

HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

Natural disasters hamper access to safe water

Speakers tell consultation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increased frequency of natural disasters caused by global climate change is creating a whole new level of crisis and challenges in terms of providing safe water and sanitation facilities, speakers at a consultation meeting said yesterday.

The people of char islands, haor areas, offshore islands, hill tracts and the tea gardens are especially vulnerable. It becomes difficult to provide basic facilities like water and sanitation to the hard-to-reach areas because of the complex geo-physical and livelihood pattern of the areas, they added.

The tea garden workers are especially vulnerable for their captive isolated situation caused by administrative barriers, they said.

NGO Forum organised the 'Stakeholders consultation on searching the ways of safe water and sanitation facilities for the hard-to-reach' at its conference hall in the city.

SMA Rashid, executive director of NGO Forum, said the increased frequency of cyclone is increasing salinity in the coastal belt, contaminating the fresh water sources. Besides, safe water sources are also going under water during floods, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases.

On the other hand, deforestation, drying up of natural water sources, unplanned dam and cultivation, lack of administrative support and communication problem are the major obstacles to the development of safe water and sanitation facilities in hilly areas, he said.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to the caretaker government, said special communities have their own needs, norms and culture. "We have to listen to what the stakeholders have to say."

Stressing the need to involve the private sector, she said, mobile phones have reached a long way in the grassroots level. Its vast network can be used for advocacy.

Mark Ellery, country team leader of World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme, South Asia, said a coordinated response is needed to address the multiple dimension of the problem.

He emphasised the role of local government who has enormous influencing authorities over the people of their locality.

The speakers also suggested that integrated approach is necessary to address the issue.

Prof Dr M Feroze Ahmed, Jan Moller Hansen, deputy head of mission, embassy of Denmark, Shahjahan Ali Mollah, joint secretary, LGRD ministry, Philip Gain, general secretary of Society for Environment and Human Development, Mahmudul Kabir, country director of Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands, Prashanta Tripura of UNDP, Dr Iftekhar Hossain of Unicef, Prof Dr Md Mujibur Rahman, and Mozaharul Alam, research fellow, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, also spoke.



A stakeholder consultation on searching the ways of safe water and sanitation facilities for the hard-to-reach was held at NGO Forum conference hall in the city yesterday. From left are Mark Ellery, Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser, Dr M Feroze Ahmed and SMA Rashid.

Call to formulate farm labour law to ensure rights of farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should form a labour commission to formulate agricultural labour law to give proper recognition to and ensure welfare of the farmers, who account for 48 percent of the total labour force, speakers at a media briefing said yesterday.

Although the government initiated different projects to develop the agriculture sector to ensure food security, there are no specific guidelines to ensure the rights of farm labourers, they added.

Karmojibi Nari, a forum for working women, organised the media briefing at the National Press Club in the city.

The government has provided subsidy to the agriculture sector, but the farmers are not getting fair price of their produces, said Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari.

She also said that as per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention, women agricultural labourers are engaged in 17

types of work, out of 21, but they are not yet recognised as 'labour' in the agricultural sector. "So, we have to recognise them by formulating laws related to their rights."

The speakers also said development of the country is not possible unless proper attention is given to the agriculture sector, which is an informal sector.

The organisation also placed some recommendations for their inclusion in the new law. The recommendations include recognising the contribution of women workers to the agriculture sector, recognising the agricultural labourers as 'workers', fixing minimum wage for them and ensuring minimum workdays and rationing of food for them and ending discrimination against women labourers and ensuring their health rights.

Director of Karmojibi Nari Mahmuda Imam, coordinators Arifa Akhter and Abdullah Al Mamun and assistant coordinator Marufia Noor Shifa also spoke.

Agreement to replace Wasa old pipelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday signed an agreement with a Danish firm M/S Carlborg/Grontmij to prepare a design to replace the old pipelines of the Wasa or setting new pipelines for water supply.

Three Bangladeshi firms Aqua Consultants, BETS Consultants and Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) will help the firm in the job.

Wasa Managing Director Md Shahjahan Ali Molla and Eurzen Hensen of Carlborg signed documents on behalf of the respective sides.

A total of 3400 km of water supply pipelines will be replaced or set up under the project, said an official of Wasa.

Naser Chy made acting info secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a brief reshuffle in the civil administration yesterday three additional secretaries were given the charge of secretaries of three ministries.

AKM Abdul Awal Mojumder, additional secretary to the agriculture ministry, has been made acting secretary to the science and ICT ministry. Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, additional information secretary, has been made acting secretary to the same ministry and acting information secretary Samar Chandra Pal has been transferred to the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division as acting secretary, says a gazette notification released by the establishment ministry.

193 people killed in June

Says BSEHR report

UNB, Dhaka

Some 193 people were killed, 16 of them in political violence, and 1602 others injured across the country in June, according to a BSEHR report.

The Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) prepared the report on the basis of newspaper reports.

Besides, the report said, Indian border guards killed 5 Bangladeshi nationals along the border while 15 were killed in mysterious incidents and four people died in jails during the one-month period.

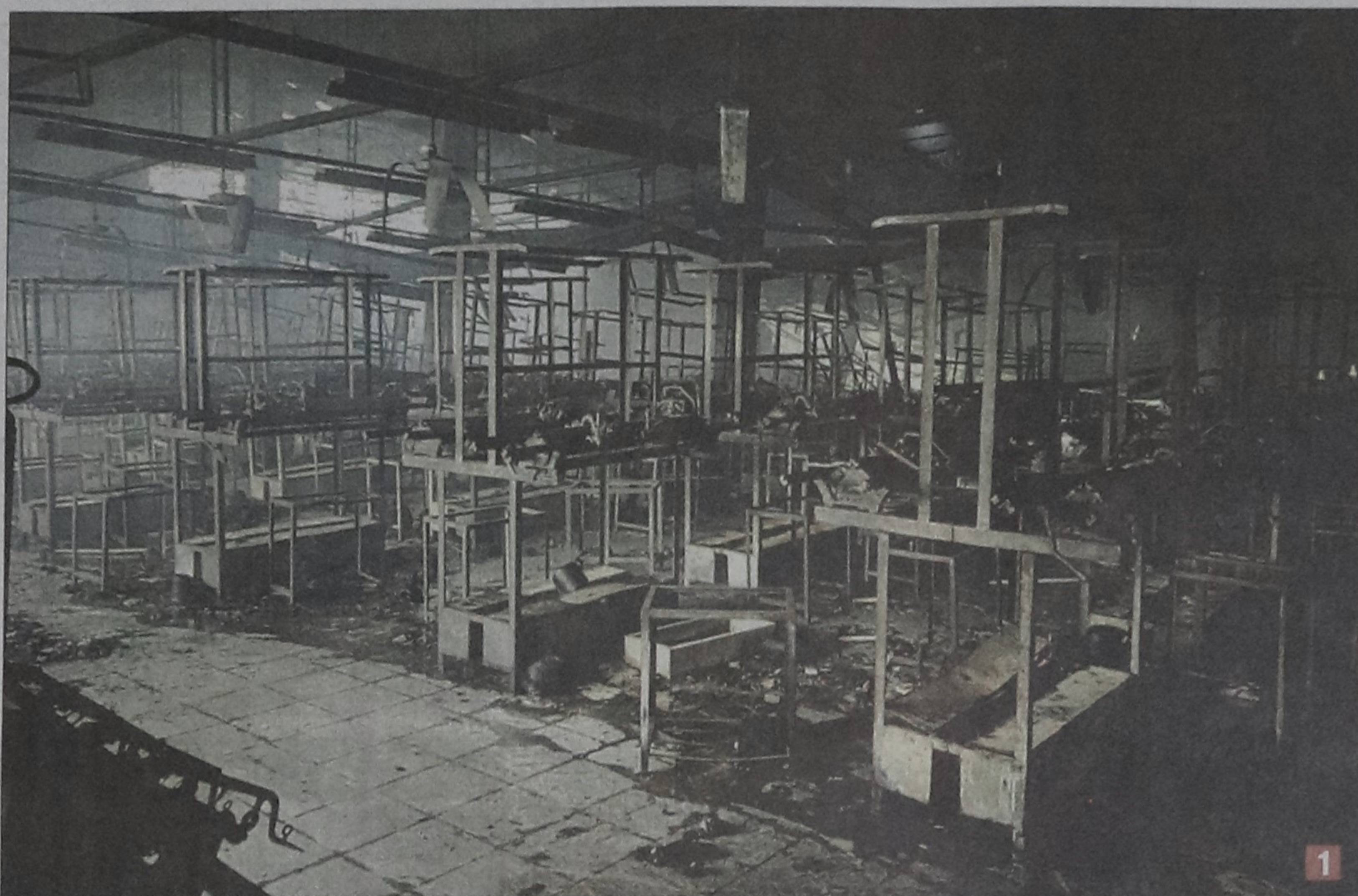
It also said 10 women were killed for dowry while eight women and eight children were violated, three gang-raped and two killed after rape.

According to the report, the police recovered 60 bodies from different places of the country while nine people died due to negligence of doctors.

It also said three people were killed in crossfire with law enforcers.

Besides, the report said, 10 journalists were oppressed and 385 people injured in political violence, while nine fell victim to fatwa.

DEVASTATION AND WORRIES



1) All the machines of Ha-Meem Group at Ashulia burn down as garment workers set fire to six factories of the company on Monday during demonstrations over pay-hike. 2) A firefighter tries to douse flames inside a factory of the company yesterday. 3) Workers throng the factory premises yesterday morning. 4) Worried workers gather in front of the factory. 5) Law enforcers stand guard in front of a garment factory in the area to avert further violence.



Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akhter speaks at a media briefing at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

গৃহায়ণ শিল্পের বিকাশে সময়োপযোগী ও যুগান্তকারী
বাজেট প্রণয়ন করায় রিহাবের পক্ষ থেকে মাননীয়
অর্থমন্ত্রী জনাব আবুল মাল আব্দুল মুহিতকে
আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা

ও

ধন্যবাদ

রিয়েল এস্টেট এন্ড হাউজিং এসোসিয়েশন অব বাংলাদেশ

বর্তমান গণতান্ত্রিক সরকারের
মহান সংসদে পাশকৃত প্রথম বাজেট কে

আব্দুল নসর

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা সরকার এর মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী
কর্তৃক মহান জাতীয় সংসদে পাশকৃত বাজেটে ডিজিটাল
বাংলাদেশ গড়ার অঙ্গীকারের সাথে বিশ্বের সর্বাধুনিক

ওয়াইম্যাক্স

প্রযুক্তি'র



মাধ্যমে দেশকে এগিয়ে নেয়ার লক্ষ্যে বাংলালায়ন কমুনিকেশন লিঃ -এর
সাথে সম্পৃক্ত থাকতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত। ইনশাআল্লাহ অতি শীঘ্রই বাংলালায়ন
ওয়াইম্যাক্স এর পরীক্ষামূলক কার্যক্রম শুরু করবে।



City General Insurance Company Limited.