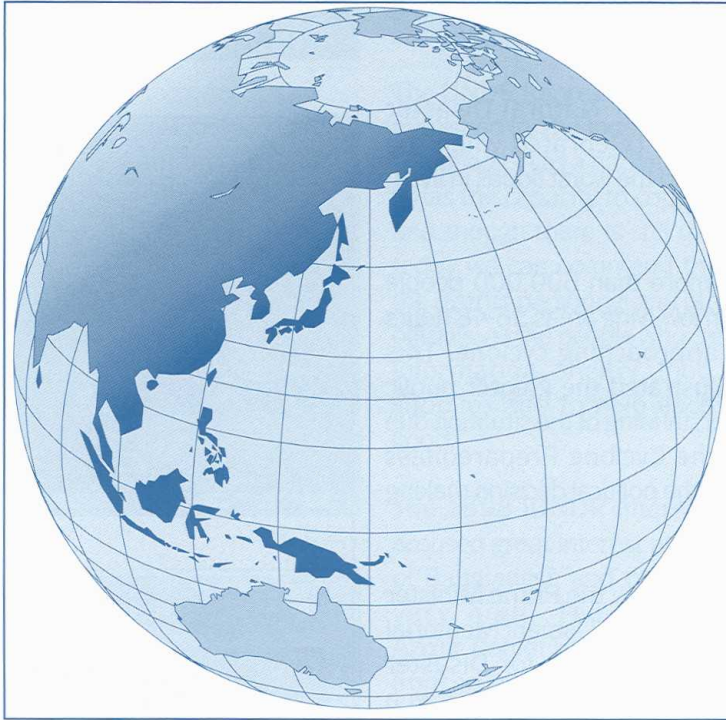


A S I A



BANGLADESH

In 1997, UNDP and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MDMR), organised activities to observe the World Disaster Reduction Day, with rallies and seminars taking place not only in Dhaka, but also at all 65 district headquarters. The attendance was high and, as a result, several requests for technical support for preparedness activities for possible effects of the El Nino phenomenon were received.

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1998 was celebrated when the country had just survived the worst floods in living memory.

Twice during 1997 more than 600,000 people were evacuated from low-lying areas 36-48 hours in advance of an approaching cyclone. This achievement well illustrated the greater public awareness and understanding of the situation due to the success of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme linked to the political decision making process.

The Day was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief was also present as a special guest.

A seminar was held at Chittagong Circuit House on The Role of Mass Media in Reducing Natural Disasters. The Senior Assistant Commissioner of Chittagong presented the keynote paper, followed by an open discussion and video presentation.

Earlier in the day, a colourful Rally paraded through the city streets with IDNDR flags and banners held high. Special sun-visors bearing IDNDR slogans were distributed. The rally participants included students, teachers, journalists, volunteers and government officials.



Natural Disaster Reduction Day observed

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day was observed in the city through a series of programmes.

The theme of the day this year is 'Natural Disaster Reduction and Mass Media'.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Disaster Management Bureau arranged a function at the city's Osmani Memorial Hall.

Different national offices brought out special programmes to mark the day and highlight the role of mass media in disaster reduction.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the function in the Osmani auditorium that took place on Tuesday was a landmark event.

Natural Disaster Mitigation Day today

International Natural Disaster Mitigation Day will be observed in the country on Wednesday, October 14, 1998.

The theme of the day this year is 'Natural Disaster Mitigation and Mass Media'.

Different organisations including Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Radio will on special programmes for the occasion.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the day at a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The seminar on the role of mass media in disaster reduction will be held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

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Intl Natural Disaster reduction day observed At port city of Chittagong

A seminar on 'The Role of Mass Media in Reducing Natural Disasters' was held yesterday at Chittagong Circuit House.

The Senior Assistant Commissioner of Chittagong presented the keynote paper, followed by an open discussion and video presentation.

Earlier in the day, a colourful Rally paraded through the city streets with IDNDR flags and banners held high. Special sun-visors bearing IDNDR slogans were distributed. The rally participants included students, teachers, journalists, volunteers and government officials.