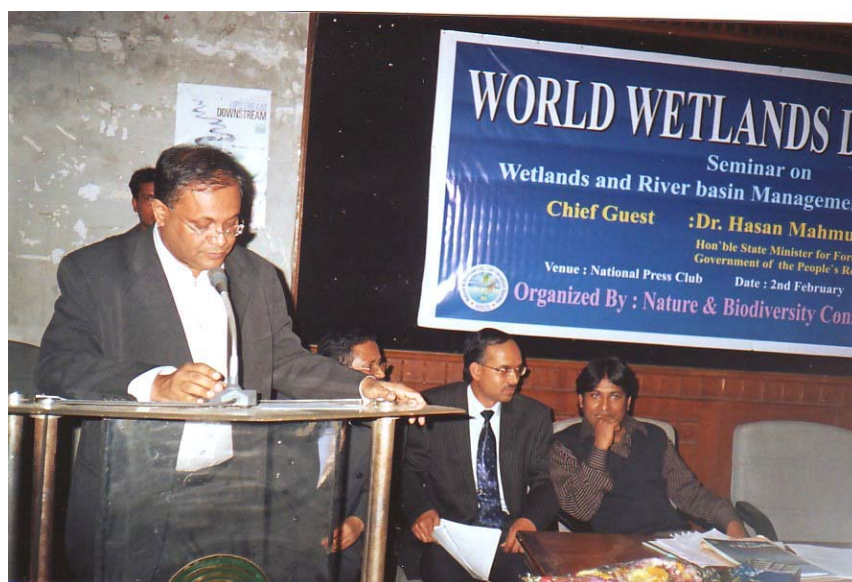




The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Society (NBCS) celebrated World Wetlands Day 2009 successfully with a Seminar at the National Press Club in Dhaka on 2 February.

NBCS advertised the WWD 2009 Seminar with stickers & posters. The Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Water Resources took part in the programme and different stakeholders participated in the event. The theme of WWD 2009 is “Wetlands and river basin management” and the slogan “Upstream Downstream: Wetlands connect us all”. Both are relevant and very important for Bangladesh. NBCS has celebrated WWD continuously since 2005 through various activities in Bangladesh to raise public awareness and strengthen the Mission of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.



NBCS organized a Seminar at the National Press Club on the occasion of WWD 2009. The seminar topic was “Wetlands and River Basin Management in Bangladesh”. Three papers were presented at the seminar. Muhammad Shariful Islam, President of NBCS chaired the seminar. It was addressed by **Dr Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for**

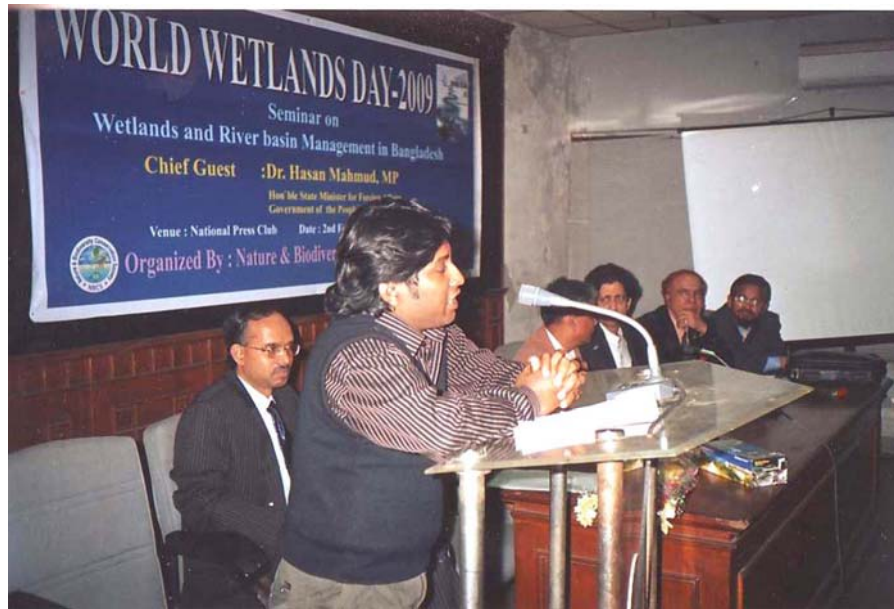
Foreign Affairs (pictured above), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as the Chief guest. Dr Abul Barkat, Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka was the Special guest. The function was also addressed, among others by Director General of the Bangladesh Haor & Wetlands Development Board, Dr Abu Taher Khandekar, former Director General Water Resources Planning Organization, M. Inamul Haque and Director Department of Environment, Dr Fazla Rabbi Sadak Ahmed. Professor Dr Aktarul Islam Chowdhury Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Shah Jalal University of Science & Technology presented the keynote paper.



Buriganga River Basin

Speaking as chief guest Dr Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, said despite being a riverine country Bangladesh is losing its rivers due to environmental degradation along with lack of awareness about conservation among the country people. Suggesting dredging of rivers around the city, he said the traffic congestion would be reduced significantly if these rivers were made navigable. Beside if the dredging is carried out regularly, the damage caused by floods every year would also be reduced significantly, he added. He said there is need for awareness and collective efforts to save the river Buriganga. The state minister said it is not possible for the government alone to solve the problem, and as all the organizations concerned should reach awareness of the issues.

Special guest Dr Abul Barkat said regular monitoring and complete inventory is essential for management and conservation of wetlands.



Muhammad Shariful Islam, President of NBCS

Muhammad Shariful Islam, President of NBCS said Bangladesh should invent various technologies for maximum utilization of wetlands. We can easily reduce our poverty through conservation and wise use of wetlands. He emphasized the need to form a National wetlands strategy and action plan, train skilled wetlands personnel, establish a wetlands institute and increase public awareness for ensuring wise use of wetlands in Bangladesh. He specially thanked Ms Valerie Higgins, Administrative officer Ramsar Convention Secretariat for continuing support in WWD activities in Bangladesh.



Stakeholders

Teachers, Students, Environmentalists, Wetland Specialists, Journalists and other stakeholders attended the seminar. National, Private TV media, Radios and Newspapers have covered the Programme.

Muhammad Shariful Islam
President
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দৈনিক DAINIK DESTINY

ডেমাটিনি

ঢাকা মঙ্গলবার
৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৯
২১ মাঘ ১৪১৫
৬ সফর ১৪৩০
তৃতীয় বর্ষ সংখ্যা ২০৮
রেজি. নং-ডিএ-৫০০১

পথ অনেক আমরা সত্যের পথে



গতকাল জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাবে জলাশয় ও নদীর ব্যবস্থাপনা শীর্ষক সেমিনারে প্রধান অতিথি পররাষ্ট্র ও প্রতিমন্ত্রী ড. হাসান

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2009

WORLD WETLANDS DAY-2009



Dr. Hasan Mahmud MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs speaking at a seminar on 'Wetlands and River basin management in Bangladesh' organised by Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Society (NBCS) at the National Press Club on Monday. —OBSERVER

