



Cabinet members receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city, as she returned home early yesterday ending her six-day visit to South Korea and Malaysia.

ONE YEAR OF CYCLONE AILA

Survivors still cry for adequate food, safe water, rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists from home and abroad who covered the devastation of cyclone Aila yesterday called for immediate reconstruction of the damaged embankments in the affected areas and ensuring rehabilitation of the survivors.

The cyclone struck the country's coastal districts of Khulna and Satkhira on May 25 last year, leaving 190 people dead and thousands destitute.

Expressing serious concern over the grave humanitarian crisis prevailing there, they said one year has passed since the victims have been enduring extreme sufferings from the lack of adequate food, water and shelter on the embankments, but their fate is yet to be changed.

Apart from leading measurable lives, the emotions of the survivors in the affected areas became numb with voicing their demands to the journalists, government and non-government agencies for the last one year, they said, expressing resentment at the slow pace of reconstruction work of the damaged dykes.

The journalists made the remarks at a launching ceremony of a compilation of reporters' testimonies on the sufferings of the Aila-hit people in one year at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Fifteen journalists working in different national and international newspapers, television channels and news agencies gave their eyewitness accounts in the testimony and looked into the root of the trouble through a set of write-ups from personal perspectives.

The testimony is published by Bangladesh Consortium of the Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) project which includes five international

NGOs -- Oxfam, CARE, Catholic Relief Service, Concern Worldwide, World Vision and Save the Children -- in collaboration with Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) to mark one year of sufferings of the Aila-hit people.

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, chief executive officer and the editor in chief of the Boishakhi Television, and Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder, secretary to the ministry of environment and forest, unveiled the cover of the testimony.

Mihir said repairing the dykes or raising their heights is not the only solution, increasing the capacity and raising voices in the international arena is also important.

He stressed the need for involving the community people in the reconstruction and maintenance of the dykes.

Mihir said the government has planned for afforestation in the 7,000

kilometres of costal embankments in the country as the dykes which are surrounded by trees were less destroyed by the cyclone.

"We have changed the afforestation policy to this end," he said, adding the work of afforestation would be done with the involvement of the community people.

Bulbul said, "We've to set our priorities first and then go for remedies as per the priorities."

Urging the media to do more follow-up stories on the aftermath of Aila to put pressure on the government, he hoped that the testimony would shake the policymakers.

Ziaul Haque Mukta, member secretary of CSRL, said the publication is the first of their series of programmes marking the one-year of the cyclone.

Death anniversary

Today is the 68th death anniversary of Dr Kazi Abdus Sattar, a renowned physician and political personality in the subcontinent, says a press release.

Dr Sattar, a leader of Indian Congress and first Muslim medical scientist in this subcontinent, was born in 1875 at Kalkini thana of Barisal. He played active role in anti-British movement and Khelafat Andolon.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Gopalpur village of Kalkini thana.

Prof Dr Zohra Kazi was her daughter.

Hartal aimed at creating instability: AL

DU CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has resorted to 'destructive' political programme like hartal as part of its conspiracy to create instability in the country, Awami League leaders said at a rally yesterday.

The BNP is also trying to save its 'political collaborators' who were involved in the crimes against humanity in 1971, by announcing hartal programme, they added.

But no conspiracy against the trial of war criminals would succeed, AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury said as the chief guest.

The people of the country will reject the hartal, she added.

The city AL organised the rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city in protest against what they said were falsehoods of Khaleda and BNP's conspiracy to foil development process and democracy.

Joint General Secretary of AL Mahbub Alam Hanif said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia does not want that the war criminals stand trial and so, she is now openly speaking against it.

Khaleda announced the hartal so that the trial of war criminals as well as the trial of corruption cases against her two sons -- Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko -- are not held, he added.

The AL leaders also strongly criticised the BNP chairperson for not producing electricity during the tenure of her government and for passing the buck on the present government.

City unit leaders vowed to resist the hartal along with the people.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam and city AL general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also spoke at the rally presided over by its acting president MA Aziz.



Paribesh Bachao Andolon and Green Belt Trust stage a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding formation of a constitutional commission to recover the occupied rivers, canals and wetlands.

Golam Rasul Mallik

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Golam Rasul Mallik, a freedom fighter, founder and chief editor of Eastern News Agency (ENA), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence after Zohr prayers.

