

Ensure safe housing for Sidr-affected people

Says Oxfam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oxfam International urged the government and the international community to implement a comprehensive plan to ensure safe and adequate housing for the people affected by the cyclone Sidr last year.

"With time running out before the start of the monsoon rains, a particularly urgent need is the launch of a major awareness raising campaign on safer building techniques," said a study report of Oxfam International released yesterday.

The launching of the report styled 'Rethinking disasters: Why death and destruction is not nature's fault but human failure' was jointly organised by Oxfam GB, Bangladesh and the Department of Geography & Environment of Dhaka University at Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

Prof Dr AQM Mahbub presented the overview of the report.

Most of the families who are now rebuilding their homes following the cyclone Sidr have not received any support and training to make them more resilient to the next cyclone or storm surge, the report noted.

"What is more worrying is the fact that more than 3.2 lakh families do not have the means to rebuild at all without external assistance and so far only one-fifth of them have been promised aid," it said.

The report lauded the risk reduction measures taken by the government such as creation of early warning system, cyclone and flood shelter centers and the raising of homesteads, which saved thousands of lives and livelihoods.

Stating that South Asia loses up to six percent of its GDP to disasters annually, the Oxfam report said rich countries of the world should provide at least 0.7 percent of their gross national income in international

aid to improve public education and health and water sanitation systems.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Oxfam Bangladesh Country Programme Manager Heather Blackwell said, "Each new disaster deepens poor people's vulnerabilities and slows development."

The right policies and preparations can save lives and money, she said, adding that experiences show that preparedness costs a fraction of what a disaster response can cost.

Speaking as the chief guest, Food and Disaster Management Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali said over five lakh people in the Sidr-affected southwestern region have received house building grants.

"We are giving priority to building houses for those who did not have any houses," he said, adding that the country needs to prepare a roadmap involving experts in this field to reduce disaster risks.

Bangladesh Economic Association President Dr Qazi Khaliuzzaman Ahmad said preparedness can reduce the impacts of natural disasters.

The government in collaboration with other national and international organisations should create a large fund to minimise the impacts of natural calamities, he added.

Disaster Management Bureau Director General KH Masud Siddiqui and Oxfam GB's Programme Manager Farid Hasan Ahmed also spoke.

One more dies after eating puffer fish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more person died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday after he fell sick eating poisonous puffer fish on Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Shahidullah, 32, a resident of Belabo in Narsingdi. His father Monir Hossain and Hazera Begum, who also eat the fish, died on Wednesday night.

With Shahidullah, a total of four people from two families died after eating the fish.

Five others, including Shahidullah's wife and only son Shaon, also fell sick after eating the fish.

Obituary



Brig Gen (Retd) Dr AKM Nawab Ali, first consultant physician of Bangladesh Armed Forces, passed away due to stomach cancer yesterday at the age of 84, says a press release.

He left behind his four children. His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at H-12, Rd-4, DOHS Banani after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Abdul Khalek



Abdul Khalek, founder member of Lalmatia Housing Society and governing body president of Lalmatia Block C Jame Mosque, breathed his last on Tuesday at the age of 85, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Lalmatia Block C Jame Mosque after Juma prayers today.

He left behind his seven sons and four daughters.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at 3/5, Block B, Lalmatia after Magrib prayers tomorrow.

Death anniversary



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Barrister Muhammad Abdul Haque, former minister and NAP parliamentary party leader of Pakistan National Parliament, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Banani after Asr prayers. Discussion meetings and doa mahfil will be held at Hazi Wajed Ali Secondary School at his village home at Bheramara and at Khemirdiar Darul Wajed orphanage.

Advocate Abu Daud Master

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Advocate Abu Daud Master, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Maghbar Wireless Road, Master Bari after Maghrib prayers today.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed talks to local people while visiting different open market sale (OMS) outlets in Narayanganj yesterday.

Ban Jamaat for its anti-liberation role

Speakers urge govt at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers, political leaders and civil society members at a discussion yesterday called on the caretaker government to ban Jamaat-e-Islami and bring its leaders to book, saying that the party was politically involved in anti-liberation activities during 1971 and openly opposed the Liberation War.

