

National Disaster Preparedness Day-2012

29 March, Thursday



Disaster Management Bureau



**Disaster Management and Relief Division
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



President
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Dhaka

15 Chaitra 1418
29 March 2012

Message

I am delighted to know that 'National Disaster Preparedness Day 2012' is going to be observed on March 29, 2012.

Bangladesh, due to geographical location, has to mitigate various natural calamities almost every year. In line with the reality, the industrious, strained and courageous people of our country have been able to accustom themselves to the technique of mitigating natural disaster. Therefore, Bangladesh is now well-known as the best disaster management country in the world. This credit goes to the entire nation as a whole. Our youth, students and teachers along with the brave nation can play responsible role in facing disaster. This year's theme "Chatra-Shikhhok-Janata, esho gori durjog shochetonota" (Creating enabling environment for disaster awareness by partnering the teachers, students & mass people) is appropriately, I think. I urge teachers, students and all sections of people to be aware of disaster management.

I wish the 'National Disaster Preparedness Day-2012' a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Zilur Rahman
Md. Zilur Rahman

Engaging young generation and community in Urban Disaster Management: A new challenge

Ahsan Zakir, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau

Bangladesh is the most vulnerable to natural disaster; every year natural calamities upset people's lives and properties in some part of the country. The major disasters are flood, cyclone and storm surge, flash flood, drought, tornado, riverbank erosion, and landslide. Over the past decades, climate change has added significant layers over the traditional disaster management initiatives. Global scientific community has placed Bangladesh as the worst victim of climate induced natural disasters. Both the frequency and intensity of the natural disasters are anticipated to be perturbed due to the changing climate. The projected change in the climatic parameters will attribute perturbation in the hydrologic cycle and thereby intensify the hydro-meteorological disasters. Observed and predicted changes in climate and weather extremes include:

- Increase in the flood discharge and subsequent increase in river bank erosion.
- Change in the extreme events like temperature has direct effect on disasters like tropical cyclone.
- As sea level continues to rise, permanent inundation is likely to increase the salinity near coastal areas.
- Drought is expected to be intensified.

The rate of rapid urbanization has placed staggering demands to provide and ensure public services including safety and security of citizens and their assets. At present the skies are disappearing fast as multi-storied high rise buildings appear everywhere. Residential houses, factories and commercial buildings are often not taking consideration of building codes, safety rules and standards. Lack of appropriate understanding, human error and negligence, overlooking the risks, delaying or ignoring risk management, etc. are human behavioral responses that contribute to the hazard incidents in our cities. The government and city corporations, other agencies and services dedicated to the safety and security of citizens are in a continuous state of alert in respect of hazard risks and incidents, and are ensuring their role and responsibility to the best of their abilities and capacity.

In respect of urban hazards, Disaster Management Bureau is coordinating for preparing and updating an inventory of services and capacity for earthquake emergency search and rescue operations. Contingency plans have also been developed for Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, to mobilize emergency responses timely and systematically. Similar plans for Rangpur, Dinajpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Bogra are underway. Recently, DMB, CDMP and FSCD with Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet City Corporations have taken a plan to train and equip over 60,000 Urban Volunteers to support post incident emergency response requirement. For increasing preparedness of earthquake safety in schools, DMB, CDMP and NGOs are working to support schools in the cities to conduct drills on evacuation, search and rescue in case of an emergency. Also, light equipment and accessories to facilitate these drills in the schools are under consideration. A Guide for Teachers on planning and conducting earthquake safety drill in schools has been published and disseminated among schools.

There are many areas, including towns and cities in Bangladesh that are already at risk from natural hazards. The effects of climate change, such as more severe rainfall events and rising sea levels, melting snow from Himalaya will increase these risks and may put other areas at risk that may not have flooded in the past. Adapting to the reality of climate change therefore requires us to be even more vigilant in ensuring that risks of flooding into the future are integrated into the planning process, first through the spatial planning process at regional, city and county and local levels, and also in the assessment of development proposals by planning commission of Bangladesh.

Community engagement for implement risk management plan

Risks to people, property and the environment should be assessed over the full range of probabilities, including extreme events. Any risk assessment should cover all sources of flooding, including the effects of run-off from a development on risk both locally and beyond the development site. A staged approach should be adopted, carrying out only such appraisal and assessment as is needed for the purposes of decision-making at the local area plan levels, and also at the site specific level. It is always best to identify relevant community groups or demographics early in the planning process and approach key stakeholders from the outset to help develop risk management actions. However, if a risk management plan is already under development or being implemented, opportunities for approaching the community and the young generation, especially the students' consultation should still be taken.

Key steps to Identifying and approaching young generation

- Using existing networks or contacts to identify local community groups, teachers and students
- Using local environment groups and networks, educational institutions, environment centres, regional coordinators or government agency representatives
- Organizing to meet with the group as a whole to present the disaster consequence and raise opportunities for cooperation.
- Identify some strong driving force at the community level and at school

Sometimes a simple meeting and information session is enough to motivate a group into action, or a face-to-face visit is enough to begin developing a relationship with a community. Where fundamental changes are required which will affect community members, appropriate consultation should be required. We should respect the knowledge and experience within the community group and also from students. For achieving better community engagement in risk management we should encourage the selection and development of public and student involvement in our planning process. The theme of this year National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPP-2012) is "Lets Student, Teacher and Community jointly create the disaster awareness". This is the first milestone of a big road. We have achieved a bigger success in the field of disaster management especially in the arena of flood and cyclone. However, our joint effort will accelerated our efforts in combating urban disaster especially earthquake in Bangladesh.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

15 Chaitra 1418
29 March 2012

Message

I am happy to learn that the 'National Disaster Preparedness Day' is being observed on 29 March 2012 throughout the country.

Bangladesh is now well known as the world best in disaster management. The greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had launched disaster risk reduction programmes with forestation at the coastal belt, building cyclone and flood shelters to face the challenge.

Awami League government in 1997 adopted Standing Orders on Disaster. Modern search and rescue equipments have been purchased and handed over to the respective departments. Various steps have been taken to make the people aware of earthquake. Simulation has been arranged in all educational institutions regarding earthquake.

I hope, through observing the day the people of all walks of life would be provided with appropriate information for disaster preparedness. I urge upon the private sector, civil society, media and conscious citizen to supplement the government efforts to disaster preparedness.

I wish every success of the programmes of the National Disaster Preparedness Day 2012.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina
Sheikh Hasina



Minister
Ministry of Food and
Disaster Management
Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

The National Disaster Preparedness Day is being observed on the 29th March as the last Thursday of the month. The main objective of the observance of the day is to make the people aware of and motivate them to manage disaster successfully. The theme of the day of this year is "Creating enabling environment for disaster awareness by partnering the teachers, students and mass people (Chatra, shikhhok, Janata, esho gori durjog shochetonota)". The theme is very much appropriate and relevant to the endeavours of the present government in disaster management.

The success of Bangladesh in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction is worldwide acknowledged and admired nowadays. Since 1997 when the government first adopted the "Standing Orders on Disaster", disaster management and climate change adaptation have been and continue to be a leading priority for Bangladesh. The country is vulnerable to natural disaster and climate change impacts with cyclone, storm surge, flood, drought, salinity, sea level rise earthquake hence the need to reduce the negative impacts of natural and manmade hazards has gained enormous importance for the present government. In continuation with these efforts the Ministry of Food & Disaster Management and supporting partners are effectively planning to mitigate future natural disasters.

The present government is committed to reduce human, economic and environmental costs of disasters by enhancing overall disaster management capacity. Different steps have been taken such as building cyclone & flood shelter, cell broadcasting system for early warning, implementation of IVR system, preparation of seismic hazards maps for major cities, procurement of equipment for emergency search and rescue operation for earthquake response etc. are the few initiatives among many innovative approaches of the present government. This kind of precautionary and preventative approach allows the people of Bangladesh to be involved and be prepared for any sort of disaster. I encourage youth, students and teachers, civil society, the private sector, the media and citizens to participate and become informed on the disaster risk reduction and be empowered in case of a disaster related events.

I wish every success of the National Disaster Preparedness Day 2012.

Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, MP
Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, MP



Secretary
Disaster Management and Relief Division
Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

13 October 2011

Message

As a part of enhancing disaster resilience and improved preparedness among all-strata of the society, the National Disaster Preparedness Day, 29th March 2012 is being observed all over the country with great enthusiasm. Under the guidance of Disaster Management and Relief Division, Disaster Management Bureau in collaboration with Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme has taken various initiatives to mark the day throughout the country. This year the theme of the day is "Creating enabling environment for disaster awareness by partnering the teachers, students and mass people (Chatra, shikhhok, Janata, esho gori durjog shochetonota)" which carries the message of raising awareness and concerted effort of students, teachers and mass people to combat disaster risks.

As this year's theme appropriately highlights inclusion of wide range of stakeholders in disaster preparedness, I believe everyone irrespective of their age and status has a role to play in reducing the risks of disasters. In this regard, I am very pleased to announce that the Disaster Management and Relief Division has taken up initiatives to conduct earthquake preparedness and evacuation drill in primary and secondary schools around the country. Moreover the activities like rally, discussion meeting etc. will also be held to observe the day throughout the country.

The Disaster Management Bureau in collaboration with the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, the various development partners and civil society is striving to achieve its primary objective to strengthen the national capacity and planning for mitigating risks and reducing vulnerability in line with climate change adaptation. The comprehensive and systematic approach includes assessment and prediction of disaster, mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, contingency planning for urban risk reduction, using of GIS data and modern digital technology for early warning and innovative and sustainable solutions to reduce risks of the society.

Lessons learned from the past demonstrate that reducing disaster risk is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be met by the society in a concentrated manner. Only the whole-hearted participation of all stakeholders within a society can guarantee improved preparedness level to combat disasters and its negative impacts. Therefore commemorating this day is a call to every members of the society. I wish every success of all the programmes of "National Disaster Preparedness Day-2012".

Dr. M. Aslam Alam
Dr. M. Aslam Alam

A Comprehensive Approach towards Urban Risk Management

The world is increasingly urbanizing faster since 2008. In most cases this means cities unplanned growth. Dhaka with its 6% annual urbanization rate is one of the fastest growing cities. Its 14 million populations are to span to 20 million by 2025. Other cities' rate is 4% or more which is very high in the world. Bangladesh has complex multihazards features that make it as the world's most disaster-exposed country (2011 Global Assessment Report). Seven great earthquakes happened here in the last 150 years, two of them have the epicenters in the country (Bengal 14 July, 1985 and Srimongal 08 July, 1918). There were more than 100 seismic disturbances in last three years.

The question then, how do we get our cities - prepared? In 2010, government formed the 'Earthquake Preparedness and Awareness Committee' that commissioned the building code implementation roadmap based on workshops in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur. At the implementation level Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) is expanding the urban multihazard preparedness; response systems; develop expertise; and strengthening communities' mechanisms.

CDMP is pioneering the microzonation mapping to simulate the damage level in case of earthquake in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. Based on these, the cities developed scenario-based spatial contingency plans for response locations and routes. This is now expanding to Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Tangail and Rajshahi. The Urban Development Directorate (UDD) with CDMP support uses the microzonation maps to develop the land use plan for Mymensingh and adjoining area. CDMP helps to develop contingency plans at agency, city, and

national levels. Also, CDMP advocated the government to form 62 thousand urban volunteers to boost up the search and rescue and first capabilities in. At the moment, CDMP and the Fires Services and Civil Defense have provided training half of that targeted number.

In 2010, BDT 72 Crore-worth response heavy equipment (crane, bulldozer, excavator, emergency light units etc.) and light equipment (search camera, thermal imaging camera, air lifting bags, rescue jack, etc.) were procured by Disaster Management Bureau (DMB). Likewise, specific hardware such as 30 accelerometer sets, shake tables, ferroscons, geotechnical and geophysical instrument were provided for the relevant agencies and research institutes. In term of mitigation, CDMP through HBRI trains and certifies 2,200 masons and bar-binders. With the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) it conducted safety drills in more than 100 schools along with provision of Guidebooks and other IEC materials as well as drill equipment for 65 other schools.

Urban landslide, fire hazard, and water logging are also being addressed though hazard assessment and early warning pilot projects in Cox's bazar and Teknaf including community based early warning simulation mechanisms and response Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for the community and municipal authority. Partly because we have not responded to any urban mega disasters recently, our urban preparedness is not as primed as that of flood and cyclone. CDMP initiatives are the foundational building blocks that need to be upscaled across all sectors. Only thus we could progress towards safer urban resilient communities.



COURTESY:

