

Tk 13.65 lakh
Thai donation
for Aila victims
METRO DESK

Thailand will donate Tk 13.65 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for the victims of cyclone Aila that recently hit the southern coastal districts.

Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya pledged this to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office during his recent visit to Bangladesh, says a press release.

The Thai foreign minister expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those who lost their lives as well as to those whose livelihood has been adversely affected.

He also expressed his confidence that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts will be carried out effectively and successfully.

Friendship rice

Kasit Piromya and Chintana Piromya also handed over 4.65 tons of rice to the orphanage programme at Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery at Kamalapur in the city on June 2.

The Thai foreign minister said the donation will strengthen bilateral relations of the two countries.

The rice donation is another important activity, which the Royal Thai Embassy in Dhaka has been carrying out on an annual basis since 2007.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud and lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury were also present on the occasion.

CHALAN BEEL CONVENTION

No project harmful to environment

Says planning minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning Minister AK Khandaker has said his ministry would not approve any project that will harm the environment.

He stressed the need for revamping the rivers by narrowing the width and making them deeper through dredging.

A deep river can supply water to surrounding water bodies including canals and raise the level of ground water, he added.

The minister was speaking at the first National Chalan Beel Convention at the auditorium of Planning and Development Academy in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and on his left is Abdul Kuddus MP.



PHOTO: STAR

Planning Minister AK Khandaker speaks at the first National Chalan Beel Convention at the auditorium of Planning and Development Academy in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and on his left is Abdul Kuddus MP.

Padma, Jamuna and Chalan beel.

But the unplanned embankments constructed during the 1980s at places along 120km of Boral river from Charchhat to Nurnagar of Chatmohar obstructed its natural flow, they added.

The speakers demanded the removal of these 'unplanned embankments' to regain its normal flow and save the wetlands.

Chalan beel, which was once brimmed with water, now devoid of any water, said Maqbul Hossain MP, adding that its huge fish resources have also been lost.

"We want revival of Chalan beel, Boral river and all other rivers in the country," he said.

The speakers blamed the Water Development Board (WDB) for taking up projects without considering their impact on the environment especially on rich water bodies.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad stressed the need for an integrated water management system to avert water-related problems.

Blaming indiscriminate construction of sluice gates for the death of many rivers, he called for experts' review of all existing sluice gates.

Abdul Kuddus MP, Bapa General Secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, member-secretary Sharif Jamil and BEN representatives also spoke at the convention.

Parents of missing Buet student demand justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), who have been missing for about 11 months, at a press conference yesterday alleged that police did not arrest the accused in a case filed in connection with their missing son.

At the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, parents of Mashrur Moin Sani, a 4th year architecture student of Buet, alleged that although they had filed a case against their missing son's classmate Bhaskar Ahmed and his father Zia Ahmed with Paltan Police Station, police are yet to arrest the accused or quiz them.

Abdul Moin, father of Sani, said his son and Bhaskar went to India on July 8 in 2008 and in the second week of August Bhaskar's father informed him that Bhaskar and Sani had gone to Nepal where they were teaching orphans English and drawing at Angel Heaven in Katmandu.

However, on August 27 in 2008, Bhaskar's elder brother quoting him said that Sani went missing on August 12 when he and Bhaskar along with eight others went to the hills in a remote area in Rasua district.

However, when Sani's parents went to Nepal, the Nepali guide of Sani and Bhaskar told them Sani did not go to the hills, he said.

A letter of Bhaskar written to Sani was found at their hotel room in Nepal, which proves that Bhaskar knew the whereabouts of Sani, Moin said.

He said if police interrogate Bhaskar properly, they would find out the clues and his son.

He alleged that being an influential person, Zia Ahmed influenced police.

Abdul Moin and his wife Zebunnisa demanded impartial investigation into the incident and immediate arrest of the accused to rescue their son.

They had earlier met the prime minister in February and informed her of the incident, they added.

Over 100 children fall sick after taking deworming tablets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Over one hundred children fell sick after taking government-supplied deworming tablets and vitamin A capsules at Char Shalipur and Char Hazarbigha villages in Char Bhadrashan upazila.

The children started vomiting and were stricken with dysentery after the union health fieldworkers fed them Vitamin A capsules and deworming tablets.

Tota Bapari, a boatman of Char Shalipur village, took his two-year-old child Naeem Bapari and three-year-old nephew Mukta to the Faridpur General Hospital.

He said over one hundred children of the village fell sick after eating the tablets.

Dr Abu Faisal Md Parvez of Faridpur General Hospital told this correspondent last night that 13 children were admitted to the hospital and six others treated in the emergency unit.

Charbhadrashan Upazila Health Complex Resident Dr Zahid said around 2,500 children were given deworming tablets and vitamin A capsules and some of them fell sick. This could be happened due to excessive heat, he added.

Faridpur Civil Surgeon Dr Bashirul Islam said some can fall sick if deworming tablets are fed during the heat.

He said they would investigate into the matter why the tablets and capsules were given two days before the schedule.

PM unveils cover of 'Sonamonider Pora'

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the cover of the second part of a book titled "Sonamonider Pora" written by eminent author Begum Momtaz Hussain at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

Life sketch of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been included in the book making it suitable for children.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad were present on the occasion.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

United Nations Association of Bangladesh will hold a discussion to mark the World Environment Day. Venue: Scout Bhavan. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar

The Centre for Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue of Dhaka University and the Centre for Coronary Artery Disease Prevention and Registration Centre, Bangladesh will jointly organise a seminar on 'Stress management and inner peace'. Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). Time: 5:00pm.

Condolence meeting

A condolence meeting will be held in memory of playwright Askar Ibne Shykh. Venue: Diploma Engineers' Institution. Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Association for Land Reform and Development and Nijera Kori organises a seminar on Vested Property Return Act. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'Introduction to Bangalee Christian Books' will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Medical Information Officers

RADIANT PHARMACEUTICALS

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

City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity percentage

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 34.3 23.7 79 57

Chittagong 33.0 24.4 76 78

Rajshahi 35.2 24.8 80 64

Khulna 33.8 24.3 79 --

Barisal 34.0 24.8 80 67

Sylhet 34.6 26.8 79 69

Cox's Bazar 33.0 24.0 79 65

Gazipur 33.0 24.0 79 64

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