



Winners of the 'Local Government Affairs Media Award 2003' pose with the guests at the award giving ceremony at the National Press Club yesterday. Sitting from left are Golam Sarwar, editor of the Jugantar, William J Cartier, chief of party, Local Government Initiative, ARD, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, LGRD minister, Reazuddin Ahmed, president of the National Press Club, and Prof Tofael Ahmed of Chittagong University.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MEDIA AWARD Separate budget for local govt suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function yesterday called for a separate budget for the local government institutions to strengthen their activities.

The allocation for the local government bodies in the national budget is inadequate. Moreover, the allocation is not directly given to them, said Prof Tofael Ahmed of Chittagong University in his keynote paper.

The Bangladeshi Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) organised the function to distribute the 'Local Government Affairs Media Award 2003'.

Two newspapers and three journalists were awarded at the ceremony held at the National Press Club.

Rashed Mehedi of the Bhorer Kagoj, Joyonto Acharya of the weekly 2000 and columnist Sohrab Hasan of the daily Sangbad received the awards for their write-ups.

Golam Sarwar, editor of the daily Jugantar, and Mozammel Haque, editor of the daily Karatoa, received prizes on behalf of their newspapers.

Speaking as chief guest, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan underscored the need for strengthening the union parishes (UP) and pourasavas to make the local govern-

ment more effective.

"If the local government becomes powerful, poverty reduction and development of the country will be faster," he said.

The government has taken necessary steps to impart proper training to the UP chairmen, the minister said, adding that a proposal has also been sent to the finance ministry for direct allocation to the local government.

Reazuddin Ahmed, president of the

National Press Club, said local government needs to be more active and independent.

The authority of the local government should also be clearly defined, he added.

William J Cartier, chief of party, Local Government Initiative, ARD, and Saiful Islam, president of Local Government Development Journalists' Forum, also spoke.

'Ensure rights of the disabled'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day seminar ended in the city yesterday with a call to promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

The call was made in a joint declaration adopted at the National Leadership Training Seminar for Representatives of Disabled Peoples' Organisations.

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan

Samity (BPKS) organised the seminar at the LGED Seminar Hall at Argaoon.

A total of 120 representatives from 80 disabled people's organisations from across the country took part in the seminar.

The joint declaration demanded of the government to provide administrative, financial and technical supports for the development of the disabled with special attention to physically challenged women.

It also urged the government to implement all its commitment made at national, regional, international and UN forums for the welfare of the disabled.

Speaking at the concluding session, State Minister for NGO Affairs Lutfur Rahman Khan said the disabled are not burden, rather they could be turned into human resources if proper training and opportunity are provided to them.

BPKS Executive Director Abdus Sattar Dulal said the physically challenged should not be excluded from any policy making process as they constitute 10 percent of the total population of the country.

He however regretted that there is not a single institution which is suitable for the disabled.

Action on Disability and Development (ADD) Country Representative Mosharraf Hossain, Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker, Managing Director of Bangladesh National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons (BNFDDP) M Ishaq Bhuiyan, Director General of Social Welfare Department Hafizul Islam Mian and BPKS Chairperson Saiful Islam also spoke.

32 to get Nat'l Award-1409 in agriculture

UNB, Dhaka

Thirty-two farmers and researchers will be given the National Award-1409 for their special contributions in developing agriculture in the Bengal year.

The award will carry gold medals for 5 of the recipients, silver medals for 9 and bronze for 18. The gold medalists will also receive Tk 25,000 each, silver medalists Tk 15,000 and bronze medalists Tk 7,500 each.

An official announcement said the decision was finalised at the National Agriculture Award Trustee Board meeting yesterday at the Agriculture Ministry. Agriculture Minister MK Anwar presided.

The meeting was told that applications were invited from every district and upazila. "All applications were considered and then a list was finalised. A total of 259 applications from this list and other organisations and reputed individuals were considered and in the next phase of selection 32 people were nominated."

MAMUN MURDER

Two Ctg BCL activists to die, two others get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong, yesterday sentenced two Bangladesh Chhatra League activists to death and two others to life imprisonment for killing BCL leader Ataur Rahman Mamun of Islamia Degree College in 1997.

Judge M Hasan Imam passed the death sentence on Ratan Sikder and Mohammad Rizwan. The other convicts are Satyajit Pal and Monzur Ahmad alias Monzu.

The tribunal, however, acquitted

four other accused -- Jahidul Islam Selim, Antu Barua, Syed Noor and Milan Das.

According to the prosecution, the accused sprayed bullets on BCL leader Ataur Rahman Mamun and his friend Tarek Hossain at Chitteshwari Road on April 20 in 1997 when they were going to a private clinic by an autorickshaw to see an ailing relative.

Local people rushed them to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared Mamun dead.

The attack was a sequel to an internal feud.

Zillur Rahman, elder brother of Mamun, filed a case with Kotwali police the same night.

Tarek also gave specific information under section 164, which helped the investigation officer (IO) make a breakthrough in the case.

The IO submitted the charge sheet on April 4, 1999 against eight people. The case was transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal in June this year.

Meanwhile, Tarek was abducted and killed on August 10 in 1999 and a case in this regard is under trial.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receives a cheque for Tk 1.05 crore from South East Bank Chairman Azim Uddin Ahmed on Tuesday for the flood victims.



Dr HBM Iqbal, chairman of Premier Bank Limited, hands over a cheque for Tk 40 lakh to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office on Tuesday for the flood-affected people.

Tk 90 lakh donated to PM's fund

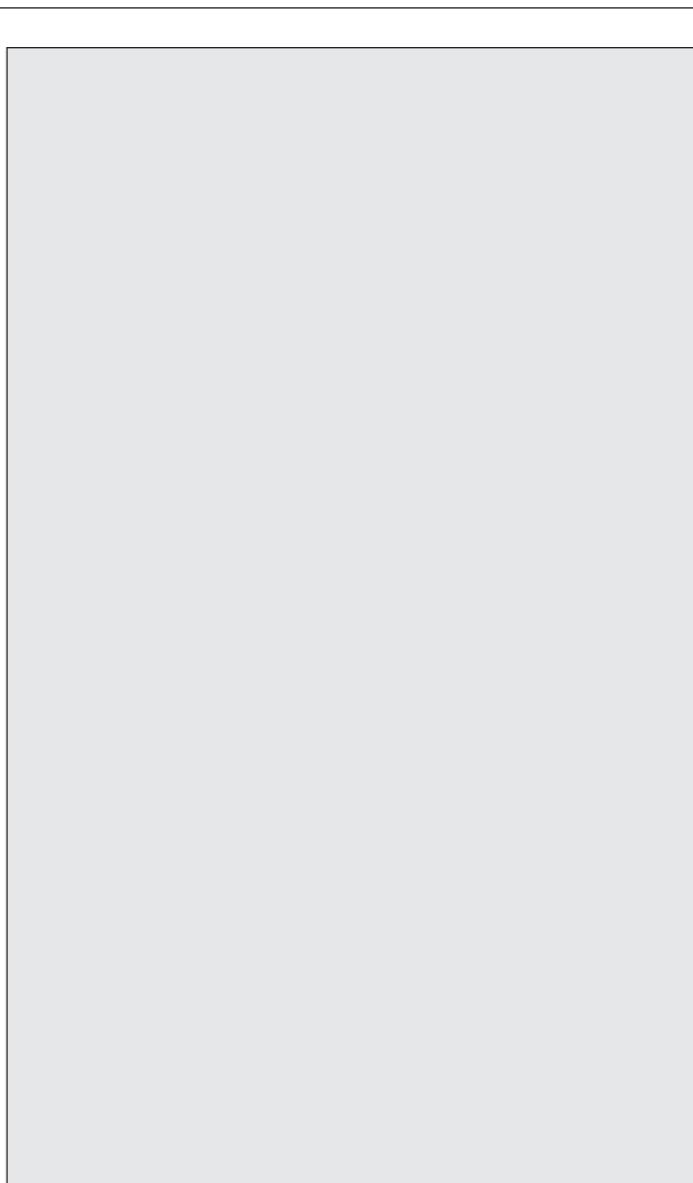
UNB, Dhaka

More ministries, associations and private organisations yesterday donated over Tk 90 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the flood-stricken people.

Other organisations that came up with the gesture were Cooperative Book Society, Bangladesh Rifles School and College and Rifles Public School and College, also donated a substantial amount of taka to the fund.

Al Arafah Islami Bank Limited contributed Tk 25 lakh, Bangladesh Insurance Association Tk 12.35 lakh, Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) Tk 10 lakh and Chittagong Club Tk 6 lakh.

Some educational institutions,



DHAKA TODAY

Drama-Dakghar

The KaJana, a recitation forum, will stage a drama titled 'Dakghar' by Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Natmondo Dhaka University. Time: 6.30pm and 7.30pm. The sale proceeds from this drama will go for flood victims.

Drama-Gondar

The Prachyanat, a theatre forum, will stage a drama titled 'Gondar' directed by Toufiqul Islam Imon. Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 7.00pm.

Cultural programme

The cultural programme of Newcastle Law Academy will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Cultural function

The annual cultural function of Salvation International School and College will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium. Time: 4.30pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Dev' (2004), and a British film titled 'Troy' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Roundtable

Consumers Association of Bangladesh organises a roundtable on 'Road communications, passenger service and consumers' rights' with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

ICMAB discussion

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organises a discussion with the members of the institute. Venue: ICMAB Auditorium, Nilkhel. Time: 5.00pm.

WPO discussion

The World Peace Organisation (WPO) will hold a discussion on 'Nuclear Disarmament to mark the Hiroshima

\$ 5 lakh Unicef aid for flood victims

Care appeals for \$ 1 m

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Unicef yesterday released US \$ 500,000 to support immediate relief assistance for the flood victims while the Care launched an appeal for US \$ 1 million for South Asia floods to provide both immediate and long-term assistance.

The Unicef has released the amount from its emergency programme fund to provide essential medical supplies, food for young children, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

The sum has been provided in the expectation of the funds being forthcoming from donors in response to

Unicef's appeal for US\$ 13.4 million that was launched globally early this week, said the Unicef in a statement.

It has already distributed 25,000 intravenous fluid bags, five million water purification tablets, 10 metric tons of bleaching powder, 26 metric tons of oral dehydration salt, 10,000 jerry cans and 200 new hand pumps.

The Care will provide assistance to help people survive the floods and recover their ability to earn a living once the heavy rains cease, according to a Care release.

It is now distributing survival kits to 108,000 people in the worst-affected districts, including Bajitpur. It has also distributed high protein biscuits among more than 430,000 people.

The expanded response also includes two mobile water purification plants in Sunamganj district and two in Dhaka, which are supplying more than 6,600 gallons of water a day to the affected families. The organisation is also operating four centres for health and nutrition in an urban area, serving more than 7,000 people, providing balanced meals to children and pregnant and nursing mothers.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Painting exhibition

The inauguration of an exhibition of paintings by noted artists will be held with acting vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AFM Yousuf Haidar as chief guest. The exhibition has been organised to raise funds for flood affected people. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 11.00am. The exhibition will remain open till August 10 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of a dual album titled 'Fagoon' by Mithu Ahmed and Srikanta Acharya, will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 4.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen three American films titled 'Spiderman 2' (2004), 'Braveheart' (1995), and 'Fahrenheit 9/11' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 10.30am, 3.30pm and 6.30pm.