

Tk 26 lakh donated for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

More organisations and institutions yesterday donated about Tk 26 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the flood-affected people.

Receiving the cheques for the amount at her office, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia thanked the donors for their generous contributions.

While handing over a cheque, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Maj. Gen. (retd.) ZA Khan

informed the prime minister that the Red Crescent Society would provide relief support for 10 lakh affected families for next three months.

Other organisations and institutions that donated money for the PM's Relief Fund are National Tea Company Ltd, Public Administration Training Centre, Bangladesh Sammlito Relief Committee, Tejgaon College, BNP units at Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal units at the USA and Jeddah.



PHOTO: STAR

Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Palestine Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab along with other foreign diplomats called on opposition leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

HEROIN SMUGGLING

Three Pak women get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday handed down life term to three Pakistani women for trafficking 14 kilograms of heroin into Bangladesh on May 21 last year.

The convicts are Noor Jahan, Nazma and Kohinoor.

Judge Shamsul Alam Khan of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court delivered the verdict in presence of the convicts at a jam-packed courtroom.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of nine, out of 13 prosecution witnesses.

Hearing the verdict, the convicts broke down in tears.

According to the prosecution story, the three Pakistani women were arrested with about 14 kilograms of heroin stuffed into 176 toothpaste tubes in a bag at Zia International Airport in one of the largest drug busts at about 10:30am on May 21 last year.

The trio who arrived from Karachi

via Dubai by the Emirates Airline were handed over to the airport police on charge of drug trafficking.

Suspicious of the luggage, customs officials retrieved it and the following scan revealed medicinal content.

As they were about to open the bag, Nazma came forward to claim its ownership and said it contained Sensodyne and Medicam, two tooth-paste brands.

But the amount of toothpaste and hardness of the tubes raised the officials' doubt and they opened some in front of representatives of different agencies to find 13.8 kgs heroin, 78 grams in each tube.

Customs Inspector Shamser Ali filed a case with Airport Police Station the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against them on June 16.

The court framed charges against the trio on March 9 this year and the trial began on May 29.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Shahidul Islam Sarder appeared for the state while Advocate Ali Akbar Belayeti defended the accused.

Maj Gen Fazle Elahi Akbar made UN Commander in Sudan

UNB, Dhaka

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed Major General Fazle Elahi Akbar of Bangladesh Army as UN Force Commander in the United Nations Advance Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS) for one year, said an ISPR release yesterday.

Born in 1952, Maj. Gen. Akbar was commissioned in the corps of infantry in 1971. He is a graduate of the Army Staff Course, Camberley, UK and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

Currently, General Akbar has been attending a briefing session at the UN Headquarters prior to taking up his new assignment in Khartoum. He is likely to reach Sudan in the first week of September to join UNAMIS as Force Commander.

Earlier, he served in the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG) from August 88 to September 99.

One shot, another hurt in bomb blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot and injured a contractor in Mohammadpur area and a teenage boy was injured in a bomb explosion at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

Witnesses said two criminals on a motorcycle fired point-blank at Selim Master, 40, at Haji Chinu Mia Road while he was returning home at around 2.00pm.

Selim received four bullets in his chest and left leg. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Selim's elder brother Zahangir Hossain said the miscreants wanted to kill him as he refused to pay them toll.

"He (Selim) also went to his village home in Chandpur and stayed there for few days for fear of criminals," Zahangir added.

In another incident, Kawser, 17, a canteen boy of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute was injured in a bomb explosion.

He said the bomb exploded in front of the Institute's Latif Hostel while he was going to his workplace at around 8.30pm.

The boy received injuries in both legs.

Tejgaon police said they went to the institute in the morning after receiving information that a tension was prevailing at the hall.

However, no-one was arrested till filing of this report.

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