

PM announces post-flood rehabilitation programme

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a post-flood rehabilitation programme for the affected people in southwestern 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

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

Wreaths placed on Bandarnaike's body on behalf of Hasina

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

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

He also handed over a copy of Sheikh Hasina's message of condolence to Mrs Sunetra Bandarnaike, 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 Bandarnaike 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 Merul Badda. The Federation will hold a seminar on the occasion which is expected to be participated by Thai Ambassador Pithaya Pookaman, Myanmar Ambassador Uohn Thwin, Sri Lankan High Commissioner E G Dayanandana, Bhutanese Ambassador Lhutu Banchuk.

Deluge: Probe ordered

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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).

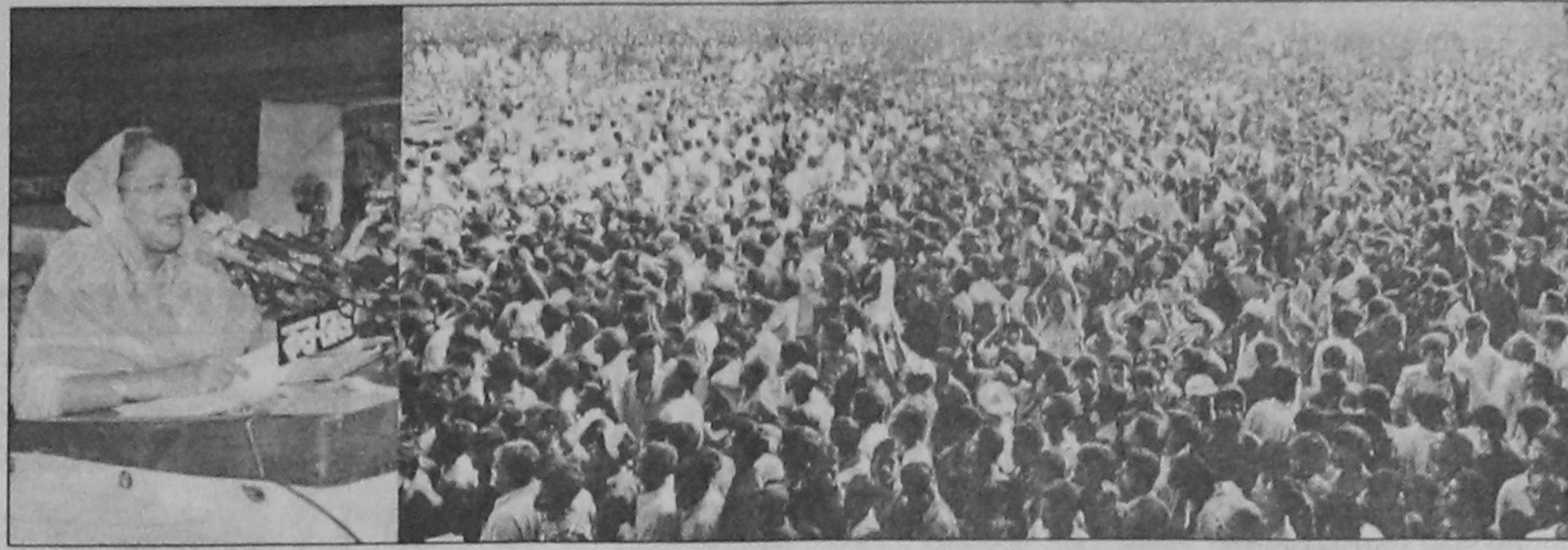
A massive cloud formed by a depression, hanging over West Bengal and adjacent areas of Bihar and western and southwestern Himalayas failed to move towards the Himalayas.

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

Bangladesh had a fair share. Rajshahi and Pabna experienced three times the normal average rainfall. Kushtia, Jessor, 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 unaware, when waters flowed into Mayurakhi, Jalangi, Rupnaryan and Damodar rivers, the sources said.



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

By 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.

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.

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 Naganj 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 Asharlar Char-1, Asharlar Char-2, Marikhali 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

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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.

"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.

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.

Dr Shafiqunnabi Samadi, Prof of Bangla Department, has been appointed the chairman of Music & Dramatics Department, Dr Salma 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 condemned 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.

Ganotantri Shikkhok Parishad expressed deep 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 Moinuddin Kader 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.

A Meteorology Department source said the problem may be compounded as a depression is likely to be formed over the Bay, triggering rainfall.

The Bay is already 'warm' and two systems are developing in the South China Sea, posing a threat, Met office sources said.

Normally, cyclones form in the Bay during October-December.

Defeated forces are out

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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.

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 dising 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 southwestern part of the country could not be flooded, said Hasina ridiculing 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

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day today.

Road links between Satkhira-Kulna and Satkhira-Jessore via Navarai remained snapped.

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

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

Pulin Dey

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her profound shock at the death of Prof Pulin Dey.

In a condolence message, she recalled Prof Dey's pioneering role in anti-British movement, his contribution to the War of Liberation in 1971 and pro-democracy movement during the Eshad and Khaleda regimes.

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.

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

ideal time to pursue

From Page 1

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