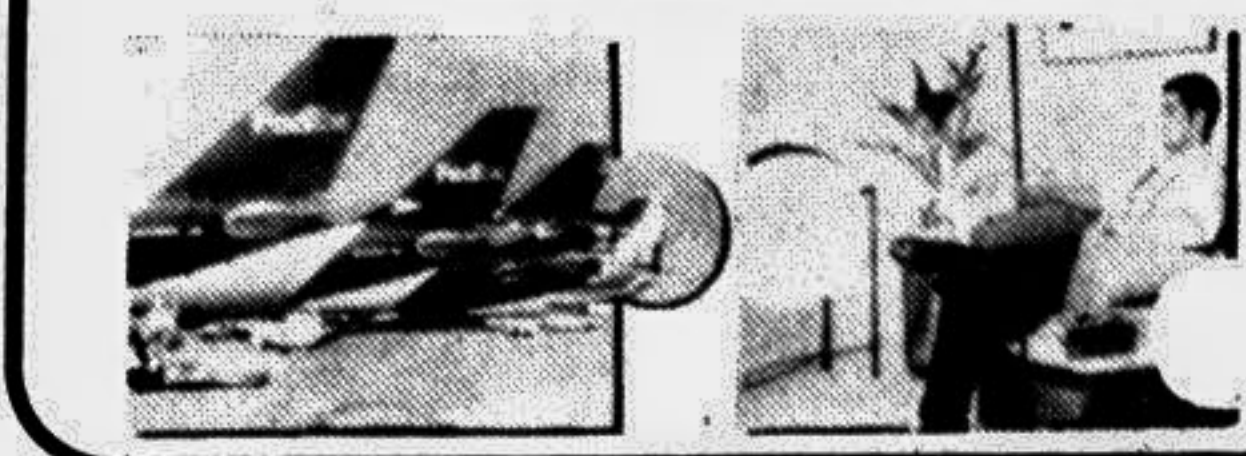


We do our Piece so you can have your peace



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee of Federal Express Corporation. For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9665114, 9863927, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEPZ 9339831 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108 Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, Nganj, Tel: 9714336

Advertisement for Philips Transcom Electronics Limited. Features a Philips toaster and text: 'Ideal gift for any occasion. Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000. Transcom Electronics Limited. Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9. Ctg: 716353, 723578. Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215. Backed by Guarantee. Let's make things better. PHILIPS'

Khaleda iterates BNP's willingness to help govt in relief operations

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated that her party is ready to cooperate with the government in carrying out relief activities and post-flood rehabilitation, reports UNB. 'We want to extend our all-out cooperation in mitigating the sufferings of the flood-stricken people. This is time to work unitedly. But the government is reluctant to respond to our call,' she said while exchanging views with newsmen at her 29 Minto Road official residence yesterday evening.

Replying to a question on anti-government movement, she said, 'Now our main objective is to save the countrymen. If people do not survive how will we do politics?' She, however, added that 'time will say what we will have to do.'

'Our first priority is to save the people,' Begum Zia said regretting that the government is reluctant to open gruel kitchen when cooked food is essential to save the flood victims.

Khaleda also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament hinted that an anti-government movement will be launched if government fails in rehabilitation work.

She said the rehabilitation work will have to be done in a planned way.

20 missing as bridge collapses in Pabna

From Ranesh Maitra PABNA, Sept 13: About 20 people are missing as a newly constructed bridge on Pabna-Shilaidaha (Kushtha) road near Char Kushakhali Banglabazar, two km from Pabna town collapsed this afternoon.

Over 30 people crossing the bridge over the river Mara Padma at that time fell in the river. Twelve of them were however, rescued by local people. But 20 others remained untraced till the writing of this report at 7.45 pm. Five injured persons were hospitalised.

The 300 feet long and 24 feet wide bridge collapsed only eight months after it was constructed at a cost of about Tk one crore. Road communication between Pabna and Kushtia via Shilaidaha was disrupted due to collapse of the bridge.

Options

From Page 1 In the Clinton case, the House Judiciary Committee will take independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report and decide whether it merits impeachment proceedings.

In addition to reviewing Starr's evidence, the committee can take its own depositions, issue subpoenas and conduct hearings. Then the committee would vote on 'articles of impeachment,' which are like charges in a criminal trial.

The articles then go to the full House. If an impeachment article is approved by majority vote, the case goes to the Senate.

The Senate would then conduct a trial. The chief justice would preside. A two-thirds vote would be needed to remove the president from office.

Rubel murder

From Page 1 40 such commissions on different incidents had been formed by the government in the last 26 years, whose reports had only gathered dust in the ministry shelves.

The latest commission was formed on July 27 to probe Rubel murder, responding to massive public outcry against the killing allegedly by police four days earlier.

Justice Khan said yesterday that he submitted eight copies of the 129-page report to the home minister, Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam (Bir Uttam). The report contains findings and recommendations in 92 pages and the rest is appendix, he said.

Replying to a question, Justice Khan said the court would decide whether the murder was pre-planned or accidental.



THE OTHER SIDE OF LIFE: Fishing is fun for them anyway. On Haricharan Roy Road in the old part of the city, these children try to find some pleasure in their otherwise difficult times. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

A visit to flood shelter in city

They want to go back home as water starts receding

By Morshed Ali Khan

With the news of recession of flood water spreading, many inmates of the recently set-up Azimpur Girls High School flood shelter said yesterday they wanted to go home.

'If the water level comes down by another one foot, we will go back to our house,' said Zainal, a rickshawpuller from Kamrangirchar and a father of five children.

The Azimpur Girls School shelter was opened last week when the latest wave of flood victims took refuge in Lalbagh area.

Other inmates said they had clung to their dwellings on platforms until last week. One morning, when they got up, they found that they were trapped inside the rooms as the rising water cut off the exit.

'We had to cut the tin roof to get out of the house,' said Nazma Begum, a mother of three children.

The flood victims, mostly of low income groups, said they were looking forward to going back home. 'We have a lot of cleaning to do in our rented

hut,' said Nazma.

At about 6 pm yesterday, several hundred women and men stood in two separate queues to receive their day's first share of relief — eight pieces of chapati and a fistful of molasses.

The school's Vice Chairman and a former Commissioner of Ward-60, Mosharrif Hossain, said 890 families comprising more than 3,599 members were staying in the school.

'We are giving the bread and the molasses provided by BRAC,' Mosharrif said.

Saiful Islam of BRAC's Non Formal Primary Education said BRAC had mobilised its entire resources to help the flood victims.

'We are making 200,000 chapatis a day and are distributing those among the victims throughout the capital as per requirement of the Ward Commissioners,' Islam said.

Many inmates of the shelter said they were continuing their normal jobs such as rickshaw-pulling, working as domestic

help and vending different merchandise in the city pavements.

Many men and women who returned from work in the evening showed their cards and said they did not receive any chapati. 'We were out for work and now they are saying it's too late,' said Kulsom who works as a part-time domestic help.

When asked what she would eat with her four children, Kulsom replied that she would have to cook her meal. The school authorities have forbidden cooking on the higher floors.

So the women have set up rows of earthen cookers in the courtyard of the school.

At 6 pm, a WASA water truck arrived at the shelter. Women and children lined up with metal pitchers to store water for the night.

The headmaster of the school said that his school suffered heavily due to the flood. 'The toilets and many benches are broken, the walls and the floors have become dirty,' he said.

Dhaka to seek more food aid from US

Bangladesh will seek additional food aid from the United States, Foreign Secretary Mustafaizur Rahman said yesterday.

Rahman, who leaves the city today for US on a three-day visit, said 'We are hopeful that US will participate in a bigger way in post-flood rehabilitation efforts,' in Bangladesh.

Talking to BSS at his office Rahman said, 'I will particularly request the American administration for another 3,00,000 metric tons of foodgrains.'

OMS of rice soon

From Page 1 market more steadily. Earlier, addressing the rice wholesalers, she allayed any fear of food shortage and urged the businessmen to be alert against any artificial crisis.

The wholesalers at the meeting informed the Food Minister that the market situation has become normal after two days of unsteady behaviour.

They themselves have enough stock and more rice is coming to the market through river routes.

Relief centre to be set up in every flood-hit union

The government yesterday decided to open relief centre in every flood affected union to ensure two square meals, supply of safe water and medicare facilities to the victims and landless people for at least one month after recession of waters, official sources said, reports BSS.

The relief centres will be conducted and supervised by the local MPs, union parishad chairmen and members and government officials.

The affected people will be supplied with prepared ruti (bread) and sugar. Medical teams will provide medicare facilities staying at the union relief centres.

Contaminated water soaking thru' WASA lines in city

Acute crisis of drinking water was reported from different parts of the city yesterday as contaminated water soaked through WASA lines, reports UNB.

'We are getting stinky and dirty water from WASA line,' said Dr Mamoon, a resident of Ganderia over telephone yesterday.

Similar complaints were received from Khilgaon, Rampura, Sabujbagh and some other areas in the old part of the city where people were seen carrying water cans and pitchers on van, rickshaw and headload from remote areas.

Admitting the situation, WASA officials said some eight lakh people in the affected areas need alternative supply of water.

How to use water purifying tabs

By Staff Correspondent Attention all those who are distributing water purifying tablets!

The Doctor's Association of Bangladesh (DAB) yesterday said, there are misconceptions about use of water purifying tablets (Halotabs). It is very important that those who are distributing the tablets should give proper instructions so that those serve the purpose.

A DAB press release said, one tablet should be used to purify only three litres of water, contain in a plastic container or an earthen ware and not a metallic container.

The water thus purified should be used as long as it smells chlorine, it said.

Case against pvt container terminal project in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13: Tk 2000 crore Patenga private container terminal project is now lying with the court as a case was filed here today demanding that the project be declared illegal, reports UNB.

Muhammad Abdul Gani, member secretary of Chittagong Bandar Samannay Committee that represents various labour unions of the port, filed the case in the Chittagong 3rd sub-judge court of Dewan Mohammad Shaif Ullah.

Secretary of the Shipping Ministry, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong, Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority and Chittagong Unnayan Kartipakkha have been sued in the case.

On hearing the petition, the court issued a notice asking the defendants to respond by November 12.

The government gave approval to two private companies of USA and Bangladesh to construct the private container terminal at Patenga in the port city with a view to easing the congestion at the port.

But the 22 labour unions of the port unitedly protested the project on the plea that it would lead to turning the Chittagong port non-functioning and rendering thousands of workers jobless.

On the other hand, Abdul Khaleque Chowdhury, leader of the ruling party's labour front Jatiya Sramik League, is leading the Private Container Terminal Implementation Council.

Congestion: Army, Navy to be deployed at Ctg, Mongla ports

The Army and Navy will soon be deployed at Chittagong and Mongla ports to clear cargo congestion caused by the flood and expedite loading and unloading of export cargoes and foodgrains, reports UNB.

They will reach Chittagong and Mongla ports after finalisation of the operation coordination programme at a meeting today of senior officials of the Armed Forces Division, Shipping and Food Ministries.

Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury confirmed the decision.

He said the Army and Navy personnel will also ensure rapid movement of foodgrains, export cargoes and other essentials arriving at the ports.

'Clearing the congestion from the two ports is now a major priority for the sake of country's economy and reaching foodgrains to the flood victims,' Saber added.

The Chittagong Port was heavily congested following disruption in transportation of goods due to flooding. The port workers opposing a separate container terminal in the private sector also slowed down handling of cargoes.

Officials told UNB yesterday that army personnel will lead the cargo handling operation at Chittagong port and navy personnel will assist them.

The navy will be responsible for Mongla port and it will be assisted by the army.

Meanwhile, a chartered flight started ferrying garments from Dhaka to Chittagong as the highway is still submerged and rail communications affected due to flood.

A ferry service between Kanchpur and Daudkandi also started on Saturday to carry import and export items to and from Chittagong Port.

DU exams from Oct 7

By DU Correspondent All examinations at Dhaka University which were earlier scheduled to be held from September 16 to 24 will now be held from October 7 and classes will remain suspended for nine more days till September 24 in view of the flood.

The classes were earlier scheduled to resume on September 15.

The university library, residential halls and offices will however remain open during this period.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the university authorities yesterday with Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury in the chair, said a press release.

The authorities also decided to reduce the winter and the Eid-ul-Fitr vacations by ten days as the normal academic activities have been affected by the flood. Classes will be held from January 2 to 10, it said.

Murder case: Court issues summons on Salahuddin Kader, his brother

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13: A District Court today issued summons on three political leaders, to appear before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court within 10 days in connection with Shah Alam Murder Case, reports UNB.

The leaders are BNP MPs Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury and Gias Uddin Kader Chowdhury and Awami League's Fazle Karim Chowdhury.

They were accused in the murder of Alam who was killed in Raozan during parliamentary elections on February 27, 1991.

Another report received late tonight said, The Additional District and Sessions Judge ordered stay of operation of the verdict of the district court that issued summons to Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Gias Uddin Kader Chowdhury.

The order came upon a petition on behalf of the Chowdhury brothers seeking a stay order.

Clinton

From Page 1 fort to find a case where there is none.

A CNN-Gallup poll conducted on Friday said 62 per cent of the 631 adults surveyed approved of the way Clinton was doing his job, a rise of two per cent from Thursday. The number who disapproved fell to 35 per cent from 37 per cent.

A Newsweek poll found similar results, with Clinton's job approval rating remaining unchanged at 61 per cent.

Motia refutes

From Page 1 ernment has tackled the two-month old flooding? Has anyone died from starvation till today?' she asked.

Motia said, 'The government is passing through a very critical time. We are facing the challenge to ensure food and emergency relief materials for the flood victims. The people are helping us and we are working hard to mitigate their misery.'

People near DND dam

From Page 1 also flowing above danger levels, continued to fall falling from 7.10 to 7.07 metres at Chandpur is also falling, suggesting an overall improvement of the flood situation.

The low tide level at Chandpur, where the Meghna, on its way to the Bay, takes the combined flow of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, fell to 4.44 metres yesterday from 4.51 metres above the mean sea level.

It suggests that the discharge is going to be faster, the official said. But it also means a danger of erosion in the downstream of the Meghna, he added.

The Centre also forecast that the flood situation would continue to improve further.

But some of the southeastern rivers rose above their danger levels following rains in their upper catchment areas in Tripura in India. The Muhuri at Parshuram, the Sangu at Bandarban, the Matamuhuri at Lama, the Monu at Monu Railway Bridge and at Maulvibazar were flowing above their red marks.

Officials at the control room to monitor the DND embankment, which still remained under the watchful eyes of its defenders — the Army, engineers, and residents — said a leak at Konapara in Demra has been plugged. The situation along the embankment remained good yesterday, they said.

The FFWC said the Buriganga slid to 7.07 metres by 3 pm from 7.10 metres in the morning, the Shitalakshya fell by five centimetres from its morning level of 6.78 metres. The Turag also fell to 7.81 metres from 7.86 metres at Mirpur and to 7.46 metres from 7.50 metres at Tongi.

The Buriganga is likely to fall further by 12 cm and the Turag by 12 cm and 7 cm at Mirpur and Tongi respectively. The Shitalakshya would also fall further, the FFWC said.

Turn this crisis into opportunity

From Page 1 stroyed. The roads, the bridges, the small scale manufacturing units, the cottage industries, the micro credit 'miracle' and so many other things lie in partial or total ruin. We can also, like Japan and Germany, turn this severest of crisis into the biggest of opportunity. To do so we need to think creatively.

And to think creatively we need to give up our old and fossilised ideas and also our hate-generating and self-destructive habits.

We believe the current crisis presents Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a magnificent opportunity to change the nature of our politics and thereby release a creative surge the likes of which this nation saw once before during our Liberation War. This can be turned into a continuation of our Liberation War — liberation from poverty, self-pity, debilitating political culture and strangling hold of the criminals in every aspect of our society.

The central question is — do we have the wisdom, the vision, the sagacity, the patriotism, the basic human feeling for the sufferings of the millions to change our ways? Do we understand the enormity of the task ahead? Do we realise that the nation building effort that we need at the moment is something far more than what we have ever done before? We have called it the most devastating flood in a hundred years. Then is it not obvious that we need to do something extraordinary to face it?

To our tremendous relief, water has at last started to recede. As we welcome the beginning of the end of the inundation, we must realise that the task really begins now. So far our efforts were confined to providing relief and helping people survive through the calamity. The task of reconstruction will be far tougher. The needs will be enormous. In the best of times there are serious shortfalls. So we can easily imagine what will happen now.

Yesterday in this paper Prof. Md. Yunus made an appeal for political unity to face the present crisis. We join our voice with his. In his appeal he has outlined a course of action that we think should be immediately addressed. We fully endorse his suggestion to proceed with the worst case scenario in mind. Nothing would make us happier if the reality turns out to be better than we had prepared for. However, people would not forgive us if the reverse is the case.

Like him, we strongly feel that political unity, especially between our two leading parties, is most essential. He suggested that our two leaders should undertake joint trips abroad to speak to world leaders urging them to help us in the hour of need. This we also support.

However, we would like to add that before anything else Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia should address the nation together (one after the other), declaring their intention to work together to face this calamity. In their speeches they will assure the nation that regardless of their fundamental differences they will cooperate to rebuild the nation. In pledging their support to the government's efforts the opposition should not give up its right and, we think, duty to play the watchdog role that democratic opposition plays all over the world. What they should pledge to desist from is the attitude of sworn enmity and 'opposition for opposition's sake' attitude that marked BNP's politics till very recently. To her credit, and for which she has, and continues to, receive praise Khaleda Zia has extended unconditional support to the government's relief effort and continues to pledge to work unitedly. Her call has so far fallen on deaf ears. (The AL's argument for refusal is that BNP refused a similar call for united relief effort in '91. This, in our view, is among the worst case of learning from the bad example of the other. BNP suffered in public esteem at that time for showing such narrow partisanship, as have AL, and now, if it continues to ignore the call for united actions in face of this calamity.)

An historic opportunity beckons Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She can change the very nature of our present

day divisive, narrow-minded and acrimonious politics which, in our view, lies at the root of many of our failed efforts at nation building. Ask any patriotic politician, any businessman, any potential investor, any manager, any genuine labour leader, any worker, any scholar, any college or university teacher, any serious student, any retail shop owner, any housewife, any sincere government official, any NGO worker, etc. as to what they want. All of them will say 'we want a STOP to the present nature of our politics.'

Just imagine, if the nature of our politics changes, our student politics, trade union politics, mastan politics, influence peddling, and politics of manipulating tenders will change. If our politics changes, government officials will not have to tow party line either for promotions or just to keep the job. If our politics changes, all the essential administrative, legal, banking and trade union reforms can take place because then the government will not have to fear opposition's role in taking unpopular decisions. If our politics changes, bank loan defaulters will not be able to get away by funding the 'right' party at the right time. If our politics changes, a new enthusiasm and spirit will be ushered in which will strengthen our democracy, make the parliament more effective and bring into public life a better and more accountable and transparent system of government.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina can get us started on this road to a new politics. She has a historic opportunity. Sheikh Hasina can respond to this need and gain the eternal gratitude of a tired nation which is desperately seeking a way out of this poverty bind. She can set an example of rising above all narrow partisanship and extend a hand of co-operation to the opposition. Yes, she did make calls for forgetting differences and joining hands. But they were made more for public consumption. We have said many times that calling opponents thieves and then inviting them to cooperate does not work. It never did. There must be sincerity in her action and not political opportunism. There has to be a genuine change of heart for amicable negotiation and sharing. Arrogance

PM: Hoarders

From Page 1 before, the Prime Minister assured the flood-hit people that the government has taken all possible measures to face this natural disaster.

She thanked those who stood beside the people and called upon others to help the flood victims with whatever they have.

Referring to international help, the Prime Minister said foreign aids are coming into the country and will continue to come for the post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

The government is planning to take effective measures for a permanent solution to the problem caused by flood by constructing houses and institutions on high grounds, she said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam. Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net