

Unhindered flow of river water can reduce risk of flood

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Experts at a seminar in the city yesterday called for unhindered flow of water through river and drainage channel across the country to reduce the risk of devastating flood in future.

They also stressed the need for proper flood management and the control of river erosion to reduce the loss of life and property caused by flood every year.

The experts were participating in a seminar on 'Flood-2002', organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) at its auditorium.

Dr. Qazi Kholoqzaman Ahmad, chairman, BUP, presided over the seminar while Director General of Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO), Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury presented the keynote paper.

In his paper, Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury said the main reasons of the current flood in the country are heavy rainfall and onrush of water from across the border.

He pointed out that serious water logging due to indiscriminate encroachment of the natural canal and unplanned development is a major cause.

JP leaders visit ailing party leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Leaders of the Jatiya Party (Ershad) yesterday visited ailing party leader Sadek Siddique, who is undergoing treatment at the city's Gastro-Liver Clinic.

Sadek, additional secretary of the party, has been suffering from jaundice and liver complications. JP secretary general Shek Shahidul Islam and organising secretary Abu Sayeed Khan were among the leaders who visited the clinic.

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AL protests CU decision to name female dormitory after Khaleda

CU CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Chittagong south district unit of Awami League (AL) strongly protested the Chittagong University (CU) authority's decision to name the new dormitory for female students after Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

They also called upon the CU authority to name the dormitory after Begum Sufia Kamal or Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib instead.

In a statement yesterday, general secretary of the AL unit Moslem Uddin Ahmed said the funds for construction of the dormitory were allocated during the tenure of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said no halls of the CU had been named after any head of the government since independence. "But the opportunists did this for their own interest by making the prime minister happy," he added.



Education Minister Osman Faruk with the meritorious students of Vigarunnisa Noon School & College and the Ideal School & College who were accorded a reception at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

Steps taken to remove inequality in edn system, PM tells Imams

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the country's four lakh Imams and Muazzins to be involved in spreading education and alleviating poverty to help establish human rights.

"In our society, human rights are violated mainly because of poverty and illiteracy," she said at the first national Imam Conference on Human Rights Affairs, The Islamic Foundation and Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB) jointly organised the conference at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC).

Inaugurating the conference, Khaleda said her government had initiated steps to remove inequality in the education system. Modern training for the Madrassah teachers has already been started, she said. She also underscored the need for making the education system suitable to present time.

She announced doubling the allocation for the Imam-Muazzin Kalyan Trust, set up by her government, to Tk 4 crore from Tk 2 crore.

The function was also addressed by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan, Secretary of Religious Affairs Ministry Khawaja A Rahman, US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters, UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lisner and Director General of Islamic Foundation Syed Ashraf Ali. Moulana Abul Kalam spoke on behalf of the Imams.

The Prime Minister said Islam is a religion of peace and it teaches discipline, tolerance and restraints. It also teaches equality, fellow-feeling, friendship, humanity and generosity, she said.

Imams had been spreading the great message of Islam among the people through the ages, she added.

For this, she said, Bangladesh is known to the world as a moderate, non-communal, anti-terrorist,

democratic and modern Muslim country.

She said the emergence of Islam took place to bring forth emancipation, equality, friendship and human rights when the humanity was in great distress during the age of 'Aiyame Jahiliat' (age of darkness).

She said the government, as a partner of the universal declaration of human rights, has taken steps for the promotion of human rights culture and the establishment of national human rights commission is under process.

She said Islam teaches equal rights and dignity of women, abolition of slavery and removal of disparity between man and man. So, she said, it is not possible for a pious Muslim to violate human rights.

She said the Imams, through this training, would play a vital role in checking violence, developing human resources, establishing human rights and dignity of woman as well as for maternal and child health care and prevention of AIDS.

In the light of teaching of the Holy Quran, she said, her government was keen to involve the Imams in establishing a happy and peaceful society by integrating them in agricultural development, forestry, planned family and poverty alleviation.

She praised the Imams for their

sincere work in freeing the poor from the curse of illiteracy through mosque-based mass literacy programme.

Over 2.50 lakh children have been benefited from this programme during the current year, she said. The government would consider increasing the allocation from Tk 16 crore, if required, she added.

Referring to followers of other religions, she said, "we have social and religious obligation to them while we maintain communal harmony."

Khaleda said the government would complete the construction of Islamic Foundation Bhaban at Agargaon at a cost of Tk 10 crore. The project was undertaken when BNP was in power in 1994. She also recalled the start of work on the Hajj Complex at Ashkan during the previous BNP regime.

She said her government could remove irregularities and mismanagement in performing the holy Hajj.

Mary Ann Peters said Imams can give leadership at the grassroots level of the society and thus can help spread new ideas and thoughts. She urged them to help motivate the people to become more respectful to rule of law.

Jorgen Lisner praised the people of Bangladesh for maintaining communal harmony with followers of other religious faiths.

Mohammadpur double murder Hearing on charge-framing today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka will hear the petition on charge framing in the sensational Mohammadpur Double Murder Case today.

Judge Mollab Mostafa Kamal passed the order following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

Two brothers -- Syed Asfaq Hossain alias Jewel, 27, and Syed Mohammad Ali alias Ribel, 23 -- were called out of their home by Kamal Pasha alias Pasha, a listed criminal at about 8.00 am on May 5, 2000.

Later, they were shot dead by Pasha at Lalmitia under Mohammadpur thana in the city.

Victim's father Syed Anjad Hossain, filed a murder case with Mohammadpur thana accusing Pasha the same day.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, submitted a charge

Japanese scholarship programme

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive Tk 15.73 crore in grant aid from Japan under the Japanese Development Scholarship (JDS) programme for the next year.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Jiro Kobayashi and ERD Secretary Anisul Huq Chowdhury signed exchange of notes in this regard in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective governments.

sheet against Pasha and his driver Mahbubur Rahman to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka on June 27, last year.

Mahbubur Rahman was arrested after five days of the incident. But Pasha has been absconding since the incident. He was arrested on May 21, this year.

Pasha was produced before the court yesterday while Mahbubur Rahman was not produced.

Sircar, Khaleda greet Karzai

BSS, Dhaka

Acting President Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted Hamid Karzai, president of the Islamic transitional government of Afghanistan, on the eve of that country's Independence Day.

In his message, Sircar said: "I am confident that the close bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between our two countries will be further strengthened in the days ahead."

He wished the Afghan leader good health, happiness and well-being and the brotherly people of Afghanistan peace, progress and prosperity.

In her message, Khaleda Zia said: "We firmly believe that relations between Bangladesh and Afghanistan will continue to expand in the coming days."

"I look forward to working in close cooperation with you to further strengthen the friendly relations existing between our two countries to the mutual benefit of our peoples."

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Visitors at the week-long exhibition of fish that began at the Ramna Park in the city.

One gets 2 yrs' RI in Sylhet for keeping foreign currency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man has been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) on charge of possessing unauthorised foreign currency in Sylhet yesterday.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 Shamsul Alam Khan while passing the judgement also ordered a fine of Tk 5000 in default to suffer RI for three more months.

The case in brief is that, the accused Md Matlubur Rahman Khan, son of Late Abdul Latif, of village Naliuri of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila was caught by the police of Sylhet Detective Branch on January 18, 2001 from Sylhet Railway station area. Foreign currencies including dollar, pound, riyal, dinar and dirham worth about Tk 23 lakh were recovered from his possession.

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