

## Test relief going on in full swing, says govt

RANGPUR, Oct 22 : The post-flood relief and rehabilitation activities in the district is in full swing, according to an official handout today, reports BSS.

A total of 1183.5 tonnes wheat for 716 test relief projects in eight upazilas has been allocated for providing work to the unemployed day labourers. Work on 149 projects has been completed while on 139 is in progress.

So far, 620 tonnes of GR wheat, 1066 tonnes of OR rice, house building grant of Taka 15.50 lakh, Taka 8.25 lakh GR cash, 33 bags of old clothes, 145 tins of biscuit, 145 sets of utensils, 1607 cartons and 6006 Saudi food packets have been distributed among the flood-affected people of Rangpur district.

Beside 43,485 distressed families had been brought under VOD relief. Each family is being provided with 31 kg wheat per month. In addition, 17,666 distressed families are getting 31 kg wheat under regular VGD cards. The relief materials are being distributed through 88 relief centres in cooperation with the army.

During the post-flood period, 8466 persons had been attacked by diarrhoea of whom 59 died.

A total of 74 doctors and 802 paramedics are working with 89 medical teams round the clock in the affected areas. 81 temporary clinics have been opened for treating the patients. Besides providing medicines, patients are being given jabhat (rice ors) and five kg GR rice after their recovery. These centres have been supplied with 7890 tv saline, 300,200 ore saline and 372,800 water purifying tablets.

Public Health Engineering Department has so far repaired 2503 tubewells out of 16376 government owned tubewells, sunk 32 new tubewells, resunk 53 and disinfected 266 tubewells.

The livestock department of the district has treated 25,608 cattle and 56,464 poultry and vaccinated 10,1281 cattle and 120,5215 poultry. Besides, six tonnes of food meal had been distributed in the affected areas free of cost.

Non-governmental organisations like RDRS have distributed 465 tonnes of wheat through VGF cards among 15,000 distressed families. The World Vision has distributed 150,000 tonnes of food items among the distressed people, while the Red Crescent Society distributed 2.40 tonnes of rice, medicines, saline and baby food. The Rangpur Unnayan Samajik Sangha has distributed 60 tonnes of rice among the affected people, the handout said.

### Khaleda

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flash floods in the areas crops had been damaged.

The Prime Minister was told that the situation was not graver than what it was in the past years. The situation cannot be termed 'famine condition' in any way.

Begum Zia was informed that adequate relief has been provided and test relief work was in full swing in the affected areas. Apart from foreign relief and the food supplied under VGD cards, relief worth more than Taka 6.69 crore had been distributed by the Relief Ministry alone.

Ninety thousand VGD cards have already been distributed among the affected people. Two lakh sarees and lungis and winter clothes were also distributed among the people.

The Prime Minister was informed that 576 medicare centres had been set up in the affected areas and adequate treatment was being provided to the diarrhoea affected people.

The ignorance of people regarding primary health care was causing diarrhoea in the district. But it is not in an epidemic form, she was told.

Later, the Prime Minister visited different places of Rangpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Kurigram districts to see the on-going test relief work.

In Rajarhat under Nilphamari district the Prime Minister was received by Awami League member of Parliament Azharul Islam and Communist Party MP Shamsuddoha. The MPs told the Prime Minister that adequate relief was distributed in their constituencies. The Prime Minister urged them to work unitedly to mitigate the suffering of the distressed humanity of the areas.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain and State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman Patal, local members of Parliament, PSO to the Supreme Commander Brigd MSA Bhuiyan.

In Lalmonirhat, work under test relief (TR) programme to provide the unemployed is going on in all the five upazilas of the district. A total of 2475 metric tons of wheat have already been sanctioned to carry out the programme.

Mrs. Sahida Sarker MP from Rangpur and Lalmonirhat districts Monday visited Patgram and Kaliganj upazilas of the district to see the on-going TR programme. During her visit in these areas she found no food shortage and no famine-like situation in the district.

Meanwhile, 1475 tons of rice, 220 tons of wheat, Taka 10 lakh in cash and other relief goods as general relief, 500 bundles of CI sheet and Taka 10.50 lakh as house building grant are being distributed among the affected people.

Besides, the local administration has undertaken distribution of 24 thousand special VGD cards and 8909 normal VGD cards.

