

KSA to help implement plans in coastal dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) yesterday assured the government of providing assistance for implementing the medium and long-term plans to mitigate the natural disasters in the southern coastal districts.

Saudi Charge d' Affaires in Dhaka Sami Jamal Al-Hindi made the assurance when he met Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque at the ministry.

Sami inquired about the damages caused by the cyclone Aila and the areas the government was putting more importance.

As a brotherly nation, the Saudi government has always been beside Bangladesh and will be so, he told the minister, adding that KSA donated 200 metric tonnes of relief materials for the Aila victims and wants to help more to return to normal life of the affected people.

Razzaque said the government had provided assistance to the Aila victims instantly from its own resources, but for a long-term sustainable solution, it planned constructing high embankments, more cyclone shelter centres, building strong houses for the affected people and water treatment plants for drinking water.

"To implement these plans, we have already sought assistance from the international community. Some countries have already pledged to assist," he told the Saudi dignitary, thanking the Saudi king and the people for their assistance during the natural disasters of the country.

Journos playing unique role in country's dev

UNB, Dhaka

Journalists are playing a unique role through detecting social ills and prescribing remedies to ensure good health of society, the way pathologists at diagnostic laboratories diagnose diseases for healing human body, said Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader at a press meet yesterday.

"If we compare human health with society's sanity, we'll find that journalists detect social ailments as a testing laboratory and also suggest its remedies," Quader said this while inaugurating a daylong UNB District Correspondents' Conference at its office.

Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique, UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan and UNB Editor-in-Chief Enayetullah Khan also spoke at the opening session with the theme 'Importance of ICT for Bangladesh'.

GM Quader said the journalist community has been playing a unique role in development of the country compared to any other professions.

He said as diagnostic centers are using modern technology in detecting diseases, journalists are also taking advantage of modern information communication technology to expose the evils in society as well as transmit information quickly to the people.

About the government mission for building a Digital Bangladesh, Quader urged the journalists to be well equipped with Information Communication Technology (ICT) and lead the nation in achieving the mission.

Later, the minister distributed awards among a sub-editor, a reporter and two district correspondents for their good performance in 2008.

Kazi Farzana Haque was given the best sub-editor award while Sadruul Hasna best reporter and Bakhtiar Islam Munna of Feni and Abdul Hakim Babul of Sherpur received awards as best correspondents.

Meanwhile, a new committee of District Correspondents Association of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) was formed with Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Rana (Khagrachhari) as president and Habibur Rahman Badal (Narayanganj) general secretary.

Other members are Hakim Babul (Sherpur), Didarul Alam (Khulna), Siddique Alam Dayal (Gaibandha), Manik Roy (Jhalakati), Mohammad Moshin (Sylhet), Abdul Hannan (Netrokona), Khairul Ahsan Manik (Comilla), Bisnu Prasad Chakraborty (Bagerhat), MA Mannan (Jessore), Mahmud Hossain (Pirojpur), Mizanur Rahman Mizu (Lalmonirhat), Nurul Islam Sheful (Moulvibazar), Mejbah-ul-Haq Mithu (Noakhali), Ahsan Habib (Rajbari), HM Amin (Keraniganj), Abdul Majid (Jalpaiguri), Siddiq Kajal (Nilphamari), Shahabuddin Ahmed (Sunamganj), M Kawsar (Laxmipur), Iqbal Hossain (Gazipur) and Aminul Islam Bachchu (Bandarban).



Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council takes out a procession from in front of the Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday in observance of the National Mourning Day.

INT'L YOUTH DAY OBSERVED

Vow to root out graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of youths vowed to root out corruption from the country at daylong programmes in the city yesterday to mark the International Youth Day.

With the slogan 'Unbeatable youth will resist corruption', thousands of students from different education institutions participated in a number of programmes organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at different places.

"Our country could be more developed if corruption was absent here. We, the new generation, are firm to resist corruption," Nasim, a student of Dhaka College, told this correspondent.

Youth Engagement and Support (YES), an organisation formed by TIB, was the co-organiser of the programmes.

A colourful procession led by Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. AAMS Arefin

Siddique was brought out from Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) that ended in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla after parading through different streets on the campus.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and students from different education institutions participated in the procession holding placards inscribed with 'Stop Corruption'.

The DU VC said achieving development is impossible without honesty, transparency and accountability.

"The seed of honesty should be sowed in the hearts of the youths. The society should be changed through their innovation and creativity," he said before the procession starts.

Prof Arefin also inaugurated a cartoon exhibition at the games corridor of TSC.

The cartoons on corruption reflected how some people are committing corruption and how students, police, Anti-Corruption

Commission, politicians, businessman and people from all walks of life resist corruption unitedly.

A debating competition was also held at the conference hall of Business Studies Faculty as part of the TIB programme.

Sohel, a student of Dhaka University, said, "Mass people of the country are the sufferers of corruption. Public awareness is a must to combat corruption. Such programmes would help create awareness."

Shafiqul Islam, a student of the Institute of Education and Research, said, "Bangladesh has a good prospect for development, but we need to remove corruption from the country to that end."

"The young generation can lead the country in removing corruption. The country needs to form a unity like 1971," he added.

Later in the evening, a concert was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Violence Against Women

Punishment to perpetrators demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari (KN) yesterday demanded proper punishment to perpetrators who are committing crimes of violence against women across the country.

It placed the demand at a human chain formed at Muktangan in the city.

KN Director Mahmuda Imam, Coordinator Arifa Akter, Syeda Selina Shelly and Mahbuba Akhter Lipi addressed the programme.

They said there are a number of tough laws aiming to prevent violence against women, but the situation has hardly improved.

Atrocious incidents of violence against women are still taking place in large scale, they added.

The KN leaders also demanded immediate implementation of the High Court directive on sexual harassment.

Later, KN brought out a procession to press home its demand.

Woman found dead in Ctg hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the slaughtered body of a woman from a residential hotel in the port city early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Popy Begum, 20, wife of Mohammad Monir, of Sreepur in Comilla.

Police said Monir and Popy boarded in the room no-114 of Cox's Bazar Boarding in Laldighir Par area on July 30.

Noticing the room padlocked from outside and lying the body of Popy on the bed on Tuesday, the hotel authorities informed the police of the matter who later recovered the body around 1:00am yesterday.

Police also recovered a sharp knife which was used in the killing from a drain alongside the hotel.

Monir, who is a hotel boy of Karnaphuli Restaurant of the same area, remained absconding and was seen last in the hotel on Monday night, they said.

Sub-Inspector Ranjit Barua of Kotwali Police Station said Manager of the hotel Tunu Barua and hotel boy Alamgir were picked up for quizzing.

Monir, who got married with Popy hailed from Kosbah in Brahmanbaria one month ago, went into hiding after the incident, he added.

Ranjit said the body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy and a case was filed in this connection.

UPAZILA PARISHAD HC issues rule on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on Tuesday issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why it should not be directed to allow Upazila Parishads to function in line with the government circular empowering the Upazila chairmen.

An HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Borhan Uddin also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to put the proposed Upazila Parishad Karjibidhimala (Procedures) 2009 in force as per the rules of the circular.

The bench came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Mir Shahe Alam, chairman of Shibganj Upazila in Bogra.

The petition stated that the government on May 4 this year issued a circular empowering the Upazila chairmen to hold meetings and to participate in other functions of Upazilla Parishads, but the government is not following the rules of the circular.

Petitioner's counsel Advocate AHM Mizanur Rahman told the court that the Upazila Parishads are running at the instructions of the ministries and lawmakers, and the Upazila chairmen elected by the people could not perform their functions.

According to the circular, steps are being taken to issue Upazila Parishad Karjibidhimala (Procedures) 2009 in line with Upazila Parishad Act, 1998 to run Upazilla Parishads, but the government has not issued the Karjibidhimala as yet, he said.

He also said Upazila Parishads will run as per the rules of the circular until the Upazila Parishad Karjibidhimala 2009 is issued.

Dutch support for river dredging sought

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the Netherlands to give technical assistance with their high-tech water management expertise for reviving the country's navigability through river dredging.

"I hope the Netherlands government will provide support to revive the navigability of our rivers through dredging," he said when newly appointed Dutch Ambassador AJAJMG Hennekens presented his credentials to him at Bangabhaban. The president expressed his satisfaction over the existing wide-ranging relations between the two countries in economic, trade, cultural and education fields. On bilateral trade, Zillur hoped the Netherlands entrepreneurs would buy more world standard medium and small-sized Bangladeshi ships to help boom the country's promising industry.

He appreciated the Netherlands for purchasing four ships from Bangladesh. He sought more orders of ship purchase from the Dutch side as the country is building world standard ships, ready to export in competitive prices.

The president urged the Dutch businessmen to import more Bangladeshi products including RMG, jute, leathers, pharmaceuticals and ceramic.

ics goods considering their quality and competitive prices as well as invest here more taking advantage of lucrative offers provided by the government.

Zillur said there are many opportunities to further strengthening the trade and commerce relations between the two countries. Exchange of visits by trade delegations can help in this regard, he added.

He recalled with gratitude that the Netherlands was one of the first few European countries to recognise Bangladesh just after its War of Liberation and has since then the bilateral relations between the two countries are excellent.

He told the envoy that the present government is working relentlessly for alleviating poverty, giving boost to agro

and food production, creating jobs and employments, promoting decentralisation and empowering women.

Hennekens assured Zillur that his government is ready to provide any kind of support and cooperation to Bangladesh government in water management sector.

The new envoy appreciated the President's leadership in the democratic transition in Bangladesh following a free, fair and credible election.

He also appreciated the role of prime minister in taking various programmes in alleviating poverty and economic development of the country.

The envoy expressed his profound respect to the memory of Ivy Rahman, wife of the president, who was killed in a grenade attack in 2004.

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Abu Naser Khan speaks at a roundtable on the 'Sirajganj town protection embankment failure' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

'Sirajganj town embankment needs regular maintenance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of regular maintenance and monitoring system might have led to massive breaches in the Sirajganj town protection embankment recently, experts at a roundtable said yesterday.

The Sirajganj Hard Point is under threat of collapse, they said and stressed the need for dumping of geobags to stop erosion by the river Jamuna whenever such failures occur.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save the environment movement) organised the roundtable on the 'Sirajganj town protection embankment failure' at the National Press Club in the city.

Prof Dr MA Matin of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) presented a keynote paper explaining reasons for failure of Sirajganj Hard Point.

He also suggested several measures to protect the

embankment such as close monitoring of the Hard Point area, dumping of geobags and river training.

Moderating the roundtable, Buet Vice Chancellor Prof AMM Shafiqul Islam stressed the need to conduct proper study before establishing any structures.

Dr Maminul Haque Sarker also spoke at the roundtable presided over by Abu Naser Khan, chairman of the Save the Environment Movement.