

DONOR FUNDED PROJECTS

'Foreign consultants should not be must'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign donors, especially World Bank, should drop preconditions of involving international consultants in the country's disaster management projects as it hampers the application of local expertise and the maximum utilisation of resources, said experts at a workshop yesterday.

Disaster Management Bureau organised the workshop, "Multi-Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Modeling and Mapping (MRVA)", at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) are carrying out a study on a project on MRVA.

Addressing as the chief guest, Disaster Management and Relief Division Secretary M Aslam Alami said the practise of this precondition prevents the appointment of local experts, even if they are available.

Development partners should provide the scope for the appointment of local expertise in development projects so that their knowledge can be put into practise, he said.

Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice chancellor of University of Asia Pacific, said, "We, as a country, are becoming more dependent on

foreign expertise day by day instead of allowing the local expertise to be applied in the country."

The speakers said the study on the MRVA project would create the basis for "building long term preparedness through strengthening disaster risk management capacity in the country..."

"...as well as enhance long term disaster risk mitigation and reduction ability of Disaster Management Bureau."

The workshop's main objectives were to identify areas in the country prone to geological, hydro-meteorological and technological hazards and to assess the exposure of people, property, infrastructure and economic activities to the hazards.

Disaster Management Bureau Director General Ahsan Zakir chaired the inaugural session where some 60 representatives of different organisations were present.

ADPC Executive Director NMSI Arambepola, ADPC Special Adviser Dr Bhichit Rattakul, Planning Division Secretary-in-Charge Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam and Disaster Management Bureau Director (planning and training) Dida Ahmed also spoke at the workshop.

7 killed, 13 hurt in road crashes

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Rajshahi, Gopalganj and Dinajpur on Wednesday and yesterday.

UNB from Manikganj reports, a Mitra-bound tempo from the town plunged into a ditch beside Manikganj-Singair road at Nayakandi in the sadar upazila around 12:10am yesterday, killing Amjad Khan, 45, instantly and injuring four others.

In another accident, Sohan, 5, son of Sohrab Hossain of Bathomuri village, died when a pick-up van ran over him in Ghor upazila yesterday morning while he was standing beside the road.

RU correspondent says, two people were killed and two others, including a child, injured as a truck rammed an auto-rickshaw at Sirul bus terminal intersection in Rajshahi city around 2:00pm yesterday.

The dead Ramjan Ali, 40, the auto-rickshaw driver and Jalal Uddin, 35, its passenger, were hailing from Naogaon; while the injured are Rafik Alam, 40, Rajshahi bureau chief of the daily Banglabazar Patrika, and Sumaiya, 12, his daughter.

Police said soon after striking the auto-rickshaw, the truck hit a motorbike carrying the journalist and his daughter from behind leaving them injured.

They were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

In Gopalganj, a mother and her son were killed and five others injured when a passenger bus fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gopinathpur area in the sadar upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased are Ratna Begum, 30, wife of Raich Mia and her son Tamim, 3, of Parchandradighal village of the upazila.

In Dinajpur, a college student was killed and two others were injured as a pick-up van hit them near Borsha village in Birganj upazila yesterday early morning.

The deceased Md Masud Rana, 22, son Md Aktar Ali of Borsha village in the upazila, was a second year student of HSC.

The injured are Jahangir Alam, 27, and Ranjit Roy, 45, of the same village.

Following the accident, locals blocked Thakurgaon-Dhaka road for at least six hours.

Man gets wife killed after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Just 20 days into their marriage, a man had his wife raped and killed by a hired goon in Chhotapul area of Chittagong city on Monday.

Police arrested the man Omar Faruk, 22, and the hired goon Mohammad Milon, 23, Wednesday night. Both of them confessed to killing Nurjahan Begum, 22.

Faruk, who was presented before the media along with Milon by police yesterday, said both he and Nurjahan were divorced from their first spouses.

They got married 20 days ago, he said, but Nurjahan kept contacting with his first husband to learn about her one-year-old son.

"Nurjahan's talking to his ex-husband hurt me very much, and I asked her to not continue the communication. As she did not heed, I decided to kill her," Faruk said.

Monir Hossain, sub-inspector, Halishahar Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, said Faruk hired Milon of Chhotapul area to carry out the murder.

Milon agreed but said he would rape Nurjahan before killing her.

On Monday evening, Faruk took Nurjahan to the bank of Maheshkhali near Islam Haji Brick Kiln area, where she was raped and strangled around 10:00pm.

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