

A Short Report on CSO trip to Koyra and Shyamnagar to witness the Suffering and Impact of Disaster and Climate Change May 18-20, 2022



A Short Report on

CSO trip to Koyra and Shyamnagar to witness the Suffering and Impact of Disaster and Climate Change

Name of Team Members:

1. Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, a national and internationally reputed journalist, U.S Jefferson Media Fellow and the former president of Bangladesh Federal Journalists Union (BFUJ)
2. Md. Sarifuzzaman Sarif, General Secretary of Citizens' Solidarity,
3. Ms. Sakila Parveen Ruma, Sports and Cultural Secretary, Union of Dhaka Journalists (DUJ),
4. Mr. Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, Treasurer, Indian Media Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (IMCAB),
5. Mr. Sanjidul Hasan General Secretary of Shaheed Alim Sahitya Sangsad,
6. Mr. Mohon Kumar Mondol, Executive Director, Leaders
7. Mr. Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, Senior Journalist, The Daily Kalerkantho
8. Mr. Nripen Baidya, Executive Director, Faith in Action
9. Nur Alam Sheikh, Representative, Water Keeper Bangladesh
10. Mr. Syed Mizanur Rahaman, Environmental Activist

Introduction:

Faith in Action jointly with Sunderban Upokul Surakha Andolon (A civil society and think Tank movement) organized these three days' trips to raise public concern and take the issue to the highest authority of the Bangladesh government with the utmost purpose to solve the long-suffering of the coastal people.

Background:

Since the birth of Faith in Action in 2011 as a "Community Based Development Organization," It's focused on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction to address the crucial aspects of climate change and work in partnership with the affected community to mitigate the disaster risks. Based on the organizational strategic direction, "Theory of Change", FIA conducts its activities in southern Parts of Bangladesh, especially in Shyamnagar under Satkhira District, Koyra under Khulna District, Borguna, Potuakhali, Magura, Faridpur, and Cox's Bazar.

Climate change and its effects are one of the challenges facing humanity today. Although Bangladesh's contribution to global elevation is the lowest (only 0.03%), Bangladesh ranks third among the countries most affected by the disaster. Between 1991 and 2020, there were 197 major disasters due to climate change which have created other crises including livelihood, resources, food, water, and shelter for the people of this country. The situation on the southwest coast of the country is even direr.



“Bangladesh is at high risk from multiple climate related hazards. According to the INFORM risk index 2021, Bangladesh risk score is 5.8 out of 10 and its risk 27th among the 191 countries. In the climate risk index (CRI) generated by German Watch, Bangladesh rank 9th on the list of 10 most affected countries and place 7th one of the long term (1998-2017) risk index because of extreme climate events (Eckstein et al.2019). Vulnerability for the country lies with its geographic location, where nearly one fifth of the country is within one meet of mean sea level (Haque 2001). Bangladesh is home to approximately 166 million people within area of 147570 sq. Kilometer”. ---

https://bangladesh.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Multi-Hazard%20Risk%20Analysis%20in%20Bangladesh_Final%20Report.pdf

Bangladesh is at the top of the list of 16 countries most at risk by the London-based research firm Maplecroft , which surveyed 170 countries around the world. Global warming due to global warming is accelerating the melting of polar ice caps and increasing sea level has led to significant increase in cyclones, tidal surges and salinity in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Scientists predict that sea levels will rise by 30-100 cm by the year 2100, leaving about 834 sq km of land in the southwest coastal area submerged and leaving 10 million people homeless.

From our long experience working in the coastal areas, we have seen that one disaster after another was hitting these areas due to the adverse effects of climate change. The embankment was broken, and even the lowlands are being submerged by normal tidal waters. As a result, the entire coastal region is at risk and countless people are being forced to leave the area. Therefore, all development work of the government and the NGOs are threatened if urgent measures including the construction of sustainable embankments are not taken. In these circumstances, Faith in Action felt that a platform must be created with like-minded organizations and representatives from civil society to address the plight of people in coastal areas and creates a movement demanding an urgent action for the sustainable embankment. From that thought back FIA created a platform and took the following initiatives so far to continue the movements for a sustainable embankment for the coastal areas. Details of FIA advocacy journey for and with climate journey are given at the end of the report.

Purpose of the Visit:

- The delegates will talk to the coastal people to find out what kind of problems they are facing because of disasters and climate change and how they are surviving, find out their risks and problems, and what could be the best solution to their problems.
- The team will get an idea of the project undertaken by the government on the coast and its implementation process and will inform the concerned ministry about the next steps.
- The team will be informed and realize the realities of the coastal areas, undertake an awareness campaign at the local and national level to reduce the sufferings of



the coastal people, and encourage the government to announce the Coast Area as a "Disaster Risk Zone", form a " Coastal Board" and to consider special allocations.

Duration and Date of the Visit: It was a three-day trip, was started on the 18th in the early morning and ended on the 20th of May at 10:30 pm. It was three days tight program.

Field Visits and Interaction with Community:



On the 18th of May 2022, on the way, the team paid tribute to Chuknagar Massacre. The Chuknagar Massacre is one of the worst genocides in the history of the world. On 20 May 1971, during the Great War of Liberation, the brutal massacre was carried out by the Pakistani barbaric army with the help of the local Rajakar at Chuknagar village of Dumuria in Khulna. They carried out this surprise attack and killed 10 to 12 thousand freedom fighters indiscriminately. In the 50 years of

independence, there is still no complete memorial, no museum, no identity of the martyrs. Today, we pay homage to the memory of the martyrs in this memorial and demanded that the memorial be completed. <https://youtu.be/WbOnjs-GKoA>

On the way to Shyamnagar, the team stopped in Satkhira at SoDesh Office for an Exchange View on water conservation, sustainable embankment, coastal livelihood, Water Development Board, various ongoing government projects including municipality, and various problems and solutions in coastal areas.



Under the leadership of Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, a national and internationally reputed journalist and the former president of Bangladesh Journalists Union (BFUJ) the team met with the local journalist, human rights activate, civil society leaders, and the locally elected counselor. The

speakers said that immediate construction of sustainable embankments in coastal districts including Satkhira, ensuring the livelihood of vulnerable people to climate

refugees, transparency, and accountability of the water development board, Satkhira municipality, and various ongoing government projects should be ensured. Before the next monsoon season, effective measures will have to be taken in Satkhira municipality and all Upazila to prevent waterlogging, embankment, and flood prevention. Md. Sarifuzzaman Sarif, General Secretary of Citizens' Solidarity, Sakila Parveen Ruma, Sports, and Cultural Secretary, Union of Journalists (DUJ), Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, Treasurer, Indian Media Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (IMCAB), Sanjidul Hasan General Secretary of Shaheed Alim Sahitya Sangsad, Anisur Rahman Convener of Satkhira District Citizens Committee, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad, Member Secretary, `Mashal Principal Ashek E Elahi former President of Satkhira Press Club, Editor of Daily Dakshiner, Sheikh Shafiq Ud Daula Sagar, Ward Councilor, Josna Dutta General Secretary of Satkhira District Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Local journalists, Madhab Chandra Dutta, executive director of Swadesh, Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, Senior Journalist, The Daily Kalerkantho and Nripen Baidya, Executive Director, Faith in Action.

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fusharalo.com%2F%3Fp%3D72556%26fbclid%3DIwAR3eO0tESEisg5u6E_2rSAIPMIVzowjky_uco2ILi9MoT77UEFX0Yv9joes&h=AT0tFPB99u3RJPLhby7CLIGpmD4d_PN25oFIELaYwoXAYRnlin4FL9dP7YvpeD9xckvJhFmxingbWVTByRFiGvUCbximcDBjX9hslaov63qF4_wruWbdNnrXQspkWmMeSzKKw

On the way to Barsha Resort, Munshigonj, the team holds at the Faith in Action Office in Shyamnagar for a short tea break. The Project Manager briefly shared how the FIA's project activities are impacting the life of the climate victims.



to diverse species and some of the poorest twelve million people in the world. The mighty Sundarbans that decreased its violent wind speed of cyclones and tornados. It acts as a natural shield. It reduces the height and energy of wind and swell waves passing through

On the 19th, the team first visit the Sundarbans Mangroves to observe the forest situation. According to the local people, Muslims and Hindus treat the Sundarbans as sacred land. It is sacred because it provides all they need to live a sustainable life. It is home



them, reducing their ability to erode sediments and to cause damage to structures such as dikes and sea walls. It also reduces winds across the surface of the water, and this prevents the propagation or re-formation of waves. Mangroves with a complex structure

of dense aerial roots and low branches, with various species of different age and size, are most likely to be effective at reducing wave heights. The Sundarbans is contribution five million taka each year to our national revenue and the carbon it shrinks which cost is billions of dollars. Due to this the losses of property and live become low. The team witnessed the effects of last cyclones (Amphan and Yaas). The team has realized that to restore the beauty and strengthen for ecological balance and protection of cyclones, more trees need to plant immediately with proper management and security. To draw the attention of the tourist needs to take few initiatives i.e., transportation, hotel and restaurants and security including promotion. <https://youtu.be/zE7JlQpMdy>



After the visit, the team first visit the Embankment situation in Gabura Union and talk with the people about their battle to survive. The people shared their sufferings and requested drinking water and a strong embankment. After Gabura, the team visited Kashirhat and Gobra under Utter Bedkashi union and learned about the destruction of the Super Cyclone Amphan and Cyclone Yass. They have shared that the Cyclone Amphan has washed away their crop's land and turned the land into a canal. Still, they are paying the land tax but there is no security that they will get back the land. They also shared that they were on the dam because the area was under the water for nine months. They couldn't grow any vegetables and crops. They were facing health difficulties as there was no means of drinking water and toilets. Now they have no means of income and are

always in fear of dam disperse. The community shared that there is no cyclone shelter and health facilities are far from them.

View's Exchange Meeting at FIA Koyra Office.



The delegation has called for special allocation in the national budget to address the risks of the disaster-stricken southwest coastal region. They called upon the government to expedite the implementation of the projects undertaken by the government for the construction of sustainable embankments and supply of potable water to ensure balanced development as announced by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, former president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), quote that our team have visited the disaster-prone areas of Shyamnagar and Asashuni in Satkhira district and Koyra Upazila in Khulna on Thursday (May 19th).

The meeting was chaired by Nripen Baidya, Executive Director, Faith in Action, and was



attended by Sharifuzzaman Sharif, General Secretary, Citizens Solidarity, Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, Coordinator, Sundarbans and Coastal Protection Movement; Bangladesh (IMCAB) Treasurer Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, Water Keeper Bangladesh Representative Nur Alam Sheikh, Koirar Maharajpur UP Chairman Md. Abdullah Al Mahmud, General Secretary of Shaheed Alim Sahitya

Sangsad Sanjidul Hasan, Journalist Kamal Hossain, Leader of Self-Help Group Brishti Akter and others. Bristri Akhtar, leader of the Self-help Group shared that, we are

collecting water from 5 miles distance which is killing most of the working time. Collecting water from far we are losing our energy and becoming old within 30 years.

Journalist leader Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul said people on the southwest coast were victims of extreme discrimination. Of course, a special action plan must be taken for the development of this region. He said it was important to form a Coastal Development Board to implement the action plan for a sustainable solution to their problem.

Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts are among the most vulnerable in the coastal areas due to geographical location, frequent natural calamities, fragile infrastructure,



poverty, long-term salinity, tidal surge, endangered agriculture, migration and so on. Therefore, it is necessary to take short-mid-long-term master plan by declaring that area as a climate risk area. Under that master plan, permanent and sustainable embankments must be constructed in the coastal areas including Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat keeping in view the climate change adaptation and disasters risk mitigation. The meeting also said that adequate cyclone shelters and prevention systems should be set up in the area. Sustainable and sustainable solution for coastal potable safe drinking water. A house in a coastal area in the form of a farm project should start a shelter activity. To prevent river erosion and land erosion, tree planting program should be taken along the coast and green belt should be established. Effective measures need to be taken to protect the Sundarbans, the coast guard.

<https://youtu.be/t7ZOtZZazil>,

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fdeltatimes24.com%2Fdetails.php%3Fid%3D88050%26fbclid%3DIwAR3Tc27yHoYJ1qVJ7mJUXeqd2hh4I3xN6eBoOGueh2jthN1hFPz9nnOX8Mc&h=AT0tFPB99u3RJLhby7CLIGpmD4d_PN25oFIELaYwoXAYRnl4FL9dP7YvpeD9xckvJhFmxingbWVTByRFiGvUCbximcDBjX9hslaov63qF4_wruWbdNnrrxQspkWmMeSzKKw

On the way to Khulna, the team paid a visit to Anirban Library. Anirban Library is an excellent initiative of the local which was started in 1990. It has a collection of 15000 books of different types. Anirban Library is now an institute to enlighten the locals to carry



out social, cultural, educational, and humanitarian works. to welcome the delegates, Anirban Library organized a reception, discussion, and cultural events.



On the morning of the 20th, the delegates visited the situation of Kapathakho Nad (River) and witness the suffering of the people. On behalf of the team, Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul raises the concern and calls upon the government to take appropriate actions to mitigate the suffering of waterlogging by utilizing the resource effectively.

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kalerkantho.com%2Fonline%2Fcountry-news%2F2022%2F05%2F24%2F1149137%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2puWUB4JpMlftbBnQsKpeuFeypGcJVgdeyZAOQFgo2UYydKkiqEUsn3s&h=AT1q-4QLTpOYc-HS-xfkLaMPwprBpBbFBC34_xDbqoJbTi004_bd3KlK_Bq60VQKxrvbckngSCjc6a00PyQUHucigABHd8dZOr0e0QN8hHOIlJstT7uRnelLs0gg6t-mYgT&_tn_=%2CmH-R&cj0\]=AT3IC81jhP8gN5Zl0U00SggiN5A1-_aUit4LNII61eUnf2uDW0uRVMqXQR0dl0zn7UBpM7NS20yJvL23crKqXwhvRu4oZ5YeqJzFaCm1kY5Hy681DsWnrPerxp_ZC0ltqAXMJ5F59RJ0ktiF0Cc4E7DkLJzedeifi0LZwDYKrek-wBXXQmYo8HZVzO8NiDNUJmSe](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kalerkantho.com%2Fonline%2Fcountry-news%2F2022%2F05%2F24%2F1149137%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2puWUB4JpMlftbBnQsKpeuFeypGcJVgdeyZAOQFgo2UYydKkiqEUsn3s&h=AT1q-4QLTpOYc-HS-xfkLaMPwprBpBbFBC34_xDbqoJbTi004_bd3KlK_Bq60VQKxrvbckngSCjc6a00PyQUHucigABHd8dZOr0e0QN8hHOIlJstT7uRnelLs0gg6t-mYgT&_tn_=%2CmH-R&cj0]=AT3IC81jhP8gN5Zl0U00SggiN5A1-_aUit4LNII61eUnf2uDW0uRVMqXQR0dl0zn7UBpM7NS20yJvL23crKqXwhvRu4oZ5YeqJzFaCm1kY5Hy681DsWnrPerxp_ZC0ltqAXMJ5F59RJ0ktiF0Cc4E7DkLJzedeifi0LZwDYKrek-wBXXQmYo8HZVzO8NiDNUJmSe)

The team also visited the Kapilmoni Mukti Juddho Memorial Complex and Rajakar Torture Cell. Though the Mukti Juddho Complex stone has been laid no work has yet been initiated. Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul has urged to take immediate action for the construction of the memorial complex to restore the memories.

Finally on the 20th of May 2022, under the leadership of Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, the team members, the local journalists, and the civil society leaders shared their observations and learning from the trip at the Khulna Press Club. The Meet the Press was chaired by Mokbul Hossein Montu, Former President, Khulna Press Club and different speakers shared the following recommendations for the overall contest of the south-west coastal belt.

Recommendation:

- Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul shared that the problems must divide into categories i.e., local that can be solved locally and nation that must be considered in the national plan, budget, and design and implement the special mega plan with the sole participation of the local people from the identification to implementation and future management building their ownership. Local expertise must be utilized in project design.
- Any project must be taken considering the local needs and context as one size cannot fit all.
- It is necessary to take a long-term master plan by declaring that area as a climate risk area. Under that master plan, permanent and sustainable embankments must



be constructed in the coastal areas including Satkhira, Khulna, and Bagerhat keeping in view the climate change and disasters.

- Adequate cyclone shelters and prevention systems should be set up in the area. Sustainable and sustainable solution for coastal potable water.
- A house in a coastal area in the form of a farm project should start a sheltered activity.
- To prevent river erosion and land erosion, a tree-planting program should be taken along the coast and a green belt should be established.
- Effective measures need to be taken to protect the Sundarbans, the coast guard.
- Livelihood Projects need to be considered to stop migration.
- Measure needs to be taken to improve health services.
- Good governance needs to be improved to make sure the access and participation of the people ensure accountability of the duty bearers.
- An in-depth Research needs to be conducted.
- Climate journalism needs to promote ensuring the participation of the young generation.
- Needs to promote political commitment.

Way Forward:

FIA is planning to hold a “National Briefing on the lesson learned and field finding” inviting the Minister and Secretary of the Planning Commission, Policymakers, Ambassadors/High Commissioners, Civil Society leaders, media personnel, and the victims in Dhaka at the beginning of June 2022 with the objective to consider special allocation in the budget considering the above recommendations. We are expecting that Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, former president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will present the keynote paper on behalf of the team.

Conclusion:

It was an excellent learning opportunity with high-profile personalities. We do believe they will raise their concern and inform the concerned ministries to consider the needs of the coastal people harmonize the needs by taking bottom-up approach.



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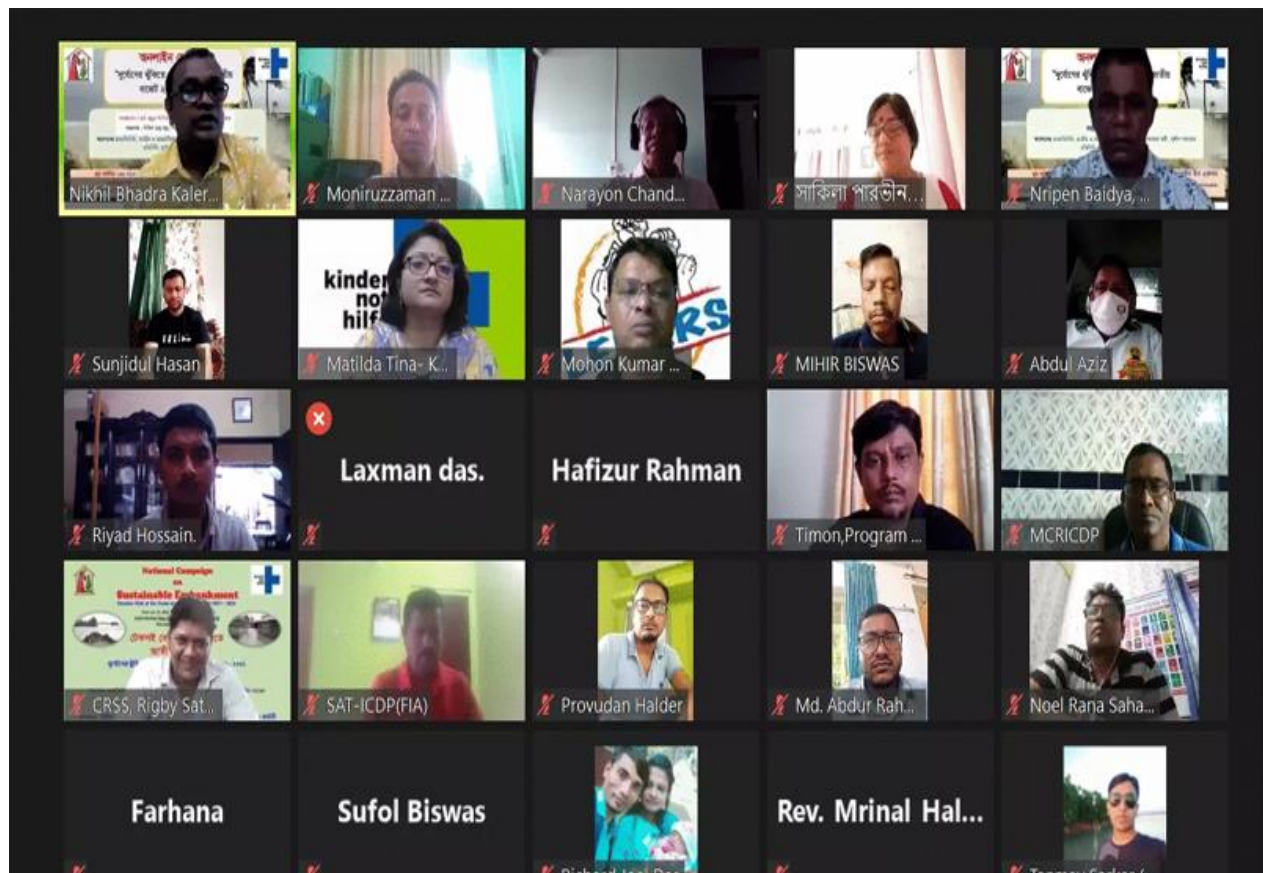


FIA Journey towards mitigate the Vulnerability of Coastal People

Since the beginning of the Modeling Child Rights through Integrated Community Development in Koyra and SAT-ICDP in Shyamnagar, FIA took the Disaster and Climate issue seriously and trying its best to mobilize the community and civil society and the policymakers for the sustainable solutions of the suffering of the coastal people. Besides community sensitization and engagement FIA organized couple of national events to draw the attention of the government and the policymakers and took the issue to the National Parliament for special consideration.

Online seminar on 'Special allocation for coastal development in national budget' with the Citizen Representatives including MPs:

Calls for the special allocation in the national budget for the development of disaster-prone costs Faith in Action with the support of KNH Germany organized an online National Campaign on June 15, 2021. At the online seminar, representatives of civic organizations and development agencies, including parliament members, were present. Speakers at the seminar said last year's super cyclone Amphan and this year's cyclone Yas create havoc in the coastal region within the terrible situation in Corona. However, despite the initiative to build a sustainable embankment, its implementation has not started. The embankment has become dangerous at hundreds of



points. They also said that one disaster after another was hitting the country's coastal areas due to the adverse effects of climate change. As a result, the entire coastal region is at risk. Therefore, all development of the government will be threatened if urgent measures including the construction of sustainable embankments are not taken. So special allocation should be made in the national budget. Participated in the discussion on Disaster Risk Coast and National Budget 2021-22. Khulna-5 MP and former minister Narayan Chandra Chand, Satkhira-2, MP Mir Mushtaq Ahmed Robi, Khulna Paikgachha Upazila Chairman Anwar Iqbal Montu, KNH Germany representative Matilda Tina Baidya, Bangladesh Environment Movement Joint Secretary Mihir Biswas, Parliament News Editor Sakila Parveen, Supreme Court lawyer Imam Hasan, Scan General Secretary Moniruzzaman Mukul, Leaders Executive Director Mohan Kumar Mandal, SCAS Chairman Jasmine Prema, Sachetan Sanjidul Hasan, journalists Abdul Aziz and Riyad Hossain, Development workers Kamal Hossain, Hafizur Rahman and Sushma Haldar of Shyamnagar, Shamima Akter of Koira, and others. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Nripen Baidya, Executive Director, Faith in Action. In his keynote address, he called for the formation of a separate board for the development of the coastal region and said that the embankments at risk should be repaired quickly. Permanent and strong embankments have to be built keeping in mind climate change and disasters. The local government and people should be involved in the maintenance of the dam. Adequate cyclone centers and preventive measures should be developed. Effective steps need to be taken for a sustainable and sustainable solution of safe drinking water for coastal people. Calling for ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of government projects, the main article said that local people and civil society representatives should be involved in the adoption and implementation of the project. Women and children at risk of disasters must be covered by social security. Investment in saline and drought-tolerant crop varieties, salt-tolerant agriculture, and alternative livelihoods need to be increased. For these works, it is necessary to adopt a specific action plan and keep a special allocation in the national budget. Matilda Tina Baidya, KNH Germany's representative, called for urgent action to address coastal risks, saying "the coastal region is now in dire straits due to lack of dam management and rising salinity." We have to work together to tackle this crisis. "

Speaking on the occasion, Narayan Chandra Chand, Member of Parliament for Khulna-5 constituency and former minister said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working tirelessly to realize the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build a happy, prosperous country. That wave of development has reached the coastal areas as well. But that development is under threat due to geographical location. This is because of the coastal embankment built in the sixties. He said, "Due to various reasons including climate change and river flooding, the old embankment is not able to protect the coast at present." Now it has become urgent to build a planned new dam. In this case, a sustainable dredging system should be maintained to keep the flow of the river smooth, sustainable dams should be constructed through the allocation of funds in phases. And a separate board or body needs to be formed to deal with all kinds of coastal problems and crises. Mir Mushtaq Ahmed Robi, MP from Satkhira-2 constituency, said, "Just as Bangladesh's independence became inevitable in 1971, the construction of sustainable embankments in the coastal areas of the country has now become inevitable." "Every year, the region is hit by one or another natural disaster," he said. Although Cyclone Yas did not hit directly this year, the coastal embankment broke and tidal water caused



extensive damage. Countless people are being forced to leave the area. I urge you to spend a portion of the revenue collected from the coastal areas on the protection of coastal villages. '

The virtual seminar was ended by thanksgiving by the Executive Director of Faith in Action. The seminar was conducted by Mr. Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, Coordinator, Sundarbans and Coastal Protection Movement.

News Links:

<https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/national/2021/06/15/1043475>

<http://parliamentnewsbd.com/2021/06/15/%e0%a6%e0%a7%82%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%af%e0%a7%87%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%97%e0%a7%87%e0%a6%b0-%e0%a6%9d%e0%a7%81%e0%a6%81%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%a4%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%a5%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%be/>

<https://thebangladeshtoday.com/?p=34445>

A special convention organized by Faith in Action and Leaders:

A special convention was organized by Faith in Action, Leaders, and civil society platform Sundarbans and Coastal Protection Movement at the Krishibid Institution auditorium in Dhaka on 27 Jun 2021. Lawmakers elected from Bangladesh's coastal districts and development activists urged the government for keeping special allocation in the national budget for 2021-22 for the construction of sustainable embankments to save lives and livelihood of the people of the

country's coastal belt. Addressing the convention as the chair, Awami League lawmaker from Khulna-6 constituency, Akhtaruzzaman Babu, said that the government was conducting different development activities in the coastal areas but



the people had to suffer immensely as they had become waterlogged even in high tidewater. He said that the embankments were, at places, weak and they often breach during a natural disaster and even due to pressure of water during high tide. Speakers in the event urged the government to raise special funds for maintenance of the embankments and including people's representatives in implementing any development projects. They stressed the need for transparency and accountability in the implementation of the projects and to take short, mid, and long term plans to protect the lives, livelihoods, and nature in the coastal areas by declaring the area as a disaster-prone area. Lawmakers Mir Mostaq Ahmed Robi, Mustafa Lutfullah, Abdus Salam Murshidy, Md Amirul Alam Milon, SM Shahzada, Syeda Rubina Akhter, and Gloria Jharna Sarkar spoke at the convention. Former ministers and AL lawmakers - Narayan Chandra Chandra

and AFM Ruhul Huq joined the convention virtually. Also participating in the discussion were Nripen Baidya, Executive Director of Faith in Action Mihir Biswas, Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Environment Movement, Kawsar Rahman, President of Bangladesh Climate Change Journalists Forum, Moniruzzaman Mukul, Representative of International Organization KNH Germany, Palash Ahsan, News Editor of Ekattar Television, etc. The convention was conducted by Sundarbans and Coastal Protection Movement coordinator Nikhil Chandra Bhadra.

The convention adopted a seven-point resolution. According to the proposal, the lack of sustainable embankment is considered a threat today as the development touch reaches the coast like the country. Therefore, a special allocation should be made for the construction of a sustainable embankment. Special funds should be formed for closed maintenance. Development projects should be carried out by involving the people's representatives and the people available in the money allocated by different sections of the national masses. We need to ensure transparency and accountability in project implementation. Short and long-term plans need to be adopted to protect the livelihoods and nature of the coastal areas at risk of climate change by declaring them as disaster-prone areas. The proposal further states that effective steps should be taken to find a lasting solution to the problem of potable water along the coast affected by salinity aggression. To increase fish and agricultural production, a definite action plan has to be taken. Effective steps must be taken to protect the world heritage Sundarbans. Necessary facilities should be ensured for the expansion of the tourism industry around the traditional institutions of Sundarbans and its surroundings. The government will have to take effective initiatives to implement the Delta Plan. Super driveway has to be constructed from Satkhira to Cox's Bazar via Barisal. Above all, to ensure sustainable development of the coast, a Coastal Development Board like the Haor Development Board should be formed immediately. The keynote address at the convention stated that the crisis in public life in the southwestern coastal region adjacent to the Sundarbans is on the rise due to the adverse effects of climate change. Then the Corona situation and the super cyclone Amphan and Yaas hit the crisis further aggravated. Public life did not return to normal after the cyclone. On the contrary, people are suffering due to a lack of sustainable embankments and potable water. New areas are expected to be flooded during the current monsoon season. Therefore, it is necessary to take up and implement the project quickly for the construction of a sustainable embankment.

News Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/bidyutkumar.mondal.3572/posts/527494308665445>

<https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/national/2021/06/27/1047442>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/142157/special-budgetary-allocation-for-bangladesh-coastal-areas-demanded?fbclid=IwAR0pNMOEgt77LQE0UiaAo--moxzKoy1lkCdgp3SI0IgoYsNHd8x3JfotavA>

<https://www.dainikamadershomoy.com/post/322828>

Media representatives from Dhaka visit the coastal area:

Faith in Action, LEADERS, and Sundarban and Coastal Protection Movement jointly organize four days long visit from 10-13 September 2021 for the senior journalist's team from Dhaka to see the plight of the people of the coastal region more closely. After visiting Gabura and Padmapukur, the coastal area of Shyamnagar Upazila the team meets press conference with local journalists and civil society representatives to share their experience.



An opinion exchange meeting at the Faith Action Auditorium in Koyra, Khulna:

On 11 September 2021, a press conference was organized with the journalists and civil society representatives at the Faith in Action's auditorium, Koyra, Khulna. The recommendations raised at the meeting said that even though the government's development touch has reached the coastal areas like the rest of the country, it is at risk today due to a lack of sustainable embankments. Therefore, a special allocation should be made for the construction of sustainable embankments.



Special funds should be formed for closed maintenance. The development projects carried out by the Coastal People's Representatives and the people should be taken up with the funds allocated by different parts of the National Assembly. Specific action plans need to be taken to alleviate the saltwater crisis on the coast affected by salinity aggression and increase fish and agricultural production. To ensure sustainable development of the coast, a Coastal Development Board like the Haor Development Board should be formed immediately.

News Link:

https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/national/2021/09/11/1072407?fbclid=IwAR3AMtwh2ULjgXVev6avi40Ygcm4A5ISB-0aeBk_rDtrGhEXL_7Lj_X0wo

Press Conference at Satkhira Press club: On 12 September 2021, a press conference was organized at the Satkhira press club auditorium. The press conference was presided over by Prof. Abdul Hamid, President of the Climate Advice Forum of Satkhira District. The press conference was conducted by Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, Coordinator of Sundarbans and Coastal Protection Movement. Palash Ahsan, Joint Chief News Editor, Ekattar Television; Mohan Kumar Mandal, Development Agencies Shakila Parveen, Faith in Action Timon Baroi, Member of District Climate Advice Forum, Madhav Chandra Dutta, Executive Director, Leaders; Convener of Satkhira District Citizens Committee and member of Climate Advice Forum Md. Anisur Rahim, Secretary of Satkhira Press Club Mohammad Ali Sujon, District correspondent of NTV and Daily Jugantar Subhash Chowdhury, Satkhira correspondent of Mohana Television Mohammad Abdul Jalil, Jamuna TV staff reporter Ahsanur Rahman, reporter Riyad Hossain, Satkhira correspondent of Gazi TV Kamrul Hasan and others spoke on the occasion. At the press conference, media representatives said that the crisis in public life in the coastal areas is increasing due to the

harmful effects of climate change. Injuries to super cyclones Amphan and Yaas have exacerbated the crisis. The people of the coast are still carrying the wounds of the cyclone. Seeing the clouds in the sky, the people of the area panicked. Sustainable dams on the coast as well as long-term action plans are needed to protect against this panic. Mentioning that many problems of the coast can be solved through proper management, the delegates said that many projects are taken up without considering their importance and without scrutiny. This is a waste of government money. But the important projects of the coast are waiting for the pass. In order to overcome this situation, the Prime Minister's declaration "We must move forward with everyone, not leave anyone behind" must be implemented. They hope that the development of the coast will be ensured through the joint efforts of all.

News Link:

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