

# Be ready to tackle any possible floods: PM

Disaster prevention package unveiled

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the food and disaster management ministry and other authorities concerned to take necessary advance preparation to deal with any possible flood in the current monsoon.

PM gave the directive in a meeting with the ministry officials at the secretariat, where she unveiled a package of disaster prevention and adaptation measures, including building new food godowns, 2097 cyclone shelters and a Tk 30000 crore river-dredging project.

Hasina said the government will set up more cyclone shelter centres and godowns under a contingency plan to face natural calamity and food crisis caused by floods, cyclones, droughts and the like.

"Modern cyclone shelter centres need to be set up in the coastal areas, particularly in Satkhira, Khulna and some parts of Patuakhali district. Also, modern godowns will have to be constructed for adequate food stock to keep food supply smooth at times of natural calamity."

Food silos also need to be built in the northern districts for successfully facing food crisis during Monga period, she said.

"We have a plan to set up 2097 more cyclone centres, of which 1318 will be set up by LGRD, education and religious affairs ministries and 779 by the food and disaster management ministry."

Hasnat Abdullah, Rashidi Suza, Khodeja Suza get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, and former Awami League lawmaker Mostafa Rashidi Suza and his wife Khodeja Rashidi Suza in five separate cases against them.

Abul Hasnat Abdullah got bail in four cases, while Suza couple got bail in a case. They were earlier convicted and sentenced to jail for different terms in absentia in these cases.

Upon separate appeals filed by the convicts against their convictions, the HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzaq passed the bail orders.

Petitioners' counsel Advocate SM Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that the bail orders of his clients will remain valid until disposal of their appeals.

He also said there is no bar to his clients' release from jail following the HC orders, since they are not arrested in any other case.

Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder appeared for them.

**Move to build Tipaimukh dam protested**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammitita Nari Samaj yesterday expressed solidarity with the ongoing agitations against construction of the Tipaimukh dam.

They formed a human chain in front of the National Museum in the city where leaders of the organisation urged the government to take immediate steps to this end.

The dam could make the east-northern region of the country totally barren and harm the ecological balance, said speakers at the human chain.

Farida Akhter, central committee member of the organisation, said since this is a national issue, it should not be politically exploited.

"We should all work together for the greater national interest and to save the country's environment," she added.

Jahanara Begum, Sammitita Nari Samaj central committee members Tahera Sultana, Kohinoor Begum, Seema Das Simu, Sultana Akter Rubi, Rokeya Begum, Shahinur Begum, Hajera Sultana and Syeda Akhter were present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of the officials of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management at the Secretariat yesterday.

'Saarc states lack info on climate change'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There have not been enough researches on climate change in the Saarc countries and they lack necessary information on this issue, said Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of a week long training programme on 'Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction' at Nabab Nawab Ali Choudhury Senate Bhaban on Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Faculty of Earth and Environment Science of DU and Saarc Disaster Management Centre of New Delhi are jointly organising the programme.

He said a huge number of researches have been carried out in the developed countries to address the climate change issue.

"We should share information derived from researches, ideas and data for better disaster risk management," he added.

The governments, universities and the research centres should work together to this end, he also said.

Shahnaz Huq-Hossain, dean, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences, DU Treasurer Mijanur Rahman and Binod Shakia from Saarc Disaster Management Centre of New Delhi were also present.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak and Secretary Mukhlesur Rahman, PM's Principal Secretary MA Karim, Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present at the meeting.

"Already talks are underway with India over sharing information on weather forecasting," Hasina informed the meeting.

Hasina said people have to face serious trouble for lack of adequate number of toilets and drinking water in the cyclone centres.

The PM underscored the need for constructing raised

grounds with earth in the coastal areas for protecting domestic animals during natural calamity.

Besides, weather forecasting system also needs to be modernised for taking preparations in time.

She observed that Bangladesh can share information on weather forecast with neighbouring India.

India has modern weather forecasting system with which it can make long-term weather forecast, and give Bangladesh the information, which will be beneficial for both the countries.

"Separate houses in the cyclone centres will preserve rainwater. During the crisis times, people can drink the rainwater as this is the most pure water," she observed.

Hasina said people have to face serious trouble for lack of adequate number of toilets and drinking water in the cyclone centres.

Expressing concern over the increasing global warming, the prime minister said the government is going to

initiate a massive project worth about Tk 30000 crore to bring back the navigability of the rivers, which will protect the country from unusual flooding.

Citing experts' opinion, Hasina said Tk 3000 crore might be needed to be spent per year to launch the capital dredging in the rivers and for maintenance of the rivers.

The government has already had talks with the development partners and got positive response over mobilising necessary funds to implement the massive dredging project, the PM said.

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## All JCD units to be reconstituted

Says Tuku

DU CORRESPONDENT

All units of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, would be reconstituted soon as part of the restructuring process of the organisation.

This was stated by Sultan Salauddin Tuku, president of the newly formed central committee, at a view exchange meeting with the journalists in the city yesterday.

"As per the directive of Khaleda Zia (BNP chairperson) we would start reforms from the grassroots level," said Tuku who has been facing a massive protest from a section of JCD men after assuming the post of JCD chief.

He said as the tenure of all units has already expired convening committees in all units will be formed to hold a national council for new leadership of the organisation.

BNP announced the names of five top leaders of a 101-member central committee on July 1 with Tuku as president and Amirul Islam Khan Alim as general secretary.

Tuku, who contested the last parliamentary election with BNP ticket from Tangail, said the next leadership of JCD would come through election.

About the draft constitution of the organisation, JCD

## BBC Sanglap on edn today

METRO DESK

BBC Bangla is going to organise a special episode of its flagship Bangladesh Sanglap programme on education in the city today.

A four-member panel will directly answer to questions raised by a live audience on the pros and cons of the current education system, says a press release.

The panel at this week's programme will feature Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia and President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Annisul Haq.

The hour-long Bangladesh Sanglap provides a unique platform on radio and television, where ordinary citizens ask questions to, and debate issues with the country's political leaders and civil society personalities.

Moderated by Mithila Farzana, the programme will be recorded at 5:45pm in the Media Centre of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

An invited audience of 150 citizens will take part in this special episode of Bangladesh Sanglap.

The ongoing Bangladesh Sanglap series is broadcast on BBC Bangla Radio, including FM 100 in Dhaka, at 9:00pm on each Sunday and on Channel 1 at 8:00pm Monday every week.

The arreestees were identified as Md Nasir Uddin, 26, Moinul Islam, 40, Md Billal Hossain, 13, and Md Ripon, 12, of Garam Panir Lane at Motijheel.

Assistant Police Super (ASP) Minhazul Alam of Rab-4 told The Daily Star that acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided the house and caught the four red-handed. They also seized the fake stamps with the equipment.

The recovered fake stamps were of Tk 2 to Tk 20 equivalent stamps worth over Tk 12.42 lakh, he added.

The ASP said they also seized a printer, a scanner machine, two auto-numbering machine, 10 dices and 15 carbon plates, adding that a case was filed with Motijheel Police Station.

Meanwhile, Rab-10 members seized two firearms, 21 bullets and arrested four juvenile crime suspects in this connection from Motijheel early yesterday.

The arreestees were identified as Md Omar Faruq, 15, of Sabujbagh, Uzzal Banik Bappi, 15, of Gopibagh, Mohaiminul Islam Nahid, 14, of RK Mission Road and Md Sayed Hossain, 15, of Sabujbagh.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab men conducted a raid at the house of one Haider on 2nd Lane of Gopibagh around 12:30am and arrested the juveniles.

New MD of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Samabaya Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Mostafa Kamal, a director of Bangladesh Importers Association, has been appointed as managing director of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd., says a press release.

Kamal, a freedom fighter, is also a former president of this Samity and general secretary of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Union.

The Samity took the decision on his appointment at its annual general meeting recently.

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