

Sweden Crown Princess joins Green Transition Dialogue

STAR REPORT Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, UNDP goodwill ambassador, attended a dialogue in Dhaka yesterday, said a press release.

Co-hosted by UNDP and the Embassy of Sweden, the event titled "Accelerating Bangladesh's Green Transition: Public-Private-Development Collaboration for a Sustainable Future" brought together key stakeholders...

Princess Victoria assumed the role of UNDP Goodwill Ambassador to advocate for the SDGs in October last year. Masrur Reaz, Founder of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper on the private sector's role in Bangladesh's green transition.

Later, a panel discussion moderated by Prof Imran Rahman, vice chancellor of ULAB, explored public-private development collaboration.

Panelists included Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment advisor to the prime minister; Johan Forssell, Swedish minister for international development cooperation and foreign trade; Ulrika Modder, UN assistant secretary-general at UNDP and Sonia Bashir Kabir, founder of SBK Tech Ventures.



Women can help

FROM PAGE 3 Abul Kalam Azad of Action Aid Bangladesh said, "If women are included in energy sector, their lives will be easier. But we have to sit with rural women to know their needs to work more effectively."

Shooha Tabil from Tara Climate Foundation also spoke, among others. The event concluded with the unveiling of a publication titled "Assessment of Gender Impacts in Renewable Energy Sources and Technologies in Bangladesh."



A rickshaw-puller holds a mask to cover his nose and mouth as he paddles past a gust of dust on the BIDD road in Khulna city yesterday afternoon. Dust pollution has become a recurring menace on roads, compromising the health of all.

Minimum Fitra fixed at Tk 115

UNB, Dhaka

This year the minimum Fitra has been fixed at Tk 115 per person while the maximum at Tk 2,970.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Fitra Fixing Committee held yesterday, chaired by the committee's head and Baitul Mukarram National Mosque's Khatib Hafez Maulana Muhammad Ruhul Amin.

The rate of Fitra is fixed on the basis of market prices of flour, dates, cheese, raisins and some other essentials.

Fitra is an obligatory charity distributed to the poor at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

End sexual violence on campuses

Demand 67 rights orgs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sexual harassment and inadequate security are threatening the higher education of female students, leading to discontinuations, said speakers at a protest at Jatiya Press Club Auditorium yesterday.

Samajik Pratirodh Committee, comprising 67 rights and non-government organisations, arranged the event, addressing recent harassment incidents in universities, including Jagannath University.

Shirin Akhter, founder of Karmojibi Nari, said, "The government, administration, and Ministry of Women and Child Affairs should play a strong role to prevent harassment."

Shahnaz Sumi, director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, stressed the need for an environment enabling victims to file complaints and receive counselling services.

Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, emphasised the importance of enforcing judicial processes and eradicating lawlessness from society.

Representatives from various organizations echoed these sentiments, including the Samajik Pratirodh Committee and the National Women's Alliance.

Ashfaqu, wife denied

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Police took Ashfaqu and Tania into custody within hours of the incident.

The next day, the victim's father, a tea garden worker, filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station against the couple under Section 304(a) of the Penal Code, which deals with death caused by negligence.

On the same day, Ashfaqu and Tania were first produced before a Dhaka court with a five-day remand petition, but the court asked the police to interrogate them at the jail gate within three working days.

On February 13, police produced the couple before the court with a 10 day remand petition, but the court granted four days' remand for interrogation in police custody.

On February 18, the court sent the couple to jail after police produced the couple before the court on completion of a four-day remand, seeking their confinement in jail custody.

Preeti's death came around six months after a seven-year-old house help at the same couple's residence suffered injuries as she tried to flee through an opening of the eighth-floor flat.

The victim's mother filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station against Ashfaqu and Tania under the Children Act 2013 over the incident in August last year, but police later filed a final report with the court as they did not find any evidence to bear out the charges in the case.

On February 19 this year, the court accepted the final report and relieved the couple of the charges in the case.

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Advertisement for a job opening at Rajshahi University. The text is in Bengali and includes details about the university, the position, and contact information.

CLIMATE CHANGE PKSF calls for carbon accounting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) recently hosted a consultation meeting titled "Carbon Accounting: A Collaborative Approach for Project Development and Climate Action in Bangladesh."

The event brought experts in carbon accounting, agriculture, and climate change to explore innovative market mechanisms for tackling climate challenges.

Nomita Halder, managing director of PKSf, emphasised the organisations unwavering commitment to supporting vulnerable communities facing climate hardship.

"As the 7th most climate-vulnerable nation globally, adaptation assistance is not a grant, but a right owed to our people for the adversities they face," she said.

Fazle Rabbi Sadique Ahmed, deputy managing director at PKSf, provided a comprehensive presentation on carbon market mechanisms, focusing on the progress of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and its potential for Bangladesh.

AKM Nuruzzaman, general manager at PKSf's Environment and Climate Change Unit, presented the unit's ongoing climate change initiatives.

Water sources

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idle as we don't have water for irrigation," he added.

Anup Kumar De, executive engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering in Bandarban, said, "Waterfalls and jhiris are drying up due to unplanned deforestation. Also, the underground water is getting depleted. That's why people in this region are facing severe water crisis."

"As there are large chunks of rock under the soil in hilly areas, we cannot set up tubewells everywhere. As such, the situation is worsening...," he also said.

"We have sent a proposal to higher authorities concerned about setting up embankments across hilly waterfalls to preserve water. We will act as per directives from the government high-ups later," he added.

Spare us the shame

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When journalists asked him about the rundown buses on Wednesday, he said he saw no government negligence in the matter.

"Should I paint the vehicles?" he asked in reply.

At yesterday's meeting, transport leaders tried to tell him rundown buses come from outside Dhaka. However, Quader said there are many workshops in the city where they paint such vehicles without fixing them.

"I have visited those and seen them painting such vehicles. But the paint comes off within 10 days, and the vehicles return to same condition," he said.

"Vehicles' conditions in the countryside are better than those in the city. It [poor condition of buses] mocks our development."

"I have told this many times to Shajahan bhai [who was seated beside him]. I have told this to leaders, but nothing happened. Will you save us from this embarrassment?"

"Rundown vehicles are being operated in the city in front of your eyes. This is a matter of embarrassment in a true sense. Don't you [transport leaders] feel embarrassed?" Quader said.

He requested transport leaders fix and paint those buses ahead of Eid.

3 Bangladeshi

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the three workers for fighting with another worker at the workers' hostel in Chow Kit area of Kuala Lumpur."

The trio opposed withdrawing the complaint filed with the Labour Department, but the other worker was in favour of it, said Sivaranjani.

Sivaranjani also said the employer as well as police had likely threatened the workers to drop the complaints, but the workers refused, so they might have planned the incident to arrest the workers.

"I will go to the police station on Friday morning to get the workers released."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh e-Tender Notice (NCT) for Procurement of Diet at Pabna Mental Hospital. Includes details on the tendering process, dates, and contact information.

Re-Tender for Hiring of Security Services. Detailed notice including tendering information, funding details, particular information, and eligibility criteria for bidders.

ADMISSION NOTICE for MAJOR OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (One Year Program) at Jahangirnagar University. Applications are invited for admission in the Summer Semester 2024 (26th Batch).

JOB VACANCY advertisement for Bangladesh Cricket Board. Position: Computer / Performance Analyst-BCB-(02 Nos). Details include qualifications, responsibilities, and application procedures.