

DEV PROJECT EXECUTION

Enact policy to protect locals' rights: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society leaders yesterday underscored the need to formulate a national policy to protect the rights of those affected during the execution of development projects, which often overlooks the concern of communities.

They made the call at a dialogue titled "Community Right in Development Project: Promises and Reality" organised by Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) in cooperation with Diakonia and Reality of Aid.

Md Shamsuddoha, chief executive of CPRD, said Bangladesh despite its limited resources has been executing small to large development projects across the country. But how much those will benefit people largely depends on project planning, implementation and operation.

"If the participation of the community, project beneficiary and other stakeholders is not ensured, the project fails to deliver its desired result. Unfortunately, Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Expansion Project and Sustainable Water Supply Project were seen devoid of local's participation," he said.

There should be a national policy to protect local communities' rights. If their rights are ensured, the influx towards cities will see a drop.

Mihir Biswas, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said given the sensitivity of climate change impact in Bangladesh, development has to be chalked out carefully. Al Imran, research and advocacy officer of CPRD, presented his keynote presentation on two such projects.

Civil society leaders Aminur Rosul, Nikhil Chandra Bhodro and Md Shahjahan spoke, among others.



Shamsin Ahmed, founder and CEO of Identity Inclusion, became the first recipient of the Stellar Women awards in the development category yesterday. FR Khan, managing director of bti, and Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor of The Daily Star, handed over a token of appreciation to Shamsin at an event at bti Landmark Tower in Gulshan. Stellar Women is a year-long joint initiative by bti and The Daily Star to recognise outstanding women from different walks of life.

PHOTO: STAR

'BNP may fall apart if it boycotts polls'

Says Abdur Razzaque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

BNP may fall apart if it boycotts the next general election, said Agriculture Minister and Awami League Presidium Member Abdur Razzaque today.

"BNP will be in an existential crisis if it does not come to the polls. Many of the party men may join Awami League and may go to other parties as well," he said while addressing a peace rally in Tangail.

The rally was organised by Thelimpur Union Awami League at Shilimpur's MA Karim High School ground in Tangail's Delduar upazila as part of its country-wide peace rally.

"The AL is not organising any counter-programme. This peace rally is organised so that BNP cannot create a state of violence like 2015 in the name of a political movement, and push the country towards disaster by destabilising it," said the minister.

Bangladesh moves forward because of police

Says home minister on DMP's 48th founding anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is moving forward because the police force is maintaining law and order, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday.

Bangabandhu wanted Bangladesh police to be a force of the people and they have achieved that title, the minister said while addressing the 48th founding anniversary of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) as chief guest.

Police is playing a key role in maintaining peace and order, said the home boss.

"Bangabandhu dreamed of creating DMP and it was his efforts that started DMP's journey. DMP completes its 48th year today and is working with 50 police stations and some of its internal units."

"When we were disoriented by the rise of militancy, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit was established within DMP, under the direction of the prime minister. CTTC was able to suppress the militancy with great success," the minister said.

DMP has been successfully able to provide security to Dhaka residents, which is now a city of over two crore people, the minister added.

Home Ministry's Senior

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The fault in our supply and demand

No respite for lower, middle-income class as prices of egg, chicken increase



Marginal farmers completely rely on these corporations for poultry feed. These corporations represent only 10 percent of the market. However, they are the ones who control the whole market by decreasing and increasing the supply of chicks and feeds.

SUMON HOWLADER
President, Bangladesh Poultry Association

MAHUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The struggle of people from low and middle-income backgrounds gets even harder with the increase in the prices of eggs and broiler chicken in just two weeks.

Prices of both items have increased by at least 25 percent in the last two weeks. The price of an egg was Tk 9.5 and a kilo of broiler chicken used to be sold at Tk 160 just two weeks ago. Yesterday, an egg was being sold at Tk 12 and the price of broiler chicken was Tk 200 per kilo.

Both experts and small farmers are blaming the big shots of the poultry industry and intermediaries for the abnormal price hike.

According to the Bangladesh Poultry Association (BPA), the price of a kilo of broiler chicken is Tk 148 at the production level. "At best, its price can be Tk 180 per kg," said BPA President Sumon Howlader.

"The cost of an egg at the

production level is Tk 11.11. Its retail price should not be over Tk 12. Its price saw a hike due to the rise in the poultry feed prices," he said.

"The demand for chicken has increased ahead of the month of Ramadan. Big companies have cashed in on the occasion and increased the price of a chicken up to Tk 57, whereas the rational price would be Tk 40," added Sumon, who represents 10,000 farmers across the country.

"Marginal farmers completely rely on these corporations for poultry feed. These corporations represent only 10 percent of the market. However, they are the ones who control the whole market by decreasing and increasing the supply of chicks and feeds."

"Consumers will ultimately have to pay a higher price during the month of Ramadan and Eid, if big corporations continue to sell at a higher rate to small farmers right now," said Sumon.

Contacted, Mahabub Hassan, executive vice president of Avon

Poultry and general secretary of World's Poultry Science Association Bangladesh Branch (WPSA-BB), said breeders reduced the hatching of eggs by 20 percent in winter. The production has however rebounded only recently.

"It is a supply and demand problem. The market will be stabilised by next month," he said.

"The lax monitoring system is responsible for abnormal prices," said Prof Anwarul Haque Beg of the Department of Poultry Science at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

"The price of a chicken should not be over Tk 40 but there is no one to monitor it. Dealers are often involved in feed price manipulation but go unregulated," he said.

Citing the example of neighbouring country India, where a separate government organisation looks after the industry, he said the government needs to form a body which will work independently to supervise the poultry industry.

Take in more Rohingyas

Momen presses Australia at ministerial conference

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has pressed Australia to take in more Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh while physically attending the eight ministerial conference of the "Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime" on Friday.

Foreign officials ranging across 45 countries attended the event in Adelaide, Australia.

In an interview to Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), the minister said many countries substantially increased the number of Rohingyas they had taken, and he would like to see Australia take more people in as well.

"If they can do it, why not Australia? Australia is relatively more resourceful, and it's high time Australia came forward," he said.

Momen also said he wanted Australia to make diplomatic efforts and press the military junta in Myanmar to allow Rohingyas to return home.

Human rights groups are demanding that officials and politicians kickstart a new regional response to the latest wave of Rohingya refugees as almost 350 Rohingyas died or went missing at sea in 2022 while fleeing civil conflict in Myanmar or refugee

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DHAKA, HANOI Celebrating 50yrs of diplomatic ties



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating the 50 years of diplomatic relationships between Bangladesh and Vietnam, Vietnamese ambassador to Bangladesh Pham Viet Chien and embassy officials yesterday laid floral wreaths at the Bangabandhu Memorial and visited the museum at Dhanmondi 32.

They paid respect to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who laid the cornerstone for the establishment and development of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Marking the event, Ambassador Chien in a statement said over the last 50 years, the excellent traditional friendship between Vietnam and Bangladesh have been consolidated and strengthened on the basis of historical similarities and shared values of independence, peace, cooperation and development.

Bilateral multi-faceted cooperation in various fields has been bolstered to be more intensive, substantive and effective. Bangladesh has been the second largest trading partner of Vietnam in South Asia.

"Remarkably, 2021 was the first time that the two-way trade turnover surpassed 1 billion USD, and approached 1.5 billion USD in 2022, recording an impressive 75-fold growth in the last 20 years and a 4-fold increase in the last 10 years," Pham Viet Chien said.

"I believe Bangladesh and Vietnam will move

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BUET STUDENT SONY He could not see justice for daughter before death

DU CORRESPONDENT

Father of Buet student Sabekun Nahar Sony -- who died in the crossfire between two factions of the Chhatra Dal two decades ago -- has passed away yesterday morning.

Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan breathed his last around 8:00am while undergoing treatment at Ibn Sina Hospital in the capital. He was suffering from cancer, Habibur's son Maksudur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Sony's cousin Adil Ahmed Tutul said Habibur was diagnosed with cancer two months ago. Since then, he has been receiving treatment regularly.

His namaz e-janaza was held at Bijeshwar village in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila after Esha prayers. His body will then be buried there, Adil said.

"He had long hoped to see Sony's murder brought to justice. But in the end, he was unable to do so," Adil added.

Sony, a second-year student of chemical engineering department at Buet, was killed after being caught in the crossfire, during a factional clash between two feuding groups of BNP-backed student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in June 2002 on Buet campus.

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Crowds a constant at the book fair

DIPAN NANDY

"There's no better place to share a moment reading and pass on this habit, than a book fair," said Farhana Taher, who was sitting next to a stage at the Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

On the 11th day of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, there was also a huge crowd in the Shishu Chattar in the afternoon.

Talking about this year's fair, writer Imdadul Haque Milon said, "It's good to see such huge gatherings from the very start of the fair."

In the afternoon, a discussion programme titled "Memories: Ashraf Siddiqui" and "Memories: Sayeed Ahmed" was held on the main stage of the book fair. Yasmin Ara Sathi and Mahfuza Hilali presented the paper.

According to Bangla Academy, 191 new books were published at the fair yesterday.

Among the new books coming to the fair are -- "Padma Setu: Swapnamangal Khotha", collection of literary works on the Padma Bridge, (Bangla Academy); Nitina by Mostaque Ahamed (Anindya Prokash); Dhakeswari Mandir by Amaresh Roy (Matra Prokash); Serbia: Shuvro Shohorer Deshe by Imdad Haque and Sorbongsoha by Samyathath Bhowmik (Anyaprokash); Nishiddho Nagorik by Jamshed Nazim, (Ittadi Grantho Prokash); Bishader Preme Pora Baron By Sanjukta Saha (Student Ways).



Accompanied by her parents, a child looks through the books at a stall with her sunglasses on. It seems, even the scorching heat cannot stop young book enthusiasts from thronging the book fair premises. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS