

Cry for relief: Diseases spread

They are lying, says Netrakona UNO

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

As journalists entered the Madan Shahid Saranika Girls High School flood shelter, 20 to 25 women came and asked, "Have your brought relief for us?" Middle aged Amana Begum said weeping, "We came here 12 days back as flood washed away our house. We are five members. We got only five kg rice. Our three children are fasting two days. Please help us". Just at the moment, Madan upazila UNO came in a jeep and rebuked the inmates for talking to newsmen. But the women did not care. They kept on making allegations of scanty relief supplies. The UNO told newsmen that 10 kg rice was given per family, but the women strongly protest it on the face of UNO. They said five kg rice was gave per family in 12 days. "They are telling lies", the UNO said. There are 300 families at the shelter, 10 to 12 crowding in each classroom. Widow Rahima Khatun of Chandgaon village said she came to the shelter with four children 10 days back as flood washed away her house. She said she got five kg rice in 10 days. "A man (Capt (rtd) Manjurul) came and have us rice, biscuit and oral saline this morning. We are cooking the rice", shesaid. This correspondent was in the journalists' team which visited four out of 11 shelters in Madan upazila yester-

Death toll 23 in Sylhet: Diarrhoea, pneumonia in B'baria

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have broken out in large scale in flood affected areas of Sylhet and Brahmanbaria. With three more deaths on Thursday, the toll from the diseases rose to 23 in Sylhet division in last eight days. Our Staff Correspondent reports from Sylhet: Diarrhoea is spreading fast in remote flood affected areas of Sunamganj, Jakiganj, Moulvibazar and Habiganj upazilas due to scarcity of drinking water as most of the tube wells have gone under water. The three deaths on Thursday were reported from Jokiganj in Sylhet, official sources said. In the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, diarrhoea attacked 407 people in Sylhet, 224 in Sunamganj, 328 in Habiganj and 80 in Moulvibazar districts. A temporary medical camp has been opened at Ratanganj in Jokiganj upazila after three deaths there on Friday last. In the last one week, 1780 were attacked in Sylhet, 1141 in Sunamganj, 2414 in Habiganj and 397 in Moulvibazar, an official report stated yesterday. In worst affected Jakiganj, nine people died in a week and 487 others were attacked. Fifty-five people were attacked in the last 24 hours there. When contacted the Director of Health, Sylhet Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed said, four Assistant Directors have been sent from the Directorate of Health to monitor the post flood health situation in Sylhet region. They reached the four district headquarters yesterday, he added. Besides, one Deputy Secretary from the Health Ministry has been deputed for Sylhet. The official said, besides two mobile teams in each of the upazilas, a "sufficient number" of medical teams formed with paramedics are working in the districts. But other sources said the medical teams are far short of the requirement in Sylhet division, with 268 medical officials now working against 497 posts, they said. There are upazila health complexes where only one or two medical officials are working against nine posts. In frontier Jakiganj upazila, there is one Medical Officer against eight posts. The situation is serious in Sunamganj where only 60 medical officials are working against 139 posts. The number is 61 in Moulvibazar against 100 posts, 60 in Habiganj against 121 and 87 in Sylhet district against 137 posts. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was appraised of the situation during her recent visit to flood affected Sunamganj and habiganj districts. She assured the Sunamganj district administration that some of the vacant posts would be filled up soon. Our B'baria Correspondent reports: At least 6,592 people have been attacked with diarrhoea and 1,543

children with pneumonia in Brahmanbaria in last seven days, office source says. Thirty-five diarrhoea patients were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in the last 24 hours, hospital sources said yesterday afternoon. Patients can not come to hospitals as all roads are still under water, they said. Some patients at the Sadar Hospital told this correspondent during a visit that they are not getting intra-venus saline. They have to buy even oral saline from outside. A total of 2, 90, 330 flood affected people have taken shelter in 582 flood shelters in the district. According to Civil Surgeon office sources, 5000 oral saline packets, 25000 water purifying tables, 300 diarrhoea saline packets, 40 kg of bleaching powder have been distributed in the affected areas and flood shelters. The floodwater is receding very slowly but most areas of the district are still under three feet water. The Brahmanbaria town is still inundated with knee deep water. Different political and socio-cultural bodies and individuals have started relief distribution, but these are scanty to the needs.



PHOTO: AK M MOHSIN

Army supplying drinking water to flood affected people in Dhunot in Bogra.

Tk 3 CR BOGRA LOAN FORGERY Govt trying to withdraw cases against 19 traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The government is examining withdrawal of four cases filed against 19 businessmen in Bogra for drawing Tk three crore from Agrani Bank through alleged fraudulent means in 2000. A Public Prosecutor (PP) told to newsmen that he received a letter from the Home Ministry through the Bogra Deputy Commissioner to see whether the cases could be withdrawn by showing those as 'political cases for harassment'. The loan money is now about Tk five crore with interest, bank sources said. The 19 people facing the cases include Abdul Kuddus, Jakir Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Hamidul Haque, Abdul Baki, Shazidur Rahman and Abdul Kafi. They took the loan against about

40,000 bags of "substandard, contaminated and contraband" fertiliser allegedly in connivance with some bank officials, sources said. Bogra Sadar and Sibgonj than police filed four cases against the 19 people and some Agrani Bank officials under the Special Powers Act after they recovered the fertiliser bags in several drives in February 2000 flowing secret information. Charge sheets were also filed in the cases. A high official of Agrani Bank told The Daily Star that they have filed another case against the borrowers and some bank officials to realise Tk 5 crore. Court sources said the cases are under trial now.

Khatme Nabuat holds rally in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a big rally here on Friday demanded of the government to declare Ahmadiyya Jamaat followers non-Muslims. Satkhira unit of International Khatme Nabuat Movement organised the rally at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park after Jumma prayers. Maulana Ehsanur Rahman was in the chair, while the rally was addressed, among others, by Satkhira district BNP vice president M A Jalil, Maulana Habibur Rahman and Maulana Abdul Khaleq. Terming Ahmadiyyas as enemies of Islam, the speakers called upon the Muslims to evict them and destroy their establishments. Later, they brought out a big procession chanting anti-Ahmadiyya slogans. The processionists paraded the main streets of the town. However, a leader of the Ahmadiyya community seeking anonymity told this correspondent they have been living peacefully in the district for a long time.

Body of Bangladeshi handed over to BDR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Body of a Bangladeshi national who was killed by the Indian BSF on Thursday was handed over to the BDR authorities on Friday. The body was handed over to BDR after a fruitful BDR-BSF flag meeting held near Pillar No 12 along Madra border in Kalaroa upazila on Friday evening, according to the Commanding Officer of 12 Rifles Battalion, Col Forhad. BDR Company Commander Subedar Abul Kalam and Kalaroa Thana Sub-Inspector Samsul Huda received the body of Manirul Islam, 26, son of Mozam Sardar of Ram Bhadrapur village in Kalaroa upazila. He was shot dead by BSF near Madra border.



PHOTO: STAR

ALONG WAIT FOR DOLES... Women waiting for relief at Kanaighat upazila headquarter (left) and a medical team headed by the Civil Surgun treating diarrhoea patients at B'baria Sadar Hospital (right).

SNAPS

Tk 1 cr fertiliser seized by Navy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Navy on Thursday seized 24,000 sacks of fertiliser worth TK 1 cr 80 lakh from seven engine boats on the Bay of Bengal near Bhola channel. Acting on a tip-off, Naval personnel challenged the boats carrying the fertiliser near Char Tajmuddin. The fertilizer was being smuggled out to Myanmar. Navy detained six of the engine boats. Afterwards those were brought to Chittagong. The goods were handed over to the customs authority.

Ward commissioner held for stealing relief, freed OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia Rajbari police on Wednesday released a ward commissioner who was arrested earlier along with another ward commissioner and a food dealer on charge of misappropriating relief materials. Kushtia municipality commissioners Shah Md Jahangir Hossain Jalil and Shahjahan Mia got relief goods for distribution among 400 flood affected people. They had been asked to distribute 5kg of rice to each victim, but instead they distributed one kg of rice per victim. Being informed, magistrate Kamal Uddin arrested the commissioners and food dealer Boiddya-nath Dey. Later, police released Shahjahan on a BNP MP's pressure. Two others were sent to jail.

Attack on Manikganj journalist 2 sued in Jessore by Jamaat leader

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A journalist was injured by criminals in Manikganj on Wednesday and two others were sued by a Jamaat leader for publishing a corruption story in a Jessore daily on Tuesday. Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: Shivalaya Thana correspondent of Dainik Dinkal Shahidul Islam was injured seriously in an attack by identified criminals on the Manikganj Sadar Hospital premises here. Shahid told this correspondent local criminals Tapas, Jasim, Pappu and Kabir attacked him at 1.30 pm inside the hospital compound. He fell down unconscious and undergoing treatment at the hospital. Our Staff Correspondent in Khulna reports: Ameer of Paikgachha upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Kazi Tamjid Hossain sued Dewlar Hossain Khokon and Mizanur Rahman, acting Editor and Paikgachha correspondent of Jessore-based Dainik Lokshamaj owned by Forest and Environment Minister Tariqul Islam. The wrath of the Jamaat leader fell on them following publication of a report in the daily on illegal occupation of an abandoned house at Paikgachha bazaar on July 24. Despite sending of a rejoinder, it was not published in the daily, the Jamaat leader complained.

Indian gets 10 yrs RI for possessing illegal revolver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An Indian national was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) by the District Judge Court here for possessing illegal arms on Thursday. The convict is Rasidul Malitha, 36, son of Basu Malitha of Sarkarpura village in Jalangi thana, Murshidabad, India. A BDR team of Mirpur sector raided the house of Sariful Islam at Bhangpara in Daulatpur upazila and arrested Rasidul with a foreign made revolver. BDR handed over him to police and two cases were filed against him. Police said Rasidul was an arms smuggler.

'ILLEGAL' APPOINTMENTS SCF warns of tougher agitation at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) on Friday threatened of tougher agitation soon if 'illegal appointment and promotion of teachers' ignoring university rules and regulations are not stopped immediately. The meeting was held at the Dosto building office of the student organisation in the city. SCF President Mehedi Hasan Tamal presided over the meeting. Meanwhile, the 5th Assistant Judge Court, Chittagong (Hathazari) served a show cause notice on the university authorities seeking a reply as to why the appointments of three newly-appointed teachers of Economics Department will not be declared 'illegal'. The court issued the notice on Thursday afternoon following a prayer submitted by the Dean of Social Science Faculty and senior teacher of Economics Department Dr Moinul Islam and departmental head Professor M Nasiruddin. However, Pro-VC Professor M Shamsuddin told this correspondent that the university authorities would pray seeking more time from the court as the VC is now staying abroad.

The university authorities appointed four teachers in Economics Department defying the planning committee's recommendation. As per the recommendation, the university authorities published advertisements on different dailies seeking applications for the posts three months back. Accordingly, eight candidates applied. The selection board scrutinised the applications and made a merit based list. Having all first classes, Selim Ullah topped the list of applicants. He was duly appointed while recruitment of three others was made ignoring the planning committee recommendation which suggested for recruiting a teacher. Recruitment of the three teachers having involvement with Jamaat-Shibir politics violated the merit-based list of applicants where they were placed 6th, 7th and 8th in the serial. The CU Syndicate finalised the appointments on June 27. On contact, Prof Dr Moinul Islam told The Daily Star that the appointments were made showing shortage of teachers. However, Vice Chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury could not be contacted as he is in Japan on a weeklong tour.



PHOTO: STAR

Shipyard workers brought out a rally in Chittagong city yesterday demanding separate guidelines for their welfare.

6X2

7X2