Ensure safe housing for Sidr-affected people

Says Oxfam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oxfam International urged the tems. 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 governat such as creation of early warnstem, cyclone and flood sheliters and the raising of homesteads, which saved thousands of tives and livelihoods.

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

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 aid to improve public education and health and water sanitation sys-

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

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

natural calamities, he added.

Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Time: 9:00am.

Exhibition

Arts. Time: 4:00pm.

8:00pm.

Book festival

Cultural function

Language competition

HSBC-Prothom Alo organises a national

language competition. Venue:

Vigarunnisa Noon School and College.

A solo exhibition titled 'Expressions' by

Sandwip Kumar Debnath will be held.

Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine

Oitijjho organises a two-day book festival

'Oitijjho New Year Book Festival'. Venue:

Purana Paltan. Time: 10:00am to

Ghurri Cultural Academy organises a

cultural programme. Venue: Russian

Centre of Science and Culture. Time:

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

Morning

48

Discussion

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) holds a discussion on 'Why are recommendations of taskforce on Buriganga 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 (1711-1971): Memories of '71'. Venue: Liberation War 5:00pm.

the period, Met Office said.

try, it said.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

Dry weather likely

country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the

squally wind is also likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka

and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali during

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

Highest temperature 37.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yester-

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

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

20.8

19.8

22.2

21.8

day at Rajshahi and lowest 18.4 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Temperature in

Celsius

34.0

Max Min

32.2 22.352

34.5 21.5

33.7 24.0

field to reduce disaster risks.

The government in collaboration with other national and international organisations should create a large fund to minimise the impacts of

Disaster Management Bureau Director General KH Masud Sidiqui and Oxfam GB's Programme Manager Farid Hasan Ahmedalso spoke.

Obituary

Wednesday night.

eating the fish.

One more dies

after eating

puffer fish

Wednesday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more person died at Dhaka

Medical College and Hospital

(DMCH) yesterday after he fell sick eating poisonous puffer fish on

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

With Shahidullah, a total of four

Five others, including

people from two families died after

Shahidullah's wife and only son

Shaon, also fell sick after eating the



Brig Gen (Retd) Dr AKM Nawab Ali, first consultant physician of Bangladesh Armed Forces, due to stomach cancer yester-

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

He left behind his four children. His qulkhwani will be held at his residence at H-12, Rd-4, DOHS

Banani after Asr prayers tomorrow.

day at the age of 84, says a press

Abdul Khalek



Abdul Khalek, founder member of Lalmatia Housin Society and governing body president of Lalmatia Block C Jame Mosque,

Today is the 5th

death anniver-

sary of Barrister

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

Death anniversary



Muhammad Abdul Haque, former minister and NAP parliamentary party 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 Maghbazar 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 yesterady.

Ban Jamaat for its anti-liberation role

Speakers urge govt at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

passed away 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

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.

Be optimistic in tough time

Dr Akbar Ali urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of two books on poetry titled 'Sonali Titir' and 'Sabuj Khamer Bhitore Pathalam Jochhonar Bhalobasha' by poet Quazi Rahim Shahriar was held yesterday.

Miazee Publications organised the launching programme at the National Press Club in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday called upon the countrymen to be optimistic in this tough time.

"We should not give up our hope at this moment. We have to be optimistic... we (the people) have the determination that we will overcome despite many obstacles," he said.

Dr Akbar, also the chairman of Regulatory Reforms Commission ber Abdur Razzak said the nation (RRC), said we are now living in won't be free from conspiracy until globalisation system which, in one hand, came with many promises Justice Gholam Rabbani said and, in the other, is also creating the caretaker government should uncertainty among the people. start the process for the trial of war

"We are becoming helpless and depended on others due to globalisation and this thing strikes President of Supreme Court Bar the poet, he said.

"Our main problem is that we cannot term bad thing as bad and even cannot term good things as good," he said and called on the poets to create belief among the countrymen that the Bangalees can

also do many things.

About the problems in publication sector, he said the government should pay more attention to the publication industry for the sake of flourishing intellect of the countrymen.

Dr Akbar also said the government should allocate more funds to buy books for government schools and colleges for building a better

Presided over by language movement veteran Abdul Matin, litterateur Farida Hossain and artist Syed Lutful Haque also spoke.

Ex-AL lawmaker Kamal Majumder's wife freed on bail STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahida Kamal, wife of detained former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, was released from jail yesterday after a Dhaka court granted her bail in a * corruption case.

Judge Tanjina Ismail of the Special Judge's Court-6 passed the bail order.

Jail sources said Shahida was released at around 6:30pm.

Shahida surrendered to the court on Tuesday in connection with a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission

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Programme Schedule:

Chittagong Seminar

Awami League presidium mem-

the war criminals are punished.

from standing in the election.

Muntasir Mamun also spoke.

criminals and bar the war criminals

Association Barrister Amir-Ul

Islam, journalist and writer

Shahriar Kabir, freedom fighter HT

Imam, CPB General Secretary

Mujahidul Islam Selim and Prof

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Venue Dhaka

Openday

18th April 2008, 10.30 am

Surma, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka Venue 18th April 2008, 4.00 pm Seminar

Surma, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka Venue

For further information and appointments:

Bangladesh Liaison Office, L 361, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka 1215 Direct: 9122404, Facsimile: 9121028, Email: bangladesh@londonmet.ac.uk Student Hour: 11.00 am to 1.00 pm & 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm

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