

Govt may relax freeze

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member of Hasina's family shows specific need for withdrawing money from the frozen accounts, the government will consider it.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Thursday asked all commercial banks to freeze the bank accounts of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and her five family members. Her husband Dr M Wazed Miah, her sister Sheikh Rehana, her son Sajeab Wazed Joy, her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, and Sheikh Rehana's husband Dr Shafiq Siddique,

Hasina's lawyer raised questions about the government move claiming that it will hamper the medical treatment of Dr M Wazed Miah. The lawyer also expressed anxiety about running the operations of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Bangabandhu Memorial Trust, and the Welfare Trust for the Grenade Attack Victims, since the accounts of those non-profit organisations were also frozen.

Opportunities still remain to withdraw money from the frozen accounts in cases of emergencies, the finance adviser said adding that the government gave such chances earlier too.

If the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust authorities show valid documents proving that due to the government move the employees and scholarship recipients are being deprived of salaries and financial aid, the government will relax the regime, he said.

Similar relaxations will be allowed in the case of medical treatment of the former prime minister's husband, he said.

When his comment was sought on the matter of legalising undisclosed money by former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, the adviser replied that the government gave a chance to persons who had earned money legally but mistakenly or otherwise did not mention it on his or her returns, to legalise those.

"It is totally one's personal matter, if he or she takes the opportunity, I have no comment on the issue," he said adding, "I have no comment on whether it should be done or not either."

NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman said Sheikh Hasina and her relatives whose accounts were frozen may withdraw up to Tk 50,000 a month and may also apply to the Central

Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the NBR for withdrawing a greater sum for medical purposes.

The three organisations that also have their accounts frozen, may also withdraw money to run their operations, but the organisations will have to apply to CIC with necessary documents, Badiur told reporters at the inauguration of a training course for auditors in the capital yesterday.

The accounts of ex-BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, his wife Tahmina Zaman, daughters Faria Binte Zaman and Tasfia Binte Zaman, and sons Labib Ibne Zaman and Ahnaf Ibne Zaman, were also frozen.

The NBR also asked banks to freeze the accounts of former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Hadi, former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo, and former CBA leader Mollah Abul Kalam Azad.

Some other persons whose accounts were frozen are Mirza Obaidur Rahman, Md Golam Rahman, Dr Farida Binte Lutfar, Dr Latifa Binte Lutfar, Dr Afzalunnessa, Khaled Rahman Payel, Shamsur Rahman, Nipa, Mithila, and Mitra all relatives of Babar.

Moreover, the accounts of Divisional Forest Officer of Sylhet Laskar Maksudur Rahman, his wife Mahfuza Sultana, his son Musfiqur Rahman, and daughter Sabura Rahman were also frozen.

NBR SEEKS ACCOUNT INFO

The NBR in a separate letter also asked commercial banks to provide it with the account information of some political and business leaders including former foreign affairs minister M Morshed Khan and his family members -- Nasrin Khan, his wife, Faria Haque, his daughter, Faisal Morshed Khan, his son, Shema Sejan Khan, wife of Faisal Morshed Khan, Fayaz Morshed Khan, Faraz Morshed Khan and Johnson Morshed Khan, sons of Faisal.

The tax office simultaneously asked for the account information of Sheikh Hasina, her five family members, and the three AL affiliated non-profit organisations - whose accounts are currently frozen.

It also sought the account information of 16 other people.

DCC claims

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In 2000, some 6,000 people were affected with the disease and 93 people died, the adviser said.

The situation improved during the following years and in 2006, 11 people died among around 3,000 patients, he added.

The best way of preventing dengue is to demolish the breeding grounds of aedes mosquito that spreads the viral disease, he said.

Chief Executive Officer of DCC Saifuddin Ahmed said colourful posters on dengue prevention have already been sent to some of the taxpayers of the city. The DCC is also collecting the record of the dengue patients from city's hospitals and clinics to identify the dengue prone areas and take immediate measures.

Prof MR Khan said dengue is also spreading outside the capital and the main symptoms of dengue is fever, severe ache in body and head and sometimes bleeding from cornea or other parts of the body.

