

Metropolitan

Community awareness key step to mitigating natural disasters

Speakers at workshop say

By Staff Correspondent

Leading NGOs and private organisation representatives at a day-long consultative workshop on "Disasters and Livelihoods" yesterday emphasised on more awareness among the rural people to mitigate disasters like arsenic, flood and river erosion.

Without creating awareness and motivating the community, they observed, the efforts that have taken to reduce the problems will not be successful.

The workshop was jointly organised by Integrated Technology Development Group (ITDG) and Disaster Forum. Consultant of ITDG Sultan Alam and N Matin presented a keynote paper on the topic.

The discussants said increasing consciousness and involvement in the community is the key object to avoid the natural calamities.

Stressing the need for a constructive and effective role by the local government, they said that such issues can not be mitigated unless the local administrations are strengthened and democratised.

SM Al Husainy, former secretary was the moderator of the morning session while M Anwarul Haq, President of Dhaka Reporters' Unity was the moderator of the second session of the workshop.

Rezaur Rahman of Water Development Board, Abdul Motin of Disaster Forum, AFM Khalid Hossain and Sawat Chowdhury of WHO, Zahid Hossain of Save the Children, Dewan Arif Rashid and Abdul Latif Khan of CARE, Rangent Das of Dhaka Community Hospital, Badal Benjamin of Caritas, Mehjabin Mukit of ITDG, Bilkis Begum of BRAC, Syed Mosaddeque Hossain of Adab and Abdul Halim of Red Crescent Society among others spoke on the occasion.

Dr Rezaur Rahman speaking on floods and erosion said that the existing facilities and forecasting capacity of the country are very insufficient. "Damage level of crops and properties are very high due to lack of facilities and forecast system," he said.

SM Al-Husainy emphasised on more preventive measures than of post disaster one. "We have so many programmes to help disaster-affected people, but we have no such initiatives to prevent the disasters in the first place," he said.

Anwarul Haq in his closing speech emphasised on co-ordination and combination of all government and NGOs efforts to minimise the disaster. "We can't entirely free the country from

the disaster, but we can minimise the problem if we combine the initiatives and launch a concerted drive against it."

The participants during their discussion found out a set of recommendations which include preventative measures that will help reduce people's sufferings from natural disasters.

The recommendations include plantation of more trees, particularly in the coastal areas, strengthening community coping mechanism, mapping vulnerable areas, micro finance projects and income generating activities for those affected, combination of different disaster management strategies and organising training programmes.



Heba Kabir daughter of Ajmal Kabir and grand-daughter of Late Khairul Kabir passed away on 16th of August, 1999 at the age of 19 at King's College Hospital, Chelsea, London. **Heba** was a final year student of Bio-Chemistry at Cambridge University, England. She has been buried at the North Sheen Garden Cemetery (Muslim Section) Richmond, London, England. May Allah rest her soul in peace.

To mark **Heba**'s first death anniversary arrangements have been made for special prayers at her graveyard in London as well as day long distribution of food among the poor and a Milad Mahfil at her ancestral home in Ghorasal.

Relatives and friends are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

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অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতির বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

NOTICE OF THE 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of BANGLADESH WELDING ELECTRODES LIMITED will be held at our factory, D-4 Sholashahar Ind. Area, Chittagong on Tuesday 12 September, 2000 at 11:00 AM to transact the following business :

- To confirm the minutes of the last A.G.M.
- To receive, consider and adopt the accounts for the year ended 31st December 1999 and the reports of the Auditors and Directors thereon.
- To appoint auditors for the accounting year 2000 and to fix up their remuneration.
- To elect Directors in place of retiring Directors as per relevant clause of the Articles of Association of the Company.

By order of the Board
S.K.Sen
Company Secretary
10 August 2000

Registered Office
87, Motijheel C/A
Red Crescent Chamber
(2nd floor) Dhaka-1000.

Notes :

- The register of Members of the Company will be closed from 30 August 2000 to 12 September 2000 (both days inclusive).
- A member eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. No person shall act as proxy unless he/she is entitled to the present and vote in his/her own right.
- Forms of proxy must be stamped and should be deposited at the registered office of the company not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

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