

### USAID pledges \$6.5m more for flood victims

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced an additional Tk 30.66 crore or \$6.5 million for the flood victims of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

A USIS release yesterday said the grant will be channelled through the non-government organisation, CARE Bangladesh, to extend relief assistance to an estimated 250,000 flood affected families.

This grant from USAID will allow CARE Bangladesh to open 250 centres to provide food, emergency health services and health education for a two-month period.

The relief effort will be targeted to worst affected families in sixteen thanas in Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Madaripur, and Manikganj districts as well as in Dhaka city.

This brings the total US flood relief assistance to Tk 336.04 crore equivalent to \$71,482.500.

### Thai donation

Meanwhile, Thailand has donated emergency medicines worth Tk 561,800 for the flood victims of Bangladesh responding to the call of the government.

Sum Saks, Counsellor of the Royal Thai Embassy in the city, handed over the consignment to Director General of the Prime Minister's Office Mominullah Patwari at the airport.

### More govt allocation

The government has allocated 1,150 metric tons of more rice and Tk 3 lakh for some of the flood affected districts, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief yesterday sanctioned 150 MTs of rice for each of Shariatpur, Kurigram and Comilla and 100 MTs for each of Rajbari, Pabna, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Pirojpur, Bhola and Tangail districts.

It also allocated Tk 20,000 for each of Rajbari, Pabna, Comilla, Noakhali, Pirojpur and Bhola districts.

With this total government allocation stands at 80,893 MTs of rice, 650 MTs of wheat and Tk 5.10 crore in cash.

### Concern distributes food to 20,100 families

Concern Bangladesh has spent over Tk 11.50 million of its budget and requested a further Tk 23 million from Concern Dublin to respond to immediate needs, said a press release, reports BSS.

Concern has distributed food to 20,100 families in Belkuchi, Itna, Khalajuri, Dimla, Faridpur, Jamalpur and Shariatpur. The food packets includes 15-kg of rice, 2-kg pulse and one-kg salt per week.

It will also distribute food to another 40,300 families in Nilphamari, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Pabna, Chittagong, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Gaibandha, Narayanganj and Dhaka districts.

### Relief committee

A relief and rehabilitation committee has been formed in the city to help the flood victims of Raipura thana in Narsingdi district, said a press release.

The committee was formed with former FBCCI president Nooruddin Ahmed as its chief at a meeting held recently. People from Raipura who are living in the city attended the meeting.

Held at the Banani residence of the MP from Raipura, Razuddin Ahmed Raju, the meeting requested those willing to donate money to contact the committee office at 87, Motijheel Commercial Area, Red Crescent Chamber (ground floor).

### Appointments

**By Staff Correspondent**

Tenure of contractual appointment of Secretary for Local Government Department AHM Abdul Hye has been extended for six months, said a PID handout yesterday. His tenure was scheduled to expire on September 30.

Mohammad Ashraf Ali, Director General of the Directorate of Women's Affairs under the Women and Children Affairs Ministry, has been made OSD (Joint Secretary) of the Establishment Ministry.

Deputy Secretary Deepak Kamal Chowdhury, now on LPR, has been appointed joint secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock from September 1 by cancelling his LPR, the PID handout said.

Besides, Brigadier Manzoor Alam of the Army has been appointed chairman of Khulna Unnayan Kartipakha (Khulna Development Authority), the handout said.

### Zaker Party chief shocked

Chairman of Zaker Party Peerjadda Mostafa Ameer Faisal Mujaddidi has expressed his deep shock and concern at the loss of lives and huge damage wrought by the century's worst flood this year across Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a statement to the press, Peerjadda Mostafa Ameer Faisal sought the blessings of Almighty Allah for saving the nation from the wrath of flood.

## Ministers visit flood-hit areas

Ministers yesterday visited different flood-hit areas and distributed relief materials among the affected people, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain yesterday visited different flood-affected areas of Bhandaria thana in Pirojpur district and distributed relief materials. He will stay in Bhandaria for two more days to distribute relief materials.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday visited different flood-hit areas in Chandpur district and distributed relief materials.

State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hossain yesterday visited a number of flood-hit textile mills, including Ibrahim Composite Textile Mills, Luxminarayan and Chittaranjan Cotton Mills at Godnail in Narayanganj district and distributed relief materials among flood victims. Local MP Shamim Osman, Narayanganj District Awami League president Prof Nazma Rahman, Ibrahim Composite Textile Mills Managing Director Firoz Alam Babu were present.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq visited seven shelters under Lalbagh thana in the city and distributed relief materials among the flood-victims. Local MP Haji Mohammad Selim was with the minister during the visit.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Qader yesterday visited Khilgaon and Goran areas under Sabujbagh thana in the city and distributed relief among the flood-hit people. Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury was with the state minister.

State Minister for LGRD Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya visited Jatrabari and Kamalapur areas in the city and

distributed rice, pulse, *chira* and molasses among the flood-hit people. Local MP Habibur Rahman Mollah, Awami League leader Mozaffar Hossain Palto were present.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinatunnissa Talukder visited different submerged areas under Paba thana in Rajshahi district and distributed relief materials. Rajshahi City Awami League general secretary A H M Khairuzzaman Liton was present.

State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq distributed relief materials among the flood victims of Badda under Gulshan thana in the city.

Meanwhile, Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak yesterday visited different flood shelters and 'ruti' preparing centres in and outside the Narayanganj Paurashava area and distributed relief materials among the flood affected people.

The minister distributed cooked food among the affected people at Ali Ahmed Chunka Paura Pathagar relief camp.

The cooked food was arranged by Ali Ahmed Smriti Sangsad.

The minister also visited Morgan Girls High School relief centre, Bangabandhu relief camp and Narayanganj district Chhatra League sponsored 'ruti' preparing centre at Chashara and distributed 'ruti' among the flood victims.

He also visited Fatullah Primary School centre.

During his visit, State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hossain, A K M Shamim Osman, MP, Prof Nazma Rahman, president Narayanganj district Awami League, S M Akram, MP, Jamir Hossain Jamu, president Ali Ahmed Chunka Smriti Sangsad and Obaidul Qader, president Narayanganj district Jubo League were present.



E A Chaudhury, Chairman, Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Limited hands over a cheque for Tk 20 lakh to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday for the flood-affected people. Director Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, M P and Md Qamrul Huda, Managing Director, were also present.



Quazi Tazul Islam Farouk, chairman of Westmont Power (Bangladesh) now engaged in installing Barge mounted power plant, handing over a cheque for Taka 40 lakh to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina towards her relief fund on Sunday.



The Zonta Club of Dhaka, 111 has been conducting relief work twice a week since the beginning of this month in the areas of Gulshan, Banani and Teigao Link Road in the city. The club has distributed at various intervals rice, *daal*, puffed rice, molasses, saline, water purifying tablets and medicines. It has also distributed plastic sheets and cooked food to the flood affected people in the aforesaid areas.



Elite of Pearabagh areas in Maghbazar distributing relief among flood affected people of Rugganj thana. Relief materials include *chira*, molasses, candle, clothes.



Central Committee of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad distributed relief goods among the flood victims at Fatulla yesterday.



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman distributed relief materials among the flood victims in Brahmanbaria on behalf of Bangladesh Extension Education Services that organised the relief distribution programme recently.



Mother Teresa Sangathan provided relief materials for the flood victims at IG Gate Bangladesh Bank Colony High School in the city yesterday.

## Steps taken to keep prices stable

From Page 1

Kibria explained. "This will add to our regular availability of 6.5 lakh tonnes as food assistance. On top of this, in response to our flood appeal, donors are expected to give us one million tonnes of food. The private sector has already opened LCs for one million tonnes worth 185.71 million US dollars during July-August period and 4.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have already been imported by the private sector. It is expected that the private sector will import at least another one million tonnes of foodgrains."

It is important to note that the private sector import of foodgrains last year was 18.49 lakh tonnes worth 390.30 million dollars. This year's government purchase is much higher than last year which was only three lakh tonnes including one lakh tonnes rice and two lakh tonnes wheat.

"So, the food gap caused by the floods will be adequately met by imports. On top of that, we still have an undistributed six lakh tonnes stock," the finance minister said.

But does the country have enough foreign exchange to support such imports? Kibria sounded confident and added that to contain the import pressure on the balance of payment,

### BSCIC

From Page 1

tricts. The number of affected small industrial units in BSCIC estates is 760. The damage caused to those units may be worth about Tk 103 crore, BSCIC officials said quoting the preliminary estimate. The estimate was done on the basis of reports available till August 31. The figures may rise when final assessment will be made after complete recession of flood waters, they said.

Production in those units has stopped because of flood water and shortage of raw materials and thousands of workers and employees have become jobless, they said. Many units have been declared temporarily laid-off and some closed till recession of flood water.

The units will face serious difficulties in re-starting production and business because of damage to machines and raw materials, they observed.

The BSCIC officials said flood water has damaged roads, culverts, sewerage and water supply systems and telephone lines in the industrial estates.

They said ongoing development work like repair of roads, setting up of water supply and sewerage lines and earth filling in different industrial estates involving 15 crore taka have been washed away by the flood waters. The government will have to spend about Tk 30 crore for the work, they said.

They said about 83,570 cottage industries set up by the BSCIC have also been affected by the floods. The damage to the cottage industries will be around Tk 88.04 crore.

The officials said two specialised industrial estates in Fatullah and Rugganj under Narayanganj district have also been seriously affected as flood water entered there more than one month back. Twenty-seven knitwear units in Fatullah, most of those hundred per cent export oriented, are closed for more than one month, said a senior official of the BSCIC.

"The level of flood water in the estate is so high that medium size engine boats can move freely" said Rezaul Haque, Director Project of the BSCIC. He visited the estate several times since the flood hit the area. The situation is almost the same in the Jamdani Industrial Estate in Rugganj, he said adding, thousands of weavers have become jobless there.

The other seriously affected industrial estates are in Tongi, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Laxmipur, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Gaibandha, Shariatpur and Chandpur.

The BSCIC chairman underscored the need for waiver of interest and fresh loan to the affected small and medium units.

we have already sought assistance from the World Bank and the IMF.

"Last year we had faced an additional import pressure of nearly 500 million dollars on account of two million tonnes rice and private power generator import. This was outside normal import requirement of the country and yet we were able to meet additional burden without any significant impact," said Kibria.

"I am confident that this year, we will also be able to face the pressure. Despite the dire projection of the prophets of doom that the economy will collapse in a month, the economy grew at a satisfactory rate. I am confident that with the whole country working hard and unitedly, we will overcome the aftereffects of the floods and attain a satisfactory growth rate this year."

He dispelled the press reports that the current reserve of 1.8 billion dollars was a result of inflow of foreign aid and said, "So far we have received 166 million dollars in cash and kinds from donors as flood relief. But it is totally incorrect that our foreign exchange reserve has inflated because of donor relief because this 166 million dollars contain mostly relief received in kind."

Kibria further said, "We will also need huge funds for repairing roads and infrastructures. We still have not made any estimate. This will be done once the water recedes. We are discussing with the donors about rehabilitation of the damaged projects. We expect that they will take responsibility to repair their respective funded projects."

An ADB mission will come today to assess the damage, and IDB mission is already here and the government is holding discussions with the World Bank about its own projects.

"It is also a big question as to

### Resignation

From Page 1

ters during the last few days, according to Khandkar Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, who is overseeing the process of collecting the resignation letters.

"The process is almost complete. Except a few now staying abroad, all the party MPs have in the meantime deposited their resignation letters," he told The Daily Star Monday night.

However, the Opposition Chief Whip could not mention the exact number of BNP legislators who deposited their resignation letters. But party sources said, the number has crossed 100. BNP's strength in the Parliament is 111.

Only a few of the party MPs, Khandkar Delwar said, including Oli Ahmed, his wife Mamataz Begum and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury could not yet deposit their resignation letters as they were now staying abroad.

A vernacular daily in Dhaka yesterday published an interview of Oli Ahmed quoting him as saying he and his spouse would not resign from the Parliament unless they were convinced that the action would benefit the party and the people.

"Neither the BNP chief nor anybody else in the party could cite any strong argument for the move," Oli Ahmed told a correspondent of the daily in London.

Oli also told the daily that the ongoing move was "pioneered by the anti-liberation forces" in the BNP and warned that their activities would "isolate the party" from the people and bring about "political death" of the party chief.

"If we're to resign, we'll seek opinions of our electorate," he said, adding that many other MPs of the party would do the same.

Major (ret) Akhtaruzzaman earlier told The Daily Star that he would not deposit his resignation letter as he found the move untimely. He also said he would quit politics if he was compelled to sign such a letter.

## Bangabandhu Murder Case

From page 12

Refuting the prosecution counsel, the counsel also said Hony Capt Abdul Wahab Joardar was promoted on Dec 14, 1976 as lieutenant and not on August 15 by Col Farooq.

When the court enquired about the source of his documents, the defence counsel said: "Pigeons brought me the documents."

The defence counsel said, there are indications to the existence of unidentified armed troops who had perpetrated the August 15 massacre, and the accused persons, facing the Bangabandhu murder trial, had no connection with them.

"If the presence of accused Farook at the place of occurrence (PO) during the event was admitted for the sake of argument, it was not possible for any prosecution witness (PW) to identify Farook or his lancer troops as they were attired in black and *khaki* dress and also were wearing masks, he contended.

Rebutting deposition of certain witnesses, Khan Saifur said, soldiers of the Lancer Unit were equipped with Chinese rifles while troops of the artillery with SLR. Therefore, artillery troops taking ammunition from lancer depot on the instruction of Farook, as some witnesses said, is nothing but a hoax.

He argued if the soldiers came out of the garrison that night, then they were not carrying any weapon at that time or they did not come out from the campment at all.

Pointing to contradictory statements of the witnesses, the

counsel said, false evidences were produced and his client was falsely implicated in the case.

He said prosecution contention that the Lancer Unit provided Maj Huda, Major Noor and Major Dalim with uniform is false and not tenable.

The counsel said army officers dismissed or retired from service do not return their uniform. The army officers in question were already possessing their uniform. Why should they need supply of uniform? he asked.

Refuting the prosecution claim, Khan Saifur said no artillery shell was fired on August 15 from near Bangabandhu's residence. Army sepoy Shamsul Huq was not killed by splinters of artillery shell, but by bullets fired from Bangabandhu's residence.

Khan Saifur questioned why sepoy Mofazzal who survived the wounds sustained allegedly by the artillery shell was not brought to the court as an witness?

The defence counsel said there was no evidence that the accused carried arms on that night. None of the witnesses said about the role of the house guards, which Khan contended 'mysterious'.

He said inconsistent and confusing statements have shrouded the case. The case has only been fabricated by the prosecution, argued the counsel. Khan Saifur will carry on his conclusive argument when the court resumes at 9:30 am today.

how we will repair the projects which are not donor aided. This is why we are re-prioritising the ADP allocations," Kibria added.

Noting that the government is now taking up an extended rehabilitation programme of agriculture and industry, Kibria said the issue of national emergency must come first. "We will keep government borrowing to a minimum level. How we will fund the requirement is a matter of management."

"We have consciously decided to raise agriculture loan this year to Tk 3270 crore from last year's Tk 1750 crore as part of our macro-economic policy to stimulate demand in rural areas. After the flood, rural demand may slow down affecting the total demand. We are taking steps to ensure that this does not happen," Kibria said.

## Ministries

From Page 1

ministry has been facing pressures for additional allocation from different ministries and divisions in the wake of severe damage to crop and infrastructure by devastating flood.

A proposal for raising allocation under the head of supply and services will not be entertained in the revised budget for the current fiscal year.

The circular further made it clear that the slashing of the budget will not allow government offices to keep the bills of telephone, water, electricity and other services unpaid.

"In case of any failure in keeping the expenses limited within the revised budget, the department or agency concerned will have to bear the responsibility," the circular said.

It called for "highest restraint" in using official telephones, gas, water, electricity, fuel oil for vehicles and other services.

The officials concerned may be summoned to explain any irrational telephone and other bills.

## Int'l Ozone Day today

The International Ozone Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today to increase the use of environment-friendly materials to save the ozone layer, reports UNB.

The day is being observed since 1987 after signing of the epoch-making agreement "Montreal Protocol" with the initiative of United Nations Environment Programme.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury and Resident Representative of UNDP gave separate messages on the occasion.

Bangladesh signed the Montreal Protocol on August 2, 1990 and has been observing the day since 1995. The government also formed National Technical Committee and Ozone Cell to implement the protocol.

## Noorul Quader

From page 12

The *qualkhawani* of the deceased will be held after Asr prayers at his residence on Friday. All friends, relatives and admirers have been requested by his family to join his *Janaza* and *qualkhawani* and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

An alumni of the Dhaka University, Quader had higher education from the Cambridge University in Britain. He joined the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan in 1961.

While he was the Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, he joined the freedom fighters in organising resistance against the Pakistani Army and Pabna was declared a liberated area on March 31.

On April 24, 1971, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was established at Mujibnagar. Quader was the first appointed Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh in exile.

Quader was also the Secretary of the Youth Camp, responsible for recruitment and training of MuktiBahini during 1971.

Upon liberation of the country, Quader was assigned to transfer the seat of the government from Mujibnagar to Dhaka. On December 18, 1971, the Government of Bangladesh was transferred with Quader as its first Establishment Secretary.

He was also Secretary of several other ministries. As Secretary, Ministry of Communications, he restored Biman services with four Fokker Friendship planes on loan, Shipping Corporation with two ships, also on loan. He was responsible for restoration and rehabilitation of the war damaged railway system.

Quader, as founder Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, laid the foundation of tourism in the country.

Quader left the government service in 1974 and established his own business house.

In 1978, Quader set up the first readymade garments industry in the country under the name of Desh Garments Limited with technical and marketing collaboration of DAEWOO Corporation of South Korea. He imported the technology of industrial scale garments, and had 130 men and women trained abroad at his own costs.

He innovated the Back to Back L/C systems, the unique mechanism for non-funded financing of imported raw materials for the country industries. He also innovated the bonded warehouse system for the garments industries, the mechanism of import under deferred duty payment arrangement.