

Water treatment plant at Rampura opens

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday inaugurated a portable water treatment plant at Rampura in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The German government donated two portable water treatment plants to WASA to supply pure drinking water among one lakh flood affected people.

Fifteen German experts have also come to Bangladesh to operate the plants.

Another plant, out of the two, will be set up at Demra in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, the LGRD Minister said Dhaka WASA has taken steps to supply pure water in the city to check spreading of water-borne diseases.

Zillur said the worst-ever flood affected about 6,000 km supply lines of WASA. Five deep tubewells, and pumps and electric sub-stations of 42 deep tubewells.

A Tk 12.70 crore rehabilitation programme has been taken up to recover the damage.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Uwe Schramm, State Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury, LGRD Secretary A H M Abdul Hye and Executive Director of Dhaka WASA Dr Khondakar Azharul Huq were present on the occasion.

In his speech, the German envoy assured that four lakh US dollar will be provided as grant for the post-flood rehabilitation programme.

Tk 5.8 lakh donated to BNP's relief fund

Different units of BNP and organisations as well as individuals have donated over Tk 5.80 lakh and relief materials to the relief fund of BNP, reports UNB.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia received the donations at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening, said a party press release.

Lakiottullah on behalf of BNP's Italy unit handed over Tk 20 lakh in cash, Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury Tk one lakh in cheque, JASAS Pubal Bank Tk one lakh in cash, Qatar BNP unit Tk 1.10 lakh in cheque, LK Siddiqui on behalf of the Association of Engineers Bangladesh Tk 50,000 in cheque, BNP Jeddah unit Tk 10,000, Malibagh Sheba Foundation Tk 10,000 and Oxford English School Tk 2,500 to the party's relief fund.

Sakhira district BNP donated 125 maunds of rice, seven sacks of *chira*, 15,000 pieces of saree, lungi, trousers and OR saline.

Farida Rahman on behalf of Bangladesh Women Repression Complaint Cell donated rice, *ata*, flour, molasses, ORS, salt and two sacks of old clothes to the BNP relief fund.

Besides, Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Smriti Sangsad handed over 10 maund rice, 10 maund *chira* and 500 pieces of saree and lungi.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Shamsuzzaman Mintu were present on the occasion.

3 killed in Rajbari road accident

RAJBARI, Sept 25: Three people were killed and two others injured when a speeding truck rumbled a tempo on the Rajbari-Faridpur road near Goulondo crossing Thursday night, reports APB.

Police said the mishap occurred as the truck knocked down the Rajbari-bound tempo carrying passengers from Goulondo at 8:30 pm. The truck fled the scene.

Mohammad Chunnun Miah, 30, and Abdus Salam, 24, died on the spot while an unidentified man succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

Injured Abu Bakar and Shamim were now being treated at Rajbari and Faridpur Sadar hospitals.

Reazul secures 4th position in Commerce group

By Staff Correspondent

Reazul Kabir of Dhaka City College has secured fourth position in this year's HSC examinations under Dhaka Board. He got 827 marks.

Reazul also secured third position in the SSC examinations under Dhaka Board in 1996.

Son of Shafi Ullah, Reazul wants to study BBA.

Tk 43 cr flood damage Hosiery Assoc seeks support from govt

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 25: Bangladesh Hosiery Association (BHA) has sought financial support from the government to cope with the losses of the industry suffered due to the devastating floods, reports APB.

The extent of damage caused by the recent flooding, according to its preliminary survey, would be over Tk 43 crore, the press was told.

The association leaders said immediate sanctioning of small-scale loans of Tk one lakh to Tk five lakh on easy terms for water hosiery unit would help salvage this vital industrial sector.

They came up with the suggestions in the press conference here Thursday arranged to highlight the 'colossal damage' caused by the flood waters to the hosiery mills in Narayanganj, Pabna, Bhairab and Dhaka.

BHA president Alhaj Rashed Sarwar and other leaders called upon the municipal authority to take necessary steps to pump out stagnant water from Naya-mati area where most of the hosiery units were located.

The BHA leaders further urged the BCSIC authorities to expand the area of hosiery estate at Panchabati so that more hosiery units could be set up.



'Amra Baul' organised a cultural programme in the city in aid of flood victims yesterday. — Star photo

Gunfight between police, outlaws in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Sept 25: Police recovered a number of firearms from the possession of an outlawed party after an hour-long gunfight at a village in Sadar thana early today, reports UNB.

The seized firearms included three guns, three shutter guns, one revolver and 29 bullet.

Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police *gheraoed* a place at Ahsanagar village, where the members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party were holding a meeting at 1 around am.

After trading about one hundred gunshots, the members of the outlawed party managed to flee the scene, leaving the arms and ammunitions.

One killed in Sirajganj clash

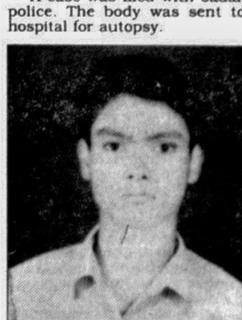
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 25: A man was stabbed to death and 20 others were injured when two groups of villagers clashed over fishing at Rajbari in sadar thana here on Thursday night, reports APB.

The dead was identified as Ainal Haque, 51. Police arrested three people in connection with the killing.

Seriously injured Sundar Ali, 47, Shorab Ali, 28, Belal, 20 and Shafigh, 16, were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Police and local sources said the clash ensued when the sons and relatives of Monjel, a villager, prevented Ainal and his brother Sundar from fishing at a local waterbody.

A case was filed with sadar police. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.



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Saira stands 7th

By Staff Correspondent

Saira Banu Eva has stood seventh on the combined merit list of Commerce group in the HSC examinations under Dhaka Board this year.

A student of Viquarunnessa Noon School and College, Eva secured 822 marks with letters in two subjects.

She is the daughter of Daudkandi Awami League leader and weekly 'Bangla Barta' editor Mohammad Shahjahan and Nargis Akter.

She had also stood fourth on the combined merit list of Commerce group in the SSC examinations under Dhaka Board in 1996.

Four-stage flood management suggested to minimise damage

By Staff Correspondent

Renowned water expert Dr Ainun Nishat on Thursday recommended a four-stage flood management system to minimise the flood damage in Bangladesh.

Dr Nishat placed his recommendations at a seminar on "Flood Management" organised by Rapport Bangladesh Limited in the city.

His four-stage plan includes pre-flood management, management during the flood, post-flood management and the normal time activities.

"First, we have to understand the nature of floods and the way they can affect us. At the second stage, we have to go for structural measures," Dr Nishat said. As to structural measures, he suggested erecting embankments.

He also urged cooperation between different authorities, like Water Development Board, LGRD, and Food for Work Project, so that the existing embankment-like structures could be turned into real embankments with slight improvement.

"We have got a very good flood forecasting system in the country," Dr Nishat said, adding that "What we have to do is to make the language of forecast more communicative as the general people very often cannot follow the forecast."

He said that all normal time activities should be done keeping in mind the possibility of disaster. For example, he said, the height of all installations in flood-prone areas should be raised.

Earlier, the seminar was inaugurated by Sharif M Afzal Hossain, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries. It was addressed, among others, by L K Siddiqui, A M A Muhith and Prof Kabir U Ahmed Managing Director of Rapport Bangladesh Ltd conducted the programme.

BNP's appeal to save malnourished children

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday appealed to the government and overseas donors to take immediate measures to save the lives of lakhs of children who were suffering from malnutrition in the wake of floods, reports UNB.

"Hundreds of thousands of children and infants are suffering from malnutrition. Survival of the children in the flood affected areas is threatened," he said adding "the malnourished children need food and medicare, or most of them will die."

Addressing flood-affected people at Armanitola in the old part of the city, Bhuiyan said that millions, who had moved to the shelters, during the flooding, were facing a "grim situation" as they have lost everything due to floods.

He said the government doesn't seem aware of the gravity of the situation, "because the ruling party men are busy pilfering relief goods and politicising relief operation."

Bhuiyan distributed relief materials among the destitutes at the centre. BNP leaders Sadek Hossain Khoka, Golam Morshed, Anwarul Haq, Mohammad Mohan, Azizullah, Mainuddin Mainu and others were present.

1st in Comilla Board Kalyan wants to be a scientist

By Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 25: Amita Bikram Dev (Kalyan), who stood first in the combined merit list of Science Group in the HSC examinations from Comilla Board, wants to be a scientist.

Amita appeared in the exams from MC College. He secured 935 marks, alongwith letter marks in four subjects.

While talking to The Daily Star, Amita said students politics is alright, but there should be no terrorism on campus.

A fan of west Indies, Amita likes cricket, reading and music.

"I am satisfied with the result, as I expected such a good result, said Amita.

Son of Anil Dev, Principal, Sylhet Government Commercial College, and Krishnapriya Dass, Assistant Professor of Economics, MC College, Amita stood second in the SSC Examinations in 1996 from Sylhet Government Pilot High School.

He studied for 8 to 10 hours a day and had 3 private tutors before the examinations.

Flood waters: the death of jackfruit trees

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Tangail

Almost all the jackfruit trees have died in the flood affected areas during the prolonged flood.

As the flood water receded, in Tangail district alone, villagers were bringing in hundreds of dead jackfruit trees to the nearest saw mills.

They said the prolonged floods destroyed all the jackfruit trees in their area.

Jackfruit, rich in nutrients, is the national fruit of Bangladesh. During its harvest in summer it also serves as a staple food for many people, specially for the lower income groups of the population.

At Tarabari ghat under Dhanya union of the district, boats carrying jackfruit tree logs kept arriving at the local saw mill. The mill owner said that with only one machine, he was working day and night to cope with the rush.

"Jackfruit trees are very shy of water, if it is submerged at the roots it can survive for fifteen days at the most, so all our jackfruit trees are dead," said a villager from Torabari who had just sawed a huge tree into planks to make a bed.

According to a horticulturist of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Khamarbari, jackfruit trees live up to eighty years or more. A healthy and mature tree can produce upto six hundred large fruits, he said.

Officials of the Field Service Wing of the Department of Agriculture Extension at Khamarbari of the city said they were not aware of how many of these trees have died. One official

One beaten to death in Bhola

BHOLA, Sept 25: A man was beaten to death by a mob for allegedly trying to steal a microphone from a mosque at Rangganj in Lalmoina thana here early Thursday, reports APB.

The dead was identified as Khaleque, 40, of Charfashon thana.

He was caught by the villagers while running away with the stolen microphone, police said.

Minister orders use of VVIP freezer for tetanus preservation

By Staff Correspondent

The Health Minister, now being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, directed the authorities to shift the freezer allotted for the VVIP room of the hospital to the emergency department.

The only freezer at the hospital emergency has been out of order for the past four months. As a result, it has been difficult to preserve Tetanus injections for treat emergency patients.

When his attention was drawn last night, Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf regretted the situation and assured that the freezer would be shifted from his hospital room to the emergency department within half an hour.

"I have already directed the deputy director of the hospital to arrange removal of the freezer and have it placed in the emergency room," the health minister told The Daily Star.

"I don't need it in my room. It now belongs to the emergency department," he said, thanking The Daily Star for drawing his attention to the problem.

Due to non-availability of a freezer, patients arriving at the DMCH emergency had been asked to procure Tetanus vaccines on their own. Even many patients with serious cut injuries were being treated without the vaccine.

The Daily Star had reported on the problem of vaccine preservation on September 12.

Barisal Cadet College captures 13 top positions

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 25: Students of Barisal Cadet College captured 13 positions in the merit list of HSC examinations under Jessore Board this year.

They secured 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th (two), 8th, 12th (two) and 13th positions in the science group while 7th and 12th positions in Humanities group. Out of 53 examinees, 13 secured positions. 39 got first division and only one passed in second division.

"We are very happy with the result of our students," said Prof Mahabub Alam Bhuiyan, Principal of the Barisal Cadet College.

"We are proud of our students," said Major Maqsood, adjutant of the college.

Stock of fertiliser adequate, says Tofail

The country has adequate stock of fertiliser to meet the additional requirement for post-flood agriculture activities, reports UNB.

This was informed at a high-level review meeting on fertiliser production, its stock, supply and price situation, held at the Industries Ministry with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed in the chair on Thursday.

The meeting was told that the demand of urea fertiliser in the current month was 166,000 metric tons. The total stock at 28 buffer godowns and six BCIC godowns stands at 394,000 metric tons after meeting the current month's demand.

It was also informed in the meeting that the requirement for the months of October, November and December is 453,389 mt. It is expected that 310,000 metric tons of fertilisers would remain in stock after meeting the demand by the present stock and production in the next three months.

Production in Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory has been suspended since last July due to lack of gas supply but Petrobangla is trying to supply gas to the factory soon. Stock and supply situation would be improved if its production resumes in December, the meeting said.

Considering the low production against the yearly demand, the government has decided to import two lakh metric tons of fertilisers this year for January-March peak season.

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Tk 86 cr required to reconstruct 8412 pry schools

About Tk 86 crore will be required to reconstruct 8,412 primary schools battered by this year's catastrophic floods in 232 affected thanas of the country, reports APB.

Official sources said the number of affected government and non-government schools and the repair costs would rise when reports on damage survey will be available from remote areas by mid-October.

"Flood water did not enter most of those places so the bulk of the jackfruit production is likely to be okay," said the official adding, "The losers are those who had one or two trees in their own gardens in the flood affected areas."

Also, Tk 30 crore will go for rebuilding 1,384 schools in 75 affected thanas of Dhaka division. Tk 1.93 crore for 182 in 11 affected thanas in Khulna and Tk 18.18 crore for 1919 primary schools in 61 thanas of Rajshahi division.

LGED sources told APB that the government would bear part of the rehabilitation costs while talks were on with donor agencies for the rest.

"In principle they have agreed to help, but the amount of assistance is yet to be finalised," said one official.

Lend a helping hand, please

Various organisations and individuals have continued their relief activities among the country's flood affected people yesterday, report agencies.

News readers of Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television in cooperation with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society distributed huge quantity of relief goods among flood affected people of Matual area in Demra thana in Narayanganj district.

The relief goods included rice, lentil, *chira*, baby food, water and garments.

Cooperation for Research and Education (CORE), a welfare organisation of post-graduate medical students, began a week-long medicare programme for the flood affected people of the city yesterday.

In cooperation with Kaptanbazar Traders Association and the locals, the programme was inaugurated at Nawabpur Government High School shelter at 10 am.

CORE members Dr Mehedi Newaz, Dr Bulu, Tareq Mehedi, Sakhawatullah, Jahangir, Rakibul Islam, Karim, Fazle Mahmud, Akhtar, Shashanka and Ruhul Amin provided treatment among the flood victims at the shelter.

The organisation also distributed huge quantity of medicines among the victims free of cost.

Dhaka University Social Welfare Alumni Association (DUSWAA) yesterday distributed emergency relief materials among the flood-hit people of Nandipara under Sabujbagh thana of the city.

They distributed relief materials including rice, pulses, potatoes and salt, among 650 distressed families of the area. Besides, a medical team of DUSWAA provided medicare to the flood victims.

Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad yesterday distributed 30,000 pieces of *rutu*, 50,000 litres of pure drinking water and water purifying tablets among the flood victims in different flood shelters, including Shahid Manu Miah High School, Ceramic Institute and Maghbazar T and T High School, in the city.

Chairman of the Sangsad principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, vice-chairman Sultan Uddin Ahmed Raja and Major (ret'd) Shah Alam Talukder, among others, took part in the relief distribution programme.

The sangsad also handed over 5,000 *rutu*s and 250 kg molasses to Bangladesh Army for distribution among the flood victims across the country.

Among other organisations, City Mukti-joddha Rehabilitation Multipurpose Cooperatives Society Ltd., Sammito Sangkritik Jete and Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Unani Medical Association yesterday distributed relief goods and provided medicare to the flood victims.

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