



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia visited the oral saline making project run by Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal on the DU campus yesterday. — Star photo

Relief activities of different organisations

Various organisations continued distribution of relief materials among the flood victims at different flood centres across the country yesterday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Betar distributed 1,000 pieces of hand-made bread and molasses among the flood-hit people with the help of Prime Minister's Armed Forces Division.

It will also distribute 500 litres of pure drinking water among the flood-hit people today.

Bangladesh Rifles distributed 4,000 pieces of hand-made bread and *halua* at different areas in Keraniganj thana.

Relief distribution work of BDR has also been continuing at Sector and Battalion levels and so far 7,000 pieces of hand-made bread, molasses and *halua* have been distributed by them.

BDR women's club also distributed sarees, rice, *chira*, and molasses among the flood victims at Khalil Sardar Community Centre at Hazaribagh.

Bangladesh Open University yesterday began relief distribution work with the relief materials collected for BOU relief fund.

They distributed money, *chira*, molasses and clothes.

Sandhani National Eye Donation Association also distributed 1,000 pieces of hand-made bread among the affected people at Government Primary School and C&B Workshop Centres at Tejgaon.

The association has also formed a medical team to provide treatment for the flood-hit people.

Dhaka University Central Relief Committee distributed 5,000 pieces of *rutti* and *gur* among the flood victims around the capital.

The committee also handed over 6,000 pieces of *rutti* and *gur* to the members of Bangladesh Army to distribute among the flood affected people.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation distributed *rutti* and *gur* among the flood-hit people at Tejgaon BG Press High School centre.

As part of their relief distribution activities, BPC also handed over the *rutti* among the flood victims at Khilgaon Government Primary School on Tuesday.

Zaker Party distributed cooked food among 500 families at Pallabi Zilpar WASA maidan centre in Pallabi thana of the city.

Siddique Group distributed baby food among 350 children at Arambagh Girls' High School and College centres on Tuesday.

Muktijoddha Jubo Command yesterday distributed huge quantity of relief goods, including cooked food, clothes, ORS, medicines and pure drinking water at Maghbazar Shah-nur High School and Maghbazar T&T Girls and Boys School.

Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), with the financial assistance from UK Impact Foundation, has distributed emergency relief among 250 disabled flood victims of Rajbari sadar and Goado thana of Rajbari district yesterday, says a press release.

Each family received *chira*, salt, molasses, oil, ORS, Vitamin 'A' capsule, water purifying tablet, deworming tablet and cooking utensils.

Intrans Group of Companies and its sister organisations have continued flood relief activities in the city.

Abu Yousuf, managing director of the companies, conducted the relief operation and distributed cooked food among 1,000 flood affected people in front of the Intrans office at Karwan Bazar and its adjoining areas yesterday. Oral saline, water purifying tablets, candles were also given to some flood victims.

Relief teams of Islami Bank Foundation distributed rice, flour, pulse, and other foods and medicine and money in the flood affected areas of Rajshahi, Chapaina wabganj, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Natore, Bogra and Jaipurhat districts. Relief operations are being conducted by the Islami Bank branches there.

The foundation also continuing relief operations for the flood affected people of Dhaka city and its adjacent areas.

The Dhanmondi Residential Area Walkers' Welfare Club has so far distributed 2,000 *bon-rutti* (bread) through the Moham-madpur branch office of BRAC among the flood affected people in Waspur, Bachila, Jhaur, Kaliganj, Baidyer Tek and Majhupal Para villages. The club's relief work will continue, says a press release.

Rafiq warns against bid to create artificial crisis of essentials

CHANDPUR, Sept 16: Home Minister Rafiqul Islam has warned that any bid to hike prices of essentials by creating artificial crisis will be dealt with strong hand, reports UNB.

Tough action will be taken against those who are trying to increase the prices of rice, pulse and other essentials as part of their evil design when the government and people are trying hard to mitigate suffering of the flood victims," he said.

The minister said the government as well as newspapers are repeatedly saying that there is no shortage of essentials. But retail prices of rice and several other essentials have increased without any reason.

"This trend should not be allowed. Action has to be taken against dishonest traders," he said.

The Home Minister was exchanging views with local administration, political leaders and businessmen on Tuesday over situation in Chandpur district severely attacked by the worst flood.

Earlier, Rafiq visited a water treatment plant of Bangladesh Army. Coordinating relief works for two days in the district, he also visited flood affected areas and spoke at several spontaneous gatherings.

Property of Naga jute centre to be handed over

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Jute yesterday decided to hand over the property of Naga Jute Purchase Centre in Kalihati thana in Tangail to the highest bidder, reports UNB.

The decision follows a report by the Parliamentary Subcommittee that there was no irregularity in selling the property of the centre.

Presided over by Committee President Muhammad Shamsul Huq, the meeting was also attended by committee members State Minister for Jute A K Fayedul Huq, Dr S M Mokhesur Rahman, Muhammad Jalal Uddin Talukder, Muhammad Mujibur Rahman and Advocate Goutam Chakravarti.

Jute Secretary Mahfuzul Islam and concerned officials were present also present.

OPEC assistance for flood victims

LONDON, Sept 16: The Vienna-based OPEC Fund for International Development has offered 200,000 US dollars in emergency assistance to victims of the devastating flood in Bangladesh, the OPEC fund said today, reports Reuters.

It said in a statement the grant would be channelled through the United Nations office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs and be used to procure emergency supplies as well as for post-flood rehabilitation.

Samad Azad to attend UNGA

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad leaves Dhaka for New York on Friday to lead the Bangladesh delegation to the 53rd UN General Assembly, reports UNB.

He will deliver his speech at the UNGA on September 22 and return home on October 3.

One killed in Ctg road accident

CHITTAGONG, Sept 16: One person of Bangladesh Navy was killed and another injured critically when a speeding truck ramed into their motor-cycle near Chittagong Steel Mill at Patenga here this afternoon, reports BSS.

According to port police and eyewitnesses sources, the accident occurred when the speeding truck falling the break ramed into road divider and ploughed the motor-cyclists who were coming from opposite direction.

Of the ill fated, Mohammad Ali Zinnah (25) died on the spot while his companion Jashimuddin Sarkar sustained critical injuries.

The body of the dead was taken for autopsy, while the injured was admitted to naval hospital, the sources added.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

S M Abdus Sattar, a writer and former assistant secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) died last night at the Combined Military Hospital Dhaka. He was 72.

Sattar was suffering from brain tumour. He left behind his wife, four sons, one daughter, relatives and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was born at Shalakhya village in Kaulhali thana under Pirojpur district. He has a number of books on literature, including two novels, to his credit.

He was the younger brother of late Moulana Abdur Rahim, a renowned Islamic scholar and a parliament member.

His namaz-e-janaja will be held at Konapara Mosque, Demra, after Jum'a prayers tomorrow before burial at the nearby graveyard.

Industries minister says Stock of essentials sufficient

There is sufficient stock of essentials, including rice, flour, pulses and onion, in the city's wholesale and retail markets, reports UNB.

Supply is increasing as transportation of goods becomes easier with gradual recession of flood water and the market prices also coming down everyday.

This was stated by traders when Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed visited Kawranbazar and Mohammadpur Krishi Market yesterday to monitor the supply and price situation.

The minister was accompanied by representatives of various mass media.

Traders said the consumers, driven by rumours, went for panic buying on Thursday and Friday, putting pressure on the stock of essentials that caused abnormal price-hike.

"A customer, who usually purchased 10-kg of rice, bought three bags at a time," said Mujibur Rahman, a retail rice-seller at Kawranbazar.

Mohammadpur Krishi Bazar Samity vice president Bashirullah Khan told the minister they had tried to make the buyers understand that the supply and stock of essentials were adequate in the market. "But they did not pay heed to us," he said.

Other traders, including Samity senior vice-president Fazle Rabbi, said the rumour that the DND embankment was going to collapse had caused panic among the buyers who thronged the city markets to buy and store essentials.

Asked by the Commerce Minister about today's prices, traders informed that local variety of coarse rice was being sold at Tk 15 per kg in wholesale and Tk 15.50 to Tk 16 per kg in retail markets. Price of imported variety of coarse rice was Tk 14 to Tk 15 per kg.

Local lentils (*masur dal*) was being sold at Tk 34 to Tk 48 per kg and imported variety Tk 25, soybean oil Tk 50 to Tk 52 kg while onion Tk 28 to Tk 30, they said.

Tofail Ahmed told the businessmen they can serve the society alongside earning profit through their business activities.

"And you've an important role to stop price hike as well as to ensure that consumers are not misled by rumours," he said.

The Commerce Minister said the government has taken a number of steps to ensure adequate supply of all kinds of essentials, including foodgrains.

He said sufficient quantities of foodgrains are being imported in the public and private sectors. The present government stock of seven lakh tonnes of rice will remain as it is.

Tofail said the government has decided to introduce the Open Market Sale (OMS) to keep the rice price stable across the country.

The traders told the minister that prices of essentials have already marked a substantial fall in the past few days. Prices

Ctg newspapers to be published with 4-inch blank space

CHITTAGONG, Sept 16: Local newspapers will be published with 4-inch blank space at the top of front page's last column for next three days from tomorrow to protest the Monday's police attack on some photo journalists in Chittagong, reports UNB.

A joint meeting of Chittagong Newspaper Council, Chittagong Union of Journalists and Chittagong Press Club here today (Wednesday) decided to publish identical editorials on Sunday condemning the police attack.

Photo journalist of Dainik Janakantha Mashur Rahman Badal was seriously injured along with Subhas Karan of Dainik Azadi and Didarul Alam of Daily Life when police resorted to baton charge to disperse unruly football fans at Chittagong Stadium.

The meeting demanded formation of an enquiry committee to investigate into the incident.

Presided over by CNC president M A Malek, the meeting was attended by editors, executive editors, managing editors of local dailies and leaders of CUJ and Press Club.

Acting Chittagong City Mayor Kamaluddin went to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital to see the condition of Badal who was in coma since Tuesday.

Doctors said he got back his sense this morning but is not out of danger.

The Commerce Minister assured the "genuine" businessmen of continued cooperation by the government.

But he reminded that they can never be genuine businessmen those try to make their fortune by hoarding, spreading rumours and at the cost of people's miseries.

The government is very alert about the hoarders and the quarter spreading rumours," Tofail said.



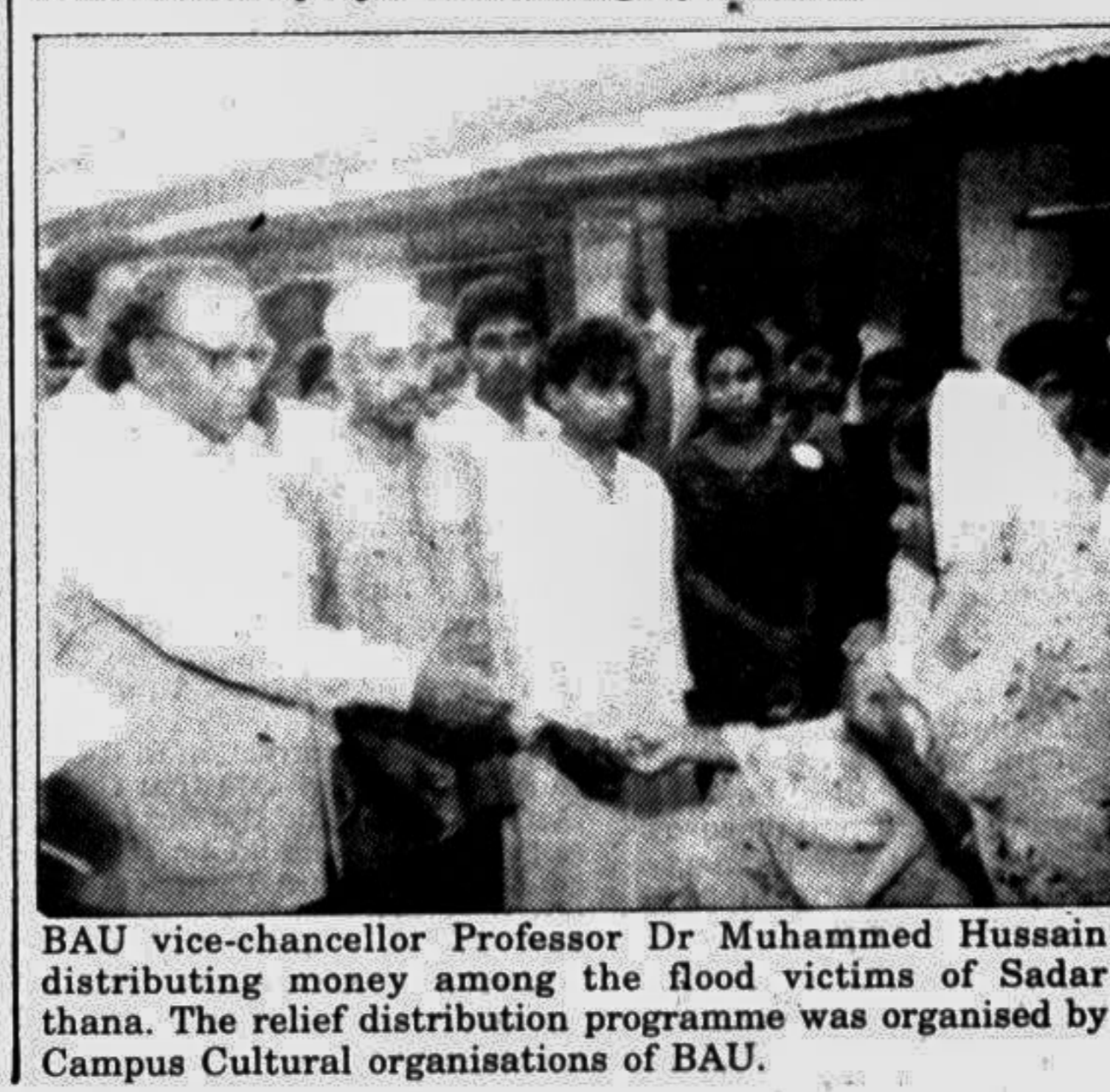
Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka Metropolitan yesterday distributed 500 kg of rice, 500 pieces of clothes, and 300 ORS packets among 325 affected families who have taken shelter at a flood centre at Badda in the city.



Rotary Club of Dhaka Downtown handed over relief materials to the Dhaka University Central Relief Committee on Tuesday for distribution among the flood victims.



Leo Club of Dhaka Glory distributed relief goods among flood affected people in Munshiganj recently.



BAU vice-chancellor Professor Dr Muhammed Hussain distributing money among the flood victims of Sadar thana. The relief distribution programme was organised by Campus Cultural organisations of BAU.

Mass media programme to inspire people about post flood rehabilitation work

The mass media, especially radio and television, under the ministry of information has taken up elaborate programme to inspire and generate consciousness among the people for implementing the post-flood rehabilitation programme and health care subjects, reports BSS.

The programme was initiated following an instruction by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed at a meeting with the officials of different institutions under the ministry at his office on Tuesday. Additional Secretary of the Ministry D N Bepari was present.

The Bangladesh Betar and Television have taken up different programmes including discussion, drama, spot reporting and music to make public awareness about post-flood responsibilities.

Special programmes will also be broadcast highlighting distribution of agriculture loan, supply of seeds and saplings, availability of fertiliser and appropriate and easy technology of cultivation.

The radio and television will broadcast programmes to inspire and make people conscious about self employment generation activities.

The mass media is already broadcasting on different precautionary measures about spread of diseases and health related problems in the flood-affected areas which may break out after receding of flood waters. Special initiatives have been taken for generating public awareness through broadcasting different programmes on healthy sanitation, collection and utilisation of pure and safe drinking water, preventing and curing different post-flood diseases.

The radio and television will broadcast different programmes to inspire the people in voluntary participation in repairing the damaged rural infrastructure, afforestation programmes in the government and non-government sectors.

The state minister instructed the mass communication directorate to launch publicity campaign in the rural areas through its district units.

He also instructed the Press Information Department (PID) to take necessary measures for publishing the abovementioned programmes in the print media.

The minister instructed the concerned authority to take necessary measures for screening slogans in this regard through different cinema halls of the country.

Khaleda to give relief goods today

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will visit different flood shelters in Tejgaon thana today, says UNB.

She will distribute relief goods among the flood victims, said a party press release.

Ministers continue relief distribution

Ministers, state ministers and Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation continued the distribution of relief in different flood affected areas across the country yesterday, reports UNB.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman visited Arhazar, Provakordi, Brahmandi, Abdullahpur Jougora, Daxinpara, Gozpora, Laxmibardi, Rokonuddin Pilot Girls' School and College flood shelters and some areas in Narayanganj district.

He distributed relief materials including rice, pulse, dry food, biscuits, oral saline, water purifying tablet, saree, lungi, baby garment and cash money among the flood-hit people.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain visited flood-affected areas of Nazirpur thana in Pirojpur district and distributed relief goods among the flood victims.

He also visited Pirojpur Sadar and Kaulhali thana and distributed relief includes cooked food, rice, cash money, saree, lungi, oral saline and water purifying tablets among the affected people.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya visited the flood-shelter at Jatrabari Shaheed Zia Girls' High School and College and distributed rice among the flood-hit people.

He also distributed cooked food at Arambagh Girls' High School and College flood-shelter in the city where Leo Club of Golden has been continuing relief activities.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam distributed cooked food among the affected people at Ashkona Hajj Camp in Uttara in the city.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif today visited various flood affected areas of the capital including Goran and Madartek.

Arms recovered

MUNSHIGANJ, Sept 16: Sirajdikhan police of the district recovered one revolver with five rounds of ammunition and a pipe gun from Madhyapara village today, reports BSS.

According to the police, the weapons were hidden in a ditch at Madhyapara.

25 teachers of agri varsity sacked

MYMENSINGH, Sept 16: The authorities of the Agricultural University have terminated the services of 25 teachers of the varsity for their failure to join their duties on the expiry of date of their stay abroad, reports APB.

The authorities have also realised compensation money from some of them, sources said.

The termination step has recently been taken following a decision reached at the meeting of the varsity Syndicate in this regard.

Apart from that, compensation is also being realised from those teachers who have resigned their positions while bonds signed by them the university was still in vogue.

The process of termination and realisation of compensation is still on. It has not yet been possible to realise compensation from 18 out of the 25 teachers whose services have been terminated, said the sources.

Compensation was realised from the pension of three teachers while two teachers paid the compensation from their own funds.

One of the teachers, however, has notified that he would pay the compensation and would continue to serve the university.

As many as 21 teachers have been notified, in writing, to pay their compensation amount. Referees of the teachers have also been informed about the position of their candidates in regard to their service rules and requirement, the varsity authorities said.

The authorities will seek the help of the embassies of various foreign countries, where these teachers are staying, for purposes of realisation of compensation money, if needed, sources added.

Rab visits ferry ghat at Kanchpur

DAUKANDI, Sept 16: Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rab visited the newly-constructed Kanchpur-Daukandi ferry ghat yesterday which restored the road link between Dhaka-Chittagong, reports UNB.

The minister went to the ferry ghat before his three-day relief operation in Noakhali and Laxmipur.

Two dumb ferry, Taplo with carrying capacity of 17 trucks and Langting with 14 trucks started its operation from 8.00 am today.

At least 600 trucks with food and relief materials have already been ferried since the operation of the new ferry ghat on September 12.

US donation of wheat for Bangladesh likely soon

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: The first US donations of wheat to needy countries in a Clinton administration plan to boost sagging domestic wheat prices will soon leave the United States, the US Agriculture Department said on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Mary Chambliss, a Deputy Administrator in USDA's foreign agricultural service, said the department has informed the UN world food programme that it is ready to ship 513,700 metric tons of wheat and 45,000 metric tons of wheat flour and bulgur, a type of cracked wheat, for donation overseas.

In July, president Bill Clinton announced a plan to help struggling US wheat farmers by buying 2.5 million metric tons of wheat to donate to needy countries. Since then, USDA officials have worked within the US Agency for international development to find destinations for the wheat.

The amounts announced on Tuesday will be distributed by the Rome-based WFP in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, The Caucasus region, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, the Southern Balkans, Liberia, Peru, Southern Sudan, and Yemen.

The department has already received a "call forward" from WFP for the wheat for

Armed forces continue flood relief activities

Bangladesh armed forces continued their flood relief activities despite recession of flood water throughout the country, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

A contingent of Bangladesh army repaired a number of badly damaged places of Nature-Singra road at Jalpata, Dom Dom, Negur, about four kilometres from Natore town, with the help of bamboo poles, sand bags and bricks in cooperation with the local administration, the Roads and Highways Department and the local people. Two teams of the army are regularly patrolling the road to monitor and check any further breach or leakage on the important communication link.

Army's drive for distribution of drinking water among the flood victims in Dhaka is continuing, five water treatment plants, including three large ones of 1,000 litres per hour capacity each, are in operation at Lalbagh, Hazaribag, Sinnirtek, Ashulia and Khilkhet. The army are also distributing 32,000 litres of drinking water per day among the flood-hit people at different places of the metropolises.

Meanwhile, the emergency mobile hospital at the ICDDR,B compound and five other army medical teams continued to provide medical treatment to the distressed people at different places in the city.

Three landing craft of the Bangladesh Navy continued to ferry Chittagong-bound exportable garments from Kanchpur to Daukandi. The BN personnel today carried 1,572 cartons of these garments raising the total number at 7,169 cartons since Thursday.

Bangladesh Air Force continued the airlifting of emergency relief materials, including food and medicine from Dhaka. Two BAF helicopter sorties were run today from Dhaka to Madarganj in Jaalpur and Satura in Manikganj.

Cadets of the Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) maintained their relief activities throughout the country. BNCC Sundarban regiment distributed relief among the flood victims at Gourandi in Barisal and Kalkini in Madaripur while the Mainamati regiment cadets distributed dry food at Daukandi in Comilla.