



An activist seen attacking a police van after police resorted to lathi charge on a BNP procession in the city's Purana Paltan area yesterday. — Star photo

Samad Azad meets his counterparts in NY

Bangladesh ready to send more troops to Kuwait to clear land mines

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday met several foreign ministers who are in New York in connection with UN General Assembly, reports UNB.

He met Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Dr Jaranko Prlic, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi, Vice-Foreign Minister of DPRK Choe Su Hon, US Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering and President of the General Assembly Didier Operti.

Azad hosted a lunch in honour of the LDC foreign ministers. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was the guest of honour at the lunch.

"If Kuwait needs any more UN peace keeping troops to clear mines in Kuwait, it will be considered to bring them from Bangladesh," said Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwaiti Sheikh Sabah al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah in response to a request by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

Azad requested his Kuwaiti counterpart to maintain and if possible increase contribution of Bangladesh peace-keepers during a meeting with him in New York yesterday.

The Kuwait Foreign Minister expressed deep appreciation for the services rendered by the Bangladesh peacekeeping troops working in Kuwait under the UN auspices.

Azad also sought Kuwaiti assistance and support to the post-flood reconstruction activities and construction of the Rupsha bridge in Khulna.

During his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azad recalled the services offered by the UN peace-keeping personnel from Bangladesh, during their struggle for independence.

He reiterated the position of Bangladesh in favour of bringing all culprits involved in war crimes to justice.

Azad assured the minister that Bangladesh was ready to contribute to the reconstruction work of Bosnia-Herzegovina and indicated that Bangladesh would be able to provide skilled and technically trained manpower for this purpose.

The Vice Minister of North Korea thanked Bangladesh for hosting the next NAM summit in 2001 and assured to extend full support to Bangladesh to make the summit successful.

The Vice Minister underscored the fact that although DPR of Korea had to withdraw resident diplomatic mission from a number of countries in Asia, it retained its mission in Dhaka as a recognition of good relations between Bangladesh and DPR of Korea.

The Foreign Minister also met US Under Secretary of State Ambassador Thomas Pickering. Wide ranging issues of mutual interest, including the various aspects of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the United States were discussed during the meeting.

Ambassador Pickering reaffirmed the commitment of the US government to providing immediate assistance for post-flood situation as well as long term support for rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State, assisted Ambassador Pickering, while Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Deputy Whip Abdus Shahid, Jannatul Ferdous, MP and Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN were present at the meeting.

More donations to PM's Relief Fund

Different organisations and individuals yesterday donated over Tk 31.76 lakh and US dollars 20,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for the country's flood-hit people, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the donation at her office and thanked the donors for their noble gesture.

Of them, Oposonin Group of Industries, Bangladesh Lamps and Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, and Transcom Ltd donated Tk 5 lakh each and Palestine Ambassador in Dhaka, US dollars 20,000.

Khagrachhari Timber Businessmen Welfare Association, Dholaikhal Natun Rasta Bohumukhi Samabai Dokan Malik Samity, Bangladesh Open University donated Tk one lakh each.

Monipur High School donated Tk 1.25 lakh, Bangladesh Awami League, Patuakhali Tk 1.50 lakh and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Tk 2.66 lakh.

BSS adds: Other donors included Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh, Chittagong, Dhaka WASA Muktijoddha Command, Mahbubur Rahman and Ali Ahmed of Nawabpur, Dhaka, Akbar Ali Khan Technical and Commerce College, Comilla, Bangladesh T and T Muster Roll Sramik Karmochari Union, Mahbub, Junior Purser of Bangladesh Biman, Dholaikhal New Road Multilateral Cooperative Shop Owners Samity, National Museum Class Four Employees Samity, Bangladesh Film Sensor Board, Rural Power Co Ltd, Dhanmondi, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Savar, District Administration of Bogra, M A Zakat Harun Manik of Chemitan Limited, Nur Hossain of Tar Enterprise, Nazrul Islam Mazumder and Nazrul Islam Swapan and Altaf Hossain of Nasfia Group, Eastern Yearn Agency, Patuakhali Pourashabha, Gauchiya, Chistia, Noor Mansion and Chandnichawk Market Shop Owners Association, Bangladesh Medical Association, Comilla; Sakyamuni Bouddha Vihara, Mirpur, Khagrachhari Sarak Paribahan, Malik Samity, Comilla Polytechnic Institute Chhatra Sangsad, Khagrachhari district Awami League, Mahbub Uddin of Dhaka Engineers Medical College and Balia Kandhi Thana Samity.



The team members of Loko natyadal, a theatre group, who will take part in the international drama festival in Cuttack, India.

Ousted Afghan gov't calls for talks with Taliban

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 30: The ousted Afghan authorities on Tuesday called for negotiations with the Taliban "without delay" on the formation of a "fully representative" broad-based government, reports AFP.

The call was in a speech to the UN General Assembly by Afghanistan's vice foreign minister, Abdullah.

He represents the Afghan faction which is still recognised by the United Nations although the Taliban forces now control almost all of Afghan territory following a renewed offensive.

Abdullah recognised that "there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan."

The withdrawal of foreign military and armed personnel, and the return of the Taliban opposition to the negotiating table in a political dialogue, and the formation of a fully

representative broad based multi-ethnic government are the main points that could lead to peace, he said.

However, Abdullah noted that the Taliban had broken off the last series of peace negotiations in April in order to concentrate on an offensive, north of Kabul.

Abdullah repeated accusations that the Taliban was the creator of the Pakistani military intelligence service ISI, and charged that 28,000 armed Pakistanis were in Afghanistan.

Let us make it clear once again here that the Taliban are Pakistani mercenaries, Abdullah said.

He called on the UN Security Council to take appropriate measures against Pakistan.

The international community must admit that it has done too little in the bold face of the increased aggressive ISI policy toward Afghanistan and has gone too far with its policy of appeasement toward the Taliban in their fight versus the rest of the world, said Abdullah.

Road mishap One killed, 7 hurt in Tangail

TANGAIL, Sept 30: One rickshawpulled died on the spot and seven people injured as a truck hit some rickshaws near the New Bus Terminal here this evening, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Aslam (30).

Of the injured, three were admitted to the General Hospital while the rest were given first aid.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a banana laden-truck coming from Bogra hit the rickshaws.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee from the scene.

Another report from Comilla said two truck drivers were killed and one injured in two accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway today.

In the first accident, a Dhaka-bound speedy truck from Chittagong, skidded off the road at 7 am near Dharmapur leaving its driver Ali Hossain Khokan (32) dead.

Another truck driver Babul Miah (37) died on the spot as his truck skidded off the road at 8 am near Lalbagh in Sadar thana of the district.

The helper, Jamaluddin (32), sustained injuries and was admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Arrest of 3 leaders condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Zia Sangathan Oikyajote in a statement yesterday condemned the arrest of national leaders including BNP Standing Committee member KM Obaidur Rahman MP, says a press release.

In the statement, the convener of the organisation and the chairman of Zia Academy, Zahirul Islam Tipu and member secretary Abul Hossain Rana demanded immediate release of the national leaders.

In a separate statement the Oikyajote condemned the "heinous attack" on the peaceful procession of BNP without any provocation. They demanded exemplary punishment of those responsible for the attack.

President and general secretary of Shaheed Zia Research Council Anisur Rahman Anis and advocate Syeda Abida Sultana in a joint statement condemned the arrest and demanded immediate release of the national leaders.

CUJ deplors new conspiracies against 5th Wage Board Award

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: A meeting of the Executive Committee of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) today strongly deplored the new conspiracies against Fifth Wage Board Award and its implementation by a section of owners of the newspapers, reports BSS.

The meeting held with CUJ President Anjan Kumar Sen in the chair termed the conspiracies by the newspaper owners as motivated and said the vested quarter with ulterior evil design is now out to deprive the legitimate demands and just rights of the journalists and employees of the newspapers and news agencies, a CUJ press release said.

In protest against the conspiracies CUJ will hold rallies in all units of the union on Oct 3 and also observe a four hour work abstention in all newspapers on Oct 4, the press release added.

Zillur says BNP capitalising on post-flood situation

LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday blamed BNP for creating instability and artificial crisis in the aftermath of the flood, reports UNB.

He was addressing a rally at Kulliarchar in Kishoreganj district after distributing relief materials among flood victims of Kulliarchar, Faridpur, Salua, Ramdi, Osmanpur and Chhay-siuti areas.

Zillur asked the opposition parties to refrain from activities which may increase the sufferings of the flood victims.

He also urged the opposition to consolidate the national unity that has been established among various political, cultural and voluntary organisations during the flood.

The Awami League leader said the government is conducting relief activities to protect the affected people, not for earning name and fame for its party.

Zillur distributed 38 metric tons of rice among the flood victims of Kulliarchar. The food was donated by local industrialist Musa Miah.

Lend a helping hand, please

Various organisations continued to provide relief materials and medicare services for the flood affected people in different parts of the country.

Savar Area Development Programme (ADP) of World Vision of Bangladesh (WVB) distributed relief materials among 5,777 flood-affected families in Savar Thana.

The relief goods included 10 kg of rice, 2 kg of lentil, one kg iodized salt and five packets of ORS per family from September 3 to 5 and 26 to 30.

Beside foodstuff distribution, the ADP has been providing emergency medical service to the flood victims through the four different mobile centres under the programme area since September 22.

The organisation decided to continue medical service in joint collaboration with National Relief Committee of Savar Unit and Savar Municipality to the flood-hit people under the programme area from October 5 to 9.

The Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) conducted a day-long medical camp at Gohal Ghat Bazar in Savar on September 23, says a press release.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP inaugurated the camp while Mohammad Shajahan MP and local MP Dr Dewan Mohammad Salauddin (Babu) were present.

Some 980 patients were offered free treatment in the camp. They were supplied with free medicine, oral saline and water purifying pills.

DAB member-secretary Dr A Z M Jahid Hossain, Dr Mostafee Rahm Shwapan, Dr Zahirul Islam Shakil and Dr Mazharul Haque conducted the camp.

Local MP Salauddin Babu and the Acme Laboratories provided their all-out help in conducting the programme.

A relief team of Abahani Limited distributed relief materials among the flood victims of Islambagh and its adjoining areas in the city on Tuesday.

The relief goods included rice, potatoes and oral saline. About 500 families received the goods.

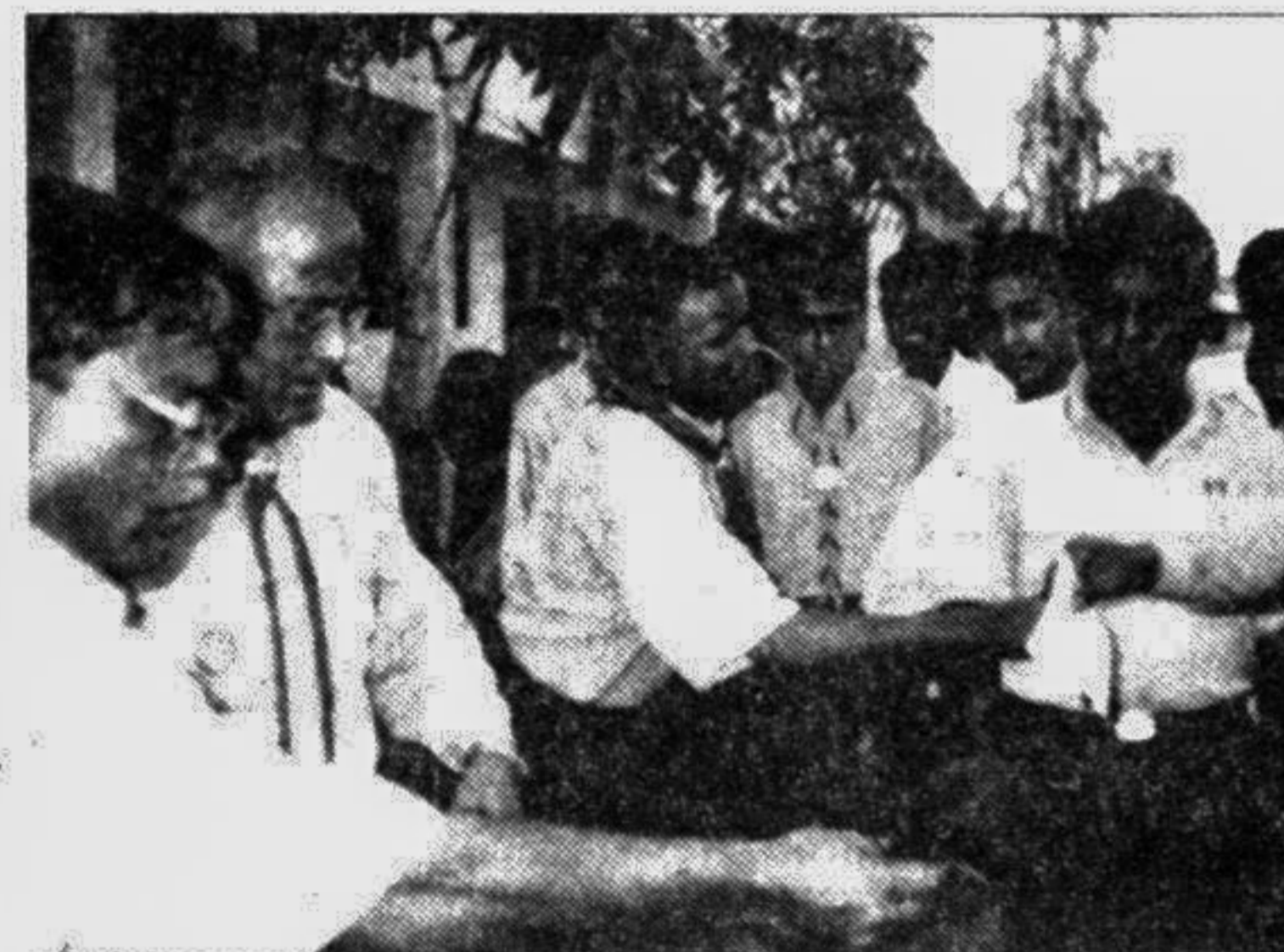
Director, officials, players and supports of Abahani Limited took part in the relief distribution programme.



Oposonin Chemical Industries Ltd donated Tk 5 lakh and medicines worth Tk 35 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the flood victims. Abdur Rouf Khan, Managing Director of the company, handed over the cheque to the Prime Minister at her office yesterday.



DAB organised a medical camp for flood victims in Savar recently.



Forty tons of High Protein Biscuits provided by the UNICEF arrived in the city on Tuesday. Joint Secretary Md Shamsul Islam receiving the biscuits from Dr Aung Tun Thet of UNICEF at the Zia International Airport.



Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka Metropolitan distributed 250 kg of rice, 1000 pieces of clothes, and 300 packets of oral saline among the flood victims at Kachkura High School shelter yesterday.



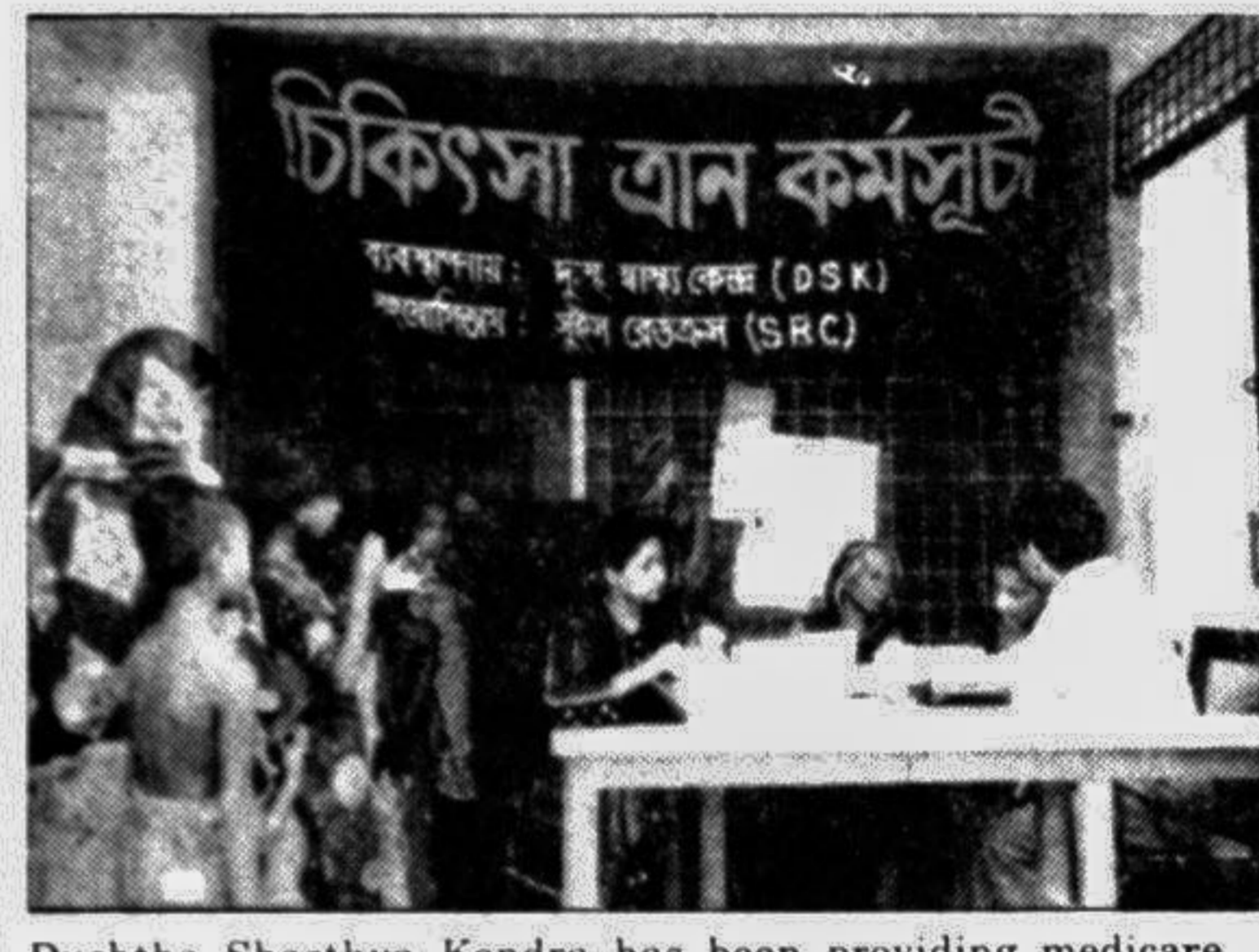
Officers and employees of Janata Bank distributed relief materials among the flood victims at different places in Noakhali district recently.



Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, Bangladesh office, organised a medical camp for flood affected people of Bhasanek recently. The relief operation was funded by the 'Patients Helping Fund-Kuwait'.



Forty tons of High Protein Biscuits provided by the UNICEF arrived in the city on Tuesday. Joint Secretary Md Shamsul Islam receiving the biscuits from Dr Aung Tun Thet of UNICEF at the Zia International Airport.



Dushtha Shasthya Kendra has been providing medicare services for the flood affected people in the city since September 1. It will continue till October 31.

Int'l drama festival in India begins today

Loko Natyadal, a theatre group, will take part in the international drama festival that begins today in Cuttack, India, says a press release.

In the week-long festival, theatre groups from the US, Canada, Denmark, Poland, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Germany will also present their performance.

Loko Natyadal will stage 'Tapaswi O Tarangini'. A team of the group left for Cuttack yesterday to attend the festival. The team will also take part in a workshop and a seminar there. The team members included Sajedul Alam, Jinat Jahan, Sabina Bari, Jahidur Rahman and Aslam Shihir.

ADRA delegation calls on State Minister

Representatives of Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), an NGO of international repute, called on State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam this morning at the latter's secretariat office, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to ADRA's relief operations in different districts particularly in Jamalpur, help mitigate sufferings of flood affected people.

They also discussed about the creation of post-flood help and assistance to ensure safe drinking water and construction of houses for the poor and helpless people of rural areas in Jamalpur district.

The representatives also pointed out launching of the previous projects of safe drinking water and low cost housing at rural areas of Sarishabari areas and the effectiveness of the projects.

The State Minister thanked them for their generous gesture and asked them for launching more projects of such kind in future.

The representatives included Rodolfo Monsalve, Director of International Development, Kenneth Flemmen, Bureau Chief, Internal Compliance, Chris Smoot and Richard Baroi of ADRA Bangladesh.

Tk 3.48 lakh given out to voluntary assocs in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Mosharraf Hossain at a function here today distributed cheque for Taka 3.48 lakh among 156 registered voluntary organisations under the social welfare department for the year 1997-98, reports BSS.

The function, held in the Zia Parishad auditorium, was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Hassan and addressed, among others, by Awami League leader Abdus Salam, General Secretary of Zia Parishad Abdul Matin and Director of the Social Welfare Department Abdul Awal.

Speaking on the occasion, the civil aviation minister said the government is providing the special loans for poverty alleviation, income generation social afforestation, dairy and poultry farms as well as for different socio-economic development projects.

Liquor recovered, 7 arrested in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 30: Police have recovered 31 drums of home-made liquor and arrested seven persons from the town, reports UNB.

A strong force led by additional police super Anwar Kamal late Tuesday night raided the Methor Pally and recovered the liquor.

The arrested were identified as Durjadhah, Kajal, Shyamol, Asit, Sayedur Rahman, Fazlur Rahman and Shahabuddin.

UAE Red Crescent Society sends edible oil, dates

The 4th cargo aircraft carrying 21 and half tons edible oil and 15 tons of dates from the United Arab Emirates arrived in the city yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

The consignment was a part of the 141 and half tons of foodstuff donated by the Red Crescent Society (RCS) of UAE to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society for the flood victims.

The aircraft was received at the Zia International Airport by BRCS officials. The donated foodstuff was received by BRCS secretary general Major Ali Hassan Quareshi.

The humanitarian gift from UAE includes 70 tons of rice, 20 tons of flour, 20 tons of edible oil, 15 tons of dates which will augment the food resources of about 1400 Bangladesh rural families affected by flood water.

BRCS chairman Major General Abdus Salam MP said the food aid will certainly be precious in meeting the food needs of the flood victims.

"This gift is a testimony of the spirit of Red Crescent solidarity which binds our movement together," he said.

Death anniversary

The 20th death anniversary of economist Prof Malik Khuro Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Dhaka University mosque today after Asr prayers.

Chowdhury had joined the Dhaka University in 1976 as Professor of Economics Department. He was also made Chairman of the Bureau of Economic Research. Before joining Dhaka University he was the Chairman of Economics Department, Jahangirnagar University, and Dean of the faculty of Social Science.

Obituary

Nurul Islam, former Secretary of the Public Service Commission, died at his Mirpur residence due to old-age ailment on Tuesday. He was 81, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters. Late Islam was buried today at Shaheed Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur.

Qulkhwani

Nurul Islam, 82, former secretary, public service commission died on Tuesday at his Mirpur residence, reports BSS.

Islam was suffering from old age complications. He was buried at Martyred Intellectuals' graveyard at Mirpur. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three daughters and host of friends and relatives.

Qulkhwani will be held at the deceased's resident at 47 Barabag, Mirpur on Friday after Asr prayers. Friends and well wishers have been requested to attend.

Sweden to help set up 36 water pumps in Dhaka

Sweden has granted US dollar 265,000 for a portable water purification plant and to establish 36 pump stations in the most severely affected areas of Dhaka city, reports UNB.

The portable plant is being airlifted to the city by the Swedish Rescue Service Agency (SRSA).

Four Swedish water technicians and experts will set up the purification plant, which has a capacity to produce up to 15,000 litres pure water per hour.

It will increase the availability of drinking water and thus diminish the transmission of water-borne infections until the municipal water distribution net has been rehabilitated.

The operation is carried out in collaboration with WASA and German organisation Technische Hilfswerke. WASA technicians are trained in the operation of the plant, which will be donated for more permanent supplies of pure drinking water.

Unity of business community sought to face challenges in textile sector

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hossain today said the business community should be united to face the challenges in the textile sector created by the GATT agreement, reports UNB.

Inaugurating a seminar on "Consequences of GATT Uruguay Round," organised by the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), the state minister said: "Impact of GATT Uruguay Round on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is not rosy."

"LDCs share in both world exports and imports fell by about one-half and one-third in 1990s from already meagre export and import levels of 0.6 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively in 1980s."