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## DCC crash programme to repair 400 km roads

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has taken up a 15-day crash programme to repair 400 km of city roads damaged by the

Some 30 contractors have been given the task, three for each of 10 zones, of making the roads fit for smooth movement of vehicular traffic on an emergency basis.

The work will be completed in 15 days at a cost of Tk 10

Mayor Mohammad Hanif told UNB yesterday that work for repairing roads has already been started in some areas

#### Gold worth Tk 20 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent Customs personnel at Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold worth about Tk 20 lakh from a passenger of an Iran Air flight from Dubai in the early hours of yesterday.

Twenty six gold bars weighting 10 tolas each were recovered from inside the shoes of the passenger, a resident of Kotwali thana area in Chittagong.

On suspicion, Customs officials challenged the passenger when he was crossing the green channel and recovered the gold. A departmental case was filed in this connection, Customs sources said.

#### Balu river

From Page 1

by the first week of October. The scheme will be completed in phases. The Prime Minister herself will supervise the scheme. The members of the armed forces will also be integrated in the construction work, the meeting decided. She also directed to quickly

start repairing the city roads through Food for Work and test relief programmes. She said the national highways would now be constructed much above the flood water levels.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Flood Control Minister Abdur Razzak, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim. Communications Minister Anwar Hossain, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad and secretaries concerned and high officials.

## where flood waters receded. "We are trying to make the

roads just fit for traffic movement on an emergency basis. The real work will take time for which more than Tk 200 crore will be required," said the

> "Our main thrust now is to repair the roads, clean garbage, check mosquito menace and restore street lights in areas where 400 switches had gone under water," he added.

Hanif said DCC was dedicated to relief work and feeding the destitute who have taken shelter in different schools and colleges in the city. DCC opened 290 shelters for flood victims where 2,26,541 are given food everyday.

He said, 72,156 people were affected by diarrhoea in the city's flood shelters. More than 4,75,000 ORS, 2,75,500 water purifying tablets were distributed among them.

## Tk 25cr house building grant for flood victims

The government has initially allocated Tk 25 crore as house building grant for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting at the relief ministry yesterday with Finance Minister SAMS Kibria in the chair. Food and Agriculture Minis-

ter Begum Matia Chowdhury. and State Minister for Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque were also present at the meeting.

## BKB starts disbursing Tk 600 crore farm loan

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has started disbursement of agricultural loan of Tk 600 crore from its own fund to accelerate post-flood rural economic activities, reports BSS.

This is part of Tk 3,270 crore government commitment towards post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme to generate employment opportunities for farm labourers in rural areas.

Earlier, the bank instructed its branches to disburse the loan immediately with the recession of flood waters, officials of the bank said yesterday.

## FFW programme

foodgrains. Another 10 lakh tons are under the process of import from India, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, she added

Of the imported rice, 37,845 tons are now being unloaded from five ships at Chittagong port. Another 1.4 lakh tons are expected to reach the port by the end of September and beginning of October.

The government has already received assurances of food aid totaling 9.5 lakh tons. The food aid may eventually stand at 15

A ship, carrying 15,000 metric tons of wheat from the World Food Programme (WFP). is also being unloaded now at the Chittagong port. Two more ships with a total of 52,500 tons of WFP wheat are expected in early October.

The food and agriculture minister said 15 to 20 lakh tons of foodgrains will also be imported in the private sector apart from aid and import by the government.

Some 2.18 lakh tons of foodgrains, imported by private entrepreneurs, will start reaching the country from October 15. Matia informed that the cost of import of seeds and fertilisers for rehabilitation pro-

Tk 269.56 crore. With this, the total foreign aid requirement in agriculture stands at Tk 554.26

gramme has been estimated at

Donor agencies have been informed about the needs during meetings on Friday and yesterday, she said.

She told the newsmen that the prolonged floods in two phases had damaged standing crops on 14.5 lakh hectares that included expected production of 20 lakh tons of rice costing Tk 3,000 crore.

A loss of Tk 63.59 crore has also been incurred in 45 projects of the Agriculture Ministry, the minister said. The Planning Ministry assured to provide Tk 35.21 crore to make up the damages in the projects.

Besides, she informed, 14 fresh projects have been taken to help the agriculture rehabilitation programmes. Estimated expenditure of the projects is Tk 666.96 crore, including project

aid of Tk 281.90 crore. She said the government has already allocated Tk 21.16 crore as part of the rehabilitation programme in agriculture. 'We are examining the possibility of providing the farmers with fuel for irrigation at free of

# Villages under silt

From Page 1

might just wash us away while we were sleeping," he said. The Jamuna stretches over miles from Char Ishapasha where the horizon could be seen on all directions. The Jamuna originates in Tibet in the name of Tasanpo and winds it way through Arunachal Pradesh and the Assam Valley. It enters Bangladesh at Nunkhaoa point under Kurigram district. From Nunkhaoa up to Bahadurabadghat it is known as the Brahmaputra. Then from there upto the downstream of

Aricha it is known as Jamuna. According to the former Director of Bangladesh Water Development Board, Abdul Matin, there has always been high concentration of sediment in the river Brahmaputra.

"The high concentration of sediment mainly comes from the Assam Valley where many tributaries join the river and also erosion is often present,"

Matin said. Commenting on the huge silt deposits at Ishapasha and other villages, he said it was 'extraordinary'. He added that Jamuna has always been notorious for its rapid shoal formation but "to bury a village by ten feet is something extraordi-

Explaining the possible cause, he said due to 'congestion' at the Bangabandhu Bridge in the upstream, the water might have flowed in high velocity and then as it spread, the current receded and caused the

lages. As the villagers toiled to remove the alluvial soil from their homes, they said they were happy with the silt deposits. This soil is extremely rich and we can grow anything

we want," said Ruhul Amin. "Unfortunately seeds for cultivation were not available in the market. We want to sow ground nuts here but the price of one maund of seed has gone up

to Tk 2,000," said Amin. They said in addition to Char Ishapasha, Neorgacha and Baliapara under Tangail district and Barowala, Boalkandi, Sthalchar, Brishtipur, Chaluhara, Dashaikka and Muradpur under Sirajganj district were also buried under five to ten feet of silt.

## Help Bangladesh, Europarliament urges members

The European Parliament has urged its member states and the European Commission to channel resources to Bangladesh to help carry out its massive post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports APB.

In a resolution adopted on Thursday, the Belgium-based parliament also asked the European Commission to mobilise additional resources from its headquarters to meet immediate humanitarian needs of the affected people in the

Initially the Commission has provided aid worth ECU one million to assist the flood vic-

## Kidnapping of businessman: DU forms two probe bodies

By DU Correspondent The Dhaka University authorities have formed a threemember committee to investigate the incident of kidnapping of a business man and detaining him at the Surya Sen Hall of the university for ransom.

The probe body, led by Prof. Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, has been asked to submit its report within ten days. The other members of the committee are Prof. AFM Yusuf Haider and Prof. M Saifullah Bhuiyan. Earlier, the provost of Surya

Sen Hall formed another probe body comprising senior house tutors of the hall to investigate the incident.

## Non-tribals to be rehabilitated along with Chakma

refugees RANGAMATI, Sept 20: De-

spite objections of PCJSS, a meeting of the Task Force today decided to rehabilitate the nontribals living in three hill districts along with Chakma refugees returned from India. reports UNB. The meeting, held in the Cir-

cuit House, was presided over by Dipankar Talukder MP, Chairman of the Task Force on tribal refugees.

#### Bir Bahadur MP made chairman of CHT Dev Board

Bir Bahadur MP has been appointed chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, reports UNB.

The order will be effective immediately, said an official announcement yesterday.

## Relief quota

From Page 1 the two thanas in his con-

stituency while 45 MT were allotted for the constituency of Matia Chowdhury and 45 MT for the Sadar thana. Out of the total allocation of

575 MT of foodgrains, only 60 MT and 47 MT were allotted for Shribordi and Jhenaigati thanas respectively. The ministers' constituency got 211.432 MT, he claimed.

Of Tk six lakh in cash, only Tk 48000 and Tk 42000 were al located to the two thanas in his constituency while Tk 1,90,000 was allotted for the constituency of the Matia Chowd-

hury, Bari alleged. He further alleged that Matia Chowdhury shifted the distribution of food under VGD cards to her Nakla-Nalitabari constituency after one month's operation in his constituency.

Mr Bari said that he was completely sidelined in the district by Matia Chowdhury and if the situation continued he would not be able to come out in the next election.

"I can not even inform the Prime Minister the actual situation because of Matia Chowdhury," Bari said.

He said he will not seek Awami League nomination for contesting the next election if Matia Chowdhury seeks nomination from the party.

#### Blast kills 4 From Page 1

when asked whether vibration created by the explosion of gas pipeline underneath the building caused the collapse. He, however, did not give any reply when asked what made him so certain that the incident had no link with the burst of gas pipeline.

Prof Hussain Ali, head of Civil Engineering Department of the BUET, when contacted told The Daily Star, "Recession of flood water may have created some problem in the foundation soil of the building, leading to its collapse.

"But the explosion of gas pipeline underneath the building can be a cause for the collapse of the building," he said. UNB adds: Abdur Rab, a

truck driver and a resident of the building returned home just after the incident. He alleged that the gas line developed leak about one year back and even caught fire once. But the leak was not repaired, he alleged.



Children with collected polythene bags waiting for wheat in front of the Sabujmati Healthcare Centre at Khilgaon in the city. The centre initiated a programme to distribute three kg of wheat in exchange of one kg of polythene bags to clear roads and clogged drains - Star photo in the area.

## Steps against polythene menace soon

The government will take effective steps immediately to control the use of polythene bags that are clogging drainage system in the capital and elsewhere in the country, reports UNB. The environment and forest ministry yesterday decided to convene an inter-ministerial meeting soon to control the use of polythene bags in the interest of the public health and better environment. Ever-lasting polythene bags not only obstruct drainage and sewerage systems but also weaken the

fertility of the lands and hasten the process of environment pollution. It is being observed that flood water in the city is not receding quickly as polythene bags are hampering the drainage system, and spreading water-borne diseases. In 1994, decisions were taken to control the use of polythene bags, but those were not imple-

## 'Tk 1432cr needed to repair feeder roads, highways'

Around Tk 1432 crore will be needed for repairing national and regional highways, and feeder roads that have been badly damaged by the severe

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain disclosed it in an interview with UNB at his office yesterday afternoon.

For immediate restoration of the road communication network, he said, about Tk 477 crore would be required.

Anwar Hossain said for short-term rehabilitation work it would need at least Tk 318 crore while Tk 636 crore would be required for longer term. The Minister said work had

already been started to repair the damaged roads.

The Minister said about 70 per cent of highways and feeder

## 10 hurt as BCL factions clash in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Sept 20: Ten people, including some policemen, were injured in a clash between rival factions of pro-Awami League Chhatra League in Banarupa area here on Friday evening, reports APB.

A BCL worker Sumon, 19, was arrested from the town for his alleged involvement in the

Of the injured, two were rushed to the Rangamati Sadar Hospital with critical condi-Police said, two rival fac-

tions of local BCL, as a sequel to their-intra-organisational conflict, started chasing each other at around 7 pm. Witnesses said, activists of the rival groups, equipped with

sharp weapons, were engaged in the battle which later spread across the town. Police personnel were seen watching the fight without doing anything, local people alleged. Later, Army personnel

control

brought the situation under

have already been restored initially, but he said all the damaged road sections, bridges and culverts immediately need to be repaired He said although water has

links throughout the country

ways, but the flood water along the roadsides is hampering the repairing "It will take some more time to gear up full fledged repair

receded from roads and high-

work," the Minister said. He said the length of roads submerged under the flood water was 9447.70 kilometre while a total of 4269.23 kilometres road embankments and 4078.31 kilometres of pavements were damaged

A total of 372 bridges and culverts were fully damaged while 820 bridges and culverts were partially damaged. The number of damaged ferry ghats were 54, he informed.

The Roads and Highways Department have about 20,287 kilometre road network including 2862 kilometres of National Highway, 1565 kilometres of regional highway and 15.860 kilometres of feeder roads.

#### 4 killed as gunmen open fire on worshippers in Lahore

LAHORE, Sept 20: Gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on a crowd of Shi ite Muslim worshippers Sunday in the Punjab province, killing four and wounding at least eight, some of them critically, a militant Shi'ite organization said, reports AP.

Four men on two motorcycles fired into the crowd with automatic weapons as the Shi'ite Muslims were gathered to hear prayers in the town of Kotaddu, about 260 kilometer (160 miles) south of Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab, witnesses said.

## Corruption by Natore poura chairman alleged

NATORE, Sept 20: Seven out of twelve commissioners of Natore Pourashava have decided to "refrain from extending any cooperation" to Pourashava chairman Khondoker Jubeyer Hossain because of his alleged corruption, misappropriation of funds and abuse of

The decision was announced by the seven commissioners at a press conference held at a local hotel today.

They said that they had complained to the LGRD ministry earlier bringing 13 allegations against the chairman.

At the press conference, they also produced a list of alleged acts of corruption. They alleged that the Pourashava chairman, without holding meeting of the Poura Council, had implemented de-

velopment projects involving huge funds "much of which were misused. The commissioners also appealed to the district administration for security, claiming that they were being threatened by "terrorists" of the chairman,

## World bodies

a local leader of the Jatiya

From Page 1 and IV fluid and other drugs. But the problem is reaching the affected people in the remote

areas in time. According to doctors, skin' diseases like scabies, various fungal infections, hepatitis, jaundice, conjunctivits, typhoid, pneumonia are the common post-flood ailments.

So far, diarrhoea has claimed 267 lives, and attacked over 2.5 lakh people since the flooding began in mid-July, official sources said. The rate of death from diarrhoea is 0.089, the sources said.

## Flood: New moon

From Page 1

All rivers in the three major river systems - the Brahmaputra, the Ganges and the Meghna have dropped except the
Teesta at Dalia and the Gumti at Comilla.

Rivers at 40 points registered fall yesterday rose at five points and remained static at one point, it said.

The situation was gradually improving in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Gazipur, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Mymensingh, Kishoragani, Tangail, Bogra Kishoreganj, Tangail, Bogra, Gaibandha, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Habiganj and Barisal.

Free from the floods are the districts of Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Rangamati, Bandarban, Feni, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Joypurhat, Kurigram, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Pabna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Chuadanga, Pirojpur, Kushtia, Narail, Magura, Jamalpur. Sherpur and Netrakona.

In Dhaka, the situation marked further improvement although the low-lying areas surrounding the capital still remained inundated. Meanwhile, rail and road

communications between

Dhaka and rest of the country was restored with movement of inter-city and other train's as well as vehicular traffic in most of the routes, official sources said last night Bangladesh Railway sources said, rail communications

were now in full operation ex-

cept in a few sections where re-

pair work was going on in full Roads and Highways Department sources said buses. trucks and other small vehicles were now plying in routes linking Dhaka with rest of the country but repair works were going on speedily on a number of spots damaged by flood wa-

terminal sources told BSS that inter city buses and trucks as well as other small vehicles were now plying from Dhaka to other major cities without any major interruption.

Gabtali and Syedabad bus

Diarrhoea claimed 13 more lives in flood-affected districts

yesterday while 9,411 more were attacked. Health Directorate said 267 people have so far died of diarrhoea and 2,87,028 were af-

fected in the flood-hit 52 dis-

tricts since July 15.

#### Rubel murder

From Page 1

Meanwhile, the CID investigators are likely to submit a memo of evidence in the case to the public prosecutor and the DMP Deputy Commissioner (South) this week as per rule.

After receiving the opinions of the PP and the DC (South). the CID investigators will submit the chargesheet in the case early next month, competent sources said.

The CID have so far questioned some 65 people, including the accused persons and the people connected with the inci-

## AC Akram

From Page 1

The DB police took him to the roof-top of the building and tossed him to the ground, the complainant said, adding that the victim later died at the Orthopedic Hospital on January

## AL won't use army

From Page 1 government will continue its efforts for the development of the armed forces.

The members of the armed forces have already earned name and fame at home and abroad by dint of their professional skill, training and discipline, she said.

Regarding the promotion of army officials, the Prime Minister who is in charge of the Defence Ministry said professional excellence will be the main criteria to judge the com-"Professional competence

academic qualification, quality of leadership, and honesty will be considered for promotion of an official." The government, Hasina said, has already taken some

sion, development and modernisation of the armed forces. Thanking the members of the armed forces for their full co-operation and dedicated service to flood affected people the prime minister said, with united efforts of the people and

important decisions for expan-

the armed forces the nation has boldly faced the severe flooding. She praised the army for their hard work in protecting the Rajshahi town flood protection embankment, Tarakandi embankment, DND embankment and others.

Hasina also praised the army for their emergency work for restoring power supply and removing water logging in the capital, saying that power has been a big problem for the country for last few years. For the inefficiency of the

past governments, the donors stopped funding the power sector, which aggravated the problem, she said.

With frantic effort of the present government, she said, the donors have released funds for the power sector.

The government has also allowed the private sector for investment in generating power, she said with assurance that this problem will be solved

Referring to the involvement of the armed forces in the Ashrayan project undertaken by the government, Hasina said more houses will be built for the

homeless under this project. Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman and all Generals of the army were present at the meeting.



## Investment Corporation of Bangladesh Head Office, Dhaka

## Notice of the Twenty Second Annual **General Meeting** Notice is hereby given that the Twenty Second Annual General Meeting of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) will be held on

Wednesday, the 21st October, 1998 at 3-00 PM at Hotel Purbani International Ltd., 1, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka to transact the following business: To place the minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 30th October, 1997 for information;

2. To receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Corporation for the year from 1st July 1997 to 30th June 1998 and report on the workings

of the Corporation for the said year, To declare dividend:

> To elect 4 (Four) Directors; and Any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board of Directors Md Fayekuzzaman

GD-758

Dated: 16th September, 1998 The Register of Transfer of Shares of Investment Corporation of

Bangladesh shall remain closed from the 11th October, 1998 to the 21st October, 1998 (both days inclusive); The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and in the case of an individual shareholder under the hand of the shareholder or his attorney authorized in this behalf by a Power of Attorney, and in the

case of an institution under its Common Seal or under the hand of its Attorney authorized in this behalf, A proxy shall not be valid unless it is dated and properly stamped prior to its lodgement with the Corporation before 72 (Seventy-two) hours of

the time fixed for the meeting; No person shall be appointed a proxy nor shall any person act as such, who is not a shareholder qualified to vote at the meeting in

respect of which the proxy is given.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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#### EU: Frozen fish plants Asked if the EU ban on fish products in 1991 and later in were not maintaining EU imports from Asian countries 1994 gave a three-year time was prompted by some specific health standards. The ban on frame for fish processing units

export by Bangladesh was withdrawn in February this year with only a limited number of certified companies now in the frozen food export business with EU countries. Of an estimated 30,000 tons

exported by Bangladesh, nearly

14,000 tons to the EU countries

alone, bringing in around Tk 600 crore in foreign exchange. Poudelet said he was confident Bangladesh would continue to follow the high health standards and there should be no concern or worry if the EU health guidelines are strictly

adhered to.

than 40 fish processing plants in the country, were in the business of frozen foods export. However, the number now stands at only 17 following inspection and approval of health and sanitary standards set by the EU. The EU decided to frame its

own sanitary standards for fish

Prior to the EU ban, more

in exporting countries to adopt necessary legislation, determine competent authorities for certifying fish products and enforcing stringent health and hygienic rules in fish processing establishments. Frozen food exporters now have to obtain EU compliance certificates of Fish Inspection

from the relevant authorities in their countries... According to the new rules set by the EU. Bangladesh after observance of the procedures have re-started exporting frozen fish to the EU countries, and actual shipment started

only recently.

and Quality Control (FIQC)

President of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association, Golam Mostafa, when contacted said. "If the EU team comes to Bangladesh, they will be satisfied with our legislation, laboratories of competent authorities and the standard of the factories. We also urge the EU to enlarge the list of competent factories in Bangladesh.

reports on health hazards. Poudelet without naming any country said, "We found some contaminated products. He, however, added, 'We have not been reported about any illness. There is no preset rules of

in a EU country finds that a product is contaminated, the entire container is rejected." Poudelet said 95 per cent of the frozen shrimp containers arrive and enter the market without being checked. However, five per cent of the randomly checked samples could

ruin in reputation and image of

both an exporter and his coun-

reporting to the European

Union. If a specific port of entry

"It is not only a matter of acquiring and earning confidence of consumers of the European Union but retaining the set standard stringently and rigorously. A single contaminated shipment could create a fresh round of health concern and also ruin business for any company or country."

# From Our Correspondent