

## Initiative for Right View (IRV)

World Environment Day 2015

Boat Rally

Report

Seven Billion Dreams One Planet Consume with Care



World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated every year on 5 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. Since then it is hosted every year with a different theme. It is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action.

The 2015 theme for World Environment Day is Sustainable consumption and production. The slogan for the theme is “Seven Billion Dreams One Planet Consume with Care”. One of the main global concerns today is the issues related to environment is not a single factor but lot of things which interact and interfere with human activities, most of the times, are not eco-friendly. Furthermore, if the sea rises due to global climate change many parts of coastal area of the country will be under water, displacing about 33 million people.

Bangladesh is one of the top vulnerable countries in the world due to geographic location, high population density, growth of population, and extreme pressure on natural resources for economic growth. The more people in the country, the more housing, the less agricultural land, the more electricity and the more utilization of natural resources will be required. By 2050, Bangladesh is likely to have 254 million people.

The government has also adopted plans to formulate a long term vision “The Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100” for 50-100 years to address the country’s climate change related issues of water safety, food production, salt intrusion, land shortage and environmental and ecological problems.

The Southwest Coastal Region of Bangladesh is ecologically vulnerable because of its hydro-geo-physical settings. Due to various natural causes and number of human interventions, this region is in the grip of various environmental disasters. According to experts, this region is one of the most vulnerable to Climate change and consequent Sea level rise. The region is also facing a severe water scarcity and water resource vulnerability due to some natural and anthropogenic obstacles today. Salinity has become a major problem for water availability and agricultural development along with improvement of vegetation.

As a result of unsustainable management of natural resources, over-exploitation of the resources of the Sundarban, absence of land reform, and due to man-made environmental degradation, Human Rights are flagrantly violated in this region.

IRV in collaboration of Bhairab Area Water Partnership and Southwest youth water forum has been involved in Environment conservation movements and advocacy, and has taken initiatives to coordinate such movements. Though the World Environment Day is focused mainly on Environmental issues, activists and organizations share opinions on environment, ecology, natural resources.

The theme of this year’s Environment Day is “Seven Billions Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care”. Keeping this central theme in mind, in association with Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP), Bhairab Area Water Partnership and Initiative for Right View (IRV) organized a Boat Rally in Bhairab River on 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10 am from Jailkhana Ghat, Khulna.

As chief guest Md. Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna inaugurated the boat rally. The session was chaired by Mr. Mokbul Hossain Mintu, President, Khulna Press Club. The rally was coordinated by Marina Juthi, Secretary, Bhairab Area Water Partnership and Associate Coordinator, IRV. Among the participants Ad. Kudrat E Khuda, Convener, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Andolan, Ad. Mominul Islam, Divisional Coordinator, Bangladesh Manobadhikar

Bastobayan Sangstha, Ad. Ashok Kumar Saha, Coordinator, Blast, Khulna, Mohendra Nath Sen, Staff Reporter, Daily Tattho, Hironmmy Mondal, Coordinator, Rupsha Sangstha, Dipak Kumar Day, Advocacy Officer, SAFE, Kani Mondal and Alok Sarkar member South-west Water Youth Forum, Khulna, Inam Ahamed, Deputy Director and Coordinator, Khulna Region, United Nations Youth and Student Association of Bangladesh, Kazi Zaved Khalid Pasha Joy, Coordinator, IRV were present.



Chief Guest Md. Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna thanked the organizer for organizing innovative Boat Rally. He emphasized and requested all to keep clean and pollution free of all rivers. He shared that river is our life. But rivers are polluting alarmingly because of our carelessness. Grabbing of river should be stopped. River should be conserved for future

generation. For river pollution production of local fishes are reducing. As WED 2015 aims to raise people's awareness about their own patterns of consumption with the aim of changing people's behavior and encouraging them to lead more sustainable lifestyles.

Mr Mokbul Hossain Mintu, President, Khulna Press Club said that Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care. This is the theme that has been selected for World Environment Day 2015, which is celebrated annually on 5 June. World Environment Day (WED) is a United Nations event that rallies people and organizations across the world to take part in rising



awareness for the environment and encourages positive action around select themes. It also empowers people to become active change-agents of sustainable development and advocates multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the environment.

People of all age groups actively involve during the celebration. Youths hugely take part in the celebration. On the World Environment Day, every one needs to decide and also working on it to save the environment about to save the earth.

The Rally participants raise the following demand

1. To conserve the environment
2. To conserve the river
3. To ensure just water distribution
4. To stop river grab
5. To stop river pollution



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