Prof Azgar Ali

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Prof Azgar Ali, a Language Movement veteran and former president of Khilgaon Welfare Society, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Matir Mosque in Khilgaon residential area in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

It said day temperature may fall by 1-3 degrees Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:37pm today and rises at 5:13am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and Satkhira and lowest 20.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.5	22.0	93	83
Chittagong	31.5	24.4	79	79
Rajshahi	31.0	21.0	89	87
Khulna	32.0	24.0	82	92
Barisal	29.0	23.2	98	91
Sylhet	25.4	22.2	98	91
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.2	95	93

Give highest priority to energy, power in next budget: Mirza Aziz

UNB, Dhaka

Putting highest priority on energy and power sector in the upcoming budget, a former finance adviser said that the government might not be able to implement the big Annual Development Programme (ADP) of around Tk 38,500 crore.

In an exclusive interview with UNB at his residence at Uttara in the city, Dr Mirza Azizul Islam also identified transportation, agriculture, water resources, rural development, health, education and extension of social safety net as the other priority sectors for the budget of fiscal 2010-2011.

He also demanded reactivating the Regulatory Reforms Commission.

The former adviser opined that the next budget size of over Tk 130,000 crore is rational, as there is a need for more public expenditure in infrastructures including power, transportation, health, education and agriculture.

"The public expenditure in Bangladesh is less than the other countries proportionate to the GDP," he said.

But about the ADP size of around Tk 38,500 crore, he said that it would not be possible to implement the ADP as the amount is too large -- a big jump from the current fiscal.

Mirza Aziz said that the size of ADP in 2008-09 fiscal was Tk 25,600 crore, which was increased to Tk 30,500 crore in the current fiscal.

"The ADP was later revised to Tk 28,500 crore but I

doubt the ADP implementation won't cross Tk 24,000 crore in the current fiscal as the implementation rate is 48 percent till March."

He cited two reasons -- administrative weakness and lack of trust -- as the major barriers towards full implementation of the ADP.

To enhance the implementation capacity, he emphasised shortening the time for issuance of work order and more seriousness among the secretaries and other subordinate officials.

The former adviser also stressed increasing the monitoring capacity of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

About the projection of GDP growth rate at 6.5 percent, he said it is not impractical, but there is a need to ensure adequate supply of gas and electricity. "It might be achievable if there is no major natural calamity."

About the government's recent move on the rental power plants without tender to cope with the energy and power crisis, he said there will be fiscal burden from macro-economic point of view. "But there will be output loss if the government can't provide electricity."

He, however, viewed that an important factor could be at what price the government would buy electricity from the rental power plants.

The purchase of the rental power plants should be for a limited period of three years and ultimately there is a need to go for setting up permanent power plants, he said.

Mirza Aziz also emphasised further improving the

power management system, saying that system loss was brought down to 6 percent in December 2008 from 20 percent during 1997-98.

On the government target to contain inflation at around 6.5 percent, he said the inflation might reach 7 percent but it will largely depend on world market.

"It is very difficult to contain inflation with domestic measures as a portion of most of the products is import-dependent," he added.

On the current budget's special feature of Public Private Partnership (PPP), he said the provision should be there but its guidelines should be finalised as soon as possible.

"The government could make project portfolio for PPP implementation with necessary guidelines mentioning the number of projects to be taken and in which sectors."

About the much-debated provision for whitening black money, the former finance adviser strongly opposed the facility citing three reasons - less effective, gives wrong signal and discriminates the honest taxpayers.

About the proposed tax on capital gains, he suggested that it should prevail not only in the capital market but also in respect of other capital gains such as land and house.

He, however, said if the capital gain tax is imposed for the first time the rate should remain within five percent so that the general investors would not feel pressure.

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা কর্তৃক অনুমোদনপ্রাপ্ত কলেজ কোড : ১১৬৬

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২০১০ সালের এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ-৫ প্রাপ্ত শিক্ষার্থীদের সংবর্ধনা

স্থান: বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্র, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা।  
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- সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষার্থী ও অভিভাবককে নিজ দায়িত্বে বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রে আসা-যাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

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ফোন: ৮৮-০২-৮৪১১৪১২-৬, মোবাইল: ০১৭৫০০০৪৫-৯, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০২-৮৪১১৪১৯  
E-mail: info@queenmarycollege.org.bd,  
web: www.queenmarycollege.org.bd

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সংবর্ধনার সূত্র: ৩০ মে ২০১০ রবিবার  
সকাল ৮টা হতে রাত ৮টা পর্যন্ত অফিস খোলা থাকবে

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