"But the treatment is very simple. Paracetamol is enough for this fever. Tablets like Aspirin should not be taken. Besides, the patient has to take a lot of fluid," he said.

As the chances of dengue fever increases in September, the ward commissioners could campaign with the help of school students in the areas, said experts present at the meeting. Even motivation programmes in schools and mosques can help to remove the cans, empty boxes, tyres, flower vases that contain clear water and help breeding of aedes mosquito.

Focusing on the flood situation in the country, the speakers said everybody should extend their helping hands to the flood affected people.

The DCC ward commissioners were directed to make a list of the schools, colleges and community centres in their areas and make preparation for setting up camps if necessary.

Among others, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Imdadul Haque Milon and actor Ilias Kanchan were present at the discussion presided over by DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

EC vows

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enumerators will be ensured during their appointment as the correctness of the particulars of prospective voters largely depends on their abilities," Sohul Hussain said.

The enumerators will collect particulars of voters by visiting door-to-door and will ask the prospective voters to visit voter registration centres to have their photographs and fingerprints taken.

The EC has yet to specify the remuneration of the enumerators and supervisors who will discharge the important tasks.

Officials in the EC Secretariat, however, said an enumerator, who will collect particulars of highest 300 prospective voters, will have only six taka per voters, the same amount of money given for preparing the voter list in 2000.

This time, one enumerator will get his remuneration only after completing his entire tasks, which include collection of particulars and bringing the prospective voters to voter registration centres.

Talking to The Daily Star, several district election officers said it will be difficult to get a large number of efficient manpower.

Conventionally schoolteachers were always recruited for the task.

"This time, the enumerators will have to write prospective voter's name both in Bangla and English in the prescribed forms. So, quality of enumerators will have to be ensured," Election Commissioner Sohul said.

He said the field level task for preparing the voter list with photographs would formally begin in Rajshahi and Khulna city corporations and eight other municipality areas in next week.

Asked whether the flood will affect the task for completion of voter listing in time as there is 18 months time as per the election roadmap, the election commissioner said the EC kept two months 'extra time' in the roadmap to make up for any possible loss of time due to natural disaster.

50,000 tonnes

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rice procurement target, the finance adviser explained.

"As we need to increase the supply of rice to the local market, the stocks should be strengthened by importing rice," he further said.

Besides, Tk 882 crore has been allocated in the budget for purchasing 4.50 lakh metric tons of rice in the current fiscal year.

The meeting also approved to procure 1.86 lakh metric tons of urea fertiliser and also approved the proposal of appointing international consultant for Siddhirganj peaking power plant.

Leaders ask party men

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forward to help the flood victims as it is not possible for the government alone to combat the natural disaster.

Meanwhile, different NGOs including Brac and Caritas have spearheaded their relief operations to help the flood-affected people across the country.

They also pleaded the government to take necessary steps so that people can take part in relief programmes carried out in the country.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan gave instructions to party activists to provide relief materials to the flood victims according to their ability.

"Everybody should help the flood-affected people. If the government does not allow relief operations under political banner it should be done personally," he told the reporters at his Gulshan residence yesterday.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged people of all walks of life to come forward to help millions of people marooned in different parts across the country.

He stressed the need for forging national unity irrespective of political ideologies and personal identity to tackle the situation.

"No legal restriction on politicians exists in standing beside the flood-affected people," he said at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, a day after the top leaders of present government made an appeal to all for helping the flood victims.

Dr Kamal said the chief adviser should address the nation at this moment of crisis in order to inform people about the actual gravity of the situation.

Workers Party yesterday formed 'people's relief committee' for conducting relief operation. As per the decision of party's relief section, the committee will coordinate relief activities across the country..

Jamaat leaders yesterday directed party activists to carry out relief operation to save the flood-affected people.

In a joint statement, Jamaat Ameer Matjur Rahman Nazami and Secretary General Ali Hossain Mohammad Mujahid expressed their concern over the present flood situation and urged party activists and countrymen to stand beside the flood victims.

Former minister ASM Abdur Rob in a statement yesterday called upon the government to form a national disaster prevention council to tackle the situation.

JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad in a joint statement urged the party leaders and activists to stand beside the flood victims.

They requested party activists as well as people in general to contact the party's relief activities coordination centre at Col Taher auditorium to help the flood-affected people.

They urged the government to allow the political parties open their offices in the country so that they can carry out relief operations effectively.

Liberal Democratic Party leaders led by its Secretary General Maj (rtd) Abdul Mannan distributed relief materials among the marooned people in Sirajganj.

Communist Party leaders led by its President Manjurul Ahsan Khan also distributed relief materials among the

flood-hit families in Sirajganj yesterday and will distribute relief items in Gaibandha today.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi expatriates in USA also decided to collect relief materials to help the flood-affected people. The relief collection programme will begin at Jackson Heights Sunday.

NGO Initiatives

Responding to current floods that displaced several million people and continued to inundate more areas the country, NGOs backed by international partners have started providing the affected people with shelter, food and medical supplies.

Brac, one of the largest NGOs in the country, has started massive relief operations in all the flood-affected regions. Over 5000 full-time Brac staffs are engaged in distributing relief materials in about 100 upazilas.

Brac has already earmarked Tk 5 crore from its own resources and expects to mobilise donors to get additional Tk 15 crore for the relief programmes, according to a press release issued yesterday.

Brac has engaged its staffs, doctors, teachers and health workers to distribute food items as well as emergency medicines for the affected people, in addition to providing fresh water and sanitation facilities.

A round-the-clock control room (phone: 9881265, Ext 2305) has been set up at Brac headquarters at the Brac Centre, Mohakhali, to monitor and coordinate relief activities across the country.

Brac made an appeal to all to contribute to its relief efforts. All the 92 Brac offices in the capital will collect cash and relief materials to distribute those among the affected people.

Another NGO Caritas has announced to spend Tk 60 million for providing food, household items and shelter to the flood victims.

Caritas will distribute Tk 4 million among 7,500 flood-affected families, said a Caritas press release yesterday. Each family will get 10 kg of rice, 2 kg of dal, 1 kg of salt and 1 litre of soya bean oil in the worst affected areas of Netrakona, Sherpur, Sunamganj, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Natore, Munshiganj and Manikganj.

It will also distribute non-food items worth Tk 8.2 million among 1000 families affected by recent landslides in Chittagong, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. Besides, Caritas will spend Tk 47.8 million for providing complete shelter to 10,000 families affected by landslides and flash floods in the three districts.

Earlier, UK gave \$2.5 million (Tk 17 crore) of immediate aid to provide food, fresh water, shelter and medicines to 50,000 people in the ten worst affected districts and special assistance through the Chars Livelihoods Programme.

UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting government's ongoing relief work, channelling \$1.8 million (Taka 12 crore) aid through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has launched its relief operation and distributed relief materials among 50,000 people in eight flood-affected districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Faridpur, Tangail, Sylhet and Sunamganj.

BB 'corrupt' list

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Shambhu, ASM Firoz, and AKM Jahangir Hossain, among others.

The new list also contains the names of the following people, whose bank account details were sought earlier too, AL general secretary Abdul Jalil, former health minister and AL leader Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, former home minister and AL leader Mohammad Nasim, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former state minister and AL joint secretary Obaidul Quader, Chittagong City Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former lawmaker and Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam, businessman Salman F Rahman, former lawmaker and AL leader HBM Iqbal, former AL lawmakers Shamim Osman, Akhtaruazzaman Chowdhury Babu, AHM Mustafa Kamal, Jainal Hazari, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, AL leader Pankaj Debnath, Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Haji Makbul, Haji Selim, and Rafiqul Anwar, Sheikh Hasina's APS Alauddin Nasim, former minister and Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, and Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Ziauddin Bablu.

The names of Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Mirza Abbas, Tariqul Islam, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Lutfozzaman Babar, Mir Nasir Uddin, Ziaul Haq Zia, Shahjahan Siraj, Amanullah Aman, Mosaddak Ali Fala, Harris Chowdhury, former BNP lawmakers Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, M Rashiduzzaman Millat, Ali Asgar Lobi, MAH Selim, M Naser Rahman Babu, BNP leader Shish Mohammad, Helaluzzaman Talukder Lahu, Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, AKM Anwarul Islam, Harun-or-Rashid, Hafiz Ibrahim, Monwar Hossain Dipjal and Abul Hashem, Islamic Oikya Jote leader Mufti Shahidul Islam are also on the list.

The businessmen, whose bank account details have been sought are Ahmed Akbar Sobhan (Shah Alam) of Bashundhara Group, Nurul Islam Babul of Jamuna Group, Girdhari Lal Modi of Uttara Group, Obadiul Karim of Orion Group, former Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) president Abdul Awal Mintu, and Tarique Rahman's business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

Former power secretary ANM Akhter, former chief forest conservator Osman Gani, and former AIG of police Shahidullah Khan's bank account details have also been sought.

Mainul

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the flood-affected people due to the ban on politics.

Welcoming Mannan Bhuiyan's statement that everyone should come forward to help the flood-affected people regardless of their political colours and that should not be under a political banner, Mainul said, "I am very happy that they want to help without banners, because this is a humanitarian concern."

He said the government is not willing to ask for foreign assistance at this stage.

Sources, however, said the government would look to ask for foreign assistance in the post-floods reconstruction effort.

Mainul also said the caretaker government has no political motives centring their relief efforts as it is only an interim government overseeing the country through to elections next year.

There is no obstacle in the way of anyone wanting to help the flood-affected people, Relief and Disaster Management Adviser Tapan Chowdhury said at the press briefing.

He added that NGOs have been ordered to coordinate their relief programmes with the local government officials and the military relief efforts.

Rangs building

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chaired by secretary to the public works ministry, was held at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday noon.

Rajuk officials at the meeting informed the ministry about the current situation and development of the demolition work, meeting sources said. The Rajuk, however, is yet to finalise the strategy and method of carrying out the mammoth task.

"I was ordered to demolish the structure from the sixth floor upwards and we have demolished all internal things on three floors, from seventh to ninth. We have completed the work of making holes in eight floors," said Rajuk Magistrate ASM Emdadul Dastagir.

About 50 Rajuk workers started the demolition work around 9:00am yesterday and continued drilling through the ceilings and floors until 5:00pm. The holes are being made using five drill-hammers so that rubbles could be dropped from upper floors to lower floors and be removed from the building by a crane.

"I do not know how the main structure of the building would be demolished," Emdadul added.

A Rajuk source said the number of drill-hammers would be increased and they would contact contractors or private agencies to supply more drill-hammers.

Employees of Rangs Bhaban yesterday were seen removing materials from different floors including the fifth floor where Rankon Engineering is housed.

Many pieces of furniture and other materials were still seen piled up on different floors of the building and the normal office activities on the first to fourth floor were stalled due to the demolishing activities.

As only two lifts of the building are running, it was hard for the employees of the building to bring down heavy materials from upper floors to the ground.

A dispute had developed earlier between Rajuk and the building authorities over how much of the building would remain.

Rajuk had said they would demolish all the floors over 60 feet of the building, fifth floor and upwards, while the building authorities said the Supreme Court (SC) ordered destruction of the upper 16 floors of the building.

Meanwhile, public relations officer of Rangs Group Muzammel Haque Mridul complained that the building is being demolished in an unplanned way, posing a threat to people working in the first six floors.

SCURNS DOWN STAY PLEA

The SC yesterday turned down Rangs Group's plea for a stay on the Appellate Division ruling that declared the construction of Rangs Bhaban beyond its sixth floor illegal, UNB reports.

Chamber Judge M Hassan Ameen passed the order, following an application moved by Rangs Group counsellor, seeking stay on the operation of Thursday's SC verdict.

He sought the breather to file a review petition after getting the certified copy of the verdict.

The chamber judge, however, referred the matter for hearing to a regular bench of the Appellate Division.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, counsel for Rangs, told UNB that the application would come up on the list for hearing as usual.

On August 2, the SC in its orders overruled the High Court judgment given seven years ago that had declared valid the construction of the Rangs Bhaban.

Bus-truck collision

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Jasin Ali of Naogaon, helper of the bus Zakir Hossain, 35, Abdul Mannan, 25, Hosne Ara Begum, 70, of Naogaon and Abdul Hannan, 20, of Bogra. The identities of the rest could not be known immediately.

On information, police rushed to the spot and took the bodies to Jamuna Bridge Purbo Par Police Station.

Syed Ashiqur Rahman, second officer of the police station, told The Daily Star that all the killed were travelling aboard the passenger bus and most of them hailed from different upazilas of Naogaon district.

Critically injured Abul Kalam Azad, 25, of Ashkepur in Tangail town and Abu Hanif, 30, were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while 11 other injured were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Seven of them were identified as Fazlur Rahman, 70, Shohag, 25, Biplob, 18, Abdul Jalil, 30, Nantu, 25, Munni, 33 and Suchona, 6.

Police seized both the vehicles but the drivers managed to escape.

High officials from district administration including Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) Akhter Ali Sarkar visited the spot and the injured in the hospital.

200 workers

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The team members started calculating the dues of the People's Jute Mills workers.

The dues of the workers would be paid through their savings accounts, said a BJMC source.

The BJMC team was expected to leave Khulna on Sunday night with a final list of payment to be made to workers and employees of People's Jute Mills by August 30.

Meanwhile, Shamsul Haque, General Manager (Marketing) of BJMC head office, left Khulna on Saturday. The officials of the local office were to make a final list of seven state-owned jute mills workers and employees who would go on voluntary retirement under the golden handshake programme.

The final list would be submitted to BJMC head office by Wednesday, said Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills (PJJM) Manager Md Shajahan.

39 killed overnight

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Meanwhile, India's Met department reported that a low has developed over the North Bay and its adjoining areas, which will pass through Orissa and West Bengal coasts. However, this will have no effect on Bangladesh's flood situation, FFWC noted.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reported that sufferings of the flood-affected people took a serious turn with manifold problems including shortage of food and drinking water despite relief activities by the government and different NGOs.

Sources in the district administration said they received reports of 120 diarrhoea and skin disease cases so far while at least 417 educational institutions in nine upazilas of the district were damaged either fully or partly forcing their closure.

Intestinal diseases broke out at Udhakali under Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha mainly due to low quality food and contaminated water, according to our district correspondent.

RU Shibir cadres

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to contact the occupants at room no 226 to get their names enrolled in the voter list and collect NIDs.

Sources said hall unit Shibir President Mobarak Hossain used the room. Shibir cadres Farhad Saimum, Abul Kalam Azad, Russel and four outsiders also stayed at the same room.

Shibir cadres from the room swooped on the journalists as photo-journalist Iqbal took snaps of the posters without their permission.

Later, they took the journalists to the provost's room and kept them confined for three hours. They also snatched cameras, notebooks and mobile phones from the journalists.

When other journalists rushed to the scene hearing the news, Shibir cadres hurled abusive words at them and assaulted daily Samakal RU correspondent Meherul Hasan Sujon and Bhorer Kagoj RU correspondent Salauddin Muhammad Sumon.

On information, the hall provost, house tutors and police officials rushed to the spot and rescued the confined journalists at about 3:00 pm.

Shibir cadres misbehaved with journalists in presence of the law enforcers. At one stage they chased the journalists while the policemen remained inactive, said eyewitnesses.

"RU administration is not aware of the fact that students are being registered in the voter roll at the Shibir president's room," said Hall Provost Prof Nurul Islam.

"We shall look into the matter and take proper steps in this regard," said RU Proctor Prof Dr Enamul Haque.

Nazim Uddin Ahmed, the assistant registration officer of ward no 30, confirmed that no RU student had been appointed as enumerator.

"Enumerators from outside are going to the halls for enrolling the students in the voter roll," he said.

Ferdous Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Mothar police station, said that the police are investigating the matter.

RU unit Shibir President Delwar Hossain Sayidi told the journalists that Shibir has neither any connection with the posters on voter list nor the incidents involving the journalists.

Hasina challenges

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were present at the courtroom yesterday.

Earlier in the day, Hasina's lawyers took permission from the court for filing the writ petitions.

Many AL leaders and activists also gathered at the court premises yesterday including AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury and Shahara Khatun.

After filing of the petitions, Hasina's lawyers declined to say anything, before the hearing, about their legal grounds for challenging the ACC's notice and bringing the case filed against Hasina under the EPR.

The lawyers, however, hinted that one of the two writ petitions is almost identical to Hasina's writ petition which she filed a week ago challenging the government move to bring the Tk 5 crore extortion case against her under the EPR.

Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd, filed the case against Hasina with Gulshan Police Station on June 13 this year in connection with extorting Tk 3 crore.

The AL chief's yesterday's writ petition challenges the government's move to bring another similar extortion case filed against her by AL leader and businessman Noor Ali, in connection with the extortion of Tk 5 crore over a power plant deal 10 years ago, under the EPR.

Advocates Mahbubey Alam and Abdul Matin Khasru, two of Hasina's lawyers, told reporters that Hasina is willing to submit her wealth statement to the ACC, but she is in prison. She does not have any documents with her and the law enforcers even seized all papers and documents from her house when they arrested her, they added.

The lawyers said Hasina sought help from Bangladesh Bank and the ACC for submitting her wealth statement but she did not get any help. They said Hasina is willing to submit the statement but the government does not want her to.

In response to a petition filed by Tejgaon police, Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman on July 29 ordered Hasina to be shown arrested in the extortion case filed by Noor Ali on June 13.

Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Group of Companies, in his case was also accused Hasina's cousin Sheikh Helal and his wife Rupa Chowdhury.

Her lawyers said the police with mala fide intentions did not submit the charge sheet of the case before it brought the under the EPR.

"We gave instant treatment to about 70 patients with intestinal complaints at Udhakali health complex in last three days," said Nazrul Islam, health officer of Fulchari Upazila Health Complex.

Meanwhile, a number of NGOs including Red Crescent Society, Brac, Gano Unnayan Kendra, Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, Heed (Bangladesh), Practical Action (Bangladesh), TMSS and Islami Bank Foundation distributed relief materials and drugs among the flood victims.

In Pabna, Chumki, 8, a girl of Kalibari under Bhangura municipality, drowned in floodwater, reported our district correspondent.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reported that Chadni, 2, daughter of Hashem Mia of Shahajpur village under Sarail upazila, and Mumraj Nesa, 75, of Haripur village under Nabinagar upazila, drowned yesterday raising the death toll to seven in the district.

About 10 educational institutions remained closed while about a half kilometre of Dhaka-Agartala road went under knee-deep water, which is approaching new areas.

According to our Magura correspondent, floodwaters rolling from the upstream swamped 15 more villages of Shaikhia upazila yesterday causing breakout of waterborne diseases.

Seven medical teams however are working at seven union parishad offices of the district.

Most of the educational institutions in the 55 flood-affected villages still remained closed.

A correspondent from Faridpur reported that the entire Charvadrashan upazila went under water as the town protection embankment eroded yesterday.

Road communication between Nagarkanda, Charvadrashan and Sadarpur remained closed for the fifth day due to high water level and damage to a few bridges.

Two children including a newborn baby died of diarrhoea while many were admitted to the district sadar hospital and other clinics during the 24 hours ended 6:00pm yesterday.

People sheltered in various educational institutions of Faridpur town alleged that they have not received any relief though relief materials were allocated. They are also in need of drinking water and drugs.

According to our Manikganj correspondent, around 3,000 people of Kanadaila and Char Shibhalaya areas of Shibhalaya upazila are passing days unfed or half-fed, as they received no relief materials.

Our Chandpur correspondent reported that rise of water in Meghna inundated almost all the roads of