



WATER SPORTS: Children playing in a flooded street at Faridabad in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Different organisations distribute relief

Different organisations yesterday distributed relief materials among the flood affected people of the city and its adjoining areas, report agencies.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Mohammad Hanif inaugurated a relief making programme yesterday, organised by DCC in aid of flood-victims.

Under the programme, DCC will distribute 10,000 hand-made *ruties* every day to the affected people through its regional offices and ward commissioners, said a DCC press release.

Dhaka City Awami Jubo League (north) distributed rice, *ruties*, molasses and pure drinking water among the flood victims Mohakhali Model High School and T and T High School in the city.

Bangladesh Mahila Awami League distributed dry food and other relief materials among the flood-hit people at East Hajipara in the city.

Lalbagh thana unit of Bangladesh Awami Shechhashebak League in collaboration with Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) on Friday launched a two-day relief distribution programme at the Kamrangirchar and Hazaribag embankment. They have also set up medical centres there to provide treatment.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) distributed 4,000 *ruties* and halua among the flood victims at Keraniganj and at the Dhaka Jute Mill areas, a BDR press release said.

Bangabandhu Parishad distributed rice, molasses and oral saline among the flood affected people at Mirpur and Pallabi areas.

Jatiya Samrak League distributed foods including rice, chira and molasses among the

flood victims at Tongi, Pubail, Gachha, Haydarabad and Gazipur areas.

Four relief teams of Sam-milito Sangskritik Jote distributed dry food, pure drinking water, medicines, oral saline, and clothes among the flood-hit people at Nilphamari, Keraniganj, Lauhajang and Maddhya Badda.

Female students of Jahangirnagar University School and College supplied breakfast to the flood victims who have taken shelter on the JU campus.

The JU Central Relief Distribution Committee is providing food and medicine to the victims, sheltered at the JU Teachers-Student Centre, Arts Building and JU School and College, a press release said.

Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) launched a saline making project in Narayanganj yesterday with a target of preparing 100,000 oral saline packets for distribution among the flood victims, said a press release.

Among others, Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity, Cano Forum Youth Action Programme, Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Unani Medical Association, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais of Bangladesh and Dewanbag Darbar Sharif distributed relief goods and medicines.

Our DU Correspondent adds: Dhaka University Central Relief Committee handed over relief materials to the Army yesterday for the flood victims.

The relief committee gave 8000 pieces of rice, 2500 packets of bread and other relief materials to the Army for distribution in remote areas of the country.

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FORECAST for flood situation throughout Bangladesh

Water Level in [m]	Station	R.H.W.L	D.L	12-09	13-09	14-09	15-09
River				0600	0600	0600	0600
Brahmaputra	Chilmari	25.06	24.00	23.71	23.38	23.06	22.69
Brahmaputra	Bahadurabad	20.62	19.50	19.59	19.27	18.99	18.69
Brahmaputra	Serajganj	15.12	13.75	14.29	14.03	13.80	13.58
Brahmaputra	Aricha	10.58	9.14	10.48	10.27	10.07	9.88
Ganges	Rajshahi	20.00	18.50	19.46	19.26	19.08	18.89
Ganges	Hardinge Br	15.04	14.25	15.07	14.90	14.75	14.61
Ganges	Goalondo	9.83	8.50	9.85	9.63	9.43	9.25
Ganges	Bhagyakul	7.58	6.00	7.33	7.18	7.02	6.87
Surma	Kanaighat	15.26	13.20	12.20	11.96	11.79	11.64
Surma	Sylhet	11.35	11.25	10.00	9.84	9.71	9.60
Surma	Sunamganj	9.46	8.25	8.02	7.97	7.91	7.85
Kushiyara	Sheola	14.33	13.50	12.35	12.14	11.98	11.86
Kushiyara	Sherpur	9.38	-	-	8.46	8.40	8.35
Kangsha	Jarajanjail	11.50	9.75	-	9.15	9.11	9.05
Manu	Mouli Bazar	13.25	11.75	9.72	9.67	9.60	9.52
Meghna	Bhairab Bazar	7.66	6.25	7.25	7.23	7.21	7.18
Old Brahmaputra	Jamalpur	18.00	17.00	17.13	16.95	16.76	16.55
Old Brahmaputra	Mymensingh	14.02	12.50	13.00	12.91	12.77	12.55
Old Dhaleswari	Jagir	9.17	8.23	9.60	9.51	9.43	9.33
Bangshi	Nayerhat	8.00	7.00	-	8.37	8.40	8.38
Kaliganga	Taraghat	10.39	8.38	10.05	9.97	9.86	9.73
Buriganga	Dhaka	7.58	6.00	7.21	7.15	7.07	6.98
Turag	Mirpur	8.35	5.94	7.96	7.91	7.85	7.78
Turag	Tongi	7.84	6.08	7.54	7.50	7.45	7.39
Atrai	Bhusrbandar	41.10	39.62	36.92	36.68	36.54	36.46
Atrai	Mohadevpur	19.89	18.59	17.61	14.75	14.35	14.18
Karatoya	Chakrahampur	21.41	20.15	20.75	19.78	19.38	19.19
Karatoya	Bogra	-	-	15.18	15.02	14.80	14.50
Jamuna	Naogaon	15.63	15.24	15.39	15.31	15.22	15.08
Mohanada	Chapai	22.25	21.00	22.87	22.77	22.68	22.58
	Nawabganj						

