

Provide winter clothes to Aila-hit people HC tells govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to provide winter clothes to cyclone Aila-affected people in the southwestern areas of Khulna and Satkhira districts as soon as possible.

The High Court bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Qamrul Islam Siddiqui passed the order upon a writ petition jointly filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) and the Dacop Nagorik Parishad.

The court also instructed Deputy Attorney General Razik Al Jalil to forthwith inform the government of this order.

Earlier in December last year, the court following the same petition issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to construct embankments and repair the damaged embankments in the two districts by February 2010.

CHT BROUGHT UNDER TELETALK NETWORK Steps taken to develop 3 hill dists: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government would do whatever is possible for the development of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

"We've already started taking various projects for the development of the CHT and are also implementing the projects," she said while inaugurating the state-run cellphone company Teletalk's network in the upazilas of three hill districts.

She inaugurated the Teletalk network by making a call from her office to the CHT and talked with Post and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the inaugural ceremony.

Hasina alleged that the previous BNP-led alliance government stopped all development activities that were taken during her government from 1996 to 2001.

"Considering the welfare of the people in the CHT, we signed the CHT peace accord for political solution in the area and took up various development activities," she said. "But the BNP-led alliance government stopped all kinds of development activities in the region."

She also said that all analogue land phone lines in the CHT areas will be gradually converted into digital.

Hasina said that her government wants to build a digital Bangladesh. "With the inauguration of Teletalk network in all upazilas of the CHT, we're stepping towards achieving that goal as per our election pledge."

She also reaffirmed her own and her government's strong commitment to continuing the trend of peace and prosperity in the coming years like the first year of the present democratic government.

She said her government has been successful in implementing the most important election pledges, including reducing the prices of essentials.

The prime minister alleged that the previous BNP-Jamaat government destroyed country's democracy and ruined the nation through widespread corruption and by killing thousands of progressive and pro-liberation people.

"Now as the people have brought us to power through their spontaneous votes, we've taken it as a great responsibility to work for the people and to serve the nation. We're not anti-people like BNP and Jamaat. We don't kill people like the four-party alliance, we protect the people's lives and properties," she said.

One to die for killing 7-yr-old boy

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing a seven-year-old boy after abduction in April 2007.

Judge AFM Mahbubul Haque of the Second Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression handed down the verdict on Khaled Hassan.

The court, however, acquitted two other accused -- Shamim and Babul -- as the charges brought against them were not proved.

According to the prosecution, Saidul Islam, 7, a student of nursery at PL Shishu Monjuri Kindergarten at Dhakhin Khan in the city, was abducted by a group of miscreants led by Khaled for a ransom of Tk 50,000 on April 28 of 2007.

The abductors then demanded money from the victim's family. But the miscreants killed the victim, as they did not get the money. They dumped the body at a place near Kawla Silver Aviation Staff Quarter at Dhakhin Khan.

Later, the police recovered the body and arrested Khaled and two others.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT DU forms fact-finding committee

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities have formed a high-powered permanent fact-finding committee to examine allegations of sexual harassment involving teachers, students and staffs.

The DU syndicate, the highest decision making body of the institution, formed the five-member committee with Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, also a member of the syndicate, as its convener, at a meeting on December 27, said Ashraf Ali Khan, director of public relations at DU.

The committee would examine any allegation of sexual harassment involving teachers, students and staffs and submit a report with recommendations of taking actions on a concerned issue after scrutinising the allegation.

Other members of the committee include Supreme Court Bar Association President AFM Mesbahuddin, Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, and Dean of Science Faculty Prof Tazmeri SA Islam. They all are also the members of the syndicate.

The DU registrar will play the role of member secretary in the committee.

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