



Almost the entire highway at Baridhara is occupied by the helpless flood affected people. — Star photo

Experts committee on flood control measures formed

A 32-member experts committee was formed on Monday to contribute to the flood control measures in future, reports UNB.

The "Committee on Study of Floods and Water Management" was formed at a meeting of the experts at the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor's office.

Architect Majharul Islam presided over the meeting, organised by the National Relief Committee.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Barister Amir-ul-Islam have been made the joint convenors of the Committee.

Members of the committee are: Architect Majharul Islam, AMA Muhi, Prof Rahman Sobhan, Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, Prof KB Sajjadur Rashid, Prof ATM Zahurul Haque, Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof Khan-daker Nizam Uddin, Dr Aynun Nishat, Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya, QI Siddiqi (LGED), Dr Abdul Mosabbir Chowdhury (SPARSO), Khalilur Rahman (JRC), AR Khan (DG, Environment Department), Engr Abul Kashem, Dr Nazrul Islam (Khulna University), Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Prof Shamsul Huda Harun, SAKM Shaif, Dr Subhas Das, architect Yafes Osman, Dr Kazi Tamanna, prof Khairul Hossain, Dr SK Saha, advocate Syed Ahmed, Prof Saroj Kumar Saha, Prof Khairul Islam, Dr Nowajish, Monayem Sarker and Dr Kazi Farooq Ahmed.

BRAC starts rehabilitation programme

As flood waters are receding fast, BRAC has started the first stage of its rehabilitation programme with cleaning of relief camps in the city since Monday, says a press release.

The measure was taken as the immediate preventive measure against diseases before the victims leave the camps for their respective homes. Removal of garbage and pumping out of stagnant water from different parts of the city have also been taken up.

Among various problems faced by the marooned slum dwellers, it was revealed that women were the worst sufferers as far as toilets were concerned. Setting up of community toilets in the slum areas, exclusively for women and children, have also started by BRAC. Cleaning and installation of new tubewells, part of the first phase of the programme has also been taken up.

Meanwhile, relief operation that started since last week of July, is also going on.



Stench from stagnant flood water at Rampura Chowdhuripara is polluting the environment. — Star photo

More donations to PM's Relief Fund

Different organisations and individuals including the Cabinet ministers on Tuesday donated over Taka 34 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood affected people across the country, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the donations at her office and thanked the donors for their gestures.

The members of the Cabinet donated their one month's salary totalling Taka three lakh 67 thousand 200.

The other donors include Shahadat Hossain of PIL (BD) Limited Taka six lakh, Capital Murcary, Shirt Corporation Taka four lakh 69 thousand, Aftabul Islam of Computers Limited Taka three lakh, Chinkew Roaza, Chairman, Local Government Rangamati Taka two lakh 50 thousand, chief adviser of Janata Insurance Taka two lakh, Kafulluddin of Pedrollo Pump Taka two lakh, Fazul Haque, Managing Director of Glaxo Taka one lakh 22 thousand, Abdullah Mohiuddin of Flight Engineer and Navigator Association Taka one lakh, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority Taka one lakh, Hazaribagh Chemicals Merchants Association Taka one lakh and Oxford International School Taka one lakh.

Decorator Owners Association, Benarasi Merchants Association, Hosna Tobacco Private Limited, Bashiruddin Adarshar School, Saifur Rahman Swapan, president of Chhatra League of Bandar unit

Everybody wants Ashuganj to be made thana

By Gobinda Bar back from Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria

People in Ashuganj feel deprived as their demand for a thana has not been realised in the last couple of years.

A developing area with various important infrastructures, Ashuganj is a part of Brahmanbaria Sadar thana.

Talking to this correspondent, common people, local leaders of different political parties, peoples representatives and administrative officials echoed their demand to immediately declare the area as a thana.

The developing business centre with around 100 rice mills, a power plant, fertiliser factory, and a big silo, has to face problems in getting help of local administration at the Brahmanbaria thana which is about 24 kilometres away, they said.

Local leaders of the ruling Awami League, Awami Jubo

of Chittagong, Gazi Alam Bhuiyan and two children Mariam Jahan and Alif Moinuddin, among others, donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Besides, Amir Sharma of Motorola Electronics in Singapore donated 100 units of Motorola Walkie-talkie and "Muktuddher Chetanaskita Chakurijibi Forum" of Bangladesh Secretariat, yesterday donated Taka 27,400.

Attack on JP activists in Comilla

COMILLA, Sept 22: Six people, including five Jatiya Party activists sustained injuries when their autorickshaw came under attack at Bagmara Bazar here on Tuesday, reports APB.

The injured include JP workers Amirul Islam Khokon, Abdul Khaleque, Jamal, Shahin and tempo driver Dulal. They were rushed to the Comilla General Hospital.

Local residents said, the JP men were conducting a campaign for their scheduled public meeting on September 24.

JP supporters blamed the ruling Awami League for the attack and barricaded the Comilla-Chandpur road near Lalmai for two hours protesting the incident.

A case was filed with Lakshmi police. None was arrested till filing of this report.

JS body on Shipping Ministry meets

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Shipping Ministry yesterday discussed the carrying of foodgrains of the Food Ministry and fuel of BPC in the Shipping Corporation's vessels, reports UNB.

The meeting with Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali MP in the chair also discussed the steps taken at the Chittagong port to expedite the activities of the port. It was informed that priority has been given to unloading of foodgrains.

Besides, problems of Marine Academy, salaries and allowances of the trainers, feeder service of Shipping Corporation and purchase of mother tankers, were also discussed.

Standing Committee members Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob, Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Devnath Shambhu, ABM Abul Kashem, Meem Shakhawat Ali Daru, Gias Uddin Quader Chowdhury, Rafiqul Islam Bakul and Zafrul Islam Chowdhury attended the meeting held at Sangsad Bhaban.

Officer-in-Charge of the Ashuganj police outpost Abu Bakar Talukder said police also have to face difficulties in discharging responsibilities due to absence of a thana.

"We are faced with shortage of forces as the seven remote unions and some other important infrastructures are looked after by only 20 police men," the OC said.

A number of common people, Ashuganj sadar Union Parishad chairman Harunur Rashid and Jubo Dal General Secretary Golam Hossain also echoed the same demand while talking to this correspondent.

Two held with illegal arms in Moulvibazar

MOULVIBAZAR, Sept 22: Police arrested two youngmen for their alleged involvement in keeping illegal arms here on Sunday, reports APB.

The arrested were identified as Jasim Uddin and Abdul Mukit.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Lava video-shop on Old Hospital Road in the town, arrested them and recovered some arms from their possession.

A case was filed with Moulvibazar police in this connection.

Hartal called in Sylhet on Oct 1

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 22: The 'Sahaba Sainik Parishad', a local madrasa based organisation has called an 8-hour hartal in Sylhet on October 1 to press for immediate arrest and hanging of the feminist writer Taslima Nasrin. The programme was announced from a rally held at the Court-point area in the district headquarters on Monday afternoon.

Moulana Habibur Rahman, Principal of the Kazirbazar Madrasa of Sylhet town who is also the President of 'Sahaba Sainik Parishad' presided over the rally and declared an award of Taka one lakh for the man who would be able to hand over Taslima Nasrin to the Sylhet Kowli thana. He said, "we will launch a greater movement if the government fails to arrest her immediately."

Former MP of Islami Oikya Jote Moulana Obaidul Haque said that, the past government failed to protect Taslima and the present one will also fail to do so. He alleged that Taslima had hurt the feelings of the Muslims. She had hit the religious sentiments of lakhs of people, so she should be punished.

A memorandum to the Prime Minister was also sent yesterday by the president of the organisation demanding immediate arrest of Taslima.

Later, a big procession was also brought out in the town.

Pakistan will donate 1,000 tons of rice

Pakistan will donate one thousand tons of rice and medicines worth 5 lakh Pak rupee for the flood victims of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Informing this to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka said the goods would be reaching the capital soon. Earlier Pakistan Embassy donated Taka one lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund.

Meanwhile, UNICEF is sending nearly 119 tons of biscuits from its office in Peshawar, Pakistan. Foreign Office sources said 118,715 kg of BP-5 biscuits from UNICEF Afghanistan Programme Office, Peshawar, will be sent to Dhaka shortly through charter flights.

United Arab Emirates, which has responded to the appeal by sending a plane load of relief goods on September 20, will be sending two more cargo flights carrying humanitarian aid for the flood victims. The flights are scheduled to arrive here on September 27 and 30 the sources said.

Bangladesh embassies in Bangkok and Tashkent have informed of the plan to send cash and kind after those were collected from Bangladesh nationals living in Thailand and Uzbekistan respectively.

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Lend helping hand, please

Different socio-cultural and voluntary organisations yesterday continued relief operations among the distressed humanity in the flood affected areas, report agencies.

Apart from the distribution of relief materials, these organisations are also extending medicare services like providing oral saline, medicines and water purifying tablets to the ailing people in the flood affected areas.

The Rotary Club of Gulshan distributed emergency relief packets of rice, chira, gur, potato and bread among the affected people of Gazaria thana under Munshiganj district. About 220 families of three villages — Balurchar, Nayanagar and Gazaria received the relief in the first phase.

The Adampur Jute Mills unit of the Bangabandhu Parishad yesterday handed over 10,000 pieces of ruti to central leaders for distribution among the flood victims.

The Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti-jodha Sangsad distributed 30,000 packets of cooked food, 50,000 litre pure drinking water, oral saline, and life saving drugs among flood victims.

Besides, the Sangsad handed over to the members of armed forces 5,000 pieces of ruti and 250 kg gur for distribution among the flood victims in the rural areas.

The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel distributed relief goods among 1000 flood-affected people at the flood centre at Barua Alauddin Dewan High School, Dakkhin Khan Union yesterday. The relief goods included 500 sarees, 500 lungis, plenty of linens and oral salines.

Director Human Resources Azam Sultan Chaudhury, Chief

of Security Col (Retd) Zillur Rahman, President of Sonargaon Sramik Karmachari Union MMA Razzak, General Secretary Mr. Saiful Islam Khan and employees and officials of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel distributed relief among the flood victims.

The Bangladesh Mohila Krira Sangstha Complex, Society for Rule of Law Bangladesh, and Green Delta Insurance Co. Ltd. carried out relief operation for the last three days in the city's Dakkhinagan, Manikdah and Gubagh areas.

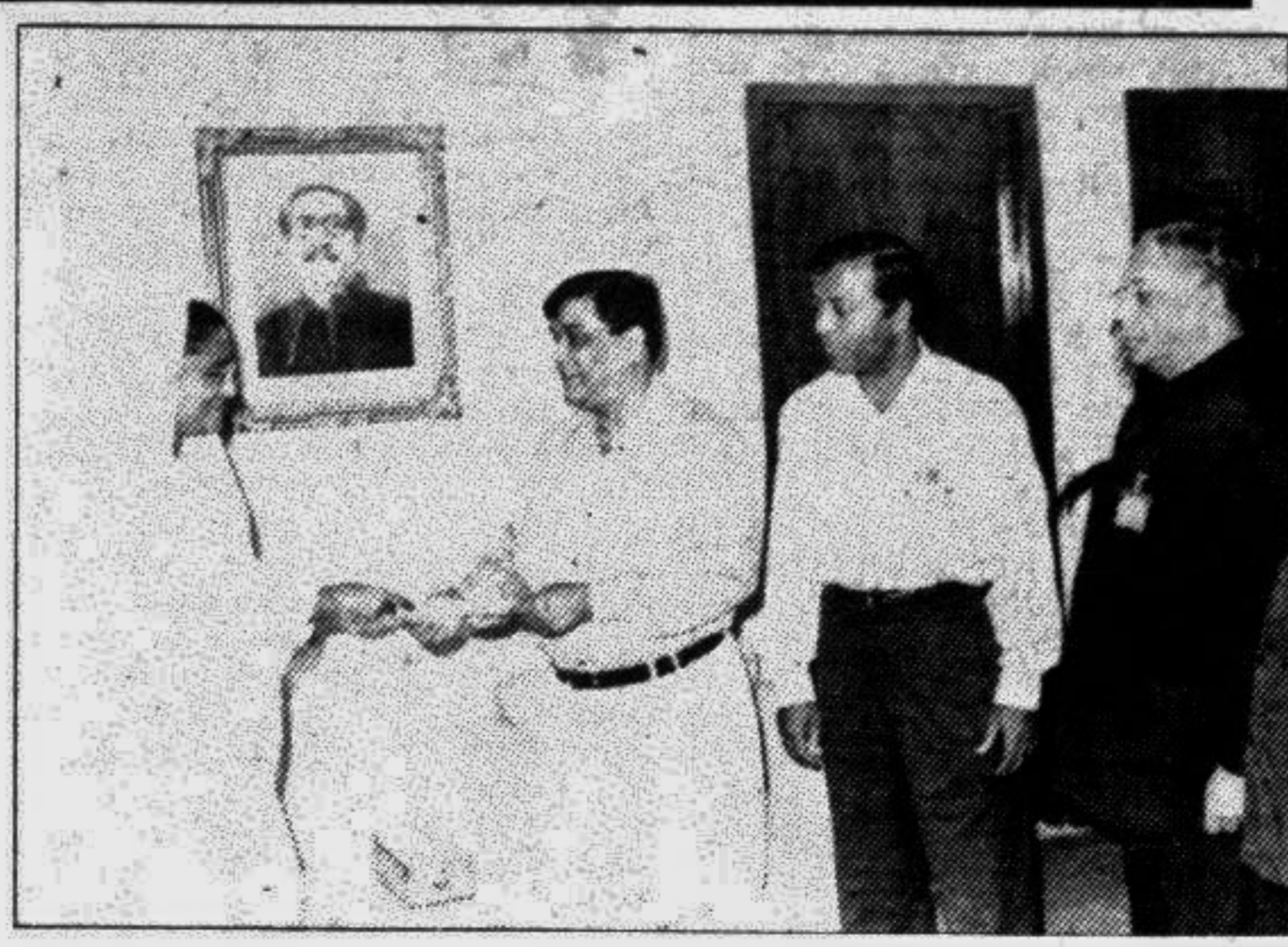
They distributed bread, chapati, gur and drinking water.

The Dhanmondi Provati Mahila Sangha has been carrying out relief operation by giving donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and distributing rice, ata, chira, gur and clothes among the flood-affected people of the Gulshan and Badda areas.

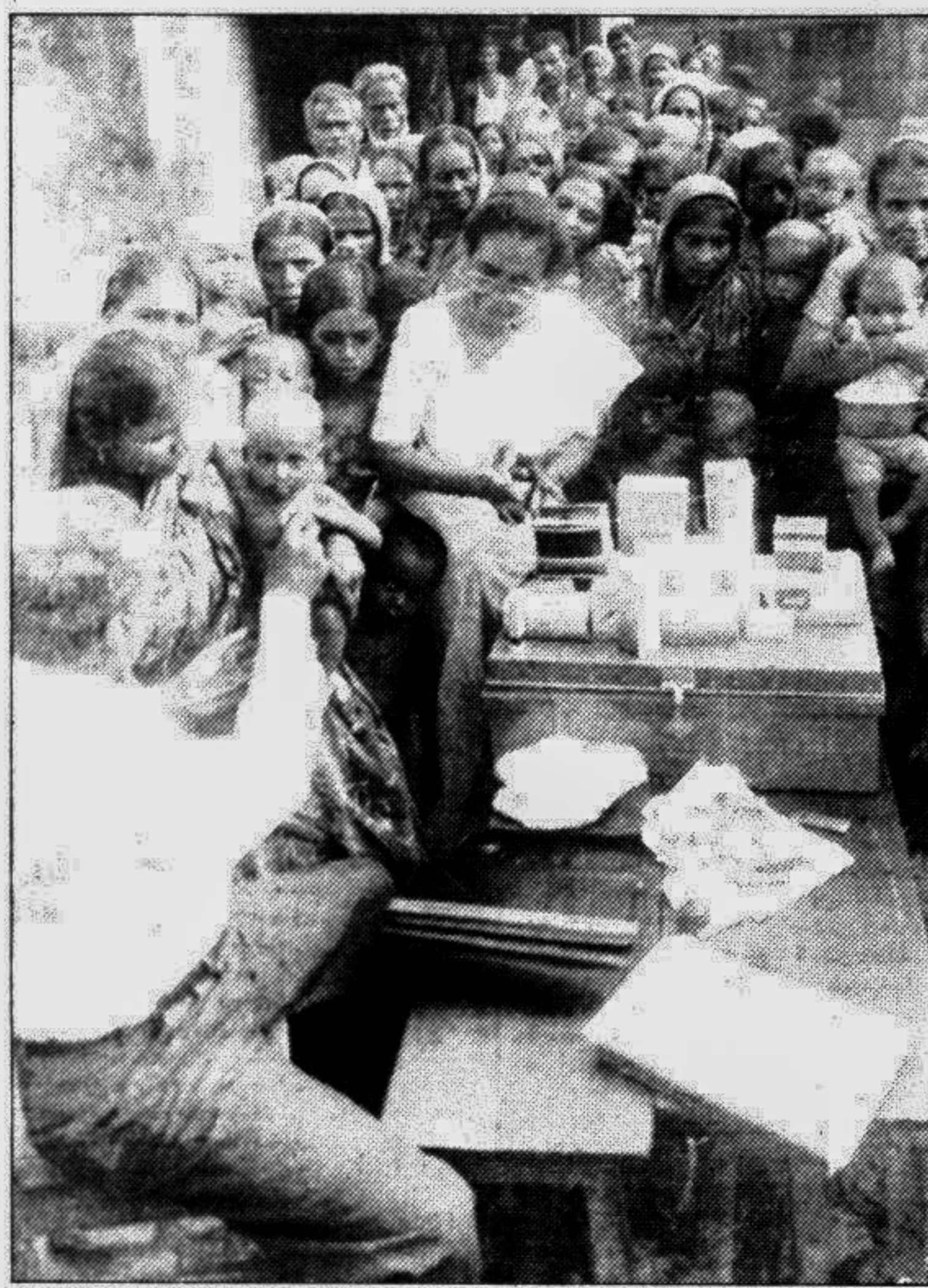
All members of the Sangha are also taking active part in the 'Chapati-Making and Distribution Project' taken by the authority of The Sultana Kamal Mahila Krira Complex of Dhanmondi.

Gono Unnayan Prochesta has taken up an emergency food supply programme to assist 15,000 flood affected families of all the 10 unions of Rajoir thana in Madaripur district. Each one of the 15,000 families has been assisted with 20 kg of rice, 3 kg of dal, 1 kg of iodised salt. This service will be completed by September 25, says a press release.

Besides, Gono Unnayan Prochesta's emergency medical teams are actively offering medical assistance in Rajoir and adjoining thanas of Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur district.



The Chief Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Limited Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury handed over a cheque for Tk 2 lakh to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday for the relief fund.



Koinonia providing healthcare services to the flood affected children at a primary school centre in Mirpur. — Star photo

Dist admn asked to ensure proper implementation of rehabilitation programme

COMILLA, Sept 22: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru today asked the district administration to ensure smooth and proper implementation of the post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports BSS.

Presiding over a meeting of the district disaster management and relief here, the minister said the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as per its commitment had undertaken all measures for rehabilitation of the flood affected people.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq, State Minister for Planning Dr. Mo-hiuddin Khan Alamgir, Whip Mujibul Haq, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance Ali Ashraf, MP, and former deputy minister for finance Fakhrul Islam Munshi.

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive to implement three-pronged reha-

Scheme to assess impact of flood on environment taken up

When a Tk 110-crore plan has been proposed for rehabilitation of forest resources damaged by flood, a scheme has also been taken up to assess its short and long-term impact on the environment, reports UNB.

"The environmental impact assessment will be for the first time in the country though flood hit us time and again," said Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury.

She told newsmen that her ministry yesterday that initially, the assessment will be conducted in capital Dhaka and later in other parts of the country in phases.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is financing the "Assessment of Environmental Impact of Flood 1998 on Dhaka City" project taken up by the Department of

Environment. It is aimed at identifying measures in different sectors to take short and long-term rehabilitation programmes and mitigation measures in an environment-friendly way.

The project will also suggest steps for pre-flood preparations, caution and decreasing damages, measures during the flood and making a profile for flood management.

The forest sector alone sustained losses to the tune of Tk 110.26 crore during this year's flood. The rehabilitation cost has been estimated at about Tk 110.16 crore.

According to officials, the losses include Tk 5.76 crore caused by damage to forests under Forest Division, Tk 92 crore to rural forests and Tk 12.5 crore to nursery.

Bangabandhu murder case

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Then the defence counsel questioned as to why did the plaintiff delay in filing the case even though Sheikh Hasina had assumed power way back in June 23, 1996 and the fact that the Indemnity Ordinance did not bar filing the case in the last 21 years.

Moreover, Khan Saifur contended, the prosecution also failed to come up with satisfactory explanation about the inordinate delay.

Pointing to the statement shared by some witnesses that Ferooq briefed the troops at Balurghat before going into the early morning operation on August 15, 1975, the defence counsel observed it is imaginary, fabricated story.

"There was no existence of ZIA airport, new airport or new airport road in 1975 as mentioned by prosecution witnesses," said the counsel and argued that the fallacy of briefing in unfounded place cannot be accepted as valid.

Referring to the witnesses' claim that they saw Ferooq on the top of a tank in front of Bangabandhu's residence on August 15, the counsel said those were full of contradictions and better not taken into account for the sake of justice.

The Lancer Unit was placed under the army headquarters, not under the command of the then army chief Maj Gen Shaful-ullah. Therefore, Gen Shaful-ullah was the competent authority to say about the movement of tanks on August 15, 1975, said the defence counsel.

Pointing to statements of prosecution witnesses, he argued that activities of the army top brasses reflected the country was under martial law and the chain of command in the army was in tact. So, the accused, a petty officer, cannot be blamed for anything as the en-

tire army was involved in the incident, contended Saifur.

He said according to witnesses the tanks could be resisted by sophisticated weapons possessed by the Infantry. The logic that the Lancers were not resisted to avoid clash cannot be accepted, for, the blood of Bangabandhu was far more valuable than that of few officers.

The counsel referred to the statement of a witness that Ferooq saved the lives of three officers — Aziz Mashrurul Huq, Capt Sharif Brig and Lt Golam Rabbani — who were confined by some soldiers and about to be killed by an order of Havildar Moslem.

"This proves that Ferooq played a neutral role and demonstrated good conduct by saving the lives of those officers," he said.

The counsel said copies of Sunday Times and Far Eastern Economic Review produced by the prosecution cannot be accepted as valid evidence because reporters concerned were not brought to the court for cross-examination.

Khan Saifur questioned the neutrality of Sirajul Huq as special public prosecutor in the Bangabandhu murder case. For, he argued, Haq who was a close and childhood friend of Bangabandhu and an MP of his party could not be neutral as expected of a public prosecutor.

"There can't be an ideal prosecution with a biased public prosecutor who did not even accept Khandaker Mustaque as President," he said.

Khan Saifur, however, failed to satisfy the court when asked how Sirajul Huq affected the accused during the trial. The defence counsel will carry on his inconclusive argument when the court resumes at 10 am today.

Flood damage in Sirajganj

Death toll 45, property worth Tk 207 cr lost in 9 thanas

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 22: Loss of property, including standing crops, due to the current flooding has been estimated at about Tk 207 crore in nine thanas of the district, said official sources, reports UNB.

The human casualty figure stood at 45, including those who died by drowning in flood water, due to snake-bite, electrocution and water-borne diseases like diarrhoea.

Unofficial sources, however, put the loss of property at about Tk 212 crore and the death toll at 97, including 35 from diarrhoeal diseases.

The flood situation meanwhile has improved to a large extent with the fall of water level in river Jamuna.

However, many of the villages are still under water and damage and casualty are likely to go up as flood waters recede from the submerged areas.

District Agriculture Extension Office said standing crops on about 25,523 hectares of land in 81 unions of nine thanas were damaged fully, and partially on another 23,891 hectares.

Some 38,365 dwelling houses were washed away due to river erosion, while another 1,45,525 houses were affected by prolonged inundation.

The number of institutions damaged fully is 1289, while another 1475 were damaged partly.

roads, paved and kutcha, were damaged entirely fully, while another 1684 km in part.

The number of trees totally destroyed or partly affected is 35,239,964. More than 12,000 poultry also perished in the flood.

Some 1,000 tube-wells were damaged completely and another 1,700 partly.

Some 10 lakh people who took shelter in 248 centres in the district have started going back to their own homes.

Some 98 mobile medical teams are working in the district, while 38 medical centres have been set up for free treatment of the affected people.

Body to probe Ctg Stadium incident

The government yesterday constituted a three-member inquiry committee headed by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police (Administration) Mohammad Fazul Haq to investigate the recent incident at Chittagong Stadium, reports BSS.

Other members of the committee are: Special superintendent of the Special Branch (SB) AHM Firoz Kabir and Special Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Phani Bhussan Chowdhury.