

Fresh areas of Sirajganj flooded

By Staff Correspondent

Eighty more villages in five thanas of Sirajganj district were inundated yesterday while the overall flood situation improved further in upstream of greater Rajshahi district in the north.

With these, the number of affected villages in Tarash, Raiganj, Ullapra, Kamarkhand and Sadar thanas of Sirajganj district now stands at 200. At least 3 lakh people have been affected in these villages, our Sirajganj correspondent reported quoting official sources. In Raiganj, the flood situation took a serious turn displacing some 18,000 people of five villages. Three bailey bridges in the thana have also been washed away by the swirling water. Although the overall flood situation improved further in the northern districts, road link between the capital and 8 districts in the north remained snapped yesterday as the collapsed bridges in Gobindaganj in Gaibandha could not be repaired.

Diarrhoea, inadequate relief and high price of essentials added to the miseries of the flood-hit people. Thousands of people are still passing their days of agony on highways and roads.

At some places, kerosene was selling at Taka 40 per sheer.

Our Natore correspondent reported that one person drowned in Singra thana yesterday rising the death toll to 3 in the district. Identity of the dead man was not be known.

Overall flood situation in the district was improving. Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that rail link between Bonarpura and Shantahar remained snapped yesterday.

Meanwhile, in the capital, an interministerial meeting yesterday reviewed the latest flood situation in the northern districts where some 80.20 lakh people of 17.15 lakh families have been affected.

The emergency meeting of the interministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee, held in the conference room of the Cabinet Division, took stock of the progress in relief and rehabilitation activities in the badly-hit districts.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-al-Rashid presided over the meeting that discussed in detail the sector-wise losses and measures being taken by the respective departments.

Former British PM Douglas-Home dead

LONDON, Oct 9: Lord Home, the former British prime minister better known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, died today, his family said. He was 92, reports AP.

Home, whose political career stretched from the rise of the Nazis in Germany through the end of the Cold War, was the last of the blue bloods to lead Britain's Conservative Party.

PM's letter ahead of hartal

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made public within the next four to five days."

He also said the meeting reviewed the overall political situation in the country. Meanwhile, Mannan Bhuiyan told newsmen yesterday that the prime concern of the Prime Minister these days was tackling the flood situation. "Presently she is busy dealing with the devastating flood in the northern region of the country," he added.

Bhuiyan made the statement following a meeting with the MPs and party leaders of Dhaka district yesterday afternoon.

When requested to say something on the media speculation on a letter from the Prime Minister, Bhuiyan said, "The Premier will take a decision about it."

The acting Secretary General of the BNP, however, emphatically said the party would not concede to any unconstitutional demand. "The Prime Minister and her entire cabinet is oath bound to uphold the Constitution," he said, adding, "We are ready to accept any kind of interim government to conduct the next general elections. But whatever is done will have to be within the ambit of the Constitution."

Bhuiyan said it was enough that the Prime Minister had made an offer to step down

RC College bans political activities

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 9: All political activities have been banned on the RC College campus in Barisal district.

The ban is effective from today. The decision was taken at a meeting attended by the student leaders of BCL, JCD and Chhatra Shibir, teachers and the general students of the college.

Ctg Stock

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The seven mutual funds of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) were listed with the stock exchange today, raising the CSE's total number of issues to 33.

Necessary papers for the listing formalities reached the CSE office from Dhaka Monday afternoon.

Till Sunday, 30 companies were scheduled to be listed with the exchange, but some of them were left out at the last moment. Officials said 15 more companies are in the pipeline for listing with the CSE.

Established early this year with 70 members, the exchange will provide the investors with quick, easy and transparent settlement system, said the CSE officials.

The CSE will also have strict regulation and listing requirement primarily to protect the interest of investors in the capital market, they said.

Starting with the traditional cry out method, the exchange is expected to go for modern transaction system, introducing electronic display board facilities shortly.



Voters queue for photographs at an ID card preparation and distribution centre in city yesterday. — Star photo



Anniversary of SM Sultan's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The first anniversary of death of renowned painter SM Sultan will be observed today.

To mark the day, different organizations will arrange programmes highlighting the life and works of the most gifted artist of modern time.

SM Sultan, the dreamer and architect of 'Shishu Shwargo' (Children's Heaven), an institution of fine arts for children in Narail, died of prolonged illness on this day last year.

Shiksha O Sanskriti Charcha Kendra, a centre for education and culture, arranged gift giving ceremony at the Biswa Shahitya Kendra in the city at 10 AM. 'Gifts' would be distributed among children, who participated in a painting contest organised by the Kendra earlier marking the death anniversary of Sultan.

Painter Hashem Khan will distribute the 'gifts', says a press release.

One murdered in city

By DMCH Correspondent

One Abdul Qader, 28, was murdered in Dhalpur area under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

Police recovered the body from a ditch at about 4:30pm and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Medical sources said, there were marks of bullet injuries on Qader's chest and his left hand thumb was cut.

Police suspect that the young man was killed in an abandoned house in the area and later thrown into the ditch.

The address of the victim could not be known till last night. However, sources say, the killing was the sequel to the murder of another young man in the area a few days ago.

None was arrested in this connection till last night.

Red carpet welcome

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The visit, the first by an Iranian head of state, is being attached great political and economic significance. The existing economic and trade relations between the two countries are expected to get a new boost and witness new horizons.

At least five memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are likely to be signed between the two governments. These range from cooperation in energy and manpower sectors to obtaining transit facilities through Iran and Turkmenistan for passage of Bangladesh goods into Central Asian countries.

Minister for Foreign and Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan Baayraamoich is also scheduled to arrive in Dhaka, today leading a five-member delegation, to sign a trilateral MOU among Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan. The proposed three-nation agreement will provide Dhaka transit facilities for passage of its goods, using Iranian ports, railways and roads, to Turkmenistan and neighbouring CIS countries.

During the visit of the Iranian President, talks will

be held between leaders of the two countries on wide ranging bilateral issues for boosting trade and economic ties. Discussions will also be held on regional and international matters of common concern. The official level talks will be held at the International Conference Centre on October 11. President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will hold exclusive discussions before the formal talks at the Prime Minister's office.

On Wednesday, President Rafsanjani will lay the foundation of a building at the Dhaka University which will house the University's Persian language and research centre.

On October 11, he will inaugurate a seminar on Bangladesh-Iran trade cooperation at Hotel Sonargaon.

Senior Iranian government and trade officials are due to meet the representatives of the FBCCI and local business leaders.

The visiting President and his team members are due to fly to Chittagong on Thursday to inaugurate the Chittagong-Tehran Joint Chamber of Commerce. He will also visit the Export Processing Zone

Declare flood-hit dists as distressed areas: Hasina

JOYPURHAT, Oct 9: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today called for declaring the flood-hit northern districts as 'distressed area' and taking pragmatic steps to mitigate suffering of the flood victims, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting at Akkelpur, she accused the government of plundering relief materials and said the BNP has no right to stay in power any longer.

Referring to the plight of the flood affected people, Hasina said, "Only this government's lust for power has increased the misery of the common people. Their sufferings will not go as long as BNP will remain power."

The Awami League chief said the Prime Minister's relief fund is now empty as the PM had distributed Tk 25 lakh to each of her ministers and MPs earlier when there was no disaster in the country.

"Those money have been misappropriated and now the people are not getting anything," she alleged.

Hasina, now on an extensive four-day tour of the flood affected areas of northern region, today visited vast areas of Rajshahi, Naogaon and Joypurhat districts.

The AL chief told the gatherings that the government work was hampered because of hartals. "But when there was no hartal in the first week of this month, why they have not sent any relief to the flood hit areas," she asked.

Move to privatise WASA protested

By Staff Correspondent

The officers and employees of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) held rallies and brought out processions in the city yesterday to protest the move to lease water supply to the private sector.

The officers and employees of eleven zonal offices of the Dhaka WASA observed their programmes under the banner of 'Dhaka WASA Kormokarta-Karmachari Oikya Parishad'. They said, the leasing of water supply to the private sector on commercial basis is 'illogical and inhuman'.

With WASA-Bhaban Zone convener of the Parishad Md Ashrafuddin Khan in the chair, a protest rally was held at Karwan Bazaar.

Tk 16 lakh snatching

'Gang was hired from outside Dhaka'

By Staff Correspondent

Police suspect that the gang involved in the snatching of Tk 16.2 lakh of a Beximco firm from in front of the Dhanmondi branch of IFIC bank was hired from outside Dhaka. But none of the attackers could be traced till last night, police sources said.

Four armed men snatched the money from a microbus shortly after the vehicle had of the bank premises at about 10:30 am on October 5.

Detective police had earlier arrested two Beximco employees — driver Badal and commercial assistant Ahmed Golum Ehsan — suspecting their involvement in the snatching.

The angry shopkeepers put up barricades on the road disrupting normal movement of vehicles for about an hour. Ramna and Motijheel thana police could not confirm the incident.

The local shopowners had conflict with the slum dwellers for a long time. The youths from the slum often disturbed the shopkeepers, the sources added.

President Rafsanjani will be feted to a state banquet by President Abdur Rahman Biswas tomorrow evening while the Prime Minister will host a dinner in his honour at 30 Hare Road on Wednesday evening.

The Iranian President will visit the Savar mausoleum to pay tributes to the Liberation War martyrs on Tuesday morning.

He will hold a press conference at the International Conference Centre on Thursday evening after the signing of the MOU's at the same venue.

On Friday President Rafsanjani will offer Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram mosque and leave Dhaka the same afternoon at 3 pm.

Dinajpur incident Probe body submits report

The one-member judicial enquiry instituted to probe the Dinajpur incident submitted its report yesterday to the government on the killing of Yasmin and seven others, reports UNB.

The report containing over 50 pages was submitted to the Ministry of Home, official sources said.

The government instituted the one-man enquiry with Rafiqul Islam, Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dinajpur, on August 27 after seven people were killed in police firing during agitation over the rape and killing of Yasmin, allegedly by some policemen on August 24.

The enquiry committee took evidence of 270 people including three accused policemen. On the basis of their evidences, the committee gave a number of suggestions including punitive measures against the accused policemen, the sources said.

The Home Ministry officials have started reviewing the report and suggestions given by the committee.

One stabbed by extortionists

By Staff Correspondent

One person was stabbed by extortionists following his refusal to give them toll at Shenpara under Mirpur thana in the city yesterday morning.

The victim identified as Abul Khair, 40, received several stab injuries.

According to sources, the local extortionists demanded Tk 1.5 lakh from Khair who was constructing a building a Parbata, Shenpara.

PM : Crisis

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tries to "communicate the same concern for an urgent solution to the crisis."

The outcome of the meeting with the Prime Minister was not disclosed.

When contacted, Prof Rehman Sobhan said: "We cannot draw any conclusion until we can meet leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina."

Fakhruddin Ahmed said: "We just want to register our concern about the crisis and we don't have anything more to say at this moment until we meet opposition leader Sheikh Hasina."

The Midnight File

30 killed as massive quake jolts Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Oct 9: An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale killed at least 30 people in the western state of Jalisco today, radio reports said. Radio Red quoted government rescue services as saying 30 people were killed along the Jalisco coast with the towns of Cihuatlan, San Patricio and Melaque being the worst hit, reports Reuter.

Two Americans, German win Nobel Medicine Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 9: Two Americans and a German were jointly awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize for medicine today for their pioneering work on embryonic development, the Nobel Committee said, reports AFP.

Edward B Lewis, a 77-year-old American, 52-year-old Christiane Nusslein-Volhard of Germany and Swiss-American Eric F Wieschaus, 48, were honoured for their discoveries concerning "the genetic control of early embryonic development," the committee said.

Together the three scientists have achieved a breakthrough that will help explain congenital malformations in man, the committee added.

ENT operations

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said that about 7/8 stolen items were replaced within the last few days but the bulk could not be had as those were to be procured through official orders.

"Between Tk 10-20 thousand is being made available to buy the lot which is available in the markets," Dr Moqbul said.

Prof Mohammad Tahir, Director of the hospital, said that following the theft, police was informed and he had immediately formed an enquiry committee comprising high officials.

"Immediately after the theft, I had asked the doctors concerned to buy the sets with our own funds. But this has not been possible because of the complications in processing the official orders," prof Tahir told The Daily Star.

Moreover, he said, he had contacted the Central Medical Store about the replacement but it was not in a position now to do so.

"Things are moving and we hope to replace the sets as soon as possible," Prof Tahir said.

The ENT department usually performs at least six major operations a day and more than 50 minor ones a week. Ever since the theft, not a single major operation could be performed.

Malaysia

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Malaysian Airlines are sharing the business of carrying the workers on a 50-50 basis.

Recruitment of workers through private agencies was stopped following allegations of fraudulent activities in the business.

The Secretary of the Labour and Manpower Ministry while addressing a press conference in late August had said that there were around 1,61,000 Bangladeshis working in Malaysia and about 40,000 were staying there 'illegally'.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board URGENT NOTICE

Dhaka Telecommunication Region South and North

It is notified for information of all concerned that for rendering better services to the valued subscribers and for better maintenance and operational purposes, the Dhaka Telecommunication Region of Bangladesh T&T Board has been reorganised into two Regions effective since 1st Oct/95. The areas under the jurisdiction of new Regions are follows:

1. Dhaka Telecom. Region (South) Head Office : Telephone Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. Areas : Divisional Engineer, Central Moghbazar, Nilkhet, Narayanganj, PBX, Cable Divn (South) Central Telegraph Office, Narayanganj Telegraph Office including all exchanges and installations of those offices.

2. Dhaka Telecom. Region (North) Head Office : 106, Kakrail, Dhaka. Areas : Divisional Engineer, Sher-e-Bangla-Nagar, Mirpur, Gulshan, Uttara, Mymensingh, Cable Divn (North) and Mymensingh Telegraph Office including all exchanges installations. Besides these Bldg. Maintenance Divn. will be under the jurisdiction of this Region.

* For new telephone connections all valued subscribers are requested to apply to the G M Office, Ramna up to 15-10-95 as before.

* Applications from 16-10-95 Regional offices of North and South will receive the applications under their respective jurisdictions.

* The applications of the subscribers under Telecom. Divns, Narayanganj and Mymensingh and all exchanges of Mirpur Divn. excluding Mirpur exchange and all the exchanges under Uttara Divn. excluding Tongi and Uttara exchanges will be received by the respective offices as before.

For inter-exchange shifting following procedures are to be followed:

1. In case of shifting within the same Region subscribers are to contact with the respective regional head office.
2. In case of shifting from one Region to another Region subscribers are requested to apply to the G M from whose jurisdiction the telephone is to be shifted.

These procedures are applicable to all categories of subscribers irrespective of Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous bodies/private.

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