R.H.W.L Recorded Highest Water Level; D.L Danger Level
Source: Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, Water Development Board, Data updated September 12, 1998



A number of popular artistes distributed relief goods in different flood-affected areas of the city yesterday. Impress Telefilm Ltd organised the relief distribution programme.

PM opens power plant in Khulna

From Page 1

She assumed the nation that the power shortage will be reduced by December when an additional 500 megawatt will be generated in both public and private sector.

A joint venture with Wartsila NSD of Finland, the Khulna Power Company Ltd setup the plant at a cost of over Tk 500 crore. The PDB will purchase the electricity at Tk 2.24 per unit and distribute it among the consumers.

The prime minister said considering the paramount importance of electricity in economic development, the government has undertaken concerted efforts to generate power in the country.

After assuming power, Hasina said, her government adopted power generation policy in the private sector in October 1996. Being attracted by the incentives, many renowned foreign companies came forward to set up power plants in Bangladesh.

Under the programme, the decision to set up four barge-mounted power plants through international tender had been taken in November 1996 to keep pace with the growing electricity demand. These include one 110-megawatt plant at Khulna, two 236 megawatt plants at Haripur and one 130-megawatt plant at Baghabari.

The 110 megawatt barge-mounted plant began operation today while the remaining three are expected to start generation by the middle of next year.

The prime minister said process of generating another 1,325 megawatt power in the private sector is also underway.

These are 360-megawatt Haripur plant, 450-megawatt Meghna Ghat first phase and 115-megawatt Baghabari plant.

Hasina said that another barge-mounted power plant with a capacity of 100-megawatt will be set up at Noapara, Jessore.

About one billion US dollar is going to be invested in the private power sector, she said, disclosing that US company AES signed a deal on Wednesday to set up the Haripur Power Plant.

Apart from the private sector, the government has also taken initiatives to set up power plants. The 210-megawatt 6th unit at Ghorashal is nearing completion. Besides, process of construction of 109-megawatt power plant at Haripur, 60-megawatt at Shahbazpur and 210-megawatt at Shidhirganj is also going on, she informed.

Hasina said the government has undertaken steps to develop the transmission system along with increasing power generation. For the first time a 145-km long Comilla-Baraaulia 132-KV transmission line is being constructed using indigenous technology and resources. Work on the line from Baraaulia to Feni portion will be completed soon and the remaining portion by December this year, she added.

The prime minister said for increasing efficiency in power management, work on separation of production, and transmission and distribution system is underway. Power Grid Company of Bangladesh has been constituted for separating the transmission system. Similarly, Dhaka Electric Supply

Company has been formed for power distribution in Mirpur area in the capital.

Hasina said rehabilitation and management of some old power plants is also being given to private sector. International tenders have been opened for rehabilitation and operation of four plants. These are 110-megawatt power plant in Khulna, 20-megawatt in Sylhet, 20-megawatt in Saidpur and 60-megawatt in Sikalbhaha.

She said at present the average electricity requirement in the country is 2300 megawatt per day, against which 2000 megawatt is being produced. Through planned load-management the current situation has improved substantially, the prime minister added.

Hasina said system loss has jeopardised the power management system for the last several years.

Without preventing technical loss, pilferage, illegal connection and misuse, we would not be able to ensure proper service to consumers by limited production," she said.

