

India donates food worth Rs 100 cr

UNB, Dhaka

India donated food worth rupees 100 crore in grant assistance for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh.

Food and Disaster Management Ministry will receive 75,000 metric tonnes of wheat worth 75 crore rupees, pulses worth 20 crore rupees and onions worth 5 crore rupees against the food assistance from Indian government, an official announcement said Monday.

An inter-ministerial meeting with Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu in the chair yesterday decided speedy distribution of the foodstuffs.

"These food items will be sent to various districts directly from India as per government direction," said the handout.

1,126 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,126 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered 16 firearms, 25 bullets and an explosive and filed 10 cases against 12 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.



Damaged wall of the madrasa at Haji Camp Road in the city.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK Pro-govt lawyers blame SC Bar for parallel probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association has no legal or constitutional mandate to discard the judicial probe report on the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally, said the pro-government lawyers at a press conference yesterday.

Similarly, the association is not authorised to carry out another parallel investigation into the massacre, they said at the conference organised under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad.

The judicial inquiry committee was constituted under the law of the land and it acted like a civil court. There is no question to reject the report of this committee, said Advocate Mahbubur Rahman MP.

Lawyers in general have not empowered the Bar association to accept or reject the commission report, he added.

The probe committee, formed by a section of lawyers in the name of the bar association, is motivated by a certain political party and has no legal basis, said Advocate Zainul Abedin, legal affairs secretary of the ruling BNP's central committee

while reading out a written statement.

"Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina refused to give an interview to the judicial probe committee on the grenade attack with a view to protect those responsible," he said replying to a question.

Bar association's action of forming inquiry committee has not only tarnished the image of the country's highest court but also has gone against the fundamental spirit of upholding the unity of lawyers community and facilitating their professional duties, Abedin added.

The parishad leaders said they will launch greater movement against what they said 'Association's politically motivated activities once the court resumes after the vacation

Advocates Golam Arshad, Golam Mohammad Chowdhury, Akbar Ameen, Badruddoza and Helal Uddin were present on the occasion.

Death Anniversary

Today is the third death anniversary of Dr Nawab Ali, an eminent surgeon, says a press release.

A doa mahfil has been arranged at Ahmad Medical Centre at Dhanmondi after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil.



OFn. Obaidur Rahman Khan, chairman of the Old Faujijs Association, formally announced the introduction of 'OFA Award of Excellence' at the Mostafa Auditorium of Faujdarhat Cadet College recently.

'OFA Award of Excellence' introduced

The Old Faujijs Association (OFA), a global organisation of ex-cadets of Faujdarhat Cadet College (FCC), has introduced 'OFA Award of Excellence' for present cadets of the college, says a press release.

The award aims at encouraging the 'general' cadets of FCC to improve themselves further, inspiring the 'better' cadets to be the best, and strengthening the bondage between OFA and the fresh batch.

OFn. Obaidur Rahman Khan, chairman of the association, formally announced the introduction of the award at the Mostafa Auditorium of the college recently.

The award will be effective from 2005.

A number of old Faujijs including secretary general of the Central Governing Body and presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka and Chittagong chapters were present on the occasion.

City madrasa ransacked, 25 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-five people were injured in a clash between a group of hired men of the owner of Harli Barli Store and the students of Babus Salam Madrasa at Haji Camp Road in the airport area in the city yesterday.

The clash began when the hired men numbering about 60 vandalised the madrasa doors, windows and wall at around 10.30am yesterday, local people said.

The madrasa authorities immediately informed the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the police who rushed to the spot, said Anisur Rahman, principal of the madrasa.

"But the police remained silent while the gang ransacked our structures worth around Tk 10 lakh," he said, adding that the students tried to resist the attackers.

The witnesses said that both the groups fought almost for an hour with whips, bricks, hockey-sticks, bamboos and rods, leaving 25 injured.

Later, Rab brought the situation under control.

Police picked up six people, including two madrasa students from the spot.

The injured who were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital are Shamim, 20, Abdul Kuddus, 26, Abdul Hakim, 30, Kaikobad, 20, Ashraf, 20, Nasir Billah, 9, Md Emran Hossain, 12, Md. Monjurul Islam, 15, Md Yousuf, 22, Abu Bakar, 18 and Md Kabir Hossan. The rest received treatment at local clinics.

Syed Mustak Hossain Ratan, president of the madrasa, told The Daily Star that two brothers rented the ground floor of the madrasa on February 18, 2002 but they violated the conditions of the deed and encroached around 3,000 square feet.

Burglary at city shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A burglary took place at a shop in Maulana Bhasani Stadium in the city on Saturday night.

Aslam, the owner of the shop, said the burglars entered the shop by breaking the back wall.

They heisted cash and valuables worth around Tk five lakh, he added.

Aslam filed a case with Motijheel Police Station in this connection.

None was arrested till 7:30pm last night.

Concern at torture in custody, death in crossfire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday expressed grave concern at the torture in police custody and the death of arrestees in crossfire.

They said only reform in judicial system could play the pivotal role in checking these events.

The seminar on 'Criminal responsibility for torture : South Asian perspective ' was organised by Odhikar, a human rights organisation, in the city.

While speaking at the inaugural session, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed and former Awami League law minister Abdul Matin Khasru were engaged in a debate on the death of arrested persons at Rab (Rapid Action

Battalion) custody and torture of detainees at police custody.

Khasru said police are being used by the party in power to reap political benefits.

"Our police force is so corrupt that it has minimum respect for human rights," he said, adding that the outdated method of investigation is also responsible for torture in police custody.

In reply, Moudud said police have been given too much power in the investigation process which sometimes breeds corruption.

"There is nobody to scrutinise the investigation conducted by the police and most incompetent police officer is appointed as court officer," the law minister said, adding that there is no coordination between public prosecutors and investigators.

Citing the examples of Ahsanullah Master killing and some bomb blast incidents, Khasru said the government issued press note even before the FIR (First Information Report) was lodged.

Such kind of practice by the government leads the investigation to a wrong direction, he added.

Criticising the death of arrestees in crossfire, Khasru said, "I congratulate the Rab, Chita and Cobra for nabbing the criminals but my request would be, please do not kill them before holding trial."

The law minister said those, who died in crossfire, were listed criminals.

There are lawyers who defend them to get bail from the court, he added.

Moudud said the death or torture in police custody has to be stopped.

"We are going to modernise our jail code to reduce violation of human rights inside the prison," he added.

Regarding sections 54 and 167, he said, "We cannot just take away the section 54 from the police and repeal the section 167."

The law minister said there should be separate body of police to investigate the cases.

Former chief justice Justice K M Hasan said it would be pathetic if law-enforcing agencies engage themselves in torture in the name of justice.

"People belonging to marginalised groups are often subjected to torture and harassment," he added.

Presided over by Odhikar President Tasneem Siddique, the inaugural session was also addressed by Dr Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Belgian Film session
Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with the Alliance Francaise, will screen two recent French-speaking Belgian films titled 'Farinelli' (1994) by Gerard Corbiau and 'The Promise' (1996) by Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne. Venue: Alliance Francaise, Road-3, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Film show
Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies organises the premiere show of an award-winning film titled 'The Name of a River' directed by Anup Sing. The film is based on the life of noted filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak. Venue: BIAM Auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 6.30pm.

Rotary meeting
Rotary Club of Dhaka organises a special function to mark one hundred years of Rotary International. Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 6.00pm.

Cultural evening
The High Commission of India will present a cultural evening by a cultural troupe from Rajasthan. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2. Time: 6.30pm.

Cultural function
Dhaka Ahsania Mission organises a cultural function as part of its observance of the National Sanitation Month. Venue: Amphitheatre near Dhanmondi Lake. Time: 5.00pm.

Installation ceremony
The installation ceremony of Bangladesh Ain Chhatra Parishad will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: 83, Green Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Muldhara discussion
Weekly discussion meeting of

Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

AL meeting
A meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee will be held with party President Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Venue: House-51/A, Road-3/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 12.00 noon.

Installation ceremony
The installation ceremony of Lions Club of Dhaka Rising Star District 315-B-2 will be held with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon as chief guest. Venue: Lion Eye Hospital Foundation Auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 5.30pm.

Web site inauguration
The inauguration of the Web Site for Rural Electrification Board will be held with State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud as chief guest. Venue: Conference room of energy and mineral resources ministry. Time: 11.00am.

Prize giving ceremony
The prize giving ceremony of Bangladesh Organisation for Disabled Advancement will be held with State Minister for Labour and Employment Generation Ministry Aman Ullah Aman as chief guest. Venue: Sundarban Hotel. Time: 11.00am.

Meeting
A meeting of the central committee of Jatiya Shramik League Mahila Committee will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 11.00am.

Rally
Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad organises a rally to observe the anti-communalism day. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 4.30pm.

