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Deportees from UK 2 MPs released on bail, ten others sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

The two Opposition MPs and 10 other Bangladeshis who were deported from the Heathrow airport in London on Tuesday were arrested by immigration police yesterday after interrogation by Special Branch police at the Zia International Airport.

They were deported from the Heathrow airport after the British Immigration suspected that they were carrying forged travel documents, officials of the home ministry said.

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Malaysian DPM Anwar sacked

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 2: Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was sacked today after months of economic policy differences with the prime minister, reports AP.

A three-paragraph statement issued by the prime minister's department said Anwar had been removed of all other positions, including that of finance minister.

Anwar's firing came after weeks of rumours about his being fired or quitting, speculation that was always followed by emphatic denials.

Three truckloads of riot police were deployed around the nearby residence of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, apparently to prevent protests by Anwar supporters.

There were unconfirmed reports that Anwar was under house arrest or facing imminent arrest on unspecified criminal charges. An attorney

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BCI estimates industrial loss in floods at Tk 2000 cr

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) has estimated the initial direct industrial loss in the prolonged floods at over Tk 2,000 crore, reports UNB.

BCI president Sharif Afzal Hossain in a statement yesterday said the figure would be even bigger if the indirect losses were accounted.

He said around 5 thousand small, medium and large scale industrial units have faced damage due to the floods.

Lauding the government initiative for the agricultural sector, the chamber president said it should also take similar steps to revitalise the industrial sector.

He also urged the government to take a rehabilitation scheme for the industrial sector.

'Shrimp industry to incur losses worth Tk 300 cr'

By Staff Correspondent

Floods have caused huge economic losses to the export-oriented shrimp and prawn industry, said Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFFEA).

"We will have production loss worth Tk 300 crore this year due to the flood," said Golam Mostafa, president of the BFFEA. The export target from frozen food sector has been projected at about Tk 1,500 crore for 1998-99 fiscal, Mostafa said.

He said a total of 6,000 MT

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Star MAG
TOMORROW

As the 21st century approaches, the nation's airport is an embarrassment. This week's cover story takes you behind the scenes of the grand theatre stage, ZIA.

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Situation deteriorates again Floods to roll on till mid-Sept

By Shehab Ahmed

Floods, sweeping the country for 52 days, would roll on till mid-September, a long-range forecast for the month made by the Meteorology Department said yesterday.

The major rivers — Ganges-Padma and the Brahmaputra-Jamuna — are in spate again in their upper reaches, threatening to worsen the situation downstream.

Flashing the message, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said that the situation in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma basins is likely to deteriorate

further.

The flood situation in the upper part of the Meghna basin is likely to improve. In downstream areas from Bhairab Bazar to Chandpur, the situation is also likely to improve slightly, the centre said.

But the situation is likely to deteriorate in the central region of the country and remain unchanged around Dhaka city, it added.

The Met office said more rains are expected during the next few days and 'little change' is likely early next week.

There may be one or two sea-

sonal lows in the Bay of Bengal during the month when the country is going to experience 'above average rainfall', the long-range forecast said.

In August, the country experienced more than average rainfall. The highest 929 mm rainfall against the monthly average of 585 mm was recorded in Chittagong division.

Barisal division recorded 576 mm against 453 mm, Dhaka 432 mm against 303 mm, Rajshahi 428 mm against 311 mm, Sylhet 457 mm against 460 mm and Khulna division recorded 284 mm

against 286 mm.

All the divisions had more rainy days than forecast, the Met office said.

A Reuters report from Geneva adds: Water levels in flood-hit Bangladesh are not expected to completely recede before the end of September, a month later than previous forecasts, a UN relief agency said today.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also said the floods had led to an outbreak of water-borne diseases and

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NOT TO MISS THE SURVIVAL KIT: Children trying to catch relief goods thrown from a boat in flooded Kamrangirchar area yesterday. —Star photo

20 million people affected by floods Red Crescent to make fresh appeal for addl help

By Special Correspondent

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is preparing to make a fresh international appeal for additional help to cope with the enormous demands it is facing to help the flood-affected people.

"The floods have taken a critical turn since we issued the last appeal for international help on July 23, underlining needs for more humanitarian aid," Major General (ret) Abdus Salam, MP, chairman of the Society said.

The floods have seriously affected at least 20 million people who urgently need food, medicine, clothing, detergents, jerry cans and lanterns to survive, he told The Daily Star.

"When we made the first appeal on July 23, no one imagined it (floods) would be of such a huge magnitude," he said.

"Luckily we got immediate response from the International Federation of Red Cross in Geneva, which sanctioned 2.74 million Swiss francs (1.9 million dollars)."

At least 80 per cent of the amount has been received with which we have started purchasing rice and other relief materials, and distributing those among the flood victims in different parts of the country, he said.

With the emergency relief, we took up a programme to provide 80,000 families with

30-kg of rice and five-kg of lentils each, he added explaining the programme. Out of these, 20,000 families received priority.

Salam said he already briefed donors on Sunday on the needs of the flood victims. "Their response seems to be good," he said.

"Now we are concentrating on preparing the aid requirements on a larger scale as we are facing demands from more people," Salam said.

"A much bigger relief effort will be needed when the floods recede. We will try to help the farmers to reconstruct their damaged houses and provide

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3 patients arriving at ICDDR,B every minute

By Staff Correspondent

The Army set up an emergency medical camp at the ICDDR,B hospital in the city yesterday to cope with the unprecedented arrival of diarrhoea patients.

Three patients are arriving every minute, a doctor told this correspondent during a visit to the hospital yesterday evening.

"Normally, we treat about 200 patients a day. But since the beginning of the flood, between 800 and 900 patients are arriving every day," the doctor said.

An on-duty army medical assistant at the newly-set up camp corroborated the figure and said, "Thirty beds have been arranged on an emergency basis. If required, more beds will be arranged."

Another doctor attending the patients said, "Everyday, the number of patients are increasing."

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Opposition wants to do politics with people's plight : PM

GOPALGANJ, Sept 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today asked the people to remain alert against those who are out to gain political ends capitalising on people's miseries, reports UNB.

"Beware of the opposition (BNP). They want to do politics with human corpses and distress," she told a big rally of the flood affected people at the Bangabandhu University College ground here at noon.

Referring to the August 15 incident at Cox's Bazar, in which BNP activists allegedly

poured poison in cooked food for the destitute, she said they hatched a conspiracy to kill the innocent people and wanted to achieve political gain.

Hasina said her government has taken all-out measures to mitigate the sufferings of the flood-stricken people. Sufficient relief materials are being allocated for them, she added.

"But they (BNP) are clamouring on the street instead of conducting relief work for the flood victims," Hasina said.

During the BNP regime, she

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We want to work unitedly to face calamity: Khaleda

ARAIHAZAR, Narayanganj, Sept 2: Reiterating the call for formation of an all-party relief committee, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today said her party is always ready to work unitedly in facing the natural calamity, reports UNB.

"We want to extend our help and work together round the clock to mitigate sufferings of the flood victims," she said addressing a public meeting at Jhaogara Biman Bandar ground in the afternoon.

"Form a relief committee with representatives of all parties like BNP, Awami League, JSD, Gono Forum and Muslim League," she told the government.

The BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament also repeated her demand of all-party relief committee at different places during her day-long relief campaign.

She distributed saree, lungi, rice, dry food and cash among the flood-victims at nearly a dozen places, including Kanchpur BSIC industrial estate, Talata, Madanpur, Noapur, Panchoang High School, Dashedria Islamia Madrassah, Prabhabori, Brahmandi and Binakchar, in Sonargaon and Araihaazar thanas.

Begum Zia said the government knew it was impossible to tackle such natural calamities by them alone, but they did not initiate an effective way to launch the all party-relief action programme.

"The ruling Awami League only use rhetorics about united efforts to mitigate sufferings of the flood affected people. But they ignore our demand for the all-party relief committee as it will stop plundering and misappropriation of relief materials by them," she said.

The BNP chairperson said her party, though in opposition, is extending help with its limited resources to the distressed people everyday across the country since the flood began one and a half month ago.

Begum Zia said instruction has been given to the BNP units at all level to stand beside the people forgetting all misunderstandings and suspending all political programmes until the flood water recedes.

Begum Zia ridiculed the ruling party's allegation of misappropriation of relief goods by BNP. "How is it possible to

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Govt requests donors to expedite shipment of foodgrains

By Reaz Ahmad

The country's food aid requirement has been estimated to be around 13.8 lakh metric tons (MT) in the current fiscal year and donors have been requested to expedite shipment in the wake of the severe flood for the longest-ever period at a stretch.

According to official sources, the government's eagerness to get the food aid shipment early was conveyed to donors through a representative of UN agencies operating in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Of the 880 million US dollar aid requirement, 250 million dollars are required as food aid, said an Economic Relations Division (ERD) official.

Sources in the Food Min-

istry and ERD told The Daily Star yesterday that World Food Programme (WFP) had already sent messages to its headquarters seeking early shipment of food aid. Australia confirmed its readiness to reach 86,000 MT of wheat in Bangladesh this month, a month earlier than scheduled.

As it would take a few more days for the country's development partners to come up with specific aid offers, said a Food Ministry official. "We have urged donors to expedite already committed aid."

According to ERD sources, the already-committed aid includes 1,40,000 MT of wheat from United States, and 81,000

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JS body for allowing Dist Judge's courts to revise verdicts of lower courts

By Nurul Kabir

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Law Ministry yesterday unanimously approved the idea of equipping the District Judge's courts with the power to revise judgments or orders passed by lower courts, committee sources said.

Presently, an aggrieved person can file a petition for revision of an 'order' or 'judgement' passed by the lower courts, which include both the Assistant Judge's courts and District Judge's courts, to the High

Court only.

According to yesterday's decision of the Committee, the District Judge's courts will enjoy the 'revisional power' in the cases falling under their 'appellate jurisdictions' only. In other cases of revision, an aggrieved person would still have to go to the High Court, said an MP attending the meeting.

However, an amendment to Clause 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, would be required to give legal effect to the

parliamentary committee's decision. "We would submit the committee report on the proposed amendment during the coming session of Jatiya Sangsad," Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru told The Daily Star last night.

The Sangsad is scheduled to meet on September 7. The law Minister was optimistic about approval of the proposed amendment by the House.

Chairman of the JS body

Suranjit Sengupta believes that the amendment, however small or innocent it may look like, would have tremendous impact on the country's judicial process. "Once the subordinate judiciary is provided with the revisional power, thousands of revision cases now pending with the High Court for years would be disposed of in a few months," Sengupta said. "Besides, it would save time, energy and money of hundreds of applicants."

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Govt yet to find donor for embankment project Vast areas on city's eastern fringe may remain unprotected for some more time

By Morshed Ali Khan

Vast areas on the city's eastern fringe may remain unprotected from floods for 'some more time' as the government is yet to find a donor to finance the embankment project, sources concerned said.

Earlier, the World Bank had conducted a feasibility study of the Dhaka bypass, exploring 'three possible alignments' by-passing the city from Tongi to Kanchpur.

The first alignment was by-passing the city near Baridhara through Mughdapara, the sec-

ond one was further east and the third possibility was the flood protection embankment-cum-bypass along the River Turag.

While the government is trying to obtain funds for the embankment-cum-bypass concept, WB is saying it is too big a project to be financed by it alone. WB sources said they were 'supporting' the concept of the first alignment because 'it would cost less and would be quicker to build.' But in view of the present flood situation, they were

'giving it a second thought.'

"But the question is who will pay for a project which might cost as much as 800 million US dollars," said a WB source, pointing out that as in the case of Bangabandhu Bridge, several donors were needed at a time to finance the embankment-cum-bypass project.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Communications sources said the government recently requested the Japanese government to finance the embankment project. The government

felt the urgency of building the embankment because vast areas on the eastern fringe were vulnerable to serious flooding every year, which also restricted growth of the city in that direction.

They said that in their new proposal, the length of the embankment and width of the road were shortened to reduce cost. "Instead of starting the by-pass in Joydevpur, we are planning to do it from a point near Tongi and pass it along the

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Biman flights declared 'non-smoking'

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has declared all its domestic flights and some international flights as 'non-smoking', a Biman press release said, reports BSS.

The international flights on which smoking has been prohibited are: Dhaka-Calcutta-Dhaka, Dhaka-Kathmandu-Dhaka, Chittagong-Calcutta-Chittagong, Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka, Dhaka-Bangkok-Singapore-Bangkok-Dhaka, Dhaka-Singapore-Dhaka, Dhaka-Hongkong-Dhaka, Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka, Dhaka-Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon-Dhaka.

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Lights at ZIA runway went out Tuesday night

By Special Correspondent

Lights at the runway of Zia International Airport went out on Tuesday night, forcing two Biman flights diverted to Chittagong.

The authorities had to reopen the system at Chittagong Airport in a hurry, summoning personnel from their residences to arrange landing the two aircraft, official sources said yesterday.

An Airbus 310 returning home from Singapore via Bangkok and a return flight of a F-28 from Sylhet were ordered to proceed to Chittagong by the control tower at ZIA when

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Abul Mansur Ahmad's Birth Centenary Today

Chief Guest : President Justice Shahabuddin

Speakers : Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Anisuzzaman, Mustafa Nurul Islam, K. G. Mustafa

Key Note Paper : Rafiqul Islam

Venue : National Museum

Time : 4.15 PM

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