IMPROVING CHAR PEOPLE'S LIVES

Govt, non-govt synergy a must

Speakers tell daylong 1st National Char Convention 2015

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government and non-government agencies must work together to produce a synergy in improving the lives of six million people living in Bangladesh's isolated, deprived and backward char (river shoal) regions, speakers told a daylong convention yesterday.

"Separate meetings should be arranged with members of parliament who have chars in their constituencies to find out the projects and their progress," Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury told the 1st National Char Convention 2015's inaugural session.

Themed "Let there be light", it was organised by over 80 national and international non-government organisations (NGO) in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

Fourteen study-based papers were presented at six technical sessions attended by over 1,000 people, 60 percent of whom came from char areas.

Chairperson Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled asked NGOs to come up with char-specific programmes in agriculture, health and education sectors so that this year's Tk 50 crore budgetary allocation does not remain unutilised like last year.

He assured helping link NGOs and related ministries to utilise the allocation. Khondokar also demanded reserving 10

percent of foreign jobs for char people, saying they should be provided job-specific training, not sent to general technical schools.

Presenting a paper "Are land rights utterly an illusion for landless Char dwellers?" at a session "Access to and Control over Resources", Hemayet Uddin, project manager, Land Rights Programme of SpeedTrust, showed how land grabbers deprived char people, often in connivance with local administrations.

A survey conducted by SpeedTrust in 2009 in 10 chars of Baufal and Dashmina upazilas of Patuakhali and reviewed in 2014 showed that the local administration has little idea about the location and size of government (khas) land.

The process of identifying genuine landless people and providing them land is difficult and long. Only 39 percent of the char dwellers have papers for their lands, the report showed. Parliament member AKM Zahangir

Hossain called for a char development authority to prepare and implement a com-The convention's national committee authority to prepare and implement a comprehensive development plan for each individual char. Khushi Kabir, coordinator, Nijera Kori,

questioned why farming land was being allocated to non-productive sectors like housing.

Chairing the session, Shaheen Anam, executive director, Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "There are laws but those are not being implemented."



Children take part in a drawing competition at the capital's Russian Centre of Science and Culture on National Cancer Survivors Day yesterday, hosted by Ashic Foundation for Childhood Cancer. PHOTO: STAR

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Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury addresses the inaugural session of the daylong 1st National Char Convention 2015, themed "Let there be light" and organised by over 80 national and international non-government organisations, in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Enforce national code with engineers' aid

US-based Bangladeshi civil engineer urges govt at Brac University seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately enforce the national building code for safe construction with the help of certified professional engineers, said a US-based Bangladeshi civil engineer at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

"On-site supervision by structural and foundation engineers...is extremely crucial to ensure a safe building," Dr Sukomol

Modak told the seminar, "Enforcing building code in Bangladesh", Brac University organised on its premises.

Presently, such rigorous supervision is often absent and buildings are designed by civil engineers, who may not be structural engineers, and even by mechanical engineers, he said.

Compliance with the code implies ensuring a healthy environment by an architect, SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Mobiles can keep farmers updated about market

Prothom Alo roundtable told STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Farmers should be kept updated about agriculture and agricultural marketing news through information communicated over mobile phones, said speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

The discussion on the role of information technology in agricultural expansion was organised by Prothom Alo with assistance of Katalyst at the Bangla daily's office in the capital.

Mokbul Hossain, project director and chief scientific officer of Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI), said, "Agriculture produce of the country can increase by 30 percent if farmers know what fertiliser to use on what soil."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1, SEE PHOTO ONLINE

Road crashes kill 5

CITY DESK

Five people were killed and 16 others were injured in road accidents in five districts yesterday and Friday.

In Chapainawabganj Sadar, Nur-e-Alam Siddique, 30, of Rajshahi was killed and his two co-riders were injured when a truck hit his motorcycle as the driver lost control over the steering on Amnura-Godagari road in Kendul village yesterday.

In Chittagong, four passengers were injured when a bus turned turtle on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway in Noya Khaler Mukh area of Satkania upazila yesterday. In Dinajpur, Sagar Hossain Mondal, 23, of Palpara vil-

lage was killed when his motorcycle hit a railing of a bridge near Boaldar village in Hakimpur upazila on Friday. In Rangpur, five people were injured when a threewheeler fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control

over the steering on Badarganj-Dinajpur road at Tochha intersection in Badarganj upazila on Friday. In the same upazila, Abdur Rashid, 70, of Makarerpara

village was killed when a tractor hit his bicycle on Dalua-Mondalerhat road in Mondalerhat area yesterday. In Bagerhat, two people were killed and five others

injured when a bus hit a rickshaw-van and a motorcycle before ploughing through a roadside stall in Fakirhat Chourasta area beside Bagerhat-Mawa highway yesterday.

The deceased were Monalisa Akter Munna, 16, of Par Dumuria village and Obadiul Khalifa, 26, of Kaligati village.

Rajshahi hopes for Modi's

already interested in investing in the project. The World Bank also wants to invest but it will not do so if India objects, it added.

The proposed 2.1km long Ganges Barrage would retain monsoon water and feed many rivers in southern Bangladesh during winter and help control salinity.

Addressing the rally, Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad leaders also urged Bangladesh's government to advance the North Rajshahi Irrigation project to save three districts --Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, and Naogaon -- from desertification.

President of the Parishad Liakat Ali chaired the rally, while its General Secretary Jamaat Khan, politicians Asaduzzaman, Debashish Pramanik, journalists Mustafijur Rahman Khan Alam, Hasan Millat, and businessman Rejaur Rahman spoke.

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Dhaka, the 04th June, 2015

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NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK LIMITED

NOTICE OF THE 30TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Notice is hereby given to all Members (i.e. Shareholders) of National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited that the 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of the Company will be held on June 24, 2015 (Wednesday) at 10.30 a.m. in the 'Officers Club' Dhaka (Ground Floor), 26, Baily Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000 to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- 1. To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended on 31st December, 2014 together with the Directors' Report and Auditors' Report thereon.
- 2. To declare dividend for the year ended as on 31st December 2014.
- 3. To elect/re-elect Directors as per Articles of Association of the Company.
- 4. To appoint External Auditors for the year 2015 and to fix their remuneration.
- 5. To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By order of the Board of Directors

Company Secretary

Md. Tarikul Alam

Notes:

- A. The Board of Directors has recommended 10% (ten percent) Stock Dividend (i.e. Bonus Share) for the year ended 31st December 2014, subject to approval in the Bank's 30th Annual General Meeting.
- B. The 'Record Date' for the AGM was May 18, 2015.
- C. The Shareholders whose names appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the 'Record Date' will be eligible to attend the AGM and will be entitled to the dividend.
- D. The Proxy Form must be affixed with requisite revenue stamp and submitted to the Share Department of the Company at its Registered Office at NCC Bank Bhaban (3rd Floor), 13/1 & 13/2, Toyenbee Circular Road, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the Annual General Meeting.
- E. Change of address (if any) should be notified by the Members (i.e. Shareholders) to their related Depository Participant(s).
- F. Election of Directors will be dealt with in accordance with Articles of Association of the Company and relevant Rules/Circulars/Notifications of Regulatory Bodies in force. The detailed schedule for election of Directors from Group-C i.e. General Public Shareholders will be available in the Bank's Notice Board at its Registered Office at NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1 & 13/2, Toyenbee Circular Road, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- G. The Annual Report 2014 and Proxy Form will be available at the Bank's Share Department at Head Office and in the Bank's website at www.nccbank.com.bd shortly.
- H. No gift or benefit in cash or kind shall be paid/offered to the Shareholders in the 30th AGM as per directives of BSEC, lastly being issued vide ref. No.SEC/CMRRCD/ 2009-193/154 dated 24 October, 2013.