

PM announces post-flood rehabilitation programme

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a post-flood rehabilitation programme for the affected people in south-western districts and warned of stern action against any lapses or negligence in relief works, reports UNB.

At a meeting of National Disaster Management Council at her office, Hasina asked the authorities concerned to ensure distribution of relief among flood victims and start quick rehabilitation with the recession of water.

The post-flood scheme includes distribution of VGF cards, Tk 1,000 as housing grant for each family who lost houses, introduction of OMS, repairing affected tubewells for pure water and adequate medicine and medical teams for tackling post-flood diseases, if any.

The Prime Minister, who chaired the meeting, asked for formation of monitoring cells at her office, and district and thana headquarters to monitor and coordinate overall relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood hit areas.

I will not tolerate any lapses in distribution of relief goods... Immediate action must be taken for negligence or corrupt practices against the person responsible," she told the meeting.

"I won't allow any wastage or pilferage of food meant for the

poor," she added.

Hasina, who made a whirlwind tour of the affected districts and distributed relief among the distressed people, said some officials concerned were not active at thana headquarters.

She asked for inquiry into any irregularities in distribution of packets of rice among the victims and taking action.

The meeting that reviewed the overall flood situation and relief operation was attended by ministers and officials concerned.

The Prime Minister was informed that Tk 7.5 crore was sanctioned for agricultural rehabilitation and Tk 5 crore for reconstruction of houses.

Hasina asked the ministries concerned to make an assessment report of total damages caused by floods to crops and infrastructure and a list of affected people.

She said many banks have drawn up programme for disbursing loan on easy terms while agriculture loans will be rescheduled to help the affected farmers.

Hasina said alternative crops could be cultivated to recoup the losses caused to paddy.

The Prime Minister reiterated the steps should be taken to channel out the waters logged in many areas keeping in view that the process should not damage standing crops in new areas.

The What's on today/tomorrow, Weather and Here & There columns are on page 8.

Wreaths placed on Bandarnaik's body on behalf of Hasina

A bouquet on behalf of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was placed yesterday on the body of Srimawo Bandarnaik, the former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the mother of President Chandrika Bandarnaik Kumaratunga, according to a message reached here, reports BSS.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in Colombo Ashraf ud Dowla visited the residence of Bandarnaik yesterday morning and placed the bouquet.

He also handed over a copy of Sheikh Hasina's message of condolence to Mrs Sunetra Bandarnaik, the eldest daughter of the late Prime Minister.

Earlier the High Commissioner has forwarded to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Foreign Affairs the message of condolence addressed to President Kumaratunga.

Sunetra Bandarnaik while receiving a copy of the message from the High Commissioner requested him to convey her deep gratitude to Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Probarona Purnima today

Probarona Purnima, one of the greatest Buddhist festivals will be observed today throughout the country, reports BSS.

The Buddhist community will observe the day through different religious programmes. Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will observe the day at the International Buddhist Monastery at Meru Badda. The Federation will hold a seminar on the occasion which is expected to be participated by Thai Ambassador Pithaya Pookman, Myanmar Ambassador Uohn Thwin, Sri Lankan High Commissioner E G Dayananada, Bhutanese Ambassador Lhatu Banchuk.

Deluge: Probe ordered

From Page 1
There had been no warning about the flood from Indian although treaties between the two neighbours provide for exchange of data on major rivers like the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Barak (source of the Meghna), Gumi, Monu, Khowai and Teesta, the sources said.

A massive cloud formed by a depression, hanging over West Bengal and adjacent areas of Bihar and western and south-western Bangladesh failed to move towards the Himalayas.

It caused some 1700mm rainfall in ten days between September 15 and 25 in Murshidabad and Maldah districts in West Bengal in the upstream of Farakka Barrage. The rain-flooded waters overflowed the Bhagirathi, Mayurakkhi, Jalangi and Damodar rivers.

Bangladesh had a fair share. Rajshahi and Pabna experienced three times the normal average rainfall. Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira had 2.5, 2, 1.5 and 1.5 times the normal average rainfall.

The West Bengal government did not get any flood warning due to lack of co-ordination with the central government of India. The Damodar Valley Project reservoir, managed by the Indian central government, was opened to release excess water without the knowledge of the West Bengal government, the sources said.

The West Bengal authorities did not have any flood model for the areas. The flooding also caught them by surprise, when waters flowed into Mayurakkhi, Jalangi, Rupnarayan and Damodar rivers, the sources said.

Hasina opens 5 bridges on Dhaka-Ctg highway today

From Our Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate five bridges on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway today.

Among the five, three bridges are in Nyanj district and the other 2 are in Gazaria of Munshiganj dist.

The bridges built with aid from Japan cost a total of Tk 123.46 crore. Construction of the bridges began in January 1999.

The bridges in Narayanganj are named as Ashari Char-1, Ashari Char-2, Marikhal and the two in Gazaria are Bhaberchar and Madhabausia Bridge. The construction was completed in June this year.

PDB, DESA services 'essential' for 6 months more

The services of all officials and employees of Power Development Board (PDB) and Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) have been declared essential for another six months, reports UNB.

The order will be effective from today, said an handout yesterday.

Children's park

From Page 1
to run its business.

Shishu Academy Director Golam Kibria told the Daily Star that he is having lots of problems in running the academy. He said they were planning to build a two-storey go-down building at the site of the park.

"We will shift the park to the front side of the green space when the construction is completed, but in the meantime we will repair the facilities," Kibria said.

However, the director failed to answer when asked why they were using the park as a dumping site.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a grand rally of people, freedom fighters at Mymensingh Circuit House Ground yesterday. -PID photo

Biman-Corsair International sign agreement

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday signed an agreement with Corsair International, France to procure a Boeing 747-300 aircraft on wet lease to provide better service to the pilgrims next year, reports BSS.

Walid Haque Khondker, Director (Project and Planning) of Biman and Manuel Machado, Head of International Lease of Corsair signed the agreement at Biman headquarters on behalf of their respective sides.

Biman's own DC 10-39 aircraft will join the leased aircraft in carrying about 30,000 pilgrims.

4 new depts introduced in Rajshahi varsity

RAJSHAHI, Oct 11: The Rajshahi University authorities have appointed four new chairmen for new departments in the university for the current academic session 2000-2001, reports BSS.

Dr Shafigunnabi Samadi, Prof of Bangla Department, has been appointed the chairman of Music & Dramatics Department, Dr Salina Pervin, Prof, Zoology Department, has been appointed the chairman of Fisheries and Agriculture Departments, Dr M Mozaffar Hossain, Prof of Applied Physics & Electronics, has been appointed the chairman of Communication Technology Department, Dr Golam Kabir, Prof of Botany Department, has been appointed the Agronomy and Agriculture Departments.

The newly introduced four departments will enroll 90 students in academic session 2000-2001.

Music and Dramatics Department will enroll 35 students, Communication Technology will enroll 15 students, Fisheries and Agriculture will enroll 20 students and Communication Technology will enroll 20 students.

With the newly introduced departments, the total number of departments of the university is 44.

Towhidul Anwar's death condoled

By DU Correspondent

Different organisations condoled the death of Dr Towhidul Anwar, Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the Dhaka University, who died of liver cirrhosis at the BIRDEM hospital in the city on Tuesday.

Ganotantik Shikhhok Parishad expressed shock at his death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Prof Anwar was elected member of the GSP national executive committee for the year 2000-2002.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) expressed deep shock at the 'untimely death' of Prof Anwar.

A BCDJC press release said, "We mourn, along with many, in loss of a noted academician and teacher, organiser, writer, researcher and a man committed all through his professional career in upgrading the standard of journalism, journalism education, mass media, press freedom and national development."

On behalf of all the officials and employees of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, the DG, condoled the death of Prof Anwar.

He also expressed deep sympathy to the grief stricken family members of late Anwar and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

The Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) also condoled the death of Prof Anwar.

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Chittagong Newspapers Council President MA Malek and General Secretary Moimuddin Kaderi Showkat today expressed deep grief at the death of Dr Towhidul Anwar, former Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Department of Journalism, Dhaka University.

Dr Towhidul Anwar died in Dhaka on Tuesday last.

In a joint statement here, they said Dr Towhidul Anwar's contributions to the spread of education and development of journalism would be remembered for many years. He was an ideal teacher in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the Dhaka University, they added.



Defeated forces are out

From Page 1
in recent times here where freedom fighters, Awami League workers and people from all walks of life gathered chanting various slogans supporting the government of Prime Minister Hasina.

Sammilita Muktiyoddha Front organised the "Muktijoddha-Janata Maha Samabesh" as part of their countrywide programme ostensibly to counter opposition's mass campaign against the government.

A fortnight ago, the chiefs of the four-party opposition alliance, including Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, addressed a grand rally in this town as part of their mass-contact move.

People from nearby districts, apart from the locals, thronged the PM's meeting venue turning the huge ground of the circuit house into a human sea.

Political Adviser to the prime minister and Convenor of the Front Dr SA Malek presided over the meeting, where member secretary of the front Mahabubuddin Ahmed Bir Bikram read out the political declaration.

Senior leaders of ruling Awami League and some other pro-liberation parties, ministers and local MPs addressed the meeting. Nur-e-Alam Ziku of JSD was among those who spoke at the meeting.

At the outset of the public showdown, a group of freedom fighters wearing white T-shirts and waving national flag welcomed the prime minister chanting 'Joy Bangla'.

The enthusiastic crowd spilled over into nearby roads, many perched on branches of trees and

on the roof tops to share their feelings with the Prime Minister promising to uphold the spirit of liberation war.

The prime minister said the defeated forces of 1971, 1990 and 1996 ganged up to destroy the spirit of liberation war, democracy and independence of the country.

"Against the defeated forces the people will have to stand united and resist the conspirators, the collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces."

Hasina said Awami League earned independence at the cost of blood and it will also protect the independence at the cost of blood.

Refuting Khaleda's allegation that she was not allowed to distribute relief in the flood-hit southwestern districts, the prime minister quipped: Begum Zia is very skilled in making drama.

She (Khaleda) can attract the attention of media by staging drama on different occasions and even in distributing relief, she can confuse people by doing so and dishing out falsehoods, Hasina observed.

The prime minister said the opposition leader did not even hesitate to spread lies about mosques, but all her comments were doomed to be false and people could understand her motives.

She told the big gathering that the opposition leader alleged that the floods in southwestern districts came following signing of the Ganges water treaty.

But Khaleda does not have the idea about the map of Bangladesh that shows that for the waters of the Ganges the south-western part of the country could not be flooded, said Hasina ridi-

culing that the opposition leader should have some idea about the geography of her country.

The prime minister said the opposition is busy spreading lies against the government that is trying heart and soul to change the fate of common people and taking up massive programmes for the development of the country.

In this regard, she mentioned various development initiatives of her government, specially the steps taken for welfare of freedom fighters.

She said the government had increased the allowance for the freedom fighters to Tk 31,25 crore from only six crore and increased facilities for them.

Hasina said the job quota for the freedom fighters has now been kept for the children of the freedom fighters and, meanwhile, the government is taking all possible steps for honouring the freedom fighters and ensuring a good life for them.

About local issues, the prime minister said the government had already taken projects for solving power problems of the district and developing roads and highways.

She also announced at the meeting that Mymensingh will be turned into an academic town, which already has a number of national-standard educational institutions, including Agricultural University, Girls' Cadet College and medical college.

Hasina said Mymensingh Medical College will be upgraded to a 1000-bed hospital from the existing 500 beds, commuter trains introduced for the town and more steps taken for the development of the district.

Fresh areas flooded

From Page 1
day today.

Road links between Satkhira-Khulna and Satkhira-Jessore via Navaran remained snapped.

Twelve more villages in Sadar, Tala and Assasuni upazilas have been submerged due to collapse of Harkata Embankment.

Of the affected new villages, five are under Tala Upazila, three under Assasuni Upazila and the rest under Satkhira Upazila.

The situation, however, remained static in Kalaora and Debhata upazilas.

Authorities today evacuated flood victims from Itagachha Primary School and Madrassah centres to safer places as flood water submerged both centres.

Meanwhile, several non-government organisations and political leaders today demanded withdrawal of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tala thana for arresting some volunteers engaged in evacuation of flood victims and relief work.

Flood victims in other relief

camp also alleged inadequate supply of relief materials.

Petrobangla

From Page 1
But the companies take separate decisions for commercial exploration, he said.

Musharraf Hossain, Chairman of Petrobangla, Mary C Ott, Deputy Director of USAID, Dr M Ismail, Managing Director of Jalalabad Gas Systems Ltd and team leader of Bangladesh side in the joint study and other senior officials of Petrobangla and its subsidiaries also spoke at the seminar.

The Petrobangla chairman said more exploratory wells should be dug in the western areas of the country.

He said studies done in 70s and 80s were not up to the standard as sophisticated technologies were not available at that time.

Dr M Ismail said the Petrobangla-USGS study will give an idea about potential energy resources, not about gas reserve.

Mary C Ott said taking decision about natural gas is more difficult than any in other field and mentioned that USGS is a highly technical institution.

Ctg double murder

From Page 1
BCL leader Mohammad Selim filed the case against the BNP leaders and workers following the killing.

After investigation police submitted charge sheets against Colonel (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, MP, Monzur Morshed Khan, MP, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury MP, Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury MP, city BNP president Meer Nasir Uddin and general secretary Alhaj Dastagir Chowdhury, and others on September 21, 1998.

Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Monjur Morshed Khan were present at the court.

Two Americans

From Page 12
McFadden, of the University of California at Berkeley, developed methods which can help calculate how probable it is that a person of a certain age, income and education would choose to travel by bus, subway or car, taking into account costs and journey time.

"In retrospect, it all seems blindingly obvious, but at the time it wasn't," a stunned and surprised McFadden told Reuters by telephone from his home in California.

"What I did, beginning in the 1960s, was to take the economic theory of self-interest, which governs economic behaviour, and apply it to life's big decisions: when to get married, how many children to have, what occupation to choose."

His work was important in designing the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transport system and also telephone services. It is also used in calculating demand for residential energy and housing for the elderly.

Heckman, a professor at the University of Chicago, designed statistical methods to evaluate how effective job-market training programmes and employment subsidies are.

He also made it possible to estimate how the length of unemployment affects an individual's chances of getting a job.

"I'm honoured and flattered," said Heckman, 56, who learned of

the award while in Rio de Janeiro for a seminar.

Heckman did not know which of his works won him the prize, but said: "I hope my studies of social programmes to evaluate how interventions like affirmative action and job training work are useful."

Bertil Holmlund of Uppsala University, a member of the Nobel prize committee, told a news conference in Stockholm: "Heckman has improved our understanding of the labour market and salaries. He is at the forefront of our understanding of the welfare system in the US."

Heckman and McFadden have been friends and colleagues for years and saw each other as recently as last month.

"I am very honoured to share the prize with him," Heckman said. "He was never my teacher in the classroom, but in life he taught me a lot. So much of my work is based on his models."

The prize for economics is not one of the original five created by Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who died in 1896. It was set up by Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, in 1968 in memory of Nobel to mark the bank's tricentenary.

The 2000 prize winners confirm a 15-year-long trend of United States university domination of Nobels in physics, chemistry, medicine and economics.

Post-flood operation

From Page 1
health and local government and rural development were present at the 90-minute meeting.

Dhaka-based officials of the World Bank, ADB, UNDP, World Health Organization, UNICEF and the World Food Programme represented donor agencies in the meeting.

A donor representative told the Daily Star yesterday that "the government did not come up with any concrete proposal and ministry-wise need assessments for the post-relief operation were not available yet."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also asked the ministries concerned to assess the damages caused by the flood and start post-flood rehabilitation immediately.

She was presiding over a meeting of the National Disaster Management Council at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Representative of a UN organisation who attended the ERD-convened meeting yesterday told this correspondent that the government could convene another meeting soon after making sure it has all the appraisals in hand.

Besides, he said, some of the UN organizations would have their own appraisal missions for the purpose so that "post-relief operation gets started right after the recess of the flood water."

Yesterday's meeting, he added, also reviewed current phase of relief operations. The UN organisations would continue to provide supplementary food for the relief purpose, he said and added that the government is confident in meeting main food relief requirements from its own resources.

Kiwis stun Pakistan

From Page 1
Scott Styris, who smacked 28 off 31 balls, who resurrected the Kiwis from 187-6 and secured a memorable victory.

Former Warwickshire batsman Twose shared in a third-wicket stand of 110 with Nathan Astle (49) that rescued the Kiwis from the perilous position of 15-2 in pursuit of Pakistan's ultimately disappointing 252.

The centre piece of that total was Anwar's second consecutive one-day ton, which he reached off 107 balls courtesy of 16 fours, before he fell to Geoff Allott for 104.

Man-of-the-match Shayne O'Connor wrapped up the Pakistan tail with a superb caught

and bowled to dismiss Saqlain Mushtaq and earned 5-46 - the best figures of the tournament so far.

Pakistan's progress was stunted in the middle of their innings by the loss of four wickets for 32 just past the 25 over stage, including those of Inzamamul Haq, who became the first stumped victim of the tournament, and skipper Moin Khan, run out attempting a suicidal single to Stephen Fleming.

New Zealand suffered a similar collapse shedding four middle order wickets for 37 but mature McMillan kept his head and got the Kiwis home.

(Scorecards on Page 13)

Ideal time to pursue

From Page 1
provides duty-free and quota-free access to goods from 33 of the 48 LDCs including Sub-Saharan and Caribbean countries and some other developing countries. The Act may have a negative impact on Bangladesh's RMG exports to the US, it said.

Building up a case on the possible negative impact of this Act on the country's exports, Bangladesh should urge the US government to extend zero-tariff and quota-free facilities to its apparel exports on a bilateral basis.

Although the average tariff rates in developed countries have come down from 6.3 per cent to about 3.8 per cent after the Uruguay Round, the rates in the textiles and clothing sector, and more particularly, on items of critical importance to Bangladesh continued to remain at very high levels.

Such relatively high tariff rates (more than 20 per cent) obviously affect competitiveness of Bangladesh's exports, it said.

It will be in Bangladesh's interest to build up a case for an early

OC hurt

From Page 12
handcuffed accused. Police fired 4 shots to disperse the attackers.

OC Monir Ahmed as well as a constable were admitted to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital and Thana Health Complex respectively. Both suffered serious injuries.

Police filed two cases -- one for assault in the police and the other for running illegal business. Five persons were arrested in connection with the case.

The main accused Abdur Rahim still remained at large.

Dance party

From Page 1
Member Serajuddin were arrested in connection with the incident. A case was filed under the Public Safety Act with Ramu thana, accusing 50-60 people including those arrested.

Over a hundred bullets were fired during the clash. Some 25 of the terrorists were injured. Most of them fled but five were caught.

Two killed in Dhaka-Ctg road accident

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: General Manager of a private shipping company SS Shipping, Md Elahi Newaj and his driver Kabir Hossain were killed and the GM's wife injured critically in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong road at Jora Amtoli area of South Kumira under Sitakunda thana in the district this morning.

Tremor

From Page 1
quake, which lasted about 21 seconds.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong quoting Met office sources said a mild tremor rocked the port city in the afternoon.

The epicenter of the tremor was 190 km off the port city.

FEJB anti-pollution procession in city

A silent march by journalists and citizens to draw attention to the city's air pollution and the encroachment of its river Buriganga paraded central Dhaka streets yesterday, reports BSS.

'Stop Air Pollution, Save Life' and 'Stop Aggression on Buriganga, Save Dhaka' march was organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB).

It set out from the Jatiya Press Club with members of FEJB carrying banners and placards and marched down the central Dhaka streets during morning rush hour to focus on the plight of the city's citizens.



Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) leading an anti-pollution procession in the city yesterday. Citizens from all walks of life joined the silent march.