

PM's call for integrated thrust in post-flood reconstruction efforts

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to make united and integrated thrust in the post-flood reconstruction efforts with the same strength and courage that the nation faced the initial pressure of the devastating floods, reports BSS.

"If we work unitedly and sincerely with all our might and encourage in the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme, inshaallah, we would overcome the present national calamity and recover the huge losses the nation had to suffer owing to the worst floods of the century," she told the freedom fighters when she visited the "ruti" making and relief distribution programme of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha central command office at its Eskaton office.

Chairman of the Central

Command Council Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and Sangsad leaders including M A Rashid, Enamul Haq and Ismat Kadir Gama and Commander of the Muktiyoddha Mohila Command Ashrafur Mosharruf Mini received the prime minister at the venue and apprised her of the activities of the command for the distressed humanity.

Since September 1, Muktiyoddha Sangsad has been preparing 30,000 "rutis", 15,000 packets of *chira* and *gur* each day. They deliver 5,000 bags of "ruti" to Bangladesh Army for distribution among the distressed people, while the rest goods are being distributed by the various units of the Sangsad in the affected areas.

Hundreds of female activists of Muktiyoddha Mohila Com-

mand have been preparing "ruti" day and night while the male Muktiyoddhas are engaged in picketing "ruti, gur and *chira* and for distribution.

The prime minister herself took part in the programmes and prepared a number of "rutis" with her hands. In her brief speech, the prime minister thanked the Command Council for their noble gesture and recalled that the freedom fighters had played their heroic role in 1971 War of Liberation at the call of the Father of the Nation.

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, Awami League central leaders Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Abdul Mannan, Local MP Dr B M Iqbal, ex-general secretary of Chhatra League Ahsim Kurban Ukil and other leaders were present on the occasion.

Puja Utjapan team meets PM

A delegation of Bangladesh Puja Utjapan Parishad called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya led the delegation.

The members of the delegation handed over a memorandum to the Prime Minister and said they have decided to celebrate the Sharadyo Durga Utshav in a simple way in view of the devastating flood in the country.

The Prime Minister thanked the delegation for taking such a decision and handed over Tk 35 lakh for celebrating the utshav.

Hasina said the present government believes in non-communalism and is taking steps for establishing a non-communal society. Every citizen of the country are enjoying equal rights, she said.



John A. Smetanka, senior country executive of American Express Bank, handed over a cheque for Taka 500,000 to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a donation to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund.

Diarrhoea treatment centres open in 22 clinics

Emergency Diarrhoea Treatment (ORT) centres were opened in 22 clinics of urban family health partnership in the city yesterday, a press release said, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion of inaugurating the centres, Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Margub Morshed stressed the need for coordination among the services of government, non-government and different other organisations to cope with the diarrhoea treatment programmes after the flood water recedes.

He appreciated the steps being taken up by the urban family health partnership for treating the diarrhoea patients.

Chief of party of the partnership, family planning department officials and country director of USAID also spoke on the occasion.



Past president of Dhaka Club and senior vice president of Bangladesh Bridge Federation Feroze Ahmed distributing relief materials to the flood affected people in Munshiganj district.

JCD demands probe into firing during Khaleda's visit to DU

By DU Correspondent

BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has demanded formation of a probe committee and trial of those involved in the incident of firing when BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Dhaka University campus on Wednesday.

JCD brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus yesterday noon. Later JCD leaders submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury in this regard.

Speakers at the rally urged the university authorities to take necessary steps to punish the 'culprits'.

JCD also announced a programme of protest rallies all over the country (excluding the flood affected areas) tomorrow to press its demand for immediate arrest and punishment of those involved.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, Habib-Un-Nabi Sohel and Monwar Hossain Sana.

BSEHR probe report says Mihir Kumar took Sathi to MP Hostel

By Staff Correspondent

Mihir Kumar Sarkar had taken Sathi to the MP Hostel room in exchange of money and the girl was caught by police the following morning while she was leaving the hostel taking away saree, bag, blouse and handkerchief from the room as she was not paid.

This was disclosed by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) after a probe into the incident conducted by a BSEHR team.

The 22-year woman who was earlier arrested on charges of stealing clothes from ruling party lawmaker Bharati Nandi's room told police that she was 'hired for the whole night' by the MP's husband, Mihir Kumar Sarkar.

BSEHR in a press release yesterday noted that Sathi alone could not be blamed for the incident and sought government's attention for taking lawful actions against Mihir as well.



UNICEF assisted LGED's Urban Basic Service Delivery Project has donated some essential medicine to the Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal yesterday.



Mohammad Younus, vice chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd distributing relief goods among the flood affected people of Kazla the adjacent area of Dhaka city yesterday.



BRAC distributing dry food, medicine and water among the flood-hit people in and outside the city.

Rare unity to serve distressed humanity

By Aminul Islam

Rupa had never been to her family kitchen before. But she was preparing *chapatti* for the flood victims on Thursday at the TSC cafeteria of the Dhaka University.

A large number of students of the Dhaka University are also extending their hands in preparing *chapatti*, oral saline and distributing them among the flood-hit people of the country.

"No doubt it's a calamity, but this has given the young generation of the country a chance to prove how much they love their country and its people" said a relief worker at the TSC cafeteria.

"We will work, we will work till the last drop of our blood to rebuild the flood ravaged nation," said Sumi, a fresher in the DU.

The Dhaka University Central Relief Committee was the first to start a project of preparing *ruti* at the TSC cafeteria. The initiative of student organisations forced the DU authorities to go for such humanitarian works.

Hundreds of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Muktiyoddha Chhatra Command are engaged in voluntary labour for relief activities.

The members of the BNCC, Rover Scouts, rangers, students from the women halls and hundreds of general students are participating in the *ruti* project run by the DU relief committee. The project begins at 8 in the morning and ends at 2 pm everyday.

The BCU workers take over the job from the DU authorities after 2 pm and work till 8 pm. The BCU also runs an oral saline preparing project at the DU Gymnasium. The BCU workers produce some 5,000 pieces of *ruti* and as many packets of oral saline everyday. They are also operating a pure drinking water supply project.

The BCU members, split into several teams, distribute the *chapattis* and oral salines among the floodhit people mainly around the city.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) started a programme of preparing *ruti*, oral saline and pure drinking water at the DUCSU cafeteria on 27 August. Some 300 BCL workers have been working in the projects.

On an average, they produce some 15,000 *ruti* and prepare 5,000 packets of oral saline. BCL started pure drinking water project Tuesday. They distribute some 500 gallons of pure water everyday. Ten medical team comprising the activists of BCL at the Dhaka Medical College and Salimullah Medical College are working relentlessly, BCL leaders said.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has been operating an oral saline and pure drinking water project at the conference room of the Business Studies Bhaban of the university since September 1. The JCD workers produce some 5,000 packets of oral saline per day.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front has started a pure drinking water and oral saline project at the Curzon Hall of the university.



A *ruti*-making project at DUCSU Bhaban. — Star photo

Organisations continue relief operation

Different organisations yesterday continued distribution of relief materials among the flood victims in the capital and elsewhere in the country, report agencies.

The Gazetted Officers' Hostel Welfare Association in Green Road distributed relief materials among the flood-affected people in Tongi thana area.

Bangladesh Coast Guards members distributed *chira*, *muri*, *gur* and medicines at two flood shelters located at Kalachandpur and Baridhara area.

High Court Mazar Sharif Relief Committee distributed cooked food and 600 packets of mosquito coils among the flood-hit people who have taken shelter at Ideal School under Demra thana. President of the High Court Mazar Administration Justice Abdur Rouf distributed the relief materials among the flood victims.

Managing Director of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) SA Chowdhury distributed dry food among the distressed people at Mughdapa on behalf of ICB Officers' Association.

Ruti-making programme of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) continued for the second day yesterday.

BRAC distributed over one crore pieces of bread and about one lakh and 50 thousand kgs of molasses among the flood victims across the country till yesterday. They also distributed about one lakh and 40 thousand kgs of rice and over three lakh and 50 thousand packets of oral saline, a BRAC press release

said. Dr Ashiqul Alam Foundation, Anirban Nursing Home and Anti-Drugs Freedom Fighters Council have continued joint relief operation at Mohammadpur cross dam, Washpur, Solmasi, Looter Char, Batar Char, Shahidnagar, Ati Bazar, Madda Char and Bachila in the city and its adjoining areas.

Their relief materials included 10 to 12 thousand pieces of handmade breads, *chira*, *gur*, clothes, pure drinking water, medicines, candles and matches.

Convener of the foundation Dr Sadeka Asiq is co-ordinating the relief operation. Bangladesh Betar for the sixth day yesterday sent handmade breads, molasses and pure drinking water to remote areas through the Armed Forces Division.

Officials and employees themselves prepared bread by their own donations. Proshika distributed relief materials among 350 families taken shelter at city's Jatrabari and Faridabad.

Bangladesh Bridge Federation and Dhaka Club conducted a joint relief operation in six flood affected villages — Hossaini, Jamal, Goalgaon, Nazir Char, Ishmanir Char and Vati Balaki of Gazaria thana under Munshiganj district — recently, says a press release.

Feroze Ahmed, Senior Vice President of Bangladesh Bridge Federation and Past President of Dhaka Club alongwith other officials of the Federation distributed relief materials containing rice, *atta*, *dal*, salt and

clothes to 400 families of the area. The Bridge Federation has taken a decision to distribute more relief materials in different parts of the country till the end of this month.

Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PCCI) launched a relief distribution programme in four thanas of the district on Wednesday.

Under the programme about 10,000 flood affected families of Sadar, Santhia, Sujanager and Bera thanas will be supplied rice, salt, maize, oral saline, candle and match boxes. The PCCI, meanwhile, distributed relief materials worth about Tk 10 lakh among the flood affected people.

Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), with financial assistance from Royal Danish Embassy, distributed emergency relief at Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria district yesterday.

Emergency medicine, food-stuff and household materials were distributed among 1,200 flood victims with priority to the disabled people, said a release of the international NGO. An expatriate Bangladeshi has joined people at home in giving assistance to flood affected humanity.

Dr Aminul Haq, who works with Asian Development Bank in Manila, sent 1,000 US dollars as help. His friend at home, Abu M Faruq added his own share of contribution to the tune of Tk 30,000 with that and distributed among affected people of Moksdepur, Gopalganj from September 11 to 13, says a press release.

Batch Eleven Accounting Alumni Association carried out a relief distribution programme among the flood-affected people at Meradia under Sabujbagh thana recently.

The Executive Committee members participated in this programme. They distributed *chira* rice, candle, matches, molasses, water purifying table, oral saline and shirts among the 200 flood affected families.

Sweden to provide \$ 6.25 lakh more for flood victims

Sweden has announced an additional grant of US\$ 625,000 in emergency flood aid via UNICEF to the most vulnerable women and children in Bangladesh, reports APB.

Responding to the UN flash appeal, the grants have already been provided to Swedish NGOs in cooperation with local partners, said a press release on Thursday.

Of the amount, the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross Federation have been granted US\$ 560,000 for emergency food and medical assistance. In addition to this, Sweden has confirmed preparedness for substantial support for rehabilitation and reconstruction works. "For this purpose, fresh funds over and above previous commitments will be allocated," said the release, adding rescheduling of unspent allocations within the existing sector programmes for health, education and rural infrastructure is being planned.

German water purifying experts arrive shortly

A 15-member German water purifying experts with extensive technical equipment will arrive here within the next few days to assist WASA in supplying pure water, reports UNB.

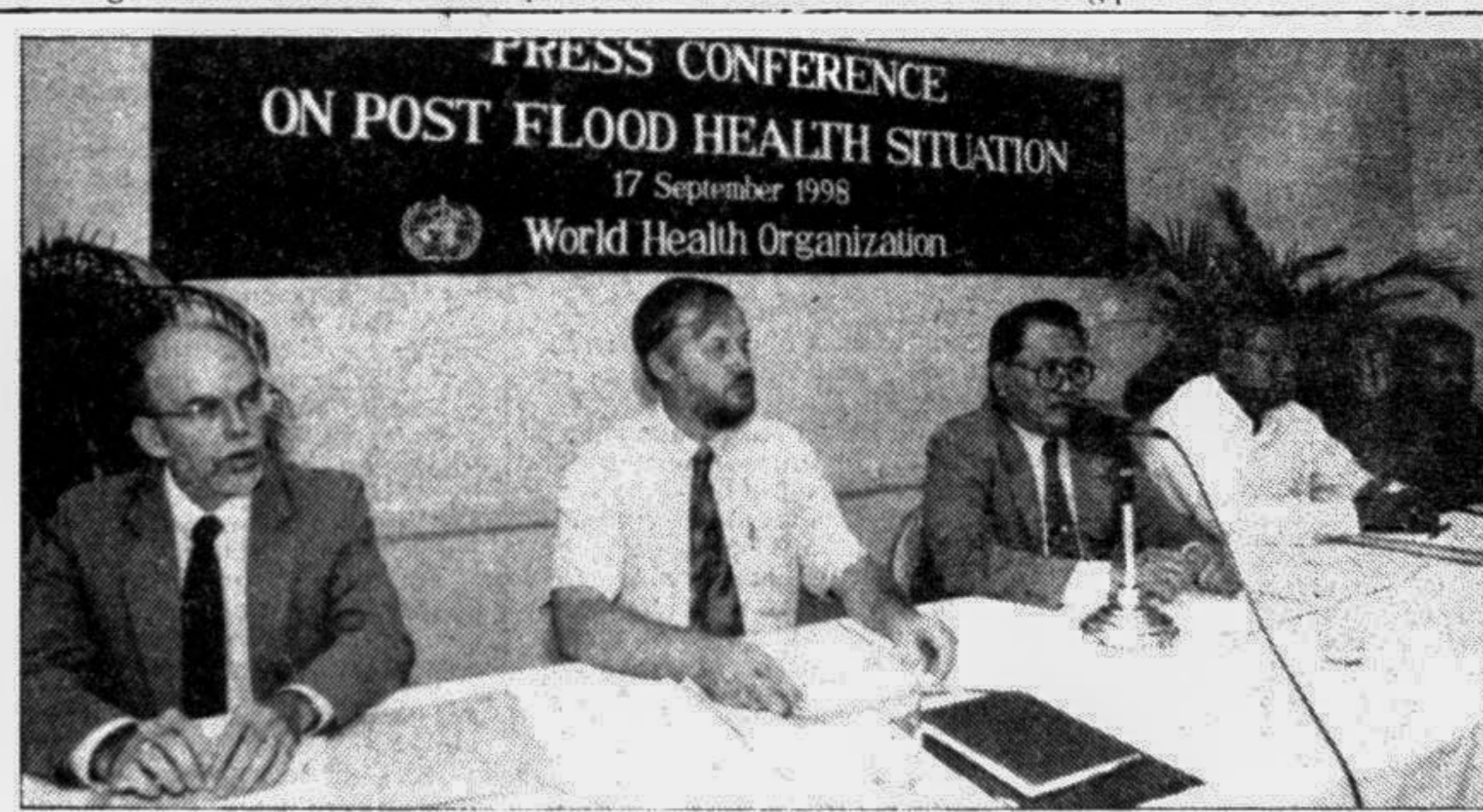
A press release of German Embassy said that the expert team with funding of about Tk 11 crore made available by Humanitarian Relief Department of the German Federal Foreign office in Bonn will assist WASA in supplying drinking water for the most urgent needs of the flood-affected population in an around Dhaka.

A three-member assessment team from Disaster Relief Organisation of Germany has already identified the suitable sites for operation of their two mobile water purifying units.

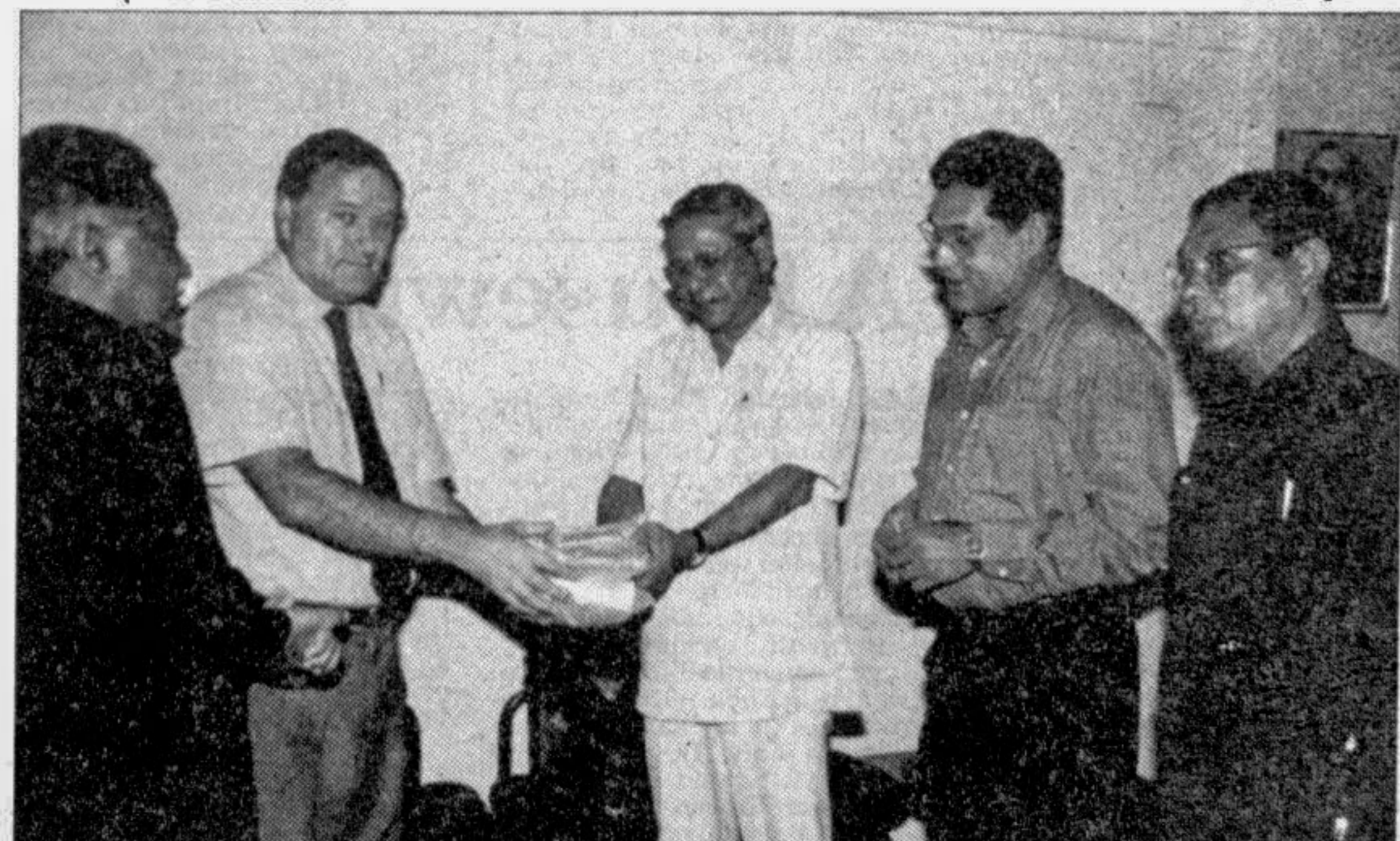
British American Tobacco donates vegetable seeds

British American Tobacco Bangladesh has donated 3.1 tonnes of vegetable seeds of different varieties of radish and *lalsakh* worth Tk 6.5 lakh to assist the government's post-flood rehabilitation programme for the flood affected farmers of the country, says a press release.

Hugh Tweed, Managing Director of the company handed over the seeds to Dr. A M M Shawkat Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; and officials of the company Golam Mainuddin, Deputy Managing Director; Mahmudur Rahman, Head of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, and Ashrafui Alam Chowdhury, Research & Agro Chemical Manager of British American Tobacco, Bangladesh were present.



Speakers at a WHO press conference on 'Post flood health situation' held in the city yesterday. (From Left) Dr William Addis, Dr Han Haynen, Dr Wit Hardjotanojo, and Dr Mannan-ur Rahman. — WHO photo



Hugh Tweed, managing director, British American Tobacco Bangladesh handing over 3.1 tonnes of radish and *lalsakh* seeds to Agriculture Secretary, Dr A M M Shawkat Ali for assisting the government's post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme. Also present from left to right were: Golam Mainuddin, Deputy Managing Director, Mahmudur Rahman, Head of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, A Halim, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

Concerted relief activities urged

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged people of all strata of the society to take part in the relief activities and to face unitedly the devastation caused by the worst flood of the century.

The seminar on "Our Tasks in Fair Distribution of Relief" was jointly organised by Rotaract Club of Dhaka University and Notre Dame Manobik Sangha at the VIP lounge of the Jaliya Press Club.

Among others, Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khondkar Delwar Hossain, president of Rotaract Club of DU Ranjit Jumar Nath and general secretary of Notre Dame Manobik Sangha addressed the seminar. Khandaker Akhtar Hamid Fabon opened the discussion.

Describing it as a challenge for the young generation, the speakers urged the youths for their total involvement in helping the flood-affected people.

They also urged the authorities concerned to maintain neutrality in conducting relief operations.

Classes of JU resumes tomorrow

By JU Correspondent

Classes of the Jahangirnagar University will begin from Saturday and the transport of the university will go into operation today.

Classes of the university remained suspended due to the flood.

The university buses will ply through Ashulia route temporarily until the campus-Savar-Dhaka route is restored, a press release said.

Daring dacoity in city

By Staff Correspondent

A daring dacoity was committed at a residence in the city's Rayer Bazar area Wednesday night.

Dacoits cut window bars to enter into the house at 302/A Tali Office Road of Rayer Bazar and decamped with Tk 90,000 in cash and ornaments worth Tk 2.5 lakh.

It was suspected that the dacoits may have used some kind of spray to put the inmates of the house into deep sleep.

A case was registered with Dhanmondi thana in this connection. But, none was arrested till last night.

Kazi Jahan Mia, a retired major of the army, is renting the ground floor of building. He told the Daily Star last night that dacoits took the ornaments and cash from his bedroom. "I suspect they sprayed some kind of chemicals that put us into deep sleep and when we woke up we felt dizzy."

Jahan Mia, presently a businessman, was traumatized by the incident and requested police for safety.

A case of mismanagement

By Staff Correspondent

The Ministry of Environment failed to get published its supplement on the Ozone Day in a couple of English language dailies on Wednesday due to mismanagement of the government officials concerned, ministry sources said.

The ministry had decided to publish the supplements in three national dailies including The Daily Star. But the people concerned reached the Star with the 'designed text' of the supplement long after the paper had gone to the printing press at 2:30 am on Wednesday.

Sources close to a private advertisement agency that took responsibility to design the supplement told The Daily Star that they did not get the contents of supplement in time. The government was supposed to supply the contents by Monday, but the agency eventually got them Tuesday evening, sources added.

Meanwhile, the ministry sources said that they could not secure the signature of Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury until Tuesday evening.

The supplement was supposed to carry a message, along with those of the President, the Prime Minister, and the Environment Minister. "She was out of town for the last six days," an official of the ministry said.

When contacted, Director General of the Environment Department A R Khan told The Daily Star that he had the messages of the President and the PM signed a week ago, while other contents of the supplement were ready much earlier.

About the message of the Environment Minister, Khan said that his subordinates concerned did not inform him about the matter in time.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury could not be reached over telephone after repeated attempts on Wednesday night.

Obituary

Prof Bashirul Moineen Basunia, a former Chairman of English Department of Jagannath University College, died in a road accident in city yesterday. He was 57, reports BSS.

Prof Basunia suffered brain hemorrhage when he was hit by a private car at Mirpur yesterday. He was rushed to Dhaka medical college hospital (DMCH) where he expired.

Prof Basunia left behind his wife and a daughter.