

Diarrhoea takes serious turn in Aila-hit Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Diarrhoea, a water-borne disease, has already taken a serious turn in the cyclone Aila-affected areas in Shyamnagar, Assassuni, Kaliganj and other upazilas in the district.

At least 5,687 people were attacked with the disease since the tropical cyclonic storm lashed the coastal upazilas on May 25.

Of them, 4660 people were affected by diarrhoea at Shyamnagar upazila and 897 cases at Assassuni, while 80 people at Kaliganj upazila.

A total of 157 diarrhoea patients were admitted to hospitals and others treated at local health camps, according to district health department.

The stranded people have been facing water crisis as saline water submerged the natural water reservoirs, from which they used to fetch drinking water, said Gabura Union Parishad Chairman Shahul Azam Lenin.

Civil Surgeon Dr Md Ebadullah said the water-borne disease has broken out in the area as the affected people have been facing acute scarcity of safe drinking water and they are compelled to drink the infected water.

He further said that 62 medical teams are working in the affected areas to fight diarrhoea with sufficient medicines.

MoU signed to provide health services in haor regions

METRO DESK

CARE Bangladesh and ACI Limited signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Monday to provide health services in haor regions in Sunamganj district, says a press release.

Under the agreement ACI will provide health and medical services and CARE will make use of its grass-root level presence to mobilise beneficiaries and ensure optimum implementation of the project and its monitoring.



The picture taken on Sunday shows a diarrhoea patient Nomita Rani and her two children Joy and Ranjit take refuge at Sripalkathi village, some two kilometres off their homestead at Jelekhali in Munshiganj union under Shyamnagar upazila after they were displaced by tropical cyclonic storm Aila.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Non-govt college teachers demand hike in house rent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of non-government colleges yesterday demanded necessary allocation in the next budget to meet their seven-point demand, including an increase in house rent which is now only Tk 100 for a month.

They placed the demand at a press conference jointly organised by Bangladesh Principals' Council and Bangladesh College Teachers' Association at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

Their demands include establishment of an education service commission for recruiting competent teachers at non-government schools, colleges and madrasas.

Prof Md Mazharul Hannan, president of the council, said, "We demand the government allocate necessary budget to fulfil our demands, including rise in house rent and annual increment for non-government teachers and employees, as more than 95 percent institutes are under the non-government management."

"The government in 1986 introduced the house rent at Tk 100 for non-government

teachers and employees, but there is not an increase in the amount till date," he added.

Other demands include cancellation of the staffing pattern for non-government institutions introduced in 1995, formulation of a new rule similar to that of the government institutions to cancel the existing illogical promotion system, increasing medical allowance which is now only Tk 150 and giving full-fledged festival allowance.

The leaders also demanded reintroduction of time scale and no more withholding of salary of the non-government teachers for bad performance of the students in the SSC and HSC and Bachelor's examinations.

"We demand an end to the discriminatory education system which creates a distance between the rural and urban, the government and non-government education systems," said Principal Ishaq Hossain, president of the association.

Central leaders of the association AKM Abdullah, Harunur Rashid Pathan, AKM Abdullah and Liakat Ali were present at the programme.

Move to curb crimes thru' cellphone

UNB, Dhaka

The government has worked out a plan to set up a directorate to check the growing crimes, including extortion, terrorism and militancy, by using cellphone.

A meeting of the home ministry, held with Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun in the chair at her office yesterday, discussed about the new directorate styled National Monitoring Cell (NMC) under the purview of Telecommunications Act (Amended) 2006 to curb all kinds of crimes by cellphone, a source close to the meeting said.

The meeting discussed the estimated budget to set up the NMC with modern equipment, adequate manpower and vehicles.

A drive against mobile phone crimes is already primarily on through Interim Monitoring Cell (IMC) by tracking the cellphone of extortionists, terrorists and militants.

IGP Noor Mohammad, DGP Rab Hasan Mahmud Khandaker and senior officials of different law enforcing and intelligence agencies were present at the closed-door meeting.

The decision to form a cell comprising representatives from home ministry and REHAB, a real estate business forum, was taken after a delegation of REHAB recently met the home minister to get rid of threat and extortion by extortionists through cellphone.

Navy chief distributes relief

METRO DESK

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed yesterday distributed relief items among the cyclone victims at Dacop in Khulna, says an ISPR press release.

Navy chief monitored the relief activities of naval contingent and medical team deployed in Dacop and surrounding area.

In a meeting with local administration and local elites, he urged all to extend their hands to help the affected people with relief goods.

Later, he visited Naval Base Titumir at Khalishpur in Khulna.

Commodore Commanding Khulna briefed him about the ongoing relief operations of Khulna and Barisal division.

Moriarty calls on Azad

BSS, Dhaka

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty yesterday appreciated the present free mass media in the country following enactment of the Right to Information Act to ensure free flow of information and transition to democracy.

The appreciation came while the US envoy was talking to newsmen after a courtesy call on Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad at the latter's office in the city.

Moriarty said the freedom of mass media is essential for development of democracy. He assured that the US would continue its strong support for flourishing democracy in Bangladesh.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said the envoy was apprised of the activities of the information ministry and state of the mass media apart from the bilateral issues of interest.

Ecneec okays 6 development projects of Tk 969 crore

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved six development projects involving about Tk 969 crore, including Tk 560 crore as project aid.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the Ecneec chairperson, presided over the meeting at the NEC conference room.

The projects are: Construction of multipurpose cyclone shelter centres in the cyclone Sidr-affected areas and 2nd urban primary healthcare (amended) project under Local Government Division, construction of rubber dams over small and medium rivers to increase food production under

Agriculture Ministry and Shibsha bridge on Betgram-Tala-Paigachha-Koyra road, Koyra bridge over Koyra river (3rd amendment) and Batiaghata bridge over

Shoilamari river on the Galamari-Batiaghata-Dakop road under Roads and Railways Department and BMRE project of pet bottle plant of Mukti Jodha Kalyan Trust under the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, LGD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, Water Resources

Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin, PM's

Advisers HT Imam, Dr Moshir Rahman, Dr Alauddin Ahmed and Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (Retd) ABM Tajul Islam were present at the meeting.

Free legal help

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangstha (BMS), a human rights organisation, has been providing free legal assistance to helpless and repressed people, says a press release.

Those who need help are requested to contact MR Mahbub, secretary general, BMS, 72, Jhikatala Road, Dhanmondi in the city. Phone numbers are 8610591 and 01712-634048.

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PHOTO: ISPR

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed distributes relief items among the cyclone victims at Dacop in Khulna yesterday.

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