the enclave residents, between the two neighbouring countries, like the Nehru-Noon agreement (1958) and Indira-Mujib agreement (1974).

The enclave residents said when the Tinbigha corridor was handed over to Bangladesh on 26 June, 1992, ignoring all protests by the people, the then chief minis-

ter Jyoti Basu had assured of ironing out all problems within two years. But nothing happened so far during the Left Front regime, they said.

In the changed political scenario, the enclave residents now want the new chief minister to intervene so that they can avail minimum humane facilities like drinking water, healthcare, education and road connectivity. Though they live in Indian enclaves none of them has any identity proof as Indian.

Ghosh said a delegation of enclave residents met Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on July 22, 2009.

After that Mamata took up the matter with Union Home Minister P Chidambaram. Since then the matter started rolling towards betterment.

Ghosh hoped that the chief minister might consider the demands raised by the enclave residents in the memorandum. "I hope the chief minister will consider the problems of the residents of the enclaves," he said.

Housewife strangled

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A housewife was allegedly strangled in Dighalia upazila under Khulna Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Azmira Begum, 19, wife of Al Mamun of Bagerhat district.

Officer-in-Charge of Dighalia Police Station Ali Newaz said Azmira was married to Mamun for 22 days.

Mamun usually tortured Azmira as he did not choose his wife, he said adding that the victim might have been tortured before her death.

He said they detained Ishaq Ali and Gulnazar Begum, in-laws of the victim, in this connection.

The body was sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital for a post mortem.

JU issues directives for campus peace

BSS, Dhaka

Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday issued directives to ensure congenial atmosphere and security on the campus following some recent unpleasant incidents.

The directives include only students will have to stay in dormitories, those students who admitted on children quota will not stay in the halls in accordance of the admission conditions and a student of a hall will not stay in another one, said a JU press release.

In another directive, the JU authorities said the students will have to leave halls within seven days after completion of their masters' examinations and the students, who have already completed masters' degree will no more stay in the dormitories.

ASP charged for torturing wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charge against an assistant superintendent of police (Barisal Range) in a case filed against him for torturing his wife for dowry sometime between August and December 2011.

Earlier in the day, the court cancelled his bail and issued an arrest warrant against him as he failed to appear before it.

The court also framed charge against three others accused in the same case and issued arrest warrants against them.

The accused are ASP Abul Kalam Azad, his brother Mohammad Monju, cousin Nasir Uddin Tuku and their accomplice Mohammad Sabbir.

Judge Mohammad Sadiquul Islam Talukder of the First Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression fixed July 10 for starting trial of the case.

The court also directed officer-in-charge of Bhandaria Police Station in Pirozpur district to submit reports on the execution of arrest warrants against the accused by July 10.

Earlier on January 17 this year, Anwar-e-Taslima, filed the case against her husband and the three others for torturing her on different dates for dowry.

2 boys die from snake bites in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Two boys died of snake bites in two separate incidents in Narail sadar upazila early yesterday and Saturday night.

In an incident, Arman Sikder, 10, son of Abbas Sikder of Mirapara village under Vadrovila union, died after a snake bite him when he was climbing a tree next to his house on Sunday morning.

Locals rushed Arman to Narail Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him death.

In another incident, Saheb Ali, 12, son of Abdur Rahman of Gondobkhali village under Chandibpur union, died after a snake bite him while he was sleeping on Saturday night.

The victim's family members said Saheb was rushed to Narail Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him death.



Traders occupy the footpath opposite Rifles Square in the capital to set up shops to sell mangoes, forcing pedestrians onto the main street. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN