

EC to help tackle climate change

European Commission envoys meet Hasan

UNB, Dhaka

As the government demands compensation for climate change impacts, ambassadors of the European Commission yesterday said they would support Bangladesh's demand in the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.

"The European Commission (EC) also will provide a large amount of assistance to Bangladesh to tackle the climate change effects," Swedish Ambassador Britt Falkman Hagstrom said.

A delegation of the EC ambassadors led by the Swedish envoy met State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud at his Secretariat office.

The delegation also praised the government for preparing an Action Plan to tackle the climate change impacts.

French Ambassador

Charley Causeret, Spanish Ambassador Arturo Perez, British High Commissioner Stephen Evans, German Ambassador Holger Michael, Head of the EC Delegation Dr Stefan Frowein, Danish Ambassador Einar Heibogaard Jensen, Dutch Ambassador Alphonse Hennekens, Italian Ambassador Maria Marta Occhi and First Secretary of Swedish Embassy Johan Willert were present at the meeting.

State Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh needs US\$ 500 million immediately to tackle the adverse effects of global climate change.

He also sought bigger financial assistance from the European countries for long-term development plans.

The minister told the envoys that the country would submit a proposal seeking assistance from the

Multi-Donor Trust Fund in the summit with focus on vulnerabilities of Bangladesh and initiatives taken by the member countries.

"Bangladesh will also demand US\$ 5 billion in compensation for the climate change in the upcoming Climate Change Copenhagen Conference to tackle climate change effects," he added.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, from December 7 to 18.

The conference includes the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP-5) to the Kyoto Protocol.

According to the Bali roadmap, a framework for climate change mitigation beyond 2012 is to be agreed upon there.



PHOTO: STAR

A bullet hole in a shop front after an armed attack on four motor parts shops at Bijoy Nagar in the city yesterday.

Armed attack on motor parts shops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals sprayed bullets at four motor parts shops at Bijoy Nagar in the city yesterday, injuring a shop employee and damaging glass walls.

Bullet-hit Jihad, 15, an employee of Azad Car Centre, received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The police, however, could not establish the motive behind the armed attack.

Witnesses said a gang of five or six criminals carried out the armed attack on four shops in the area -- Bikrampur Car Fashion, Azad Car Centre, Suva Car and Erin Enterprise -- around 5:30pm and ran away.

Md Palash, owner of Bikrampur Car Fashion, said, "I was sitting at the cash register. Suddenly two youths appeared in front of my shop, sprayed bullets on

the glass wall and flashed by. Hearing gunshots, I ducked behind the cash register. When I came out, I found that glasses of my shop and three other adjacent shops were damaged and one person was injured in the attack."

He said he heard around 12 gunshots. Officer-in-charge (OC) Mujibur Rahman of Paltan Police Station said local goons might have carried out the armed attack to create panic among the traders.

Quoting the shop owners, he said there are disputes over the land of the shops, which might have been the reason behind the attack. They also think that local extortionists might also have carried out the attack.

Palash said the traders have to pay tolls to local extortionists on regular basis and they often demand more money.

Keraniganj road crash kills 2

UNB, Keraniganj

Two people were killed and nine others injured when a truck and a human hauler collided head-on on Dhaka-Mawa highway at Teguria yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Rifatullah Khan, 32, son of Mafizullah Khan of Baraipara village in Zajira upazila under Munshiganj district and human hauler driver Ismail, 23, son of M Kamal of Mulimnagar of South Keraniganj.

Police said the truck rammed the human hauler at about 1:05pm, killing its passenger Rifatullah on the spot and injuring others.

Six of the injured -- Ismail, Hafizur Rahman, 25, his sisters Sonia, 18, and Rina, 19, and mother and brother -- were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition where Ismail succumbed to his injuries at about 2:30pm.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Japan formulating plan for Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Japan, the largest bilateral development partner, is formulating a five-year assistance strategy for Bangladesh and other developing countries to cope with the adversities of climate change.

After formulating the master plan, the Japan government will provide financial assistance to Bangladesh on priority basis from its own financial mechanism, styled "cool earth partnership" on the scale of \$10 billion globally.

The task of formulating the master plan has started in March last year under the supervision of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and it will be completed before next April, at the beginning of the Japanese financial year.

"After formulating the master plan, the Japan government will decide the size of the fund for Bangladesh from

the total \$10 billion global fund," Project Formulation Officer of Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change wing of JICA Bangladesh Hideki Katayama told BSS yesterday.

The master plan is being formulated with the help of both local and Japanese consultants focusing how Bangladesh could face the adverse impacts of climate change in the coming days and what should be Japan's role in this regard as a development partner, he added.

"The Japanese government is giving the highest priority to Bangladesh in giving assistance to climate change issues considering its vulnerability in the context of adverse effects of climate change," he said.

The Japanese government would use such financial instruments to cement its partnership in the stride for advancement of the developing countries and work towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emission globally, he said.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister and Ecneec Chairperson Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Ecneec approves Tk 279cr uplift projects

Shiekh Naser Stadium to be developed as alternate venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) at a meeting yesterday approved four development projects involving Tk 279 crore to be funded from government exchequer.

With Prime Minister and Ecneec Chairperson Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the meeting was held at the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

The projects are renovation and development of Chittagong Zahur Ahmed

Chowdhury Stadium under Youth and Sports Ministry, renovation and development of Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna for building alternate venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011, National Archives Bhaban Construction 2nd phase (amended) project of Archives and Public Library Department under Ministry of Culture and infrastructure and laboratory facilities creating project for the launch of new academic departments of five public universities under Ministry of Education.

Planning Minister AK Khandaker, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Labour and Employment and Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Water Resources Minister Romesh Chandra Sen, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, PM's advisers HT Imam and Dr Alauddin Ahmed and State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker attended the meeting.

KALABAGAN POLICE STATION OPENS

Sahara urges city residents to help curb crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the inauguration of newly established Kalabagan Police Station yesterday, the number of police stations in Dhaka metropolitan area stands at 40.

Inaugurating the police station at North Circular Road, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said the government is trying to ensure security in every corner of the densely populated city by setting up more police stations.

She asked the police to change their mindset and be friends of the people.

"The city dwellers should also help combat crimes as criminals can easily escape because the city is densely populated. If residents inform on local criminals and their hideouts, the task of combating crimes will be easier," she said, adding that active participation of people is a must for curbing crimes.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad said the security of one's life and property should be considered as a fundamental right.

Appreciation also serves as a source of inspiration, he said, adding that if the police are repeatedly criticised, they would be discouraged from restoring their past glory.

Local lawmaker Sheikh Fazle Noor Tapash said the incidents of drug trafficking and mugging are rampant in the area.

He hoped that the new police station would help curb such crimes in the area.

Local elite who were present at the inaugural function at a school compound requested the home minister to rename the new police station as East Dhanmondi Police Station.

The police station has been set up at

Bhutergali Community Centre for the time being. Later, it will be shifted to its own building. Its jurisdiction covers only around 1.5 square kilometre areas including Kalabagan, Kathalbag and its adjacent areas.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, National Professor Nurul Islam and DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque were also present.



SAVING SIGHT WORLDWIDE

ORBIS programme begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

ORBIS International, an organisation carrying out eye care awareness and skill building activities with a slogan 'saving sight worldwide', launched a two-week skills exchange programme at its flying eye hospital here yesterday.

Health Adviser to Prime Minister Prof Syed Modasser Ali formally inaugurated the 'ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital (FEH) Programme' on a giant DC-10 aircraft that landed at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong on Sunday.

With a view to introducing the country's eye care professionals with the latest technology and modern treatment, both surgical and medical, ORBIS International landed its flagship Flying Eye Hospital for the ninth time in the country and the third time in Chittagong after 2002 and 2005.

Invited by ORBIS Bangladesh's long-time partner Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC), the largest non-government eye hospital in this region at Pahartali in the port city, the FEH programme aims at strengthening training capacity in both paediatric ophthalmology and cornea.

A total of 120 ophthalmologists, 40 anaesthesiologists, 15 technicians and 50 nurses were scheduled to participate in the hands-on trainings on cataract (phaco), cornea and external diseases, paediatrics/strabismus and ROP and retina (medical) in the first week (from October 4 to 8) and on glaucoma (paediatrics), ophthalmology, retina/vitreous, anaesthesiology and nursing in the second week (from October 11 to 15).

Some 300 patients are expected to be examined and



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Specialised doctors of ORBIS International perform an operation on an eye patient at the flying eye hospital in a giant DC-10 aircraft at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday.

some 75 surgically or medically treated during the programme to be supported by 10 voluntary faculties and FEH staffs from the USA, the UK and Canada.

The training workshop and hands-on training would also be held at CEITC.

Addressing the function as the chief guest, Prof Ali said the programme would be a scope for exchanging technological experience and cooperation with the latest ophthalmologic hospital of ORBIS, which is a pioneering US-based organisation, particularly in paediatric ophthalmology.

Prof Shah Monir Hossain, director general of DGHS and

Prof Dr Deen Mohammad Nurul Huq were present as the special guest and guest of honour respectively at the programme held on the airport premise with Ophthalmology Society of Bangladesh President Ava Hossain in the chair.

Organising Committee Chairman of ORBIS FEH Programme Prof Rabiul Hussain, also managing trustee of CEITC and chairman of International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), South-East Asia Region, ORBIS Bangladesh Country Director Dr Abu Raihan and ORBIS International Medical Director Dr Hunter Chervak

also spoke.

Noted ophthalmologist Dr MA Matin was also present at the ceremony.

Prof Rabiul said coinciding with the World Sight Day on October 8, the FEH programme this year would emphasise gender equality in ensuring equal access to eye care following the theme of the day.

Dr Chervak said, "Specifically this programme would augment an ongoing ORBIS Bangladesh project that aims to strengthen the overall eye care capacity of CEITC, with focus on paediatric eye care."

In his speech, Dr Raihan said ORBIS Bangladesh celebrates its 10th anniversary this

month and recognises CEITC as a strengthening partner.

"Our partnership with CEITC has successfully launched several paediatric eye care centres in Bangladesh and supported establishment of the country's first paediatric ophthalmology training centre at Chittagong," he said, adding that this centre is not only training doctors of Bangladesh but also those from Azerbaijan, China, Kenya and West Indies.

He also informed that ORBIS Bangladesh has established nine paediatric eye care facilities -- seven in Bangladesh and two in Pakistan -- to treat together over one lakh children annually.