

National



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributed relief materials among the flood victims in Bramhanbaria on Thursday. —PID photo

Sylhet BNP urges govt to provide relief for flood victims

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 28: The Sylhet district BNP unit has urged the government to provide adequate relief goods for the flood-affected people of greater Sylhet region immediately.

Addressing a press conference at the Sylhet Press Club on Wednesday, the party leaders also called for early steps to repair the Dhaka-Sylhet-Highway which had been badly damaged by the gushing flood waters during the last few days. As a result, the road link between Sylhet and rest of the country remained snapped. This has also led to the price-like of essentials in the whole region, causing great miseries to the common people, they said.

The leaders alleged that, the government is not at all sincere in mitigating the suffering of the lakhs of flood victims in all the four districts of Sylhet region as well as in the entire country.

They said, the previous BNP government had started implementing a Taka 27 crore project to expand the Sylhet Osmani Airport Runway for facilitating wide-bodied aircraft. But the present government failed to complete the work even two years after its assumption of power, they alleged.

District BNP secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury read out a written statement while its president MA Haque and other leaders gave answers to the journalists.



Relentless rains and onrush of waters from upstream pushed the Meghna River over its banks, inundating Dhaka-Sylhet road at many points that disrupted communication between places. —Star photo

News snaps

Erosion renders 5,000 families homeless
BANDARBAN, Aug 28: About 5,000 families in the seven thanas under Bandorban district have been rendered homeless due to erosion of the rivers Sangu and Matamuhuri during the last one month, reports BSS.
 Officials said, 32 villages of 24 unions have been affected by the erosion. According to sources, about 15,000 people in 16 unions of Chakaria thana in Cox's Bazar district have been affected by erosion of the Matamuhuri. And 5,000 people have been affected in Bandorban Sadar, Ruma, Thanchi and Runagchari thanas by the erosion of Sangu. The erosion has taken a serious turn due to heavy rainfall and onrush of hilly water, officials said.

Dacoit arrested in Satkhira
SATKHIRA, Aug 28: Police arrested a notorious inter-district dacoit from village Khordah in Tala thana of the district on Tuesday night, reports UNB.
 The robber was identified as Ibrahim. Following his confessional statement, police recovered a shot-gun and four rifle bullets from the house of one Shafulq of the same village. Police said Ibrahim was wanted in connection with a number of dacoity cases.

Erratic power supply in Sunamganj
SUNAMGANJ, Aug 28: Erratic power supply and frequent load-shedding in the district town have been causing untold suffering to the dwellers, reports UNB.
 The dwellers alleged that power goes off several times a day, paralysing the normal life and adversely affecting production in mills and factories. When many areas of the town plunge into darkness after the sunset, anti-social elements become active. Moreover, irrigation is facing setback in district due to frequent load-shedding.

The business community urged the authorities concerned to ensure smooth power supply in the town to restore normal production in mills and factories.

One arrested with 300 gm of heroin
JESSORE, Aug 28: Bangladesh Rifles arrested a youth with 300 grams of heroin from Edubari frontier line in Sharsa thana here on Tuesday night, reports UNB.
 BDR sources said they arrested Abu Sayed Bakul, 25, while he entered into the Bangladesh territory from India with the contraband item. Bakul was handed over to the police and a case was filed in this connection.

Agri rehabilitation programme in Magura
MAGURA, Aug 28: Government has sanctioned Tk 2.74 lakh to assist the affected poor and marginal farmers of the district under the post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.
 Official sources said the amount will be utilised for supplying seeds, seedlings, and fertilisers among the poor farmers. Under the programme, 160 acres of land will be brought under boro, transplanted aman, wheat; pulses and vegetable cultivation in the district. At least 300 poor farmers will be benefited from the programme, agriculture extension officials said.

One run over by bus in Jessore
JESSORE, Aug 28: A man was run over by a speedy bus at Gaurpara in Sharsa thana on Navaron-Gourpara road on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the victim Abdul Gafur of village Subarnakhal met the tragic end while he was returning home in a bi-cycle. Local people caught hold of the bus driver, beat him up severely and handed over to the police. The body was sent to district general hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection.

Tk 71 cr dev programme in Noakhali
NOAKHALI, Aug 28: The government has taken up a massive development programme involving Tk 70.60 crore in the district, reports UNB.
 Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) will implement the five and a half year-long programmes divided into eight parts, said official sources. Switzerland government will provide Tk 51.43 crore which is 73 per cent of the total amount and the rest amount will be provided by the Bangladesh government. According to officials, the primary works on the schemes have already been started from July last. The schemes include construction, reconstruction and maintenance of rural roads, development of rural hat, bazaars and ghat, and socio-economic advancement of poor women and their employment.

227 landless families rehabilitated
CHUADANGA, Aug 28: A total of 227 landless families of four thanas of Chuadanga district have, so far, been rehabilitated in nine ideal villages, reports BSS.
 According to an official source, 33 families have been rehabilitated in two ideal villages of Chuadanga Sadar thana, 55 families in two ideal villages of Alamdanga thana, 90 families in two ideal villages of Damurhuda thana and 49 families in three ideal villages of Jibannagar thana.

Tk 5 lakh loan disbursed in Sylhet
SYLHET, Aug 28: Directorate of Youth Development disbursed Tk 5 lakh loan among 100 poor people of Tengra union in Rajnagar thana here, reports UNB.
 The loan was disbursed under family-based employment generation scheme on the occasion of the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Each person was given Tk 5,000 to take up small schemes to attain self-sufficiency. Deputy Director of the directorate Kazi Abdur Nur, Rajnagar TNO Bhabesh Chandra and thana Awami League secretary were present on the occasion.

Supply of fish in Natore falls

NATORE, Aug 28: Barely three months back, fishes were plentiful in markets of the tiny town. But the sudden fall in supply of fishes has taken the townsmen by all surprise, reports UNB.
 "The supply of fish in the town has taken a sharp tumble after the opening of the Bangabandhu Bridge in addition to fall in its production in the district," said a resident.

With the opening of the world's 11th largest bridge, the supply of perishable goods, including fish, from northern region to the capital has remarkably increased as it infused dynamism in other economic activities there.
 Local people said over 100 baskets of small and sweet water fishes are sent to capital Dhaka from Gurudashpur, Baraigram, Bonpara, Bagatipara, Lalpur, Shinga, Chowgram, Sherkol, Chandpur and Natore railway station points every day.
 Local fish traders said previously a huge quantity of poultry birds and eggs were supplied to the capital from the northern region, but now it is fish.

"Easy communication has made it possible," one of the traders told the UNB correspondent.
 An elderly buyer said few months back they used to buy fishes at much cheaper prices, but now it has gone beyond the purchasing capacity of common people.

Malaria claims 7 lives in Bandorban
BANDARBAN, Aug 28: At least seven persons have died of malaria in Bandorban Sadar, Lama and Ruma thana hospitals between August 1 and 23, civil surgeon's office sources said here, reports BSS.
 Union parishad chairmen, local leaders and headmen, however, claim 26 persons have died of malaria in the seven thanas of the hill district during the last three weeks.

Acting civil surgeon when contacted confirmed that two malaria patients have died in sadar hospital, two in Lama thana hospital and there in Ruma thana hospital during the last three weeks. More than 2,000 have been suffering from malaria in different areas of the district, he said, but unofficial figure is much higher.
 He said 38 medical teams have already been formed to cope with the malaria situation in the district.
 The district health department will start a malaria prevention programme from the first week of October.

Malaria claims 7 lives in Bandorban

Doctors said the water-borne disease has broken out due to lack of pure drinking water and oral saline.
 A total of 116 medical teams are working in the flood-affected areas to combat the disease.

One arrested with firearms in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 28: Police arrested a man with arms and ammunition from his house at Molladangi village in Sreepur thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.
 Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Kalu Mandal, 35, and arrested him with two shutter-guns and nine bullets.

His another accomplice identified as Paban, a notorious terrorist of the area, managed to escape from the house, police added.

5 of a family die from snake-bite

SHARIATPUR, Aug 28: Five people of the same family died from snake-bite at Naodova village in Jazira thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Jamal, 22, Aziz, 18, Karim, 15, Rahima, 8, and Fatima, 10. Family sources said a snake bit them at dead of night while they were in deep sleep.

Another report adds: An alleged notorious dacoit was chopped to death in broad daylight by the angry mob at Tahirpur thana in Sunamganj district recently.
 Police and witnesses said the alleged dacoit Alal was caught by the people at Bhangerkhal ferry ghat.

Diarrhoea claims 7 more lives in Tangail

TANGAIL, Aug 28: Diarrhoea that broke out with the ravaging flood has claimed seven more lives and affected some 10,000 people in the district in last few days, reports UNB.

Bhuapur, Kalihati, Gopalpur and Sadar thanas of the district were said to be the worst affected areas.

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Ferry services threatened Flood situation worsens in Pabna, Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 28: The over-all flood situation across the Pabna district has deteriorated, threatening the Paksey-Bheramara ferry service.

With water level in the Padma continuously rising, Paksey and Bheramara ferry ghats went deep under water, making it extremely difficult for the ferries to anchor. Over 500 vehicles remained stranded near both the ghats for last three days.

The Ishwardi airport is already now under water. Over two lakh people have been marooned in the flood-affected thanas, but no measures have yet been taken to rescue them. Boats are rarely available and hence rescue operations by different organisations have also become extremely difficult.

Two bridges—one at Nazirganj and another at Udaypur under Sujanagar thana—have collapsed. Over 250 educational institutions throughout the district were declared closed due to floods.

Government relief materials have not reached the flood victims in many areas. On Friday, Square group of companies distributed relief goods among over 500 families in five villages of Dhalarchar union—the worst affected area in the district.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Flood situation in Kushtia district has worsened following further rise of water level in both the rivers—Ganges and Goral, inundating new areas, damaging crops and dwelling houses, washing away roads, bridge and culverts in 44 unions and affecting more than two lakh people.

Also, massive erosion by the two rivers has caused havoc and rendered 60 thousand people homeless. Loss in terms of money was estimated at Tk one crore.

The river Ganges is now flowing 50 centimeters above the danger level while river Goral is flowing 38 centimeters above the danger level. District

administration has taken adequate precautionary measures to protect the flood protection embankment to prevent water from entering in Kushtia town. The erosion of the river Goral has deprived many institutions and business establishments in Kumarkhali town. Now Kumarkhali town itself is under threat, Goral Railway bridge and railway track is also under threat of being eroded as the RCC groin constructed by the railway department washed away by the fury of erosion.

Meanwhile, water-borne diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in the flood-affected areas for want of pure drinking water as all the tube-wells have gone under water. District health department has not taken any step to combat the diseases. A large number of patients have been pouring in the thana health complexes everyday. Meanwhile, prices of rice and other essential commodities have gone up beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Flood death toll 22 in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 28: The flood situation in the 13 thanas of the district has further deteriorated due to onrush of hilly waters and heavy downpour, reports UNB.

The rivers—Meghna, Brahmaputra, Dhanu, Arikhan, Kali and Dhaleswari—swelled at different points and these are still flowing above the danger marks.

Dwelling houses and standing crops in 1,504 square kilometre areas of 107 unions of the district have been damaged.

According to a source of the district administration, a total of 22 people, 458 domestic animals and 48,798 poultry birds died in district due to floods.

So far 6,430 dwelling houses have been damaged completely and 55,782 partially. 48 educational institutions completely and 823 partially in the flood-hit areas of the district.

Standing crops on 6,001 hectares of land were damaged fully and on 6,323 hectares partially, causing a loss of worth about Tk 25 crore.

A total of 322.5 kilometre roads were damaged completely and 864-km partially.

About 10,845 flood victims took shelter in the 21 floods shelters in Bhairab and Kuliarchar thanas.

Meanwhile, many people in the district were affected by water-borne diseases following the scarcity of pure water as 2,500 tube-wells went out of order while 1,922 are now under water.

District Civil Surgeon officer sources said a total of 21,574 people were affected by diarrhoea and 176 medical teams are working round-the-clock in 107 flood hit unions.

The flood-stricken small and marginal farmers have been facing acute food shortage as they have no cash to buy foods. The jobless day labourers are the worst sufferers.

According to the district relief and rehabilitation office, the government so far distributed Tk 3.39 lakh, 399.5 metric tons of rice, 1,000 pieces of saree, 700 pieces of lungee, and 200 pieces of old clothes among the flood victims.

Meanwhile, different non-government organisations have started relief operation in the affected areas.

547 dowry-related cases filed in Habiganj in 7 months

HABIGANJ, Aug 28: A total of 547 dowry-related cases have been filed in the last seven months in the district, reports UNB.

Of the cases, some 181 were filed with Cognizance-1, 204 cases with Cognizance-2 and 162 with Cognizance-3 courts.

Official sources said summons were issued against 403 cases, investigation conducted in 56 cases and some 44 cases were settled at the initial stage. During the period, about 45 cases were disposed of by the four First Class Magistrate Courts.

Besides, some 182 cases are under trial with these courts, the sources said.

It has been found that 80 per cent dowry cases were not filed properly. So the allegations could not be established.

Pest attack on sugarcane in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Aug 28: The target of sugar production in the Mobarakganj Sugar Mills here may not be achieved in the current crushing season due to massive pest attack on sugarcane, reports UNB.

According to a local agriculturist, sugarcane on 5,328 acres of land, out of 15,500 acres, around the mill zone areas have been attacked by 'majra' pest.

About 20 lakh sugarcane plants have already been uprooted from March to August 15 to save other plants, he added.

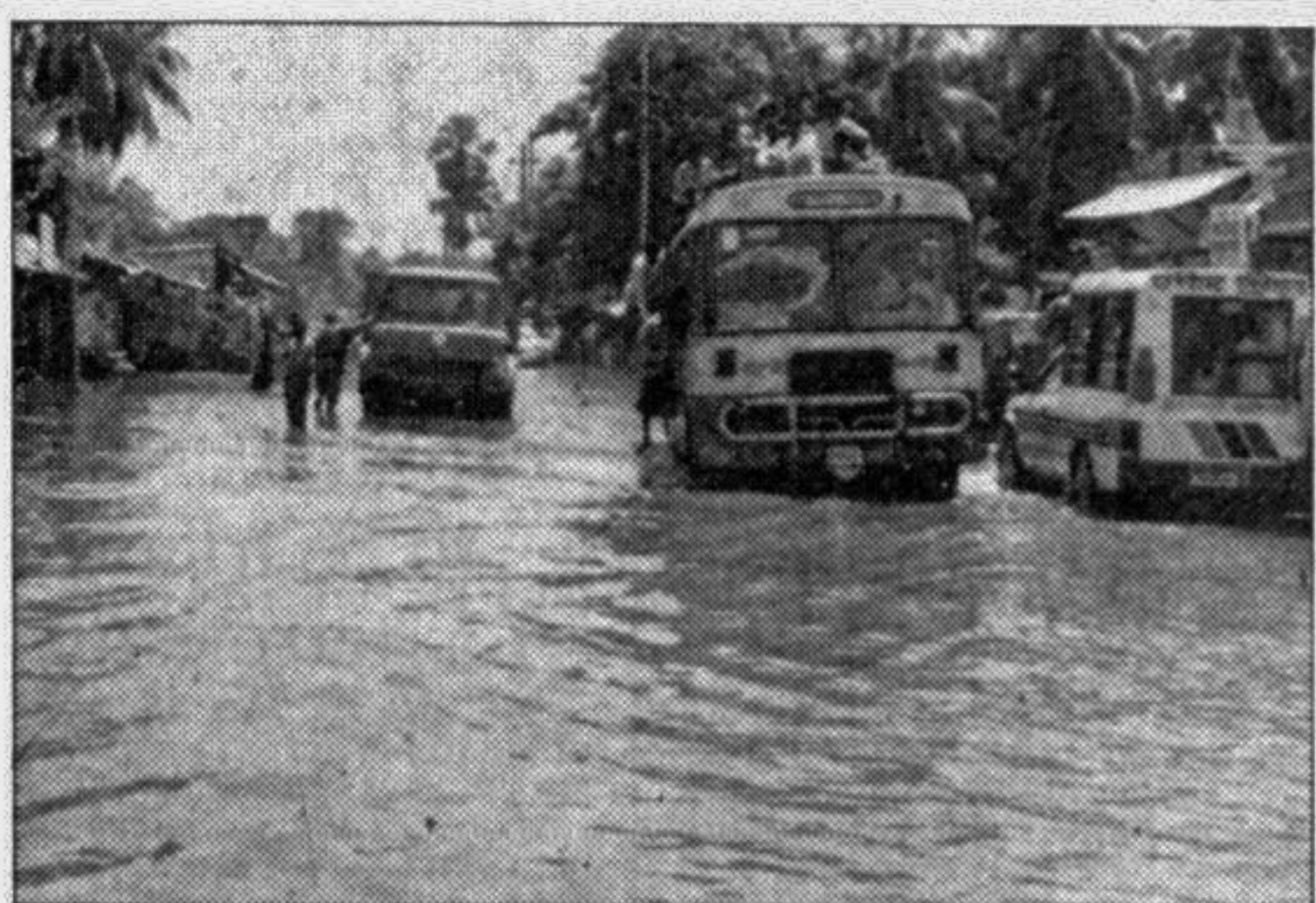
But the growers said insects have damaged sugarcane on about 8,000 acres of land in Shimultala, Pashpatila, Khalishpur, Shishutala and Kotchandpur areas.

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division, Thakurgaon Notice Inviting Tenders

Scaled tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are invited.

1. Tender Notice No : 01, EE/T of 1998-99.
2. Name of work : Widening of flexible pavement at 17th KM of Tetulia-Banglabandha Road under Thakurgaon Road Division during the year 1998-99.
3. Head of accounts : 266-Dev.
4. Estimated cost : Tk. 33,72,924/=
5. Earnest money : Tk. 67,458/=
6. Time allowed : 60 (Sixty) days.
7. Eligibility of : 'A' to 'C' general category of RHD contractor.
8. Name of offices : 1. Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi. 2. Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Thakurgaon/Dinajpur/Nilphamari Road Division, Rangpur/Planning Division (RHD), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna.
3. Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Thakurgaon/Panchagarh/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Thakurgaon.
9. Name of offices : 1. Add. Chief Engineer (RHD), Rangpur Zone, Rangpur. 2. Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi. 3. Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Dinajpur/ Monitoring and Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. 4. Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Thakurgaon/Dinajpur/Nilphamari Road Division.
10. Last date & time of selling for tender documents (within office hours) : 09/9/98.
11. Last date & time for receiving tender : At 12-30 PM on 10/9/98.
12. Date and time opening tender box : At 12-45 PM on 10/9/98.
13. Date and time of opening tender bids : At 11.00 AM on 16/9/98.
14. Date and time of lottery (If necessary) : Will be fixed later on.

Md Jalilur Rahman Pramanik
 Executive Engineer (RHD)
 Road Division, Thakurgaon



CHANDPUR: The Chandpur-Comilla road under water. (Right) Children of the Nazir Para area going to school by boat as it is the only mode of transport now. —Star photo



MYMENSINGH: A flood-affected area of Sadar thana. (Right) Two women returning to their flood-hit houses by a raft. —Star photo



BCIC International Tender Notice
 বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অর্থগতির প্রতীক

Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites International Tender No. PD(F)-28/98 for purchasing of Fuses which will be opened on 23-9-98 at 3.00 PM. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk 100.00 (One hundred) per set from (1) KNM Ltd, (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka and (3) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 739-24/8/98
 DPP-18316-25/8
 C-1941

Manager (Purchase)
 For Managing Director