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Foreign Secy briefs diplomats

Local resources enough for cyclone victims

Bangladesh will not seek any external assistance for emergency relief for the cyclone-affected people as the country "is in a position to meet the immediate needs from her own resources," Foreign Secretary M R Osmany said yesterday, reports UNB.

He was briefing heads of the diplomatic missions on the extensive damages caused by the recent cyclone to life and property in the districts of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

The cyclone storm, with a wind velocity of 250 km per hour, which ravaged the southeastern region of the country on May 2, left a trail of destruction.

Osmany said external support might be required in reconstruction work and rehabilitation of forests, agriculture, power lines, telephone system and the cyclone centres which had been badly damaged by the calamity.

The Foreign Secretary also briefed them about the disaster preparedness programme of the government, saying: "It has been proved very successful in saving many lives."

Indian mission denies UNB report

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has denied a UNB report saying that the High Commission had received a protest note from the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry about the alleged airspace violation by Indian aircraft on May 9.

"Till the time of the issue of this press release, 1400 hours, May 12, it has not received any communication on alleged airspace violation from the Bangladesh Foreign Office," the High Commission said in a press yesterday.

It further said it is highly unlikely that villagers and local officials of Burimari, who are not trained spotters, would have been able to spot Indian Air Force planes on the night of May 9.

The High Commission said the report on airspace violation by Indian aircraft is a fabricated account "which has been deliberately circulated to create ill-feelings about India in this country."

It, however, admitted that it had received a protest note from the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry on April 30, this year regarding the alleged violation of Bangladesh airspace at Burimari by Indian Air Force planes on April 27.

The matter had been duly investigated by the Indian authorities and it has been clarified to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry that no Indian aircraft was in the area concerned on this date, the press release said.

'Lord Desai's comment surprising'

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday expressed his surprise at the comment of reputed economist British citizen Lord Meghnad Jagnish Chandra Desai that Bangladesh was committing excesses over the Parakka Barrage, reports BSS.

In a statement on the comment of Lord Desai that appeared in a section of the press, Talukder said it evokes surprise in the mind of all when the stature of a man of the stature of Lord Desai is influenced by sympathy toward ancestral home. It is our firm belief that had Lord Desai made his comment after his visit to the north western districts of Bangladesh. This would have reflected the reality of the situation, he added.

In fact the Parakka Barrage is the single biggest factor for causing the greatest harm to the people of this country and also to its climate, weather and ecological balance, he said.

Abdus Salam Talukder pointed out that the Parakka Barrage was now a life and death problem for the entire population of Bangladesh. If anybody tried to minimise its problem it would not be acceptable.



Dhaka University students staged a strike yesterday protesting the alleged rape of a girl student recently at the Zahirul Haq Hall of the university.

— Star photo

Strike at DU

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Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Syndicate at a meeting yesterday evening reviewed the report on the incident submitted by the four-member probe body.

The meeting presided over by the Vice Chancellor found that the newspaper reports on the incident were factually different from the probe body report.

For further enquiry into the incident, the Syndicate, formed another six-member probe body with Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury as Convener. The other members are Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Dr Aminul Islam, Dr Jinnatunnesa Tahmidia Begum, Dr Anwar Hosain and the Registrar of Dhaka University.

The Syndicate urged the probe body to submit its report as soon as possible.



John Smith dead

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sadors at large. Hasina said they are toiling hard and sending remittances to enrich the country.

About the politico-economic scenario in Bangladesh, the opposition leader said that ruling BNP had miserably failed to deliver goods to the people and steer clear the nation.

Paying glowing tributes to late Hayakawa, Hasina said he had played an instrumental role in cementing the relations between Bangladesh and Japan. She mentioned that it was through Hayakawa that Bangabandhu gave the proposal for assistance in constructing the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge.

She praised the Tokyo branch of the Awami League, Juba League and Chhaura League and asked them to work for bolstering the image of the country.

In her presidential speech, Mrs Hayakawa recalled her husband's role during the Bangladesh's Liberation War. She said Hayakawa mobilised Japanese public support in favour of Bangladesh. After the independence of Bangladesh he took personal initiative for Japanese assistance for the war ravaged country.

She said like her husband she also sincerely desires to see a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

The reception was conducted by President of Japan unit of the Awami League Mahfuz Haque.

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consumers to negotiate all agreements with the private investors and disseminate information promoting private investment in power sector in recent years.

Smith was pronounced dead Thursday morning at St Bartholomew's hospital after suffering a heart attack at his central London apartment, Dr. Mike Besser said.

Smith, a bespectacled, balding, soft-spoken man with a reassuring manner, was one of the party's lawmakers with experience of government, which had been in opposition since 1979. He served as trade secretary under Prime Minister James Callaghan in 1978-79.

Major said Thursday he was deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden death.

Former prime minister Margaret Thatcher said Smith's death was a dreadful loss to the country.

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A pragmatic private sector power policy will soon be formulated for the sustainable growth of the energy sector," he announced.

These fund will be channelled through the European NGOs, Concern and Oxfam.

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