RDRS and NGOs were distributing 18 thousand special VGD cards to the distressed.

The government has sanctioned Taka 11.20 lakh under agricultural rehabilitation programme. The diarrhoeal diseases situation has improved in the district. 37 medical teams are working round the clock to combat the situation.

### Rajshahi

The government has so far distributed Taka seven crore and 25 thousand out of Taka eight crore 75 thousand allocated for the flood affected people of the greater Rajshahi district.

This was intimated at a meeting on relief and rehabilitation programme of greater Rajshahi held here today with Md Saifuzzaman, DC, Rajshahi in the chair. The Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof Md Shahjahan Miah MP was present on the occasion.

Reviewing the overall post-flood relief and rehabilitation activities the meeting took some important decision in that direction, a PID handout said.

The meeting was informed that besides the cash, 368.5 tons of rice out of total allocation of 1201 tons, 120 tons of wheat out of allocated quantity of 140 tons, 308 bags of flour, 2405 pieces of sarees out of 4344 pieces, 2190 pieces of lungis out of 2635 pieces, 936 cartons of biscuits, 113 bags of dal, 331 cartons of liquid milk, 125 bags of old clothes, 12,000 VGD cards had also been distributed among the destitute.

Meanwhile, the government has sanctioned Taka 12 lakh and 118 bags of fodder for agricultural rehabilitation programme.

## 70 injured in Jhenidah clash

JHENIDAH, Oct 22 : Some 70 people were injured, 14 seriously, as several hundred supporters of two feuding groups clashed at a village in the Sadar upazila today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said about 500 villagers from the two groups fought a declared battle with ramdao, spears and brickchips at Bhagobannagar.

The two sides in a medieval style came face to face and started fighting in what appears to be a show of strength by the village chiefs.

## Ctg development

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Patenga airport as an international one, reopening of the Hajj Camp at Pahartali, dredging of the Chakati and the Mirza-Nasir canals and development of other infrastructures in the port-city and adjoining districts.

Chairman of the committee SM Jamaluddin said that some of the preliminary works to meet the demands were undertaken by the previous government but the present government has still remained silent on the issue.

He, however, did not identify the initiatives taken by the past regime. "We are not pressing the government to meet the demands right now, but we are insisting on starting the file work for the projects that could be implemented phase-wise," he added.

The committee chairman said that many victims of the April 29 cyclone were still homeless and passing their days in misery and demanded publication of a white paper on the relief operations.

General Secretary of the committee Manwar Ahmed, SK Shamsul Huda, Advocate Shaiful Alam, Prof. Saiful Bazaar, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, AM Yusuf, Mainuddin Ahmed Khan Badal, Shanker Prasad Dey and Swapan Kumar Dey, were present at the conference.



EEC delegates addressing a press conference at a local hotel Tuesday after their four-day visit to Bangladesh. — Star photo

## Y'slav army to call up more reservists for decisive action

BELGRADE, Oct 22 : The Yugoslav army said today it would call up more reservists for a decisive military action in the rebel republic of Croatia, reports Reuters.

Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic proposed an immediate call up of reservists from parts of Yugoslavia that favour keeping the Balkan federation together.

His suggestion was accepted by the republic of Serbia and its three allies at a meeting of Yugoslavia's eight-member collective presidency. Croatia and three other members of the presidency have boycotted the meeting for months.

Kadijevic fiercely criticised the West and rejected a European Community proposal to turn Yugoslavia into a looser association of its six republics.

"In the view of the army the time has come to take clear, decisive, coordinated and adequate political and military actions", Kadijevic said in a speech to the meeting.

"I therefore purpose... to immediately carry out a mobilisation of all army reservists and units in those parts of the country which are willing to remain in Yugoslavia in accordance with the operative needs of the Yugoslav army."

The Serb-led federal army, which fiercely opposes a break-up of the country of 23.5 million, has backed Serbs in Croatia who oppose the republic's independence declaration of June 25.

Meanwhile, AP adds : The Adriatic resort of Dubrovnik was "completely isolated" and hundreds of shells fell on the besieged city of Vukovar Tuesday, as fighting continued in Yugoslavia's civil war.

About 250 artillery duels were lobbed into Vukovar, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported. Tanjug said no heavy artillery was used.

Vukovar, a city on the Croatian border with Serbia, has been besieged for some two months, Tanjug said. The city's defenders "lacked every-

thing" and food supplies are running out, Tanjug quoted Croatian radio as saying.

Powerful explosions were also heard Tuesday morning in Zupa Dubrovacka, a resort area south of Dubrovnik, Zagreb radio reported. It said artillery fire towards the town began in the early morning, and police blocked off roads in the area.

Dubrovnik was without electricity and water Tuesday, the radio report said describing the one-time flourishing resort town "completely isolated from rest of the world."

Meanwhile, the Croatian Information Ministry released new casualty figures showing a steep increase in the numbers of both military and civilian killed and wounded.

Since ethnic Serbs in Croatia began fighting Croats in August 1990, 1,054 Croats have been killed and 6,234 have been injured, the report said.

The Serbs and their federal army allies do not provide casualty figures.

## Shiks protest building Ram temple

NEW DELHI, Oct 22 : India's Sikhs joined a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a mosque on Monday and set a meeting in northern Ayodhya town to protest against alleged atrocities against non-Hindu minorities, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuters.

The news agency said the Akali Dal party of Sikh Radical leader Simranjit Singh Mann decided to meet in Ayodhya in northern Uttar Pradesh state on Thursday.

The Akali Dal's decision came after Hindu priests signalled the beginning of a temple construction in Ayodhya, at the site of a 16th century mosque.

Singh was quoted by PTI as saying his Akali Dal party would seek the dismissal of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's minority government if it allowed Hindus to demolish the mosque in Ayodhya.

Hindus claim the mosque stands at the site of a Hindu temple demolished by the Moghul emperor Babar.

The dispute over ownership of the shrine in Ayodhya has often flared into bloody sectarian riots between the Hindu majority and the Muslim minority.

At least 2,000 people have been killed in street battles between the two communities in the past two years and the fall of two successive governments has been linked to the issue.

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## Nasim

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ernment to declare Rangpur a distressed area, gear up test relief programmes and provide shelter to the thousands of people living on embankments and beside railway tracks in sub-human conditions.

He called on all political parties to rush to the aid of the starving people and declared that the Awami League would shortly launch a mass movement against the government failure to avert the famine.

The Awami League opened a gruel kitchen at the district AL office today. The kitchen would stay open during the crisis period, Awami League source said. At least 600 destitute were fed.

Awami League sources said that more such gruel kitchens would be opened in Gangachara, Pargacha and other badly affected areas of the district.

Hasina

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sympathy for the bereaved family members of Chhatra League leader Chayan Mallick killed recently, allegedly, by Chhatra Dal activists.

She visited the houses of Chayan and another Chhatra League leader Manik who was killed during the anti-autocracy movement. Hasina also went to Khulna to console the shocked parents of Chayan.

The opposition leader called Prime Minister Begum Zia's statement about 'famine' in the northern region as self-contradictory. She said the Prime Minister described reports of famine as politically motivated and then visited the affected districts.

Hasina said people have become disappointed at the remarks made by the Prime Minister about the situation in the northern districts where people are dying everyday of starvation and diarrhoea.

The Awami League chief also addressed a meeting of the lawyers at Narail District Bar Library and attended a reception accorded to her at the local Press Club.

The Narail District bar adopted a resolution in favour of repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance.

Awami League Acting General Secretary Amir Hossain accompanied Hasina. She is expected to return to Dhaka tomorrow (Wednesday).

Editor : S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PAIBX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

## Bill to end 'police remand' procedure likely in JS

Supreme Court Correspondent

A Bill to end a procedure in the criminal law on sending on police remand an accused may be tabled on the private members day in the Jatiya Sangsad.

In criminal cases police oppose bail and usually pray for police remand on the plea of further investigation. This process is allegedly misused. The accused in remand remains a complete captive in a sub-human environment.

The Bill proposes that no accused person shall be sent on remand to police custody without the written consent of such a person and that no person shall be detained in police custody without being provided reasonable facilities for accommodation, food, toilet and other essentials.

Abdur Rab Chowdhury, MP from Lakshimpur-4, has sent a notice of the proposed Bill to the Parliament secretary.

In the objects and reasons of the Bill Abdur Rab Chowdhury stated that the existing provision of Section 167(2) is inconsistent with the provisions of the Article 7(2) and 35(4) of the Constitution and that it also violates Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Bangladesh is a signatory.

The procedure of remand is also against the provisions laid down in Section 163(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Rab stated.

## Mosharraf granted bail for 6 weeks

A Division Bench of the High Court Division Tuesday granted bail to former industries secretary AKM Mosharraf Hossain for six weeks on humanitarian grounds due to his father's illness, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Anwar Ali.

The court ordered that extension of the bail period will not be allowed to him. The court also ordered him to surrender his passport with the government.

Mosharraf Hossain filed applications in five different cases for ad-interim bail before the High Court Division on compassionate ground.

Half a dozen corruption cases were filed against Mosharraf Hossain with the police.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption has submitted charge sheet against him and his wife for misuse of government property and transports for their personal use.

## Biswas

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also affected the ozone layer. Quoting from the Holy Quran, he said there should not be any interference in the nature which was the gift of Allah, the almighty.

Presided over by K M Mujibul Huq, the key-note speech was delivered by Ruhul Amin, Amanullah Aman, MP, and Alhaj Nurul Quader also spoke.

The president was later presented with the crest of the organisation.

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## The Midnight File

### Husseini announces 14-member Palestinian team for Madrid talks

JERUSALEM, Oct 22 : Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini on Tuesday announced a 14-member Palestinian delegation for the upcoming Middle East peace talks after a day of heated debate in the last-minute changes. Outmaneuvered by Israel into naming no delegation from Arab east Jerusalem or outside the occupied lands, the Palestinians also named a seven-person advisory committee to include such Palestinians, reports AP.

### ROK PM sees hometown first time in 45 years

SEOUL, Oct 22 : South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-shik saw his hometown for the first time in 45 years Tuesday as he traveled by train through North Korea for high-level talks, reporters traveling with him said. Chung, 63, left Sariwon in central North Korea in 1946, a year after Korea was divided into the Communist North and the capitalist South at the end of World War II, reports AP.

### Ukraine to raise armed forces

MOSCOW, Oct 22 : The powerful Ukraine, second richest Soviet republic, moved towards full independence today by voting in principle to create its own armed forces. The decision came just hours after President Mikhail Gorbachev and leaders of eight republics appealed to the Ukraine not to break away from the Soviet Union, saying it was "irreplaceable." The republic's parliament approved in principle five key laws paving the way for the formation of a Ukrainian army, reports Reuter.

### JS session

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the issue of submission of the reports of the Special Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance Repeal Bill. Before the October 15 adjournment the Committee was given 15 days' time to complete its work.

Among the hot questions of privilege under consideration of the Privilege Committee is an October 13 circular of the Cabinet Division which says the Ministry of Law and Justice would be renamed as the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and that the Parliament Secretariat would be put under the Parliamentary Affairs Division of the Ministry.

This privilege notice, moved by AL member Dharendra Devanath Sembhu had caused a stir in the House before its adjournment, because the opposition members had argued that the circular amounted to infringement of the sovereignty of the Parliament.

The government side said that this was transitional step which would go as and when a law would be framed under Article 79 of the Constitution making provision for the Parliament to have its own secretariat independent of the executive branch of the government. The treasury bench, however, maintained that the setting up a Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs would not necessarily mean the undermining of the sovereignty of the Parliament, because the Parliamentary Affairs Division would only coordinate between the parliament secretariat and the government.

Another point of privilege that was suspended till the arrival of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from the Commonwealth Summit meeting at Harare is why the restriction that members of Parliament could use diplomatic passports only during official tour abroad.

BUET probe body

The government Tuesday announced the constitution of a one-member enquiry committee with former chief justice Sultan Hossain Khan to probe the October 19 incident Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The committee will submit its report as early as possible.

### CHANGE OF TELEPHONE / TELEFAX NOS.

All concerned are requested to please note the following changes, effective 25th October 1991:

OLD NUMBERS	NEW NUMBERS
83 39 03	86 39 03
83 35 10	86 36 93
83 30 22	86 39 22
83 30 26 (FAX)	86 39 26 (FAX)

### KARNAPHULI FERTILIZER COMPANY LIMITED

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