Hasina reminded the officials to be careful in increasing revenue income apart from stopping systems loss.

Referring to the success of Rural Electrification Board in realising revenue from the poor rural consumers, Hasina posed a question why PDB and DESA would not be able to realise the price of electricity from rich and big consumers of urban areas?

The prime minister said a 500-megawatt power plant could be set up with the dues amounting to Tk 1700 crore lying with the consumers.

Local businessmen of Postagola in the city distributed relief goods among the flood-affected people of the area yesterday. — Star photo



Elite Paint Group of Industries distributed relief materials at different flood-hit areas of Gazipur district on Friday.



A UN delegation comprising UNDP country representative David Lockwood, Chief of the UN Military and Civil Defence Unit Michael Elmquist, FAO representative in Bangladesh Hiroyuki Konuma and Executive Director of Surjamukhi Sangtha Asha Lata Baidya visited the flood-hit areas of Gopalganj on Thursday.

Mannan calls on US congressman

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan who is now in America called on Congressman Bill Passerelli at Capital Hill in Washington on Wednesday, reports UNB.

During 20-minute discussion, they exchanged views on bilateral issues, current flood and socio-political situation in Bangladesh.

Describing the floods in Bangladesh as severe, Bhuiyan informed Passerelli that two-thirds of the country was under water.

He said standing crops and property worth billions of dollars have been destroyed by the flood. Bhuiyan sought liberal assistance from the US, said a party press release yesterday.

Expressing deep concern over the flood situation, the Congressman said the US government is aware of the flood situation in Bangladesh.

IT institute to be set up soon

National Institute of Information and Technology would be set up in the capital soon, said Prof Dr M Sobhan, Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council yesterday.

The aim is to expedite producing 10,000 computer programmers every year, and to export software abroad.

Bangladesh would require 8000 programmers within the next two years, he said.

Prof Sobhan was speaking as the chief guest at the Orientation Programme of the Computer and Information Technology and Intensive English Language Course organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Human Resources Management, a project of the Shaikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College.



MOVING HOUSE: Household furniture being carried on a boat at Khilgaon Chowdhury Para in the city yesterday. The prevailing flood situation is forcing many to evacuate their homes with whatever they can salvage. — Star photo

Form 'national govt' to face calamity: Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday urged the international community to help the flood-hit people of the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Road in Narayanganj that was followed by relief distribution in different flood-affected areas of the district.

The JP chairman said it seems the friendly countries have no confidence in the present government. So, they are not responding well to the government's appeal for help.

Accusing the government of total failure in tackling the flood situation, Ershad said had the government taken effective and prudent steps from the beginning, it would have been possible to reduce the severity of the flood.

The situation has taken a serious turn because of the inefficiency and imprudence of the present government, he alleged.

Offering the JP's cooperation with their experience, Ershad called for the formation of a 'national government' to effectively face the calamity.

Such a national government, he said, will not only help in proper distribution of relief materials, but could also play an effective role in the post-flood rehabilitation and infrastructure development programmes.

Prayer held at Dhakeswari Mandir

Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad and Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee jointly held a mass prayer in the Dhakeswari Mandir, Melangan auditorium in the city on Friday seeking divine blessings of God in light of the devastating floods and to redress the distress of the flood-affected people, reports BSS.

Led by principal of Ramkrishna Mission Swami Akhsarananda Maharaj, the mass prayer was attended by hundreds of devotees.

Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya presided the assembly which was attended, among others, by Chitra Bhattacharya, MP, Dr Lalit Mohan Nath, Dr Paresch Chandra Mondol, Dr Nim Bhowmik, PK Howlader, Bidhu Bushan Shaha, Swapan Kumar Shaha, advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Mukul Bose, Kajal Devnath, Dipen Chatterjee and Basudev Dhar.

Earlier, Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja committee at an extended meeting decided to celebrate the coming Saradiya Durga Utsav in a simple way in the city considering the sufferings of the flood-hit people. The money to be saved by curtailing the cost of the Puja Utsav will be spent on distributing relief materials among the flood-affected people.

Charity dinner in London in aid of flood victims

A 'Charity Day' will be observed in all Bangladeshi restaurants in London on September 28 to raise funds for the flood affected people of Bangladesh, according to a message received here, reports UNB.

