

Tk 20 LAKH DONATED TO PM'S RELIEF FUND

Personal belief no bar to working for nat'l interest

Says Prime Minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon all to work unitedly for welfare of the people and overcoming difficulties like natural calamity.

"Each of the officials of the Republic may have their own faith and belief, but these should not be an impediment

to discharging their responsibilities in greater national interest," she said.

She made the call when Officers' Club, Dhaka, and Bangladesh Business Forum of Japan donated Tk 10 lakh each to Prime Minister's Relief Fund in aid of the victims of cyclonic storm Aila.

Officers' Club Chairman

Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz and its General Secretary, Additional Secretary of the Communications Ministry Shafique Alam Mehdi, handed over a cheque to Hasina at her office.

On behalf of Business Forum, its President Saber Sakura also handed over a cheque to the prime minister.

Hasina thanked the government officials for standing by the disaster victims and said: "This will act as an example for others to help the distressed people."

Secretary of the Prime Minister's office Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at a symposium at Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban on the campus yesterday. On his right are Prof Dr AKM Nurun Nabi, Arther Erken and Md Mehedi Hasan Khan.

Poverty main obstacle to achieving MDGs

Experts tell symposium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty is the main obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 as it is interlinked with all other factors related to development, experts at a symposium said yesterday.

Though the country has made significant progress in enrolling children in primary schools, reducing under-five mortality, combating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, the drop-out rate in primary education, neonatal and maternal mortality rate, gender disparity in tertiary education are still high, they said.

Global recession and frequent natural disasters are also creating obstacles to achieving the target of MDGs, they added.

The Population Sciences Department of Dhaka University in association with

the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) organised the daylong In-Country Symposium 2009 at Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban on the campus.

Inaugurating the programme as the chief guest, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said gender disparity significantly decreased in both primary and secondary education, but this discrimination is still high in all other sectors, which should be addressed properly.

Terming education the main tool to fight against all odds, the VC said, "We should focus on all types of education, including population, culture, communication, language and society to lead the country onto the right track of development."

Speaking as special guest, Pro-VC Prof Dr Harun-ur Rashid said poverty reduction

and sustainable development are interlinked. So, priority should be given to the elimination of poverty.

UNFPA Country Representative Arther Erken stressed the need to eliminate hunger as it is increasing globally as well as in the country, which is a big challenge to achieving MDG target 1 by 2015.

He also called for giving more attention to the education and health sectors.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Dhiraj Kumar Nath presided over the first session of the symposium while Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, the second session and Dr Ubaidur Rob, country director of Population Council Bangladesh, the third session.

Prof Dr AKM Nurun Nabi conducted the daylong symposium.

CONSUMERS' RIGHTS 'Steps to be taken to enforce law properly'

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday said the government would take effective measures for proper implementation of the Consumers' Rights Protection Act.

"We've a plan to carry out extensive research in the consumer sector to find out how the law can be made effective and pro-people", he said at a roundtable at National Press Club.

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the roundtable titled "Implementation of Consumers' Rights Protection Act, 2009" with its president Borhan Ahmed in the chair.

Barua said the manufacturers should produce their products taking into consideration the social corporate responsibility for the sake of protection of consumers' rights.

"The consumers are being cheated in different ways as producers do not consider the consumers' interests", he said.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, a teacher of Law Department of Dhaka University, said the Act has many laps and it only protect the interest of profit seeking people, not the consumers.

Communist Party Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the consumers' right is to keep the prices of essentials under the purchasing capacity of common people. But the Act has no such provision to ensure it.

DCCI Acting President Shekil Ahmed Chowdhury, FBCCI adviser Manjur Ahmed and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanom also spoke.



A huge procession brought out by Awami League from Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday to mark its 60th founding anniversary causes massive traffic congestion on the city roads.

DU to establish Campus Security Force

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities have decided, in principle, to establish a security force of its own to ensure security of students and teachers and maintain law and order on the campus.

A meeting of the provost committee on Monday took the decision to form 'Campus Security Force' (CSF) and a proposal in this regard has already been drafted, sources said.

The proposal regarding the formation of the security force will be placed at the finance committee meeting of the university in the first week of the July for its scrutiny, said proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan.

"Then the proposal will be forwarded to the syndicate meeting for its final approval," he added.

The campus force would carry out its activities under the supervision of the proctor

and in accordance with the proctorial law. If necessary, additional rules and regulations might be incorporated in the law after discussion in the syndicate meeting, the proctor said.

Some meritorious and skilled university students, especially the members of Bangladesh National Cadet Corp (BNCC), would be appointed in the force, he added.

According to the drafted proposal, the security department of the university will initially recruit 48 members for the campus force. Teams of two members will be deployed in eight check-posts on the campus. The working hour will be divided into three shifts.

Moreover, a 'Mobile Security Team' comprising 12 members and a 'Reserve Force' comprising 40 members will also be formed to maintain law and order on the campus.

Earlier on March 21, the

proctor had submitted a letter to the VC regarding the formation of the security force.

In the letter, he recommended purchasing a pick-up van for the Mobile Security Team and refurbishing the check posts on the campus.

