

One day's salary being donated to PM's fund

At the call of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, officers and employees of different organisations announced their decision Thursday to contribute their one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, reports BSS.

Hossain, President and General Secretary respectively of Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association, in a statement called upon the primary teachers of Dhaka city to contribute one day's salary.

Shishu Hospital
An emergency meeting of the officers and employees of Dhaka Shishu Hospital held today decided to contribute one day's salary. Besides, they would send a medical relief team to Hatiya on May 5.

Cattle Research Institute
The scientists, officers and employees of Cattle Research Institute, Savar, in a meeting Thursday decided to contribute one day's salary. They would also send necessary cattle food and drugs to the affected areas of Chokoria and Maheshkhali through two separate relief teams. They also called upon the people to send cattle and poultry feed to the affected areas.

Daily Sangbad
The journalists, officers and employees of all sections of 'The Sangbad' also decided to contribute one day's salary for distribution among the cyclone

affected people.
DU Officers' Assoc
Dhaka University Officers' Association Thursday decided to donate one day's salary of its members to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the affected people of the recent cyclonic storm and tidal surge. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the associations executive committee.

Defence Ministry
Officers and staff of the Ministry of Defence and its subordinate officers, departments and directorates have decided to donate their one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone affected people, an ISPR press release said.

Delta Life Insurance
The Officers and employees of the Delta Life Insurance Company Ltd. have decided to donate their one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone-hit people.

BSCIC
Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) employees have decided to contribute one day's salary for the people effected by the devastating Hurricane, says a press release.

They also decided to send relief materials to the effected areas.

Shilpakala Academy
The officers, artists and employees of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy decided to give their one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to help the people affected by the devastating cyclone, says a press release.

Lions dist 315-B
Lt M Abdul Malek, District Governor of Lions District 315-B, Bangladesh, Thursday announced at initial amount of Taka 1,00,000 for the people affected by the cyclonic storm and tidal bore in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, a press release for Lions Club International said here.

The central cyclone relief coordination cells — one in Dhaka and the other in Chittagong — are working round the clock for sending relief materials to various affected areas, the press release added.

UNB
Journalists and employees of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and weekly Dhaka Courier Thursday decided to donate one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone affected people. The decision was taken at separate meeting held at the office of the news agency and the weekly in the afternoon.

Plea to declare coastal belt as disaster area

Cox's Bazar Samity in Dhaka urged the authorities to declare the whole coastal belt including the Cox's Bazar district as disaster area, strengthen relief and rehabilitation work and arrange burial of the dead, reports BSS.

In a press statement, the samity also called for sending relief materials and medicines quickly to the affected areas and immediate restoration of communications. It called for rehabilitation of the affected people and repair of the damaged dwelling houses. The samity said cyclone shelter centres should be built and sea-trucks and helicopters be kept stand by in the coastal area to face such disasters in future.



The Armed Forces personnel carrying relief materials for the cyclone victims in Chittagong.

Post-cyclone food situation reviewed

The post cyclone overall food situation in the country was reviewed at a meeting of Cabinet Sub-committee on food in Dhaka on Thursday with this convener, Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister, Major General Majid-ul Haq (retd) in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the existing food production position, food procurement, distribution and stock position in the country. The meeting asked the Agriculture Ministry to immediately assess the loss of production of foodgrains due to the recent cyclone. The meeting also asked the Ministry to study the possibilities for late cropping in the affected crop-field. The meeting stressed the need for strengthening the internal procurement drive for increasing the government stock and to form district level committees on food procurement with Deputy Commissioner, District Food Controller and a district level officer of Agriculture Extension Department. The meeting also asked the food officials to gear up the supervising activities in food distribution channel.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed Thursday flew some of the relief and rescue missions being carried out by Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) in some of the worst hit areas of Kutubdia, Maheshkhali and other off-shore islands. The BAF has further intensified the relief and rescue operation. Relief goods were despatched to Char Fashon, Manpara, Bhola, Patuakhali, Hatiya, Kutubdia and Patenga by BAF helicopters.