They also said the present government can easily start the trial of war criminals, as evidence and witnesses are now available. Even some war criminals, including Jamaat leaders, admitted that they feel proud to be Razakars, they added.

Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the discussion at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the city to mark the 37th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence.

The speakers also criticised the caretaker government for skyrocketing prices of essentials and devastated economy.

Jatiya Samajtatrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu said Jamaat still refuses to accept the Liberation War and its leaders have termed it a civil war.

AIRCRAFT TREATY

Govt seeks diplomatic opinions

UNB, Dhaka

The government has asked Bangladesh missions in India and Pakistan to send their diplomatic opinions on the Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol, an international treaty that will cut the cost of international borrowing for the country's airline industry.

The Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, at an inter-ministerial meeting on April 7, asked the two high commissions to send their diplomatic opinions as India is at the final stage of signing the treaty, while Pakistan has already signed.

Earlier, the government, in principle, decided to ratify the Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bangladesh Panbesh Andolon (Bapa) holds a discussion on 'Why are recommendations of taskforce on Burganga affairs in cold storage?' Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Khan Foundation organises a two-day workshop on 'Justice system education initiative on gender equality issue'. Venue: Khan Foundation, Rajarbagh. Time: 10:00am.

Book launch

Bangladesh Heritage Foundation launches a book titled 'National Security and Development Council'. Venue: BILIA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00am.

Publication ceremony

Ankur Prakashani launches a book titled 'Rangunia in Liberation War (1711-1717): Memories of 71'. Venue: Liberation War

Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Language competition

HSBC-Pratham Alo organises a national language competition. Venue: Vignarunisa Noon School and College. Time: 9:00am.

Exhibition

A solo exhibition titled 'Expressions' by Sandwip Kumar Debnath will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 4:00pm.

Book festival

Oitijho organises a two-day book festival 'Oitijho New Year Book Festival'. Venue: Purana Paltan. Time: 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Cultural function

Ghuri Cultural Academy organises a cultural programme. Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture. Time: 5:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is also likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it said.

Highest temperature 37.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 18.4 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	20.8	50	47
Chittagong	32.2	22.3	52	63
Rajshahi	37.6	19.8	44	35
Khulna	35.5	22.2	70	58
Barisal	34.5	21.5	73	69
Sylhet	34.0	21.8	70	52
Cox's Bazar	33.7	24.0	48	78

Civil, military officials to get deputation allowance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to provide 20 percent of the basic salary as deputation allowance to both civil and military officials working in deputation.

Compensation allowance of the Special Security Forces, special guard allowance of the President Guard Regiment, Rab allowance of the Rapid Action Battalion, and special allowance for those appointed in deputation in government training institutes, will however remain as usual.

This was announced in a circular of the finance division of the Ministry of Finance issued on April 7.

A circular issued earlier from the ministry for giving 20 percent of the basic salary as compensation allowance to military officials working in deputation has been cancelled.

Instead, they will get 20 percent of their basic salary as deputation allowance.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

DIRECTOR (Commercial):

- A university degree in Business Administration, Economics or other related fields. Preference will be given to the professionally qualified Accountants with real world experience on Import/Export & Banking matters. Bankers will also be preferred.
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General Manager (Finance & Accounts):

- FCA/FCMA with 5-7 years experience or ACA/ACMA with 7-10 years experience on industrial Accounts. Must have experience on Integrated Accounting Package.

Deputy General Manager (Finance & Accounts)

(Comilla-EPZ):

- CA/CMA (Intermediate) with 7 years experience or M.Com/MBA (Accounting/Finance) with 10 years experience on industrial accounting. Place of posting will be at factory site at Comilla EPZ.

Manager (Accounts & Finance):

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Accounts Officer:

- M.Com/MBA in Accounting/ Finance with 3 years Experience.

Officer (Audit):

- CA Course Completed with 3 years experience.

If you meet the above criteria Please forward your application along with **Bio-data**, two copies of recent **passport size photographs** and photocopies of all relevant papers not later than 24th April, 2008 to the following address:

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Steve Stephens, Regional Director, will be available to meet and advise students at the dates and venue mentioned below. Immediate decisions will be made to those candidates suitably qualified.

Please use contact details below for information and appointment.

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Tuesday 15 April and Wednesday 16 April at British Council from 12 to 6pm

Contact

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