



Street children try to pull a car after it got stuck in a pothole near the Notre Dame College in the city yesterday, as monsoon flooding damaged the asphalt of the road.

ONE YEAR OF GRAMEEN SHIKKHA PROJECT

Affluent people urged to help poor rural students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus, chairman of Grameen Shikkha Board, yesterday called on the affluent people to come forward to help the poor and meritorious students in rural areas.

Prof Yunus, also managing director of Grameen Bank, made the call at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of 'Student Scholarship Management Project' of Grameen Shikkha in the city.

Grameen Shikkha, a non-government voluntary organisation, provides scholarships for the poor and meritorious students in rural areas to continue their education.

It has awarded scholarships to 171 students in 20 districts with the help of affluent people and well-known organi-

sations in the last one year.

Under the project, any person or organisation can deposit Tk 50 thousands or more to sponsor scholarships, said Nurjahan Begum, managing director of Grameen Shikkha.

So far, 37 individuals and 14 organisations have provided about Tk one crore for the scholarship project of Grameen Shikkha, she added.

"I expect that the amount will stand at Tk 50 crore in the next five years as more sponsors will join the programme and over one lakh students will be benefited from this project," said Prof Yunus.

"We also want to expand our activities to all 64 districts to provide talented students at the grassroots level with an opportunity to continue their education," he added.

The sponsors included National Professor and former foreign minister Shamsul Haq, economist Prof Nurul Islam, Shahed Kamal Majumder and Hasin Ahmed.

Grameen phone, Nokia and

SCAS signs deal with Australian university

School and College for Advanced Studies (SCAS) International has signed an agreement on education facility with the University of Notre Dame, Australia, in the city recently, says a press release.

Under the agreement, the SCAS International will act as representative of Notre Dame International and Phoenix English Language Academy.

The agreement will facilitate admission of Bangladeshi Students to different departments and institutions of the University of Notre Dame for post-graduate, undergraduate and A level programmes.



Prof Md Amzad Hossain of the University of Notre Dame, Australia, and SCAS International Principal Kamrul Islam and SCAS Chief Coordinator Md Qamrul Islam at the signing ceremony held in the city recently.

Abducted shrimp trader still missing in Khulna

Wife receives death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A shrimp trader has remained missing after his abduction on July 19.

Hafizur Rahman alias Dipu Kazi was abducted at gunpoint from near Khulna Judges' Court, said his mother Rahela Khatun in a FIR lodged with Khulna police on Sunday night.

According to the FIR, the abductors left the place in a white microbus identifying themselves as detectives of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

In the FIR, Rahela also accused eight people, including Managing Director of Lockpur Fish Processing Company Amjad Nikari and Chairman of Piljangee Union Parishad Siraj Morol.

Following the abduction a general diary (GD) was filed with Khulna police on July 22.

His mother now fears that Dipu might have been killed.

Meanwhile, an unknown caller has issued death threats to Dipu's wife

Nahid Parveen as she sought the help of police.

Nahid said she received death threats on July 30 and 31. The caller also told her that Dipu has been killed.

Officer-in-charge of Khulna Police Station said Dipu is one of the FIR-named accused in Farhad Hossain murder case. Farhad, an industrialist and younger brother of Amjad Nikari, was killed in 2001.

Amjad was not available for comments.

More donations to PM's relief fund

UNB, Dhaka

A number of ministries, educational institutions, business associations and private organisations donated over Tk 1.79 crore to the Prime Minister's relief fund yesterday.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, while receiving the cheques at her office, thanked the organisations for their gestures.

She also appreciated the activities of some organisations including ICDDR,B at the time of natural calamities.

She hoped that they would continue to stand beside the distressed people for their post flood rehabilitation.

Business associations, including Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Bangladesh Corrugated Carton and Accessories Manufacturers and Exporters Association handed over cheques for the PM's relief fund.

Officers and employees of the ministries of LGRD and Cooperatives, Shipping and Communications, Barisal City Corporation and Khulna City Corporation donated their one-day salary to the PM's relief fund.

Educational institutions including Islamic University of Technology, RAJUK Uttara Model School and College and Government Titumir College came up with similar gestures.

Banks and financial institutions that handed over cheques, include Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Commerce Bank Limited, Employment Bank, Basic Bank Limited and Rajshahi Krishi Bank.

Other organisations that came with their donation for the flood-hit people are Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd and charitable organisation Anjuman Mo'fidul Islam.

The prime minister assured the contributors that the fund would reach the needy people as soon as possible.

PERMANENT SOLUTION TO FLOODS 'Dams in neighbouring countries create obstacle'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of dams and groins by neighbouring countries is the biggest impediment to permanent solution to the country's floods, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahed said yesterday.

"We need concerted efforts to face natural calamities as there is no immediate permanent solution to the floods," the minister said at a joint meeting between the ministry officials and NGO leaders in the city.

The meeting discussed overall flood situation and relief efforts.

Lauding the role of NGOs in relief operations, the minister urged them to play a more pro-active role to reduce the miseries of flood-affected people.

He also called for active participation of the NGOs in the post-flood rehabilitation programme, with better

co-ordination.

The minister observed that some relief workers were distributing relief only in less-affected areas. He asked them to stand by the flood victims in worst-affected areas.

Kazi Monowarul Haq, secretary of the ministry, and Hafizul Islam Miah, director general of Social Services Department, were present at the meeting.

Representatives from the Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralysed, Centre for Services and Information on Disability, Save the Children, Concern, Bangladesh Protibondhi Kalyan Samity, Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation, Voluntary Association for Social Development, Assistance for Blind Children, Hilary Foundation Bangladesh and Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organisation attended the meeting.

DHAKA TODAY

Russian film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with Russian Cultural Centre, will screen two recent films from Russia. These are 'Russian Ark' directed by Aleksandr Sokurov, and 'The House of Fools' directed by Andrei Konchalovsky. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a Thai film titled 'Butterfly in Grey' (2002). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Workshop

Economic Reporters' Forum, in association with the National Board of Revenue (NBR), will hold an orientation workshop on revenue activities. Venue: NBR Conference Room, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

Lecture

Council for National Agenda (CNA) organises a lecture on 'recent efforts to improve Indo-Pak relations and its impact on the region' to be delivered by noted journalist and columnist of Pakistan Ikram Sehgal. Venue: CNA Office, House-13, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over the country till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:30am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	27.4	80	67
Chittagong	34.0	26.0	74	75
Rajshahi	34.0	27.2	88	75
Khulna	33.1	27.0	75	69
Barisal	32.2	27.4	73	73
Sylhet	34.5	24.8	78	80
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.0	68	78



Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad distributes foods among flood-hit people at Badda in the city yesterday.



Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka distributes relief at a flood shelter at Ward No. 83 in the city yesterday.



Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak distributes relief among flood-affected people at Masdair in Narayanganj yesterday.



Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaka, distributes relief among flood-affected people at Demra in the city on Sunday.



City Cell hands over 5,000 packets of relief to Rotary District 3280 Governor Office for distribution among flood victims on Sunday.



State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon receives relief materials from Lions Club of Dhaka South and Lions District 315-B1 Bangladesh for the flood victims of Chandpur.