

NEWS IN brief

USAID hands over 200 cyclone shelters

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has formally handed over 200 cyclone shelters to Bangladesh.

The cyclone shelters were repaired under the agency's "Increasing Community Resilience to Disaster (ICR)" project implemented by World Vision in southwest Bangladesh.

USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Kathryn Stevens joined Ranjit Kumar Sen, additional secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management to virtually hand over the shelters at a ceremony.

The shelters provide over 100,000 community and project participants across Koyra, Dacope, Shyamnagar and Kaliganj upazilas with access to safe and secure shelters during disasters such as cyclones and flooding.

As a result of the renovation work, communities are now able to access the shelters with clean WASH facilities including safe and potable water sources for drinking, toilets and hand washing facilities which are now more important than ever in light of Covid, said a US embassy statement yesterday.

Mufti Ibrahim remanded in DSA case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mufti Kazi Ibrahim, an Islamic preacher known for his controversial speeches, on a two-day remand in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sufyan Md Noman passed the order after Sub-inspector Md Hasanuzzaman of the Detective Branch of police, who is also investigation officer of the case, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

"Ibrahim made various false, provocative and defamatory remarks on social media which deteriorated law and order in the country," said the IO while seeking the remand.

Earlier in the day, two cases -- one under the DSA and another under the Penal Code -- were filed against him at Mohammadpur Police Station.

A DB team on Tuesday detained Ibrahim from his house in the capital's Mohammadpur area.

29 injured

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railway authorities to engage local representatives, members of upazila law and order committees, and imams of local mosques, said a participant of the meeting.

The minister also suggested engaging mass media to create awareness, saying that he will hold a press conference on the matter on Sunday.

Throwing stones at running trains continues to be a major problem, as culprits are rarely arrested and punished.

As per Bangladesh Railway Act-1890, one may face up to life imprisonment and be fined Tk 10,000 for such acts.

The ministry in May 2018 said at least 150 such incidents take place each year on average, causing a loss worth Tk 1.45 crore.

In May 2019, a train carrying Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury -- travelling to the northern part of the country -- came under such an attack. Although she was unhurt, the incident caused panic among passengers.

Among this year's 110 incidents, 66 took place in BR's East Zone and 44 in West Zone. Sixteen people got injured in the East Zone and 13 in West Zone.

BR also identified 56 sections in East Zone and 64 in West Zone where incidents of stone throwing took place this year.

United Hospital observes World Heart Day



City Desk

PHOTO: COURTESY

United Hospital observed World Heart Day yesterday by conducting free health check-up in a health check booth at the hospital.

More than 500 patients and their family members availed free checkup throughout the day, said a press release.

Dr Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, director (medical services) of United Hospital, inaugurated the health check booth at the hospital lobby in presence of Dr AM Shafique, consultant, cardiology; Dr Rezaul Hassan, consultant, cardiac surgery department; and hospital doctors, nurses and higher officials. Masud Ahmed, general manager, Communication and Business Development Department, conducted this programme.

Dr Mahbub Uddin Ahmed thanked Dr Momenuzzaman and Dr Jahangir Kabir and their team for carrying out more than 67,000 cardiac surgeries and procedures over the past 15 years.

United Hospital is conducting a week-long social awareness programme marking the day.

In addition, heart specialists will be attending seminars, free heart checkup camp, heart awareness activities at various clubs, corporate houses, and will also be present on various television talk shows.

12 Rohingyas among

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Bangladeshis and owners of the fishing boat. The rest are Rohingyas working as boat crew on a daily basis.

Commanding Officer MA Yousof said, "Tipped off, a team of Rab started patrolling in the Kamaphuli and intercepted the boat 'MV Mahin' and made the arrests."

Rain disrupts life

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horrible situation, so if there's a downpour, what will happen?"

"Twenty canals in the city are not regularly excavated, and some land grabbers have occupied major parts of the canals. These are the main reasons behind waterlogging," he added, urging authorities to take action.

After visiting many areas -- including Sheikhpara, Moilapota, KDA Avenue, Khanjahan Ali Road, Lower Jashore Road, Rupsha Stand Road, Sher-e-Bangla Road, Iqbalnagar, Tutpara, and other low-lying areas -- this correspondent found that the areas were submerged in knee-deep water, making vehicular movement difficult.

