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Relief scarce in flood-hit areas

Many face starvation as govt relief 'inadequate'

STAR REPORT

Many flood-hit people are passing their days in starvation as the government's relief allocation is insufficient, victims said.

In some places, flood victims alleged the local people's representatives of nepotism in distributing relief, thus depriving those in actual need of aid.

Besides in some areas, flood relief work has been halted as government officers are busy with the VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme ahead of Eid ul Azha.

However, government officials assured that flood-hit people will also receive food under VGF.

Over 37 lakhs people of 143 upazilas in 30 districts have been affected by flood, according to a report of National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC).

The government has distributed over 6,593 tons of rice, over Tk 2.38 crores in cash, some 66,872 packets of dry food and other relief materials among the victims, said the NDRCC report.

In Tangail, where around 2 lakh people are affected by flood, the government distributed some 355 tons of rice, Tk 8 lakhs in cash, Tk 2.5 lakh for baby foods, Tk 2 lakh for fodder and 6,000 packets of dry foods among the victims.

However, many union parishad (UP) chairmen and members are saying the relief amount is not sufficient to cover all flood victims.

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The makeshift dams in Munshiganj's Mawa Kandipara are of little effect against the high current of the overflowing Padma. Floods have beset the country in recent times, and the Padma has swelled beyond danger levels, causing severe damage to houses and roads. This photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

About 1.3m children to be affected by flooding

Says Unicef

UNB, Dhaka

The Unicef has said more than 2.4 million people, including around 1.3 million children in Bangladesh, are estimated to be affected by flooding.

The UN agency on Thursday said over half a million (548,816) families have lost their homes.

Flooding has come at a time when Bangladesh is still recovering from Cyclone Amphan, and its already stretched emergency and health response systems are working hard to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The country now has over 210,000 confirmed cases.

The Unicef said it is working closely with government partners, who are leading the flood response, and NGOs to provide urgently needed water, sanitation and hygiene supplies to children and communities in need.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Covid-19 crisis could spark new migration

Warns Red Cross; Trump axes convention as US virus cases top 4m

AGENCIES

The devastating economic toll the coronavirus crisis is taking around the world could spark huge waves of fresh migration once borders reopen, the head of the Red Cross warned in an interview.

Jagan Chapagain, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), told AFP he was deeply concerned about the secondary effects of the pandemic.

"Increasingly we are seeing in many countries the impacts on the livelihoods and the food situation," he said in an interview at IFRC's headquarters in Geneva on Thursday.

The pandemic and the lockdowns and border closures imposed to halt the spread of the virus have been destroying livelihoods around the planet and are expected to drive many millions more into poverty.

Many people are already faced with the choice of risking exposure to the novel coronavirus or going hungry, Chapagain

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Bangladesh will top India within 10 years'

July 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU WILL UNDERGO OPERATION

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is leaving for London tomorrow afternoon.

He will undergo an operation for the removal of a stone from his gallbladder. During the prime minister's absence from the country Syed Nazrul Islam will act as prime minister. Begum Sheikh Mujib, Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Rehana will accompany the prime minister to London. Bangabandhu's personal physician Prof Nurul Islam will also go with him.

SIMANTA GANDHI CONGRATULATES BANGLADESH Simanta Gandhi Abdul Gaffar Khan today expresses his hope that Bangladesh will fare better than India on development within 10 years. He congratulates Bangladeshi people for achieving independence through supreme sacrifice.

BANGLADESH WILL SOON ENTER UN The UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim says today that with the process of normalisation now in progress in the Indian sub-continent it should be possible to admit Bangladesh into the United Nations soon. He, however, says that the move should come from the Security Council.

JAKARTA TRIP SUCCESSFUL Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad tells newsmen

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



INDIA-CHINA STANDOFF Beijing claims progress in border talks

AGENCIES

Progress has been made by the border troops of both India and China to disengage and ease the situation on the ground, the Chinese foreign ministry said yesterday at the end of the latest round of diplomatic talks between the two countries.

Since the violent clashes that took place in the high Himalayas over months ago, the two sides have held several rounds of talks to restore calm, and reduced the numbers of troops in the valley, while still pouring reinforcements into the region.

There were no shots fired during the June 15 fighting in the Galwan Valley of India's Ladakh region when the Indian soldiers were beaten with rocks and clubs, but it still marked the worst clash in decades between Asia's nuclear-armed giants.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Several species of America's crocodiles came from Africa



AFP, Paris

The several species of crocodiles plying rivers and brackish byways in the Americas -- from Florida to Peru -- all came from Africa, according to a study published Thursday.

They may have descended, researchers speculate, from a single pregnant specimen that bobbed along Atlantic Ocean currents to the New World at least five million years ago, probably longer.

Based on the high-tech analysis of a skull fragment unearthed from the Libyan desert in 1939, the findings are bolstered by genetic evidence

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Doctor given show-cause notice over FB post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A show-cause letter was issued to the doctor of a health centre in Jhalakathi over his Facebook posts yesterday.

Tipu Sultan of Dapdapia Union Health Centre in Nalchity upazila was issued the letter by Dr Shilyul Parvin, the health and family planning officer.

"You often mock and post unfavourable representations of the operations of the government's health division on Facebook," the letter reads.

It added that his Facebook posts were a violation of "civility" and government officers' code of conduct, which is a punishable offence.

The letter also pointed out that his Facebook posts violated the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules-2018.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

UP chairman held for theft of rice meant for the poor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A female union parishad chairman and a security staffer at her office were arrested on charge of misappropriating rice meant for poor people in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Jesmin Nahar Rani, 45, chairman of Meduari union parishad, and Akbar Ali, 50.

A case was lodged Bhaluka Police Station accusing the arrestees hours after their arrests.

Quoting the case statement, Mohammad Mainuddin, officer-in-

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 25

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A cattle herder guides the sacrificial animal off a boat from Faridpur to be sold at the Postogola Crematorium on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Amid fears of the coronavirus pandemic, only 27 cattle markets have gained permission to operate in Dhaka this year. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

GABTOLI CATTLE MARKET

Poor response from buyers worry traders

Some sell sacrificial animals at low prices fearing sharp fall in prices

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHIN MOLLAH

Though it is a week away from Eid-ul-Azha, trading of sacrificial animals has only begun in the city's sole permanent cattle market in Gabtoli.

A good number of animals has been brought to the market, but the number of customers is very poor.

Traders fear loss as the coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc on the economy, reducing people's capacity to purchase.

Besides, many have opted not to take part in the sacrificial ritual this year to avoid contracting the virus.

Some traders have started selling cattle at a lower price fearing the loss.

Siraz Hossain, a resident of Mirpur-14, purchased a bull weighing about six and a half maunds for Tk 1.25 lakh on Thursday.

"Last year, I purchased a bull weighing around six maunds for Tk 1.5 lakh. So I am very happy with the bull this time," said Siraz.

Cattle trader Monowar Bepari said he made some profit by selling the bull as he purchased 20 cattle from Sirajganj at a "low price" a few days ago.

Yusuf Khan, a cattle trader from Kushtia's Mirpur upazila, has brought 12 bulls in the market last week after

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