

‘Demand grants, not loans’ Speakers urge climate-vulnerable countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate-vulnerable countries including Bangladesh must focus on justice-based grants and reject the loan-based climate financing from developed countries, said speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

They said the vulnerable countries are being turned into a loan marketplace over the climate issue.

The event titled “Climate Diplomacy towards COP-27: Articulating the Country Position Together” was held at The Daily Centre.

The Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) along with other NGOs organised the roundtable aimed at solidifying civil society organisations ahead of upcoming COP-27.

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Marking National Road Safety Day, students from different institutions participated in a procession, which started from Dhaka University's Doel Chattar, yesterday to raise awareness about the importance of following the law to ensure safe roads.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

165 peacekeepers dead, 258 injured in 3 decades

Says defence adviser of Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In the last three decades, as many as 165 Bangladeshi peacekeepers lost their lives, while 258 have been injured in the line of duty in different UN missions to bring peace to various war-ravaged parts of the world.

Brig Gen Md Sadequzaman, defence adviser of Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, said this while briefing a 26-member delegation of US Army War College on Friday. It has been visiting Bangladesh mission every year in recent times to learn about the country's experiences in the field of peace operation.

This partnership comes as recognition of Bangladesh's remarkable contribution to UN peace operations and the reputation and professionalism of peacekeepers. A senior



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officer of Bangladesh Army undergoing training in the War College was a part of this delegation.

Sadequzaman said Bangladesh was always at the forefront of UN peacekeeping operations. The participation of all branches of military forces including the Army, Navy, Air Force, and police in peacekeeping operation is rare in the world.

So far, 1,81,661 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have participated in 56 UN missions. Currently, there are 7,144 Bangladeshi peacekeepers deployed in different missions.

He also mentioned that there are currently 542 women peacekeepers deployed in missions. At present, Bangladesh Police has a female police unit in the mission. Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the

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‘He was always vocal against injustice’

Speakers tell memorial event on Syed Abul Maksud

DU CORRESPONDENT

Syed Abul Maksud used to speak on social crisis and was always vocal against any injustice in the society, said speakers at a memorial programme yesterday.

“People nowadays do not criticise the powerful. But Syed Abul Maksud always talked about various crises of the society and protested against any wrongdoing,” said University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Professor Salimullah Khan.

Syed Abul Maksud memorial society organised the programme at the Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium in Dhaka University, marking the 76th birth anniversary of the noted columnist.

“I had the opportunity to observe Syed Maksud closely. He spent half of his life in writing and rest of the time he engaged himself protesting against injustice. He is an inspiration for young activists,” said journalist Kajal Rashid Shahin.

At the programme, his son Syed Nasif Maksud gave the introductory speech.

“Abul Maksud's works are an inspiration for all. His writings will flare courage,” he said.

Binayak Sen, director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presided over the programme, where columnist Altaf Parvez also spoke.



MUGGING ON THE RISE

Law enforcers conducting special drives against snatchers

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Law enforcers have started special drives against snatchers amid a rise in mugging incidents in the capital recently.

The muggers take advantage of load-shedding and dimly-lit areas at night to snatch away valuables, spreading panic among people.

“We have started a week-long special drive against muggers,” said HM Azmiul Haque, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) Tejgaon Division, while talking to reporters on Friday.

According to DMP headquarters, around 500 muggers are active in various places under 50 police stations.

The number of people involved in mugging and similar crimes is high in areas under Tejgaon Division, followed by Ramna, Gulshan, Mirpur, Uttara, Motijheel, Wari and Lalbagh, according to a DMP list.

Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, said these muggers are generally people who abuse drugs. When they run out of money, they commit such crimes.

“We have instructed our 50 police stations and DB teams to take stern action against these muggers,” the DC said.

A recent mugging incident in Asad Gate area drew public attention, after a video of it went viral on social media.

A bus got stuck in a traffic jam under a footbridge on Tuesday evening. Suddenly, a mugger with a knife in his hand tried to snatch the mobile of a passenger through the window bus' window.

Sensing what was happening, the passenger started shouting, “Snatcher, snatcher!”

But after a few moments, three to four muggers with knives were seen rushing towards the bus, creating panic among passengers.

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Seeing a police van, the muggers left the place. But when the bus started moving, some of the muggers tried to get in the vehicle.

A passenger filmed the incident and shared it on Facebook. The video showed that passengers were shouting and asking bus staffers to close the vehicle's door.

Ultimately, the jam cleared and the bus sped away.

DC Azmiul said they were still

investigating the incident. “We are trying to identify the criminals and arrest them.”

Meanwhile on October 16, a journalist of bdnews24.com became the victim of mugging at the same place, as criminals snatched her mobile.

On October 10, a reporter of The Daily Star got mugged in Dhaka University area. The muggers snatched his mobile as well.

Dhaka College student Swadhin Sarker and his cousin fell victim to a group of muggers on the night of October 15, near Sunrise Plaza in Lalmatia. The criminals snatched away Tk 45,000 from them.

Scrutinising the CCTV footage, a team of Mohammadpur police arrested two persons – Meer Hossain (40) and Jashimuddin Jorji (35) – in connection with the incident.

Just three weeks ago, muggers snatched the mobile of Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader when he was talking on the phone in his car in Airport area.

On Friday, Rab arrested five members of a mobile-mugging racket who were active in places stretching from Abdullahpur Bus Stand to Tongi Station Road in the capital. They were arrested from Uttara and Gazipur areas. A motorcycle, 59 mobiles and Tk 30,000 in cash were seized from them.

Rab claimed that a mobile-shop employee in the area used to collect

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5 Biman staffers held over question leak

Detectives to interrogate senior officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A syndicate of Biman Bangladesh Airlines involved in Friday's question-paper leak took Tk 2-7 lakh from the examinees in exchange for the question paper.

The members of this syndicate were also involved in leaking the question papers of different recruitment tests of the national flag carrier earlier.

Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police came to know this information by interrogating five employees of Biman, who were arrested over Friday's leak.

The diaries seized from the five have details of how much money was collected from whom in exchange for supplying the question papers.

Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid, chief of DMP's DB, revealed this information at a press conference at the DMP media centre yesterday, after arresting the five on Friday.

The written examination for 10 posts of the airline was postponed on Friday due to the leak.

Harun said, after the publication of the recruitment notice for various posts, the accused hatched a plot to leak the questions. “As per the plan, they leaked the question papers on the day before the recruitment examination.”

The arrestees sold exact copies of the question paper to different people through WhatsApp. They took up to Tk 7 lakh from each candidate.

“With the help of the National Security Intelligence, we arrested the five people,” Harun noted. “By interrogating them, we came to know that these accused were working with senior officials of different ranks of Biman. We have already identified a few more officials,” he claimed.

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Allocate more funds for research

Say speakers; 2-day research fair kicks off at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday stressed on increasing allocation in the research sector to increase the number of quality publications at university level.

At the inauguration programme of a two-day “Research and Publication Fair” organised by Dhaka University at the university central field, the first of its kind in the institution's history, they also highlighted the importance of a special research fund under the alumni of the campus.

They also called for increased industry-academia collaboration, designing job and community based curriculum and enrollment of more foreign students.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said by utilising the research done by Bangladesh Agricultural University, the country is now self-sufficient in the food sector.

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NURUL MAJID
MAHMUD HUMAYUN
Industries Minister

“This is the impact of quality research,” he said. He also stressed the importance of sector-wise research.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, speaking as special guest, said the research wing of the universities should get the maximum allocations and attention.

He however added that such allocations shouldn't only come from the government.

He said DU has many alumni who have become successful in their respective fields. They should form a research fund for the university, he said.

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Time and time again it is seen that the safety of construction workers is ignored at different sites in the capital. Since the construction agencies responsible do not provide appropriate safety gear, these men have to work by risking their lives. This photo was taken in West Tejgurbazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

‘Voices yet to be listened to’

Say speakers at discussion on book on women's role in 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The myriad of contributions of women during the Liberation War demands extensive research, as their voices are yet to be listened to, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said contributions of women as well as commoners – especially those in rural Bangladesh – are so far largely absent in the Liberation War-related documents.

Gyantapash Abdur Razzaq Foundation organised the event “Grantha Alapan 2” at the capital's Bengal Shilpalaya. It featured the discussion on the book “Narider Ekattor”, which is about women's role in the war.

Edited by researcher-columnist Alfan Chowdhury, the book, a compilation of different writings, was first published by University Press Limited in March this year.

“Grantha Alapan” is a new venture of Gyantapash Abdur Razzaq Foundation, each instalment of which brings the author of a designated book before the audience through discussion and a question-answer session.

Through the event, the organisers aim to encourage critical thinking and create space for freedom of speech.

The first instalment of “Grantha Alapan” featured discussion on Prof Mohammed Azam's book “Sangskritik Rajniti O Bangladesh” at the same venue last month.

Chairing yesterday's event, eminent historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon said many books depicting Liberation War narratives of the marginalised have been written, however, there might be a lack of diversity in such writings.

He said many women took part in the country's

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