



Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud speaks at the inaugural session of a two-day-long convention titled 'Leaving No One Behind' at the Brac learning centre auditorium in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar. PHOTO: STAR

Sustained dev not possible leaving behind the poor

Wahiduddin Mahmud tells Sreemangal convention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sustainable development cannot be achieved if excluded and marginal communities are left behind, eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said at a convention in Sreemangal upazila of the district yesterday.

It is very important to make need basis plan for these communities along with steps to save forests, rivers and other water bodies, he said while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day-long convention titled 'Leaving No One Behind' at the Brac learning centre auditorium in Sreemangal.

Society for Environment and Human Development, Power and Participation Research Centre, Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh and Gram Bikash Kendra organised the programme with the support from the European Union and ICCO Cooperation.

"Bangladesh has made commendable achievements in addressing the challenges of poverty. However, poverty

is a multi-dimensional reality. One feature of this reality is reflected in the present condition of the excluded and marginal communities who are yet to reach desired levels in reducing poverty.

"There is a lot of progress in different sectors including reducing the rate of infant mortality rate, improving the child education rate and meeting various social needs.

"But three to four percent of the population, who are marginalised and isolated from the mainstream, are virtually deprived of this development. Keeping them behind, it is not possible to overcome extreme poverty by 2030.

Rambhajan Kairi, general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Workers Union, said poorly paid tea garden workers are deprived of nutrition and they have a poor literacy rate.

The garden authorities should take the responsibility to ensure housing, safe water, sanitation, medical and educational facilities for the tea garden

labourers and their families, he added.

"It is very important to improve the life of tea workers who get a meagre wage of Tk 102," said Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

Philip Gain, director of Society for Environment and Human Development, presented the keynote titled "Social, economic and political protection of the marginal and excluded communities" at the programme presided over by Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre.

Md Tofail Islam, deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar, writer Dr Harishankar Jaldas, Shulekha Mrong, president of Achik Michik Society, Md Abdul Awal, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Tea Association, Dr Mohammad Abdul Wazed, former director general of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Moazzem Hossain, chief executive of Gram Bikash Kendra, spoke on the occasion.

Newborn stolen from hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A newborn baby girl was stolen from Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex in the district yesterday.

The baby was born about 9:00pm on Wednesday. Victim's father, Md Rashed Ali of Bohorpur village at Muladuli union in Ishwardi upazila, said his wife Rosina Begum felt labour pain on Wednesday evening and he took her to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex.

The woman gave birth to a baby girl on Wednesday night, said Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Safikul Islam of the health complex.

"A woman at the hospital asked my wife to give her the baby for taking care when the baby started crying in the morning," said the victim's father Rashed.

"The woman took the baby and left the hospital about 9:00am yesterday, when my wife was lying sick in bed. We could not find the woman after that," Rashed said.

Dr Safikul said the woman who stole the baby was an outsider.

"There is no CCTV camera in the female ward. Although the suspected woman was seen going out in the footage of the exit gate CCTV, it was not clear if the woman was carrying the baby," Dr Shafik said.

The hospital authorities informed Ishwardi Police Station about the matter, he added.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Bahauddin Faruqi said police visited the spot.

"We are trying to find the baby. Police are investigating the incident," the OC added.

A woman at Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex requested mother of the newborn to give her the baby for taking care.

BGB raids 2 bordering villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in separate drives seized firearms and ammunition from two bordering villages in Shibganj upazila yesterday and on Wednesday.

A team of BGB, acting on a tip-off, raided Raghbat Bati area, some 500 yards from the zero line, in the upazila around 4:30am and challenged a man seeing suspicious activities, Commanding Officer (CO) of BGB 53 Battalion Lt Col Sajjad Sarwar.

Meanwhile, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the man hurriedly entered Indian territory, leaving his travel bag behind, the CO said, adding that after searching the bag the BGB men recovered two pistols, three magazines and thirteen bullets.

Meanwhile, BGB conducted a drive in Hudmapara area around 9:15pm on Wednesday and seized a pistol, a magazine and four bullets hidden under a heap of straw, BGB 59 Battalion Commander Lt Col SM Salahuddin said, adding that none was held in this connection.

Jhenidah fire station lying idle for 11 months since inauguration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Maheshpur Fire Service Station in the district is lying inoperative since its inauguration in December last year as the authorities are yet to recruit manpower for running the station meant for providing service in the upazila with two lakh people.

The desolate station turns into a hub of drug addicts at night, said locals.

Construction of the station was completed in October last year at a cost of Tk 95 lakh.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal inaugurated it in December when a fire truck, a rescue pick-up, and two water pumps arrived, Rafiqul Islam, sub-assistant director at Jhenidah Fire Service and Civil Defence, said.

"The valuable equipment and vehicles are lying unused and those cannot be maintained properly due to lack of manpower. I have requested the high-ups to appoint manpower to run the station," Rafiqul said, adding that the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for the supervision of the station.

The station is on 33 decimals of land at Jalilpur village, about three kilometres from Maheshpur upazila headquarters, but locals



The impressive building of Maheshpur Fire Service Station in Jhenidah remains a mockery for about two lakh people of the upazila as it could not be made functional due to lack of manpower, even 11 months after inauguration. PHOTO: STAR

have to call Kotchandpur upazila fire service for help when there is a fire incident.

"After the station was launched in December last year, my shop at Maheshpur upazila headquarters caught fire. There was a lot of damage by the time the fire vehicles arrived from Kotchandpur to put out the flames," said Anwar Hossain, a local trader.

Contacted, contractor Monjur Parvez said although he completed the construction in time, the authorities are yet to take over the station and give him dues.

According to the statistics of Jhenidah Fire Service and Civil Defence, in Maheshpur, 21 fire incidents and 22 road accidents took place in 2016; 25 fires and 11 road accidents in 2017; and 14 fires and 11 road accidents took place till the first week of November this year.

Kotchandpur upazila fire service had to deal with the incidents.



Ruling Awami League lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana was produced in a court in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case in Tangail yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

FARUK MURDER CASE Next hearing January 31

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday set January 31 for the next hearing of the witnesses in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case.

Maksuda Khanom, judge of First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Tangail, passed the order.

Seven of the accused of the case, including the main accused Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency, were on the dock at the time, said

Monirul Islam, additional public prosecutor of the court.

"Earlier, three more prosecution witnesses of the case -- Khalek, Suruzzaman and Mirza Rana -- gave their statements to the court. The lawyers of Rana conducted their cross examinations," he said.

With them, eleven people out of total 23 prosecution witnesses of the case gave their statements to the court so far, he added.

The bullet-hit body of district AL leader Faruk was found near his College Para house in Tangail town on January 18, 2013.

After three days, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Tangail Police Station accusing unidentified criminals.

Police initially investigated the case, which was later shifted to Tangail Detective Branch of police.

A charge-sheet in the case was submitted in February 3 last year.

Four of the 14 accused, including Rana, are in jail while three are on bail. Seven others, including three younger brothers of Rana, are still on the run.

In September last year, charges were framed against the accused.

12 female Jamaat activists held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police in a drive detained 12 female activists of Jamaat-e-Islami from Umarpur village in Shibganj upazila of the district on Monday.

They all hail from the same village, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shibganj Police Station Shikdar Moshir Rahman said.

A police team, acting on a tip-off, raided a house at the village in the evening and arrested the twelve women while they were holding a secret meeting there, he added.

Forest guard still missing in Baleshwar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Forest guard Sohel Rana Talukdar who fell from a trawler in the Baleshwar river in the Sundarbans on Tuesday night, remained missing as of yesterday, despite rescue efforts by fire service, forest department and coastguard.

Sohel, 37, working at Bogi station under Sharankhola Range of the Sundarban East Division in Bagerhat, fell from the trawler in the river during a patrol around 11:30pm on Tuesday.

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