BCA Members and Caterers of Britain has organised the charity lunch and dinner in these restaurants to collect money for BCA's Relief Fund. The entire collection of the day will be donated to the fund.

There are about 10,000 Bangladeshi restaurants in Britain.

A miracle!

RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: It was indeed a miracle. Nobody knows how a two-year-old child was still alive on a floating wooden 'chouki' of the flooded river Padma, reports BSS.

An official source told the news agency that the boy along with a goat was found on the floating 'chouki'. The boy was rescued by local people of Char Yusufpur under Charghat thana here on Thursday.

The identity of the boy and details about how long he was afloat on the 'chouki' were not immediately known.

A local resident of Charghat has taken the boy into his care, the official added.

Wild elephants on rampage in CHT

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: Some wild elephants unleashed rampage in the villages of northern part of Chittagong particularly at Raozan and Fatikchhari thana areas for the past one week, police and local sources said.

Consequently, the panic stricken villagers are reportedly passing sleepless nights fearing attacks of wild elephants which come down in the night from nearby hilly forest areas, sources said. Those wild elephants already killed a baby and injured five others at Fatikchhari in addition to damaging crops few days ago, local sources informed.

Publication ceremony of book held

Justice M Abdur Rauf a judge of the appellate division of Bangladesh Supreme Court, yesterday urged the country's physicians to create consciousness among the people about different diseases, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Baker Jata Asuk Bisuk' (diseases of chest), authored by noted chest specialist Dr Iqbal Hasan Mahmud at a hotel in the city, Justice Rauf said the physicians need to suggest the patients about remedial and preventive measures from scientific angle and social perspective.

Session of films by Kurosawa in aid of flood victims

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 8 films by the world famous Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa who died recently, in aid of flood-victims, says a press release.

The films will be screened at the German Cultural Centre from Tuesday to Thursday. Passes for the shows are available from the German Cultural Centre, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi and Pathak Shamabesh at Aziz Market, Shahbagh.

The films that will be screened are Ikiru, Rashomon, Throne of Blood (Tuesday), The Seven Samurai, Kagemusha (Wednesday) and Yojimbo, Ran, Dreams (Thursday).

Streets of London paved with gold, platinum deposits!

LONDON, Sept 12: The streets of London and other British cities are paved with gold and other precious metals a geologist has discovered, the press reported here today, says AFP.

The metals are being emitted by exhaust fumes from cars fitted with catalytic converters and in the case of platinum the levels are rising so fast that it will soon become feasible to pan the roads for deposits, Dr Hazel Prichard believes.

The geologist from Cardiff University started collecting road dust in the Welsh city to see whether any of the platinum, gold and other precious metals used in modern exhausts ended up on the streets.

She found that the levels of platinum which is more valuable than gold "are quite high... We are approaching economic levels."

Catalytic converters are used to remove poisonous gases from car exhausts and the law now says that all new cars in Britain must be fitted with one.

They use small amounts of precious metals to "scrub" the gases coming through the engine.

In Khulna Tk 14.48 lakh donated to PM's Relief Fund

Government officials and employees, different organisations and individuals of Khulna donated Tk 14.48 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund at Khulna Circuit House yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the amount, officials and employees of the offices of Khulna Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Thana Mirbahi Officers donated Tk 4.12 lakh and Khulna Chamber of Commerce Tk 2 lakh.

Khulna Bar Association, Sonali Bidi, Khulna Contractors' Welfare Association, Khulna District Rice Traders Association and an individual, Shahnewaz, donated Tk 100,000 each.

Other donors were Khulna Press Club Tk 25,000, Khulna Bangabandhu College Tk 25,200, Students of Khulna Government Pioneer College Tk 50,000, Public College Tk 10,000, Greater Mymensingh Samity, Khulna Tk 15,000, Sundarban Women College, Bagerhat Tk 10,000, Khulna Inland Water Transport Owners' Group Tk 25,000, Rupsha Bus-Minibus Owners' Association Tk 25,000 and Khulna District and City Puja Ujjapan Parishad Tk 51,000.

Driver killed in road accident

A mishuk driver was killed when a truck crushed his vehicle at Airport Road in the city's Farmgate area yesterday, reports APB.

Hospital sources said the unidentified driver, aged about 30, died on the spot after the speeding truck rammed his three wheeler in front of Farmgate police outpost at around 5 am.

The truck driver along with his vehicle fled the scene. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

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