The proctor said the authorities had also initiated to install Closed Circuit TV cameras in at least 20 points on the campus.

He also stressed the need to repair 250 sodium lights on the campus, which had gone out of order, to reduce risks of criminal activities.

Talking to The Daily Star, Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "We have given priority to security system on the campus. But our security system is not adequate compared to a large number of students and teachers. Keeping this in mind, we have taken an initiative to form the campus force to maintain law and order and ensure security for the students and teachers."

Ban on training cars on DU campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have imposed a ban on the movement of training cars inside the campus, said a press release of the university yesterday.

The provost committee of the university took the decision at a meeting on Monday, with Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

The decision came as the wife of a teacher was run over by a training car on the campus earlier on the day.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman and provosts of different dormitories attended the meeting.

The meeting also asked the owners of all shops inside the campus to close their shops by 10:00pm daily.

This move is aimed at restricting the movement of outsiders on the campus at night, Proctor Saiful Islam Khan said yesterday.



Dutch flag-carrier Kent Legislation crashes into the jetty while taking berth at Chittagong Port yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Ensure proper management, increase fund for health sector

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts at a discussion yesterday urged the government to ensure proper management in health sector as well as increase budgetary allocation for the sector.

At the discussion titled 'National health budget and health care financing' at Bangladesh Institute of

International and Strategic Studies (BISS) the experts stressed the need for a pro-people health policy, increasing manpower in health sector and need-based distribution of budgetary allocation.

Health Rights Movement National Committee organised the discussion with a view to put pressure on government to create an enabling environ-

ment for pro-poor health service.

"The government could not spend even 50 percent of allocation of the health budget and people should know where and how the money is being spent," said Milon Bikash Pal, executive director of the PSTC.

"Only one percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is allocated for health sector

which is quite insignificant and there is no ray of hope for the 20 percent hard-core poor in the country," said Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, member of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement while presenting the keynote paper.

Only 6.1 percent of the total national budget is allocated for health sector, they said demanding for at least 15 percent allocation. The demands also include equal attention in curative and preventive health approach, considering the elements that affect people's health and human resource development and proper monitoring to ensure accountability in health sector.

While delivering his speech as the chief guest Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque said, "Implementation of the budget is the main challenge, not getting allocation."

Admitting flaws in existing health service system the minister said his ministry has started to prepare expenditure plan to spend the health budget in a meaningful way.

President of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons Prof Nazmun Nahar presided over the discussion, while former president of the Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Rashid E Mahub, Gonoshasthya Kendra Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, among others, spoke.

AILA VICTIMS Seek int'l help for rehabilitation

UNDP suggests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday suggested Bangladesh to seek assistance from international donor agencies and countries for long-term rehabilitation like constructing embankments and houses damaged by the cyclone Aila.

UNDP Resident Representative Renata Lok Dessalieu made the suggestion during a meeting with Food Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque at the latter's office, says a press release.

Renata Lok Dessalieu said the government should meet the development partners for long-term assistance and form service-based clusters among the NGOs to work in the disaster-prone areas.

Food Minister Razzaque said the government expects assistance from the donors for long-term solutions. It is imperative

to construct strong embankments and more cyclone shelters in the coastal districts, he added.

Citing an example, the minister said there are only five cyclone shelters in a union where 37,000 people live. As a result, even there are warnings on cyclones, all people cannot take shelter in the cyclone shelter centers, he noted.

Shamsunnahar Hall reunion July 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of the former students of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University will be held on July 31.

All the former students of the hall are requested to complete their registration by tomorrow.

The registration forms are available at the hall office, says a press release.

Foreign vessel hits jetty at Ctg Port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A foreign vessel damaged a huge portion of a jetty while taking berth at Chittagong Port yesterday.

The Dutch flag-carrier Kent Legislation carrying 10340 tonnes of Steel GI Sheet from Durban in South Africa left the outer anchorage at around 11:00am and was heading for berthing at jetty No 8 of the port.

The vessel hit the jetty seriously while taking berth at around 12:35pm.

Sources said the Ukrainian captain of the vessel Shun Kin Oleksiy took charge of the steering from Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) engaged pilot Asadullah, who got on board the vessel at around 11:35am, immediately before taking berth.

In the accident, a huge crack developed causing around 1000 square feet area of the jetty to cave in.

Acting Chairman of Chittagong Port Captain

Zobaer Ahmed visited the spot. He said it might take around one and a half month to repair the damaged jetty and cost an approximate amount of Tk one crore.

A three-member team led by Harbor Master AKM Zafrullah Chowdhury was formed to find out the reason behind the accident and to estimate the loss. The team was given three days to submit its report.

The vessel will remain detained till the probe is completed, said the CPA acting chairman.

When contacted, Zafrullah told The Daily Star that the pilot Asadullah also informed the control room of a feared accident as the captain took charge of the steering.

He said, "The vessel didn't appear to have any fault. Perhaps the captain failed to guess the strength of the current at the channel while taking berth during the high tide."



Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque addresses a discussion at BISS auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof Rashid E Mahub and on his left are Milon Bikash Pal and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury.