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Justice Habibur Rahman to be made ombudsman

By Staff Correspondent
The government has decided to appoint Justice Habibur Rahman, former Chief Justice and head of the caretaker government in 1996, the country's first Ombudsman, according to highly placed official sources.
The Prime Minister, in consultation with other policy-makers of the government, has selected Justice Rahman for the post, the sources said.
"I am not aware of the government decision," Justice Rahman said when contacted over telephone yesterday.
The Ombudsman is being appointed as per provision in Article 77 of the Constitution.
The law provides that an
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Peace depends on implementation of CHT accord: Shantu Larma

RANGAMATI, Sept 18 (APB): Peace in the hill tracts depends on the implementation of the CHT Peace accord, Shantu Larma said.
"Not a single section of the accord has been realised even after nine months of its signing," Larma said.
The president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, was speaking at a reception in honour of him here this evening.
He said the accord was signed to defuse the unrest in the area and the long-lasting problem would be resolved only
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WFP ship with 15,000 tons of wheat arrives

CHITTAGONG, Sept 18: The 'Golden Sun' anchored at Chittagong Port tonight with 15,000 tons of wheat in the first tranche of food aid from the United Nations World Food Programme for flood victims in Bangladesh, reports APB.
Offloading of the foodgrain from the ship would begin tomorrow, official sources said.
"It marks the beginning of the largest relief operation in WFP history aimed at feeding an estimated 20 million Bangladeshis," said a WFP press release in Dhaka today.
Last week, the UN agency launched a \$4 million appeal for distributing 356,000 tons of food aid over the next five months.
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Jordanian plane with relief goods arrives

A royal Jordanian cargo plane with 18 metric tons of relief goods reached Zia International Airport yesterday, reports UNB.
The relief goods included ORS, medicines, bleaching powder, 3,000 kg of high calorie biscuit, 4,000 kg pulse, 2,000 kg rice, 2,000 kg palm-dates, 50 tents and polythene sheets, said an official handout.
Officials of the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry, Foreign Ministry and Relief and Rehabilitation Department received the relief materials at the airport.

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Desperate quest for Aman seedlings, Rabi crop seeds

From Morshed Ali Khan

SHERPUR, Sept 18: As fields emerge from the receding flood water, farmers in the district find their jute and other crops rotten.
Desperate farmers are now in search of seedlings and seeds, both scarce and expensive. During a visit to Losmanpur, Char Mucharua and Char Pakhimari unions under the sadar thana farmers were seen looking for Aman seedlings for immediate

sowing and seeds for Rabi crops. "I went to Jhinaigathi hills to buy seedlings for Tk 350 a dhara (ten bundles)," said Chan Mia, a farmer from Baghbari village under Melandaha thana in Jamalpur district. Chan Mia was found waiting for a boat at Sherpur ghat in the river Brahmaputra. Chan Mia said farmers in his village were desperately looking for those seedlings. Prices have jumped

from Tk 100 to 350 a dhara. I transplanted Aman seedlings three times but those were damaged by the flood. I know it is too late now to expect a good Aman harvest but I will still have the hay to feed my cattle during the lean period," Chan Mia said.
The unprecedented surge of water had remained stagnant for more than two months in the district. But the level of wa-

ter rose and receded three times, damaging thousands of houses, educational institutions, crops and jute, which was almost ready for harvest. About half a million people have been classified as flood affected in the five thanas of the district.
At Char Naovanga village under Pakhimari union of the sadar thana, about 23 kilometres from the district town, farmers said they did not know

what to do. Abdul Mannan, 60, took this correspondent to his jute field to show what was left by the flood remains of full-grown jute plants, black in colour, lying flat on the field.
Another farmer of the village said they had lost all the saplings of aubergine which they had grown for the coming Rabi crop. "Most of Kawran Bazar's aubergines (begoon) are supplied from our area but we

Leaks in city's underground sewer lines

By Mizan Ali

Four underground sewer lines in the city are leaking at least 20 points, according to highly placed sources in the Dhaka WASA.
The Gulshan-Shamibagh sewer line is leaking sewer at Gulshan and Shamibagh, Narinda-Pagla line at Narinda, Dhanmandi-Shamibagh-Pagla line at Shamibagh and the Narinda-Syedabad line at Syedabad point, the sources said.
Half of the sewage of these lines are leaking before reaching the treatment plant at Pagla, one source said. The sewage is getting mixed with the flood water.

Leaks have developed in at least 15 other points in these four lines which is evident from the dirty water and bubbles coming out at those points, the sources said. Some of the leaks had developed before the flood. The prolonged floods aggravated the situation, they said.
Officials estimated that repair and reconstruction of the lines would cost about Tk 60 crore.
Eight sewer lines and 18 pumping stations carry the city's sewage to the Pagla treatment plant wherefrom it is drained out into the Buriganga river, they said.

Take effective steps or lakhs of people will die: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP has blamed the government for not yet undertaking any effective post-flood rehabilitation programme although the flood water is receding.
"Lakhs of affected people may die of starvation and lack of medical treatment if the government fails to face the post-flood situation satisfactorily," he told a press conference at the Naya Paltan central office of the party yesterday.
"We demand that the gov-
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More tents have been pitched on the ICDDR,B premises but those cannot accommodate the increasing number of diarrhoea patients. Photo shows three mothers feeding saline to their babies outside the tents. — Star photo

Dhaka-Ctg direct road opens to trucks

Direct road communication between the capital and Chittagong was restored yesterday afternoon.

Although flood water is still flowing over some points of the highway, the Roads and Highways Department restored the link putting sandbags on those points.
Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Abdul Wadud told UNB that the link was restored in the afternoon and some trucks carrying goods from the Chittagong port had already reached the capital.
"I'll not say that the road is okay for traffic movement, but we did reestablish the link," said Wadud who hoped to complete the repair works at the most damaged points within the next week.

He said the road will be fully ready for traffic movement as soon as flood water recedes.
Restoration of road link between Dhaka and Sylhet, Aricha and Tangail will take another week although the ve-

hicles are moving through indirect routes.

Meanwhile, the Railways have introduced additional trains between capital Dhaka and port city of Chittagong.
Flood forecasters yesterday said water in most of the major rivers is declining rapidly, and the trend will continue.
The situation in Dhaka city improved further as rivers around the capital dropped significantly yesterday.
Many areas, water-logged due to downpour, were cleared of excess water with the help of 79 WASA pumps. The pumps will be operating for a few more days, said a WASA official. Water also receded significantly from many other areas in the city.
The death toll rose to 826 yesterday with reports of 13 more deaths in flood hit districts.

As per the directives of DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif, several DCC teams fanned out
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Videotape of Clinton's grand jury testimony to be released

WASHINGTON, Sept 18: The House Judiciary Committee gave the green light today for the release of President Bill Clinton's videotaped grand jury testimony in the Monica Lewinsky scandal, reports AFP.
Congressman Bill McCollum, a member of the committee, told reporters that some 2,800 pages of other documents received from independent Counsel Kenneth Starr would also be made public.

"We're going to release about 2,800 pages of this material in volumes 1 through 7 of the appendices... we've also voted to release the videotape of the President... as a part of that," he said.
Clinton's damage-control team opposed the release of the tape and White House communications director Anne Lewis said on NBC that the American people wanted to move on.
Democrats charge that Republicans want to use the tape to increase the pressure on Clinton to resign and sway the public ahead of mid-term con-

gressional elections on November 3.
Republicans counter that the public needs to view the tape to decide whether Clinton is guilty of perjury in his attempts to cover up the Lewinsky affair.
"We can tell you that we think what's been done is right," McCollum said. "Some of the material, however, is sexually explicit and I think that's unfortunate."
"But the fact and reality is that we have to do that because of the president's insistence on the status of... of his telling the truth in certain instances where Ken Starr said he did not."
Democratic representative Barnay Frank, who also sits on the committee, said the vote

had been on partisan lines.
"I just want to say that the assertion that this was bipartisan is just silly," Frank said.
"What we have is a very one-sided, partisan effort to release material before the president gets a chance to review it or respond to it, that makes the president look bad, and we even had the spectacle of a majority of Republicans voting not to even release the votes by which we voted today."
Henry Hyde, the Republican chairman of the committee, denied the debate on the matter had been rancorous but admitted partisan differences.
"There was a general view among the Democrats not to reveal anything, and there was a general view among Republicans to reveal as much as possible," he said, noting however that some information in the documents would be retracted, or blacked out to protect some witnesses.
It was not immediately clear when the videotape or the doc-
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Road accident kills 9 in Daudkandi

COMILLA, Sept 18: At least nine people were killed and some 25 injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway today, reports APB.

Police said the accident occurred when a truck knocked from behind a wayside passenger bus near Jingtlati Godown in Daudkandi thana at 3.15 pm.
The bus stopped there for taking passengers. Two cattle were also killed in the incident.
Witnesses said the Honabound bus, after hit by the truck, ploughed through a crowd before plunging into the roadside ditch.
Five children who were playing nearby were crushed under the wheels of the bus.
Local people said four other people were declared dead after they were rushed to the Gouripur Health Complex with fatal wounds.
Eight of the victims, they said, were of displaced families who had taken shelter in the Jingtlati Godown area in the
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2 more beaten to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 18: Two alleged extortionists were beaten to death by an angry mob in Raazar, 25 miles from the city today, police said.
Hundreds of people surrounded and caught the alleged extortionists when they went to Panchpukuria village of Dabua union under Raazar thana at

50 injured as extortionists clash in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 18: A clash between two rival groups over toll collection at Madanganj here today left more than 50 people injured, reports UNB.
Police sources said the clash erupted when the two groups of extortionists confronted each other at about 9:30 am.
The rivals chased and hurled bricks at each other, and exchanged gunshots during the three-hour clash.
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2.30 pm to collect tolls from some local businessmen, police and local people said.
The mob beat them up severely, causing their death on the spot.
The mob also recovered one sawed-off rifle and one LG from their possession and then handed over those to police.
Police said the alleged extortionists were identified as activists of now defunct National Democratic Party (NDP).
In a similar incident yesterday, four alleged muggers were beaten to death and another was severely injured by an angry mob in Agrabad Commercial Area in the port city.
The mob also torchted the autorickshaw that carried the muggers.
In Narayanganj, a snatcher was beaten to death by an angry mob at Jalkuri on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road in the afternoon.
APB quoting police said, the unidentified mugger, 26, was
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Woman and her two children rescued from traffickers

By Staff Correspondent

Demra police yesterday rescued a housewife along with her two children from a residential hotel at Kamalapur in the city where they were held by an organized gang of woman and child trafficker.
Police arrested three persons — Latif, Aminul Huq and Moslem Uddin — in this connection and said they were members of an organized gang of traffickers, engaged in illegal trafficking of women and children to India, Pakistan and the Middle East.
Police said, Latif, a resident of Matuli Modhyapara, had lured Sufia Begum along with
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Detainees escape 2 Lalbagh thana policemen suspended

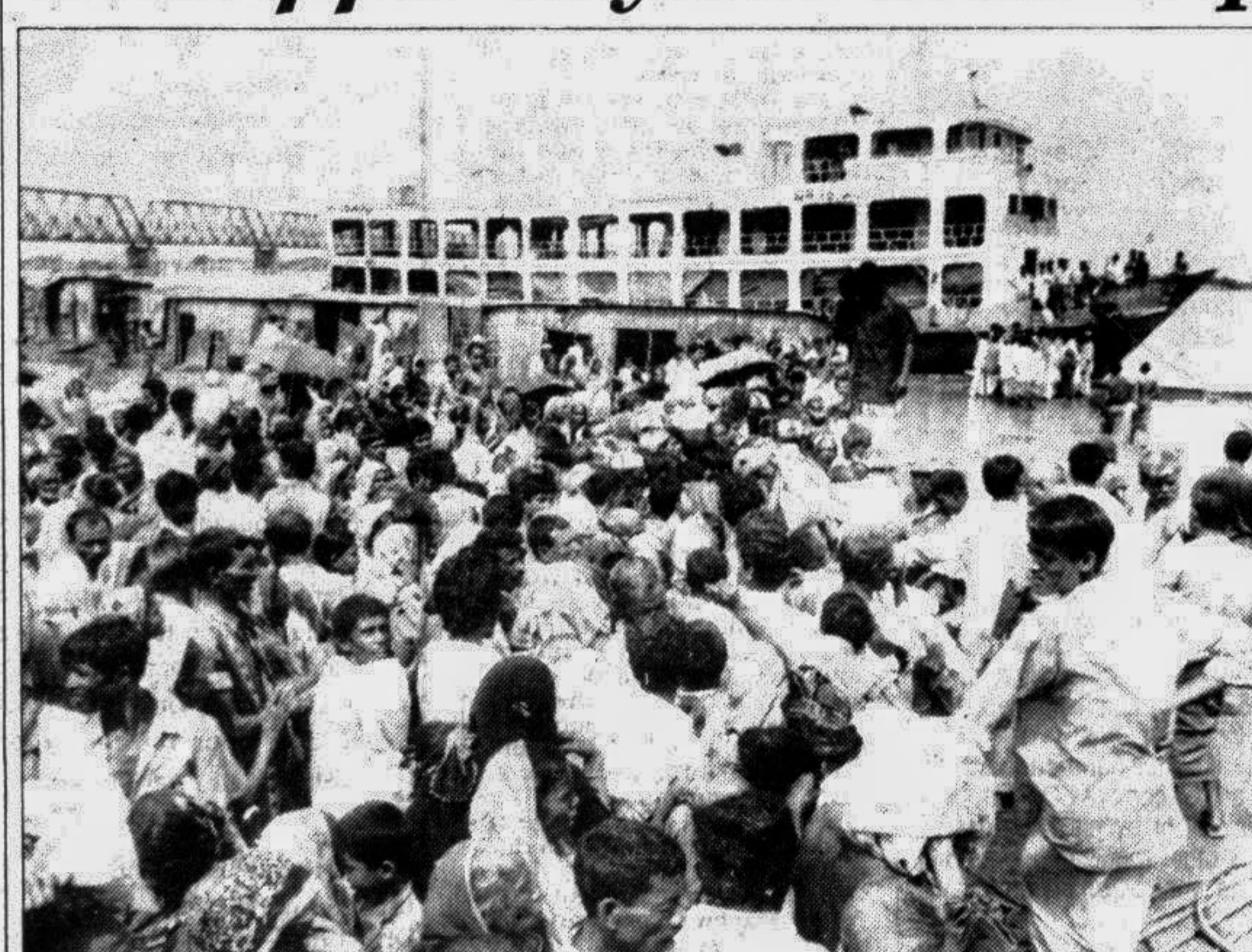
By Staff Correspondent

Two policemen of Lalbagh thana were suspended on Wednesday when two detainees escaped from Lalbagh thana custody that morning.
Police, however, failed to track down any of the fugitives, arrested on Tuesday, till filing of this report last night.
The suspended officials were ASI Mukhlesur Rahman, the duty officer for the previous night, and constable Ismail, the sentry of the thana custody. Besides, a departmental case were filed against them, a police official said.
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BGMEA demands one day weekly holiday

BGMEA yesterday urged the government to declare one day weekly holiday and withdraw 0.25 per cent advance tax from the garment exporters, reports UNB.
The two-day weekly holiday keeps the export oriented industries away from international trade for three days as Sunday is international holiday. BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Quddus said.
He sought the Prime Minister's cooperation in this regard to help the garment sector overcome huge losses caused by flood.
The BGMEA president termed realisation of 0.25 per cent advance tax from the garment exporters "illogical" and demanded it be withdrawn.

Relief far beyond their expectation



WAITING FOR GODOT: People in thousands throng for relief goods to be unloaded from a ship at Ashuganj yesterday. — Star photo

By Gobinda Bar, back from Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria

Rashida, 27, was in an ecstasy as she received a sackful of relief goods, ensuring food for her six-member family for the next few days while some of the flood-hit people who did not get the relief, were crying out of deprivation.
Joy and frustration charged the environment together as the volunteers of Impact Foundation distributed a 22-kg packet of various items in daily necessities for each of the flood affected families of Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria sadar thana Thursday.
The Foundation gave relief materials to some 1200 families.
The heavy sack containing six kg of rice, five kg flour, 2 kg pulse, 1 kg potato, 2 kg salt, 1 litre edible oil, 1 saucepan, 1 bucket, five packets of ORS, six packets of Vitamin-A, six packets of deworming tablet, 50 pieces of water purifying tablet, one packet matches and one packet of candle brought a beacon of hope to the flood-hit people.
People who gathered at the Ashuganj Ferryghat told this correspondent that such a big package of relief goods, as they
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Essentials sell at much above pre-flood prices

By Naimul Haq

Prices of most of the essentials remained high in different city markets yesterday, much above the pre-flood prices.
Prices of rice and spices had soared by 15 to 20 per cent.
IRRI rice, sold at Tk 12 per kg before the flood, now costs Tk 15-16 per kg.
Najirshail is now selling at Tk 24 per kg against the pre-flood prices of Tk 19-20 and pajjam between Tk 17 and 18 against Tk 15 before the flood.
Jhingashail is selling at Tk 20 per kg against pre-flood price of Tk 18 and imported minikit between Tk 19 and 21 against Tk 18.
Kataribhog is being sold at Tk 33-34 per kg compared to Tk 29 and 30 earlier. Basmati is now selling at Tk 39-40 per kg against Tk 32-34 and local variety 'Biplob' at Tk 16-17 against the pre-flood price of Tk 15.
Prices of pulses also remain high. Mugh now sells between Tk 40 and 42 per kg compared to Tk 36 earlier and masur at Tk 36 against Tk 33.
Prices of rice at Gulshan, Mahakhali, Karwan Bazar, New Market and Mohammadpur Town Hall market are yet to re-

turn to the pre-flood level.
A trader at Mahakhali market said, "I bought IRRI rice at Tk 640 a maund against the pre-flood price of Tk 540 from Kachukhet rice market. Pajjam cost me Tk 1360 a bag (85 kg) last week from the same market against Tk 1275 before the flood."
A trader at New Market said, "Last week I bought najirshail at Tk 1,680 per maund from Badamtal against the pre-flood prices of Tk 1440."
Another trader said, "We are expecting rice prices to fall in about a week's time then stock at Badamtal, Moulavibazar and other wholesale markets is adequate."
A two kg packet of ata (white) is selling at Tk 33 compared to Tk 25 earlier.
Garlic (single clove) is selling between Tk 70 and 75 per kg against Tk 65 before the floods and big size (more than one clove) garlic costs between Tk 48 and 50 compared to Tk 45 earlier.
Onion price which jumped to between Tk 50 and 60 per kg a week ago is now selling between Tk 34 and 36. The price was Tk
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