BAF transport aircraft also airdropped relief goods like water, foodstuff and other essential items in several areas and also distributed 2400 kgs of cooked food as collected from BAF personnel. BAF helicopters also airlifted some seriously injured persons to Dhaka from the cyclone affected areas.

Removal of anomalies in laws demanded

A 5-day seminar on "Existing laws and bye-laws" concluded at the Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) in Savar near Dhaka on Thursday, reports UNB.

The seminar recommended removal of the discrepancies in the existing economic laws, legal foundation of the district administration and laws relating to the code of behaviour and discipline.

These recommendations will be submitted to the government for implementation after being scrutinised, says a press release.

The concluding session of the seminar was presided over by the Acting Rector of PATC, Dr Ekramul Ahsan. Prof Emazuddin Ahmed of Dhaka University and Md Nazrul Islam, Additional Secretary Establishment Ministry were also present on the occasion.

It was addressed, among others, by noted legal expert Gazi Shamsur Rahman, Additional Inspector General of Police Enamul Huq and

Adviser Safiur Rahman. The seminar also suggested formation of a committee to examine the feasibility of the recommendations.

Cyclone damage Prof Haq to draw attention of UNDR0

National Professor M Shamsul Haq has said that he would draw the attention of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDR0) to the innumerable loss of lives and vast destruction caused by the recent cyclonic storm and tidal wave in southern Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Prof Haq, a former Foreign Minister said this on Tuesday on the eve of his departure for Geneva to attend a meeting of the UNDR0-SASAKAWA Award jury committee for prevention, relief and mitigation of natural disasters, a press release of Dhaka University, said Thursday.

Relief operations geared up in affected areas

Armed Forces' relief and rescue operations at the cyclone affected coastal areas are going on in full swing, an ISPR press release said in Dhaka Thursday evening, reports BSS.

The Jessore Area Commander of the Bangladesh Army Major General R A M Ghulam Mukhtadir Thursday visited Char Fashon Manpara, Bhola and Patuakhali to see the progress of the army relief activity there. About 10 thousand chapatti and 200 kgs of sugar have also been despatched from Jessore Cantonment.

The Chittagong Area Commander Major General Mahmudul Hassan also visited different affected areas.

Meanwhile, a huge quantity of medicine, match-boxes, drinking water and 20 thousand chapatti have been sent to different areas from Dhaka.

The Acting Area Commander of the Comilla Area visited the affected areas of Hatiya Thursday about 12 thousand chapattis have also been sent from Comilla for distribution among the distressed people.

Bangladesh Navy ships Thursday distributed relief materials received from civil authorities.

The relief materials, which included one thousand sarees, one thousand lungis 500 panjabis, 300 vest, 1,000 kg sugar, 160 tin biscuits, 2,000 kg chira, 400 kg molasses and 200 relief packets, have been distributed among the cyclone-hit people of Monpara.

Meanwhile, three more naval ships have been kept ready at Barisal to ferry more relief materials to the distant islands in the southern part of the country.

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HR
Bangladesh Rifles has geared up its relief operation with undertaking some emergency measures like distribution of food and strengthening medicare in the cyclone affected areas in southern Bangladesh.

The members of BDR will distribute 4,000 "bon ruti" from their own factory every day from today among the cyclone affected people of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, a BDR press release said. Besides, 15 medical teams from the BDR headquarters are also being sent to different affected districts for giving emergency treatment to the injured people.

Meanwhile, it has decided that the members of BDR would donate their one day's salary amounting to Taka 9,71,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone affected people, the press release added.

Bangladesh Rifles is extending all-out support to the local administrations in their relief operations in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts providing manpower, automobiles and speed boats. A company of the 28 rifle battalion of Feni has also been deployed at Chittagong Port area for maintaining overall security there.

Communist Party
A 3-member relief team of Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) led by Nur-ul-Alam left Dhaka on Thursday for cyclone-hit Chittagong, reports UNB.

The team also comprises

Japanese MP leaves for home

Mr Shin Sakurai, member of Japanese Parliament and member of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians Association left Dhaka Thursday afternoon after a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was seen off at the airport by Chief Whip of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Khondkar Delwar Hossain, MP. During the talks the Chief Whip apprised Mr Sakurai of the colossal damage of property and heavy toll of lives caused by the recent cyclone.

CPB Central Committee members Comrade Mokul Chowdhury and Comrade Mozahar Hossain, MP.

A party workers' meeting arranged by the city unit this afternoon called upon all to come forward in aid of cyclone-hit people with relief material.

The meeting also underscored need of united efforts of the whole nation to overcome the losses inflicted by Monday night's cyclone.

Medical teachers assoc
The Federation of Bangladesh Medical Teachers Association has decided to donate at least one day's salary of every medical teachers to federation relief fund. The federation has requested its members to deposit the money with the president/secretary of their respective branches. The federation has also requested its branches to collect old clothes and medicines for distribution among the cyclone-hit people.

Ahsania mission
Dhaka Ahsania Mission has already sent 5 emergency team to the affected areas with food and medicine.

These teams will distribute relief materials at Mirsarai Sitakunda and Bashkhali upazilas under Chittagong district and at Okhla zila under Cox's Bazar district and Amtali upazila under Barguna district.

Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust
Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust on

Friday sent a Medical Team comprising four doctors and some nurses to the cyclone affected areas.

Two ambulances, some tents, essential medicines and modern operation equipments were sent with the team.

Water purifying tablets and oral saline will be distributed among the cyclone victims.

Lions club
Lions Club of Dhaka garden supplied 35 bags of molasses, Chiras biscuits, matches, oral saline, water purifying tablets sarees, lungis, genjis to the people of cyclone battered areas.

FPAB
Officers and staff of district branches of the Family Planning Association Bangladesh (FPAB) have been placed at the disposal of respective District Administration for rendering their services in the relief work of the cyclone affected areas, according to a press release to the Association, reports BSS.

The Association also opened an Emergency Relief Fund where the officers and staff of FPAB have donated their one day's salary and the volunteers associated with FPAB have donated their one day's income.

The Association has also sent special medical teams with necessary medicines and manpower to the cyclone-hit areas.

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Dateline Chittagong

Burial work continuing : Oli Ahmed

25,000 killed in 5 Ctg UZs, Patenga, Halishahar alone

CHITTAGONG, May 2: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed yesterday apprehended that about 25 thousand people might have been killed in Sandwip, Urrichar, Banshkhali, Sitakunda and Anwara upazilas and Patenga and Halishahar in Chittagong during the devastating cyclonic storm and tidal surge on April 29 night. Talking to BSS, Oli Ahmed, who flew over Chokoria, Cox's Bazar, Banshkhali and Kutubdia area yesterday, said more than 2,000 people were buried in the meantime and the burial work has been continuing. He said relief and rehabilitation works have been in full swing in these affected areas under the direct supervision of army, navy, police and district and upazila administration. The Communications Minister, who has been staying in the port city to supervise relief and rehabilitation work, said Zaida, Bara Uthan, Bairag, Chatori, Baralat and Barumchhara unions under Anwara upazila and Baharchhara, Gandamara, Shekherkhil, Chhanoa and Kataria unions of Banshkhali upazila are the worst affected areas. He said it would not be possible for the government only to carry out massive relief work. The affluent section of the society must come forward in this regard, he added. Oli Ahmed said a store for collecting relief materials has been opened at Chittagong stadium and called upon the philanthropists and institutions to donate or contact over telephone nos- 209890 or 223277. He also urged the traders not to sell rotten food stuff to check any epidemic. The Communications Minister hoped that with the grace of the Almighty Allah and concerted efforts of all the crisis would be overcome.