

EU to help Bangladesh fight disasters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A European Union (EU) delegation yesterday said the major continental bloc would increase its assistance in future to help Bangladesh fight disasters, frequencies of which are increasing day by day.

The 10-member delegation of the EU Parliament led by Nirj Deva said this at a meeting with Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque at his office in the ministry.

The meeting discussed, inter alia, impacts of climate change in the country, strategies to face them and food security, says a food ministry release.

Stating that the EU should come forward with more aid to face the climate challenges, the minister said the fund created for the purpose should be used in such a manner so that the affected people can benefit from it directly.

The government wants to heighten and strengthen the embankments in the coastal areas, build stronger cyclone shelter centres for vulnerable people and increase the capacity of food storages.

Around 18 percent of the budget is being spent in the social safety net programmes. So, the EU and other international development partners should help to this end, Razzaque said.

The delegation appreciated the strategies the country is applying in facing natural disasters.

Other delegates include Franziska Keller, Niccolo Rinaldi, Jean Lambert, John Attard Montalto, Jose Carlos Illan Sailer, Dolores Ruiz Vicente, Timothy Watson Boden, Sabine Meyer and EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Stefan Frowein.



Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) found chicken preserved in an unhygienic condition at an eatery at Motijheel in the city during a drive against food adulteration yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY TODAY

50,000 children die of pneumonia a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first 'World Pneumonia Day' will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today.

At a press conference yesterday, medical experts urged the government to take necessary steps to combat pneumonia, the world's leading killer disease for young children.

Dr Samir Saha, director of Child Health Research Foundation (CHRF), said around 50,000 children die of pneumonia every year in the country and most of them are under five. Bangladesh has the fifth highest number of pneumonia deaths in the world.

Coordinated efforts and cooperation

from the government can help reduce the pneumonia mortality rate, he added.

Other speakers said pneumonia is a curable disease. But it takes a huge number of lives of children every year. Creating awareness among the people and proper guideline to fight the disease can reduce the mortality rate of young children. The government in cooperation with the experts should take effective steps to fight the disease.

The CHRF organised the press conference at a city hotel.

To mark the day, CHRF will hold a rally in front of the National Press Club at 8:30am and arrange a symposium at 11:00am at a city hotel today to mark the

World Pneumonia Day.

National Professor Dr MR Khan said that Bangladesh is in the process of eradicating polio, measles, tetanus and other deadly diseases. Similarly, childhood immunisation with pneumococcal vaccine can largely prevent pneumonia, he added.

Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta, head of the Division of Maternal and Child Health at the Aga Khan University Medical Centre in Pakistan; Prof Md Shahidullah, provic chancellor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU); and Dr Desmond Turner, member of parliament of the United Kingdom were also present at the press conference.

Gunfight in Keraniganj: 4 criminals arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four of a gang of criminals after they were involved in a gunfight with the crime busters in broad daylight yesterday at suburban Keraniganj and seized three firearms from their possession.

One of the Rab-10 members was also injured in the firing that took place around 12:00 noon at Chunkutia under South Keraniganj.

The arrestees were identified as Zahid Hossain, 30, and Mohammad Mamun, 32, of Keraniganj, Abul Khayer, 22, of Munshiganj and Mohammad Mohsin, 27, of Barisal were admitted to Mitford Hospital with bullet injuries in their legs.

Rab officials said the gun battle started when the muggers resisted the plainclothes Rab men who were on patrol duty.

They seized one pistol, one revolver, one pipe gun, one magazine of pistol, two bullets of pistol, 25 bullets of 303-rifle, seven bullets of shotgun, six cocktails and a knife.

Bangladesh in the city.

Deputy Leader of the house and Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said politics of killing and coup was introduced in the country through the murder of Bangabandhu and the conspirators are still hatching conspiracy against the country.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam, Mohammad Nasim, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Dhaka City Awami League General Secretary Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya also spoke at the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports launches a mass signature campaign at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in protest against the government bid to lease out offshore and deep-sea gas blocks to foreign companies.

Killers of '75 still active

Say AL leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killers of Bangabandhu and four national leaders and their associates are still hatching conspiracies to make the country unstable, senior Awami League leaders said yesterday.

They said those who had rewarded and rehabilitated the killers of Bangabandhu and were benefited by the murder have started propagating conspiracies so that the Bangabandhu murder case cannot proceed.

They were speaking at a discussion marking the Jail Killing Day at the Institute of Engineers

Police action on RMG workers protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and labour organisations yesterday condemned the police action on garment workers of Nippon Garments at Tongi in Gazipur on Saturday and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the atrocities.

RMG workers are the victims of different kinds of deprivation by owners. They have to lead their life miserably with poor wages, although they have a lot of contribution to flourishing the sector in Bangladesh, leaders of the organisations said.

They alleged that the workers are often rewarded bullets instead of regular salaries.

Terming it a plot to damage the garment sector, the lifeline of the country's economy, they called on the countrymen to take stance against such con-

spiracy.

"Compensations should be paid to the victims and their families," the leaders demanded.

They stressed the need for formation of an impartial investigation committee to look into the incident and exemplary punishment to the killers.

The organisations condemned the atrocities include Karmojibi Nari, Garment Workers' Unity Forum, Progressive Democratic Party, Bangladesh OSK Garment Workers' Federation, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha, Bangladesh Garment Samik Mukti Andolon, Jatiya Gono Front, Bangladesh Garment Workers' Unity Council, Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Hazaribagh Tannery Workers Union and Jatiya Mukti Council.

3rd Buriganga Bridge likely to open this month

UNB, Dhaka

Shaheed Intellectuals Bridge (the third Buriganga Bridge) is likely to open to traffic this month as the work on its physical infrastructure has been completed.

Communications Minister Sayed Abul Hossain said this yesterday while visiting the project site to see for himself the

progress of the construction work, said an official release.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Advocate M Qamrul Islam and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak were present.

Roads and Highways Department is implementing the Tk84 crore project at Basila in the city.

Traffic congestion in the capital would be eased to some extent as the 708 metre long and 10 metre wide bridge directly linked Mohammadpur with Keraniganj and Savar.

The communications minister gave directives to the engineers concerned to complete the finishing, marking and painting works quickly for its inauguration ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

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