

More relief, donations for flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different government, non-government and international organisations and individuals continue to donate to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund and distribute relief among the flood victims yesterday.

Health Adviser: Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) ASM Matiar Rahman yesterday distributed medical kits among 200 families at the Dhaka Narayanganj-Demra (DND) project area.

Over one million people at the DND project area have been suffering from skin diseases, diarrhoea and respiratory infection. Currently, six teams are working to assist the worst affected people in the area.

The adviser in a brief speech at Jalkuri area said the success of Bangladesh in tackling diarrhoea situation is an example.

"In this disaster 10.10 lakh people were affected in diarrhoea but the only 20 people died", he said.

Under the government plan, the health workers are going door to door for treatment of the affected people at Kutubpur, Siddhirganj, Fatullah and Godnail.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The foreign ministry officials in home and abroad donated their one day's salary and outstation allowance to the CA's emergency relief fund. Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury handed over a cheque for Tk 15 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's

office yesterday.

Manusher Jonno Foundation: Thirty-four partner organisations of Manusher Jonno Foundation (funded by DFID, UK Government fund) have donated Tk 54.23 lakh from their contingency fund for distribution of relief materials among the flood victims in 25 Districts especially the worst affected areas.

The emergency support will assist over 1.21 lakh people, including families with disabled people. The fund will be spent on food, medicines, warm clothes, water purifying tablets and medical treatment.

Besides, employees of MJF are collecting private donations, relief materials and have contributed their one day's salary, which will be used for the rehabilitation of affected weavers and repairing handlooms.

Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA): As the physically and mentally challenged people are vulnerable to any type of disaster, DRRA has chalked out a plan to help 1500 disabled persons.

In this connection, the organisation has distributed 10 kg rice, 3 kg potato, 1 kg lentil, 1 kg salt, 1 litre soybean oil, one soap, one kg sugar, 500 gram semolina flour, 500 gram bleaching powder and 10 packets oral saline to each affected person at Shibolay upazila in Manikganj.

JICA: The Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) of JICA Bangladesh distributed relief among 245 poor pregnant women at Raipura in Narsingdi.

Antar: Antar, a non-government organisation, distributed relief materials among the flood-hit people of Nimsa at Burichang in Comilla. Save the Children Sweden-Denmark assisted the organisation in carrying out the relief operation.

Supreme Pharmaceuticals: Supreme Pharmaceuticals Ltd donated medicines worth Tk 5.10 lakh to the chief adviser's relief fund.

Besides, employees of Shams Group donated Tk 1 lakh, equivalent to their one-day's salary, to the CA's relief fund.

Lafarge: Lafarge Surma Cement managing director Mike Cowell handed over Tk 10 lakh to the executive director of ICDDR,B Dr Alejandro Cravioto as part of the company's effort to help the flood victims.

Amra Manusher Jonno: A platform of DU students with assistance from a team comprising 20 doctors has provided healthcare services to 1930 flood victims at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj.

Resource Integration Centre (RIC): Nagorik Odhikar Sangrakshan Forum and Resource Integration Centre distributed relief materials among 200 flood-hit families in the city.

East West University: East West University conducted relief distribution programmes at two upazilas in Rangpur and distributed 600 packets of relief materials, which contained rice, pulse, edible oil, salt, oral saline, water purifying tablet, clothes and share.

Undertrial prisoner dies in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Nurul Haider alias Nuru Munshi, an alleged patron of militants, who was an undertrial prisoner at Mymensingh Central Jail, died yesterday.

Sources said Nuru Munshi, 76, fell sick with severe chest pain in the morning. He was immediately rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, but the doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to his village home at Jibontala in Bhaluka after an autopsy.

Sub-inspector Redwan of Bhaluka Police Station said three cases, including an arms case, were filed against Nuru Munshi last year. He was also accused of feeding the militants.

Biman cancels 4 int'l flights in last 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines cancelled its four international flights in the last two days due to aircraft shortage and technical glitches causing sufferings to passengers.

The flights were scheduled to leave for London, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Bangkok.

According to Biman sources, an Airbus has been stuck at the Heathrow International