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Donors waiting for flood water to recede to assess damage

By Staff Correspondent

Donors are waiting for the flood water to recede to make a comprehensive assessment of the damage and funds required for the rehabilitation work.

"The prevailing situation is making it difficult for us and the government to get an exact picture of what damage had been done to the infrastructure. We have to wait for the situation to normalise," said the head of mission of a donor organisation in Dhaka yesterday.

Meanwhile, the World Bank is expected to provide between 50 and 100 million US dollars for post-flood rehabilitation work.

"The fund could be available once the evaluation is complete," said a WB source. "It will be given from the existing pipeline."

However, it will be some time before the money could come, said one source. Each donor has to mobilise the resources and get it endorsed for which time will be needed.

Sunamganj boat capsized: 6 drown, 10 missing

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 29: Bodies of six persons, who drowned in a boat capsized in a haor near Sachna bazar in Jamalganj thana under Sunamganj district yesterday morning, were recovered today from Kasba beel in Behli union.

Of them, five bodies were recovered today while the other was found yesterday afternoon, sources said. Ten others are still missing, the source added.

Officials at the Jamalganj thana informed The Daily Star that, an engine boat carrying about 35 people on its way from

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Five drown in Manikganj boat capsized

MANIKGANJ, Aug 29: Five persons, including two children drowned in a boat capsized in flood water near Boylatuli village under Harirampur thana in the district last night, reports BSS.

Police said an engine boat carrying 10 people capsized in flood waters near the village at about 7:30 pm due to gusty wind.

Soon after the capsizing, villagers rescued five people from the place of occurrence and sent them to local hospital. The villagers also recovered three bodies from there last night and two bodies this morning.

The dead were identified as.

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3 electrocuted in Munshiganj

MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 29: A couple and their son were electrocuted at Malir Pathar in Sadar thana last night, reports BSS.

Police said Mohammad Kamrul, 30, suddenly came in contact with a hanging live electric wire at about 10:30 pm when he was going to a neighbour's house by a raft made from his banana tree. His father Babu Kha, 60, and mother Anwara Begum, 45, came out of their house to rescue their son but all the three were electrocuted.

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Major rivers continue to swell: Flood situation grim in 7 dists

The flood situation further deteriorated in seven districts as most of the major rivers continued to swell yesterday, report agencies.

Traffic movement on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway continued to remain suspended as flood waters have inundated 18 points washing away some parts of the highway. The road link between Dhaka-Sylhet was restored yesterday with the repairing of its affected portions between Dhaka-Moulvibazar.

Traffic movement on the Dhaka-Aricha highway and the Dhaka-Tangail highways are being maintained although certain portions of these highways went under flood waters. Road Division engineers told BSS that three kilometres of the Dhaka-Aricha highway from Aminbazar onward remained under water while about 1,000 feet of the Dhaka-Tangail highway from the Kallakoir point remained under water.

Efforts by the Railway officials and engineers succeeded in maintaining the rail link with different parts of the country including Chittagong with the capital.

Railway officials said that excepting the communication between Jagannathganj to Jamalpur, the railway network still remains intact. They, how-



WHAT TO DO NOW: A bewildered old woman and a disabled man standing over the rubbles after their slum near the Sonargaon Hotel was demolished by the Rajuk yesterday.

Myanmar reluctant to resume repatriation of Rohingyas

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 29: The repatriation of the remaining 21,500 Rohingya refugees has been stalled due to reluctance of the Myanmar authorities coupled with other complications, officials sources said.

The repatriation process which started in September 1992, came to a virtual halt in July 1995 when the Myanmar authorities suddenly started seeking 're-verification' of the refugees who had earlier been cleared for repatriation, sources in the Refugee and Repatriation Commissioner's Office said.

"Between August 1994 and March 1995 we managed complete some large-scale repatriation and if the trend continued we would have completed the whole process by July 1995," said an official of the commission.

They said that as many as 25,000 refugees were repatriated in November 1994 while the latest figure in February 1996 came down to only eight.

In the official register of the

2 young men murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men were brutally murdered by a gang of assassins at West Jurain under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

Police said of the dead Abdul Rob, 28, a resident of West Jurain, was hacked and shot dead by the gang and Babul, 31, a resident of Nama Shampur area, was hacked to death.

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Participants at a discussion say Dhaka should continue efforts to turn S Asia into zone of peace

By Staff Correspondent

Organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA), the roundtable on "Nuclear Detonation by India and Pakistan in May 1998: Economic and Legal Consequences and its Security Impact in South Asia and Beyond" was held at the CIRDA auditorium with Justice M Habibur Rahman in the chair.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria attended the roundtable as chief guest while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury was the special guest.

Prof Chowdhury R Abrar and Dr Mizanur Rahman of Dhaka University, Law Consultant Shah Tariquzzaman, Dr Tawfique Nawaz, Ambassador

Flood: UN team due today to assess needs

A team from the United Nations is due today to assess the needs in the light of the devastating flood, a message from New York said, reports BSS.

The office of the permanent representative of Bangladesh at the United Nations was informed yesterday that a three-member UN disaster assessment and coordination team will be here today to assess the needs and support UN resident coordinator. The team's mission will last two weeks.

Meanwhile, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN has provided Bangladesh with a contribution of 2,10,000 US dollars. OCHA will shortly issue a statement supporting the appeal of the government of Bangladesh, the message said.

After the completion of assessment, a meeting will be held in Geneva where the team will present its findings and then the meeting will muster donor

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Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina took part in preparing bread for flood victims at the party's central office in the city yesterday.

Stringent code of conduct for manpower recruiting agencies being framed

By Reaz Ahmad

A stringent 'code of conduct' providing for payment of compensation to affected workers and other punitive measures against unscrupulous manpower recruiting agencies are being framed.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Manpower Ministry at a recent meeting entrusted the Manpower Bureau with the task of drafting the 'code of conduct'.

The 'code of conduct' will also provide for measures to stop fraudulent practice like 'tampering with demand letters' and 'undercutting of wages' by recruiting agencies and payment of 'double levy' by workers.

According to meeting sources, the parliamentary committee expressed grave concern that fraudulent activities by the unscrupulous recruiting agencies have been causing immense sufferings to innocent people.

The sources said that some members of the parliamentary committee expressed their utter disappointment that majority of recruiting agencies were resorting to unfair tactics in exporting manpower, thereby earning a bad name for the country.

There are some 500 registered private manpower recruiting agencies in the country who are the major actors in sending some three lakh Bangladeshi workers—about 4—each year against a 'nominal manpower export' by the lone public sector agency, Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL).

In recent months, licences of about a dozen recruiting agencies were cancelled and their security deposits were forfeited for 'cheating' people. But things did not improve much, sources said.

When contacted, sources in the manpower ministry said

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Rubel's murder One DB team member missing since July 23

By Staff Correspondent

AC Akram Hussain, the main accused in the Rubel murder case, is scheduled to be produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today, according to CID officials investigating the case.

The officials said that they are likely to take samples of Akram's handwriting when he is produced in the court.

Earlier, the CID recovered a chit from the possession of Hayatul Islam Thakur which contained the location of Rubel's residence on one side and the address of a nearby coaching centre on the other. Thakur is among the six accused in the case who are now in the jail custody.

The CID officials also said that one of the DB team members which visited Rubel's residence on the day of the incident was found to be missing. Even after repeated requests he failed to contact the investigating agency, sources said.

Deputy Commissioner of DB Bazul Karim, when contacted

JU Syndicate fails to take decision on 5 BCL leaders

By JU Correspondent

A meeting of Jahangirnagar University Syndicate ended yesterday without any decision regarding action against the five Chhatra League leaders, accused of assaulting a teacher of the university on the campus recently.

The Syndicate failed to take any decision as the Disciplinary Committee of the university did not make any recommendation regarding the matter, according to sources.

Earlier on the day, the Committee recorded the statements of the five accuse, witnesses and the complainant, Rehnuma Ahmed. The Committee has been asked to make its recommendations at the next meeting of the Syndicate on

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5 killed in city road accident

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons were killed when a BRTC bus hit two motorcycles and an autorickshaw at the Staff Road rail crossing on Airport Road in the city last night.

Three of the victims were declared dead by doctors at the CMH while two others died later at the hospital.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately, police said. The victims

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PM joins hand in preparing bread for flood victims

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday joined scores of women in preparing hand-made bread for the marooned people in city, reports BSS.

She went to the party's central office at the city's Bangabandhu Avenue in the morning and joined the leaders and workers of Mahila Awami League to prepare hand-made bread for the flood victims in a bid to share their sorrows and sufferings.

This is for the first time a sitting prime minister took part in preparing dry food for the flood victims. She stayed at the party's central office for more than 45 minutes.

The women leaders and workers were delighted to find

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Hasina leaves for KSA today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Saudi Arabia today to perform "Umrah" at Makkah at the invitation of the Saudi King, reports UNB.

She will perform Umrah this evening and visit holy Madina next day to offer *fateha* at the mazar of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

Earlier, Hasina cancelled her schedule visit to attend the NAM summit in South Africa in the wake of the flood and to personally oversee the relief and rehabilitation activities across the country.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to return home on Tuesday morning.

PM to address nation tonight

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation today in the wake of the devastating flood in the country, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister's address will be broadcast by Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television simultaneously at 8:30 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Conference on

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