Rainwater flooded Moilapota kitchen markets, Newmarket, and many slums including those at Rupsha and Khalishpur. Ground floors of most buildings were

inundated. Many human hauliers and easy-bikes were found stranded on waterlogged roads, while many residents were seen struggling to find transport.

City dwellers were seen walking through knee-deep water. The busiest Royal Mor practically looked like a waterbody.

KCC Chief Conservancy Officer Md Abdul Aziz told The Daily Star, "We clean all drains round the year, but people dump their household garbage in them regularly. They ought to follow civic rules and store garbage at designated points."

Md Aminul Islam Munna, panel mayor-1 of KCC, said to improve the situation, a project worth Tk 843 crore has been undertaken to alleviate waterlogging and develop the drainage system.

"Under the project, we have also started development work for 27 drains at a cost of Tk 65 crore," he said.

Engage civil society

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monitoring could increase their quality and effectiveness, he said.

The government can learn and develop a built-in framework in the project development phase that facilitates civil society engagement with regular and systematic monitoring and reporting mechanism to local government and respective ministries, Aminul Hoque said.

He proposed having a legal framework to make obligatory for all ministries and development authorities to engage civil society while they develop and implement their projects.

He also proposed a parliamentary oversight monitoring mechanism with local representatives on the implementing projects and that it is made mandatory for the local government [district and upazila administration] to hold public hearing periodically on the progress of ongoing projects.

Asheq Ullah Rafiq, lawmaker from Cox's Bazar-2 constituency, said civil society works as the fourth eye of a country and creates awareness on irregularities and

ensures accountability and transparency. "We should strengthen it with proper law and regulatory framework," he said.

Bazul Rahaman, CEO of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication, said there are many government standing committees at local level to monitor implementation of development projects.

"We need a better coordination with them to strengthen civil society mechanism," he said.

Advocate Alamgir Hossain from Rangpur said government officials and local contractors do not welcome civil society engagement in monitoring the project implementation. Therefore, a legal framework is imperative, he said.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, executive director of COAST Trust, said the government will have to focus on strengthening institutional monitoring capacity by deploying more human resources according to the volume of project implementation.

"Civil society will be a supportive and complementary force to make them effective," he said.

NOTICE FOR CLOSING DOWN VF ASIA LIMITED, BANGLADESH LIAISON OFFICE

This is for information of all stakeholders of the VF Asia Limited, Bangladesh Liaison Office that the Board of Directors of VF Asia Limited, Hong Kong, the parent company of the above Liaison Office, have taken a decision for closing down VF Asia Limited, Bangladesh Liaison Office in a Board meeting held at the office of VF Asia Ltd., Hong Kong.

According to the Board decision, the effective closing date of the Liaison Office will be 30th of December 2021.

After publication of this notice, if any person has any objection or any claim with VF Asia Limited, Bangladesh Liaison Office, S/he is requested to contact Mr. Jubayer Amin, Senior Accountant of VF Asia Limited (authorized through the above mentioned Board meeting) in writing by dated 30th November 2021 latest.

VF Asia Limited, Bangladesh Liaison Office Empori Financial Center, Plot: 6, Level: 4, CFN (A), North Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.

Access to info

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That is how appropriate decisions are made."

Dr Sumon Rahman, a professor of journalism at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, emphasised the importance digital and information literacy in combatting fake news.

"The pandemic is not only a public health crisis, but also a crisis of accurate information. Providing false information is a violation of human rights. To tackle misinformation in digital media, journalists and users should know about digital literacy on their own initiative." Faruq Faisal, regional director for Article 19 South Asia, stressed the need to enhance journalists' capacity in public health reporting.

"There is a lack of awareness and capacity of journalists in public health reporting in Bangladesh. Many did not know how to report in a pandemic while keeping themselves safe. There is a need to increase the capacity of journalists in these areas," Faisal said.

FORCIBLY CUTTING STUDENTS' HAIR

Rabindra univ teacher steps down as dept head

Students on hunger strike demanding her termination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students at Sirajganj's Rabindra University started a hunger strike on campus yesterday morning, demanding termination of a department head who recently ordered haircut for at least 13 students against their will.

Farhana Yasmin Baten, head of the Department of History, Culture and Bangladesh Studies of the university, stepped down from the posts of head of the department, proctorial body and syndicate member.

She submitted her resignation letter to the university authorities yesterday, said Md Sohrab Ali, registrar of the university.

Meanwhile, the university authorities have formed a five-member probe committee, with Chairman of Rabindra Studies department Laila Fardous Himel as its head, to investigate the incident, the registrar said.

"For the sake of free and fair investigation, she resigned from the administrative posts," said Sohrab Ali.

"The probe committee will investigate the incident and submit the report within a very short time. The university authorities will take steps according to the report," he said.

Before the examination started on September 25, Farhana instructed the students to trim their hair before entering exam hall.

On September 26, she allegedly asked the university staff to cut the hair of those who had long hair before entering the examination hall.

Unable to bear the humiliation, one of the students, upon returning to mess, attempted suicide.

The students boycotted the exams and submitted a four-point memorandum to the university authorities. The demands include Farhana Yasmin's termination, action against other teachers who were present at the scene, fresh exam routine and bearing the medical expenditure of the student who attempted suicide.

"We have already assured the students of bearing the medical expenditure of the student and rescheduling the exam routine. Of the two other demands, taking action against the teachers is not possible without investigation," said Prof Md Abdul Latif, acting VC of the university.

Farhana Yasmin on a television talk show on Tuesday night blamed students falsely, alleged Nazmul Hasan, a student of the Department of Economics and also spokesperson of the agitating students.

The students claimed that few of them fell sick during the hunger strike that was continuing till filing of this report last evening.

The acting VC, who is also the treasurer, said teachers and the university authorities are negotiating with the students to end the strike.

UGC member Prof Muhammed Alamgir told The Daily Star last night that NHRC has sent a letter to them to probe into the incident at the university and submit a report in this regard. "We will forward the letter to the university authorities and ask them to submit a report soon," he added.

Reject use of nuclear weapons Momen urges global community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for the world to unequivocally reject the use of nuclear weapons while supporting the peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of human kind.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen made the call in his address at an event organised on the sidelines of the 76th UNGA Tuesday. He expressed Bangladesh's firm stand and unwavering constitutional commitment for general and complete disarmament.

Momen urged member states to cease senseless investments in non-productive armament purposes and to re-direct the world's finite resources to address issues like climate change, SDGs, peace and stability.

He expressed Bangladesh's readiness to work with international community towards realising the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

'Bangla Corner' opens at NY Queens Library

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A book corner named "Bangla Corner" was inaugurated at the Queens Public Library in New York on Tuesday, marking the Mujib Borsho and golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, who is visiting the USA to attend the 76th UN General Assembly, inaugurated the corner where Bangladesh Consulate General in New York donated 309 books mostly on Bangabandhu, Bangladesh's independence, history, culture and literature.

Bangladesh Consulate General in New York with support from the Queens Public Library set up the library.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said the corner has a special significance for the Bangladeshi-American community.

Toyota Jeep Sale advertisement with details about the Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep, including price and contact information.

813 girls raped

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According to the data of the forum, child marriage increased by 13 percent compared to 2019.

On the other hand, a total of 26 girls who worked as domestic help were tortured in the first eight months of 2021, of whom 13 faced physical violence, three were killed after torture and 10 were harassed sexually.

According to the forum, judicial proceedings should be completed as soon as possible with special emphasis on child abuse, rape and murder. If the court is closed due to the pandemic, the judicial activities must be completed in the virtual court.

The forum also recommended that in order to stop sexual harassment and torture of girl children, a separate law regarding Sexual Harassment Prevention and Remedy Act be enacted.

It also recommended stopping giving political and administrative shelter to the perpetrators of girl child abuse, and a separate department for protecting child rights.

At the same time, since parents are marrying off their underage daughters in the pandemic due to financial instability, they must be brought under the government's social safety net programmes on a priority basis.

In order to stop pornography, the forum also recommended banning the pornography sites and ensuring exemplary punishments to those who are involved in child pornography.

Dengue cases cross

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to the hospitals between January and April, according to the DGHS.

A total of 67 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people died on July, 34 have died in August, and 21 in September so far.

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড (Khulna Shipyard Limited) recruitment notice with details about various engineering and technical positions.

HYSAWA Vacancy Announcement for The Hygiene Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) project, listing various roles like Project Manager, Finance Manager, etc.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার (Government of Bangladesh) recruitment notice for various positions, including details about the application process and exam dates.