

More relief for flood victims

State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharrar distributed relief materials among the flood victims of Hajiribagh and Lalbagh areas in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

He also urged all to extend their help and cooperation to the flood affected people.

M Selim MP, ward commissioners Kazi Masum, Humayun Kabir, Kamaluddin, Ramzan Ali Hira, Parvin Alam and Alta Parvin Ranju accompanied the state minister.

KOINONIA, a humanitarian organisation, has undertaken an emergency relief programme of Tk 31,18,500.00 to help 5500 flood affected families, says a press release.

Through this relief programme the districts will be covered are: Tangail, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Natore and Naogaon. In each of the affected 4000 families 10 kg rice, 2.5 kg lintel, 5 packets ORS and one family size mosquito net will be distributed and 10 kg rice seedling will be distributed among the rest 1500 families. Relief materials were distributed among 500 families in Bhupur and Gopalpur thana of Tangail district on Tuesday.

The Dhaka University authorities distributed relief materials among flood affected people of Kamrangirchar yesterday, reports UNB.

The relief materials included rice, pulses, chira, pure drinking water, clothes, biscuit, bread, candle, firebox and other household essentials.

The central flood relief committee of the university, headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed, collected these relief goods.

Teachers, officers and employees, members of BNCC, Rover Scouts and Rangers took part in the relief activities, said a press release.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said the government will continue relief operations in the flood affected areas even after the flooding ends, reports BSS.

The minister said this while distributing relief materials at flood shelters in Panthapath, Green Road and in the Kalabagan area of the city.

The government has also taken up an extensive programme for distributing agricultural loans of Taka 1250 crore for post-flood agricultural rehabilitation.

Death of Ghazi Shamsur Rahman condoled

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has conveyed his deep shock at the death of prominent jurist and lawyer Ghazi Shamsur Rahman, reports UNB.

In a condolence message, he prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed his sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Another UNB reports says former president Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed his deep shock at the death of eminent jurist Ghazi Shamsur Rahman.

In a condolence message, Biswas said the nation has lost a very good jurist at the death of Rahman.

"He was very co-operative to his colleagues and people in the judicial arena," remarked the former President.

Biswas prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family members.

UNB adds Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) has expressed its grief at the death of distinguished jurist Ghazi Shamsur Rahman.

The society organised a condolence meeting at its office in the morning.

On minute silence was observed to show respect to the memories of late Rahman who was involved with the activities of the organisation from the very beginning.

In a condolence message, BSEHR Secretary General Advocate Sigma Huda said his death caused an irreparable loss to the nation as well as the organisation.

She prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Drama workshop

By Staff Correspondent Chekhov Theatre, a theatre group formed recently under the auspices of the Russian Cultural Centre at Dhaka, has arranged a monthlong drama workshop beginning on August 18, says a press release.

Eminent drama artistes and theatre personalities of the country will give training at the workshop.

Persons interested to participate in the workshop have been asked to contact the Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi for details and to collect application forms by today.



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad speaking at a discussion on 'Liberation Struggle and Bangabandhu' at the Islamic Foundation auditorium in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Sadique tells discussion meeting Implementation of Nat'l Edn policy to require 20 years

Education Minister ASHK Sadique yesterday underscored the need for giving priority to improving the standard of higher education in the country to create skilled manpower in every field of national importance, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on 'Bangabandhu, Bangabandhu Sonar Bangla and higher education' held at the National University in Gazipur, 30 kilometres north of the capital, the minister said if the nation does not give proper attention to higher education the existing education system would "collapse".

He said development of higher education in science and technology (S and T) was essential to face the international competition in industrial production and service delivery and realising this fact the government had decided to set up 12 new science and technology universities in the country.

Referring to the national education policy the minister said a report in this regard was submitted to the government in November, 1997 by the national

education committee. On the basis of this report another committee was finalising the modalities for implementing the proposed education policy, he said.

He said implementation of a national education policy would require about 20 years for which a national commitment, mental preparedness and availability of resources were needed.

Speaking on the life and activities of Bangabandhu Sadique said the father of the nation was killed to destroy his ideals and dreams of a Sonar Bangla and the hopes and aspirations of the Bengali nation.

Organised by the National University (NU) on the occasion of the 23rd death anniversary of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Mourning Day on August 15 the discussion was also addressed by the Vice-Chancellor of National University Prof Aminul Islam, pro-vice chancellors Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and Prof Lutfor Rahman, Pro-Vice Chancellor of

Open University Prof RI Sharif and syndicate members of NU Nurul Islam Khan and principal K Faroque.

Paying respect to the departed souls of Bangabandhu and his family members Prof Islam said Bangabandhu gave priority to investment in education and formed Quadrat-e-Khuda Education Commission.

Prof Jahangir said the best way to show respect to Sheikh Mujib was to build the nation as Sonar Bangla as dreamt by the father of the nation.

Principal Kazi Faroque said Bangabandhu always emphasised the need for education to build the country as Sonar Bangla.

Prof RI Sharif said education was essential to create 'Sonar Manush' with adequate knowledge for building Sonar Bangla.

Presided over by Prof Aminul Islam the discussion was followed by a munajat praying for peace of the departed souls of Bangabandhu and his family members.



Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed addressing the inaugural ceremony of the two-day workshop of WEDP project of BSCIC in the city yesterday.

Tofael opens workshop of WEDP BSCIC officials asked to diversify activities

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday asked the BSCIC officials to diversify and invigorate the activities of the organisation to involve the rural people, especially womenfolk, in nation building tasks, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating the annual conference and two-day workshop of Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP) project at the BCIC auditorium.

The minister said the government is going to exempt customs duty on imported machinery for small and cottage industries.

He said that Tk 15 crore will be spent this year for labour training and Tk 18 crore to help the distressed women. An employment bank has been established to give loan to unemployed and educated youths, he added.

The Minister said that the present government has given top priority to poverty alleviation and rural development.

He directed the BSCIC officials to identify the hurdles and the best possible action plan to achieve the target. He said BSCIC should take initiatives for establishing more small industries in the rural areas.

The government is ready to provide all possible help including sanction of loan to WEDP and other rural development and employment generation programmes under BSCIC, he said.

Referring to the unplanned construction of BSCIC estates in the past, the minister asked the authorities to make a survey of the present conditions of the BSCIC estates throughout the country.

He said there are some estates where there are no gas and

electricity connection — other logistic supports are also absent.

Presided over by the BSCIC Chairman AHM Rezaul Karim, the function was also addressed by the Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industries Md Hasibur Rahman Swapan, Industries Secretary KM Izazul Haq, Project Director of WEDP UH Rasheda Akhter Khanam and BSCIC Director Md Rezaul Haque.

WEDP is one of the on-going projects under Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation which has distributed Tk 35 crore among 69,609 rural women as loan for establishing small and cottage industries.

WEDP projects are now being implemented at 40 thanas of 32 districts and will be replicated to another 10 centres soon.

Mannan urges administration to discharge duty neutrally

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the administration to discharge its duty neutrally without any fear, reports UNB.

The officials who would be harassed for their neutral role would be rewarded after BNP's return to power, he told a public meeting at Kazirhat High School ground in Bera thana of Pabna district.

Bhuiyan said those officials who will use them as tools of the government to serve the political purpose of the government will have to face the people's wrath.

Presided over by Bera thana BNP president Mirza Abdul Hamid Member, the meeting was addressed, among others, by BNP joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain, Alamgir Kabir MP, Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP and Major (Rtd) Manjur Qader.

Digital telephone exchanges in each thanas soon: Nasim

BHOLA, Aug 12: Telecommunications, Housing and Public Works Minister Mohammad Nasim has said digital telephone exchanges will be set up in all thanas of the country by 2000, reports BSS.

Addressing two separate meetings in Bhola yesterday, the minister said digital telephone exchanges with 200 and 300 lines will be set up in Daulatkhan and Borhanuddin thanas of Bhola soon.

He said digital exchanges will be set up in all thanas of the district gradually.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed speaking on the occasions said the government has been working to attract investment to develop the industries sector side by side with the agriculture sector.

He said establishment of three export processing zones in Nilphamari, Ishurdi and Sirajganj is under consideration. Mr Tofael said different processing industries, including a fertiliser factory, will be set up.

BCS (C&E) assoc protests appointments

By Staff Correspondent BCS (Customs and Excise) Association yesterday demanded cancellation of appointment of some officials as deputy secretaries, saying it was illegal and against the service rules of government officials.

The Association, at a meeting with its vice president All Ahmed in the chair, expressed resentment over the appointment of deputy secretaries.

BGSS to publish book on rural journalism

By Staff Correspondent The Bangladesh Grameen Sangbadik Samity (BGSS) has taken an initiative to publish a book titled 'Rural Journalism: From Kanganal Harinath to Monajatuddin' and invited write-ups on the veteran journalists, says a press release.

Uzbek troops put on alert Taliban cut northern opposition off from supplies

KABUL, Aug 12: The Taliban cut their northern opposition off from supplies in Central Asia Wednesday with the capture of a border town, advancing toward their goal of putting all of Afghanistan under their rigid version of Islamic law.

"Hayraton was taken today after a little resistance, spokesman Wakeel Ahmad Muttakeel, reached by satellite phone at Taliban military headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar, told The Associated Press.

A defence ministry official just across the border from Hayraton in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan confirmed the city's fall. Uzbek border troops have been put on alert to guard against a possible spillover of violence, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Hayraton, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Kabul, had been the only gateway to Central Asia for the anti-Taliban alliance, now isolated within Afghanistan. And with fall Tangi Tashqurshan, which the Taliban also claimed to have seized Wednesday, the airport at Mazar-e-Sharif, the north's biggest city, will be secure for the use of Taliban fighters who captured Mazar-e-Sharif Saturday.

Earlier Tuesday, Taliban spokesman Abdul Hay Muttayn said another opposition stronghold, Pul-e-Kumri, about 175 kilometers (100 miles) north of the capital Kabul, fell with little resistance. Muttayn had few details, and his claim could not be independently confirmed.

The Taliban Foreign Ministry vowed last week to pursue a military solution to Afghanistan's civil war and establish "100 per cent Islamic law."

The Taliban, whose name means "students of Islam," emerged in southern Afghanistan in 1994, surpris-

ing many with the speed at which they captured most of the country, including Kabul. Under its strict interpretation of Islamic law, girls are barred from school, most women are confined to their homes, and music, movies and television are banned.

The Taliban has pledged to bring peace to a country that has been in conflict since a series of military and communist coups in the 1960s.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that Taliban advances posed "a real threat" to the coalition of former Soviet republics. Russia is ready to fortify the southern borders of former Soviet republics in Central Asia to guard against any spillover of the turmoil, the ministry said.

Russia fears the entrenchment of a radical Islamic estate in Afghanistan would bring an influx of refugees and weapons into the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. Afghanistan borders three former Soviet republics: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Valery Nesterushkin, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, also accused the Pakistani military of helping the Taliban advance in northern Afghanistan.

"There is hard evidence to support this, including the capture of Pakistani prisoners by forces in northern Afghanistan," Nesterushkin said. There had been no inde-

pendent confirmation of the anti-Taliban alliance's claims that it had Pakistani troops fighting alongside the Taliban.

Pakistan is widely believed to be the force behind the fundamentalist movement, but both Pakistan and the Taliban have denied such accusations. The Taliban have also said their campaign is no threat to neighboring countries.

"So far, no one has ever arrested a single Pakistani soldier in Afghanistan," Pakistani Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz said in an interview Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, Iranian police surrounded the Pakistani Embassy in Tehran after scores of protesters tried to force their way into the compound to demand the release of Iranians allegedly captured in Afghanistan.

Iran, which is suspected of supporting the anti-Taliban coalition, claims that 11 of its diplomats, a correspondent of the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency and 32 Iranian drivers were captured by the Taliban in northern Afghanistan.

Iran has said it holds Pakistan responsible for the Iranian's safety because of its alleged support for the Taliban.

The Taliban say they know nothing about the Iranian diplomats, although they claim to be holding some 30 Iranians suspected of arming their enemies.

Notice of Tender Military Engineer Services (Army) Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Branch, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt for issue of tender documents separately for the following works: 1. Provision of external electric supply with 1000 KVA Transformer for underconstruction multi-storied OR's Qtr at Dhaka Cantt. 2. Provision of Intercom system for underconstruction multi-storied OR's Qtr at Dhaka Cantt. 3. Provision of TV Antenna system for underconstruction multi-storied OR's Qtr at Dhaka Cantt. 4. Provision of Gas supply for underconstruction multi-storied OR's Qtr at Dhaka Cantt. 5. Provision of Fire Fighting System for multi-storied OR's Qtr at Dhaka Cantt. 6. Provision of CC TV system for underconstruction multi-storied OR's Qtr at Dhaka Cantt. 7. Eligible contractors may apply for tender documents as per rules of MES. 'C' & 'D' Class contractors enlisted in MES may apply for tender documents. Details of works done in last 5 years with certificates of experience, ABC licence and dealership/agency certificate (where applicable), VAT registration certificate should be attached with each application. Envelopes containing applications should be marked with the name of works and be sent to this directorate within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Firms/contractors not enlisted in MES are required to apply with Bank Draft/Pay Order of Tk. 100/- from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh issued in favour of AHQ, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt. Authority reserves the right to accept/cancel any or all applications without assigning any reason. ISPR/Army/98/635 DFF-17081-9/8 G-1820 DW & CE (Army) Dhaka Cantt

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Director Asian Development Bank Aided Participatory Livestock Development Project House # 4, Road # 1 East Parjatanpara, Rangpur No. PLDP-03/Tender-01/98/28 Dated: 5.8.98 Re-Invitation of Bids Under International Shopping (IS) 1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received a loan in various currencies from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP) under ADB Loan No 1524-BAN (SF) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of vehicles. 2. Project Director, Participatory Livestock Development Project, Rangpur now wishes to invite sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of 2 (two) long wheel base Jeeps (4 WD, Large). 3. Bid document with detailed specification, terms & conditions and other papers may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 1500/- (Taka one thousand five hundred) only at the office of (i) Project Director, Participatory Livestock Development Project, House-4, Road-1, East Parjatanpara, Rangpur, (ii) Director-General, Department of Livestock Services, Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 on all working days after ten days from the date of publication of this invitation in the national dailies. No tender schedules/documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender. 4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% (two per cent) of the total bid price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Project Director, Participatory Livestock Development Project, Rangpur and must be delivered either via mail or in person to the above two offices on or before 12-00 Noon (local time), 20 September, 1998. No bid will be considered for receipt or acceptance following expiry of the aforementioned date and time. Bids will be publicly opened at 12-30 PM on the same day by the respective offices in presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. 5. The authority will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation of bids or delivery of goods. 6. Payments made under this contract will be in Bangladesh Taka. Interested eligible bidders (including foreign bidders) may obtain further information from above two offices. 7. The authority is not bound to accept the lowest priced bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Md Nurul Islam Project Director Asian Development Bank Aided Participatory Livestock Development Project Rangpur. DFP-17053-9/8 G-1817

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture Project Implementation Wing Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka Invitation for Bids No. Agri/PIW/Engg/ADIP/Pro-1/98/864 Dated: 6-8-98/21-4-1405 The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received credit from International Fund for Agricultural Development in various currencies towards the cost of Agricultural Diversification and Intensification Project. It is intended that a part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied, through PIW, to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of vehicles. 2. PIW, Ministry of Agriculture now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders for the procurement of 7 (seven) units Cross Country Vehicle(jeep) 100% built-in in the country of origin. 3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect bidding documents at the office of the Project Director, PIW, Ministry of Agriculture, Khamarbari (5th floor, Middle Building), Farmgate, Dhaka. 4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidder on submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 500/- or US\$ 11 either in Cash or in Cashier's cheque or in Certified cheque or in Pay Order or Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh during office hours on all working days up to 3.98 at PIW Office, Khamarbari (5th floor, Middle Building), Farmgate, Dhaka, Room No. 422, Bhaban No. 4 in Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka and Commissioner's office, Dhaka. 5. Bids must be delivered to PIW Office, Khamarbari (5th floor, Middle Building), Farmgate, Dhaka, Room No. 422, Bhaban No. 4 in Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka and Commissioner's Office, Dhaka on or before 1:00 PM on 6.9.98 and must be accompanied by a security of two per cent of total Bid amount in the form and manner detailed in the Instructions to Bidders. 6. Bids will be opened at PIW Office, Khamarbari (5th floor, Middle Building), Farmgate, Dhaka, Room No. 422, Bhaban No. 4 in Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka and Commissioner's Office, Dhaka in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at 1:10 PM on 6.9.98. 7. PIW reserves the right to reject any bid including the lowest bid or accept any bid in part or full and waive any irregularity of a bid, if it is found to be in the interest of the Project. Md. Jamaluddin Project Engineer Project Implementation Wing Ministry of Agriculture Phone: 9117795 DFP-17087-9/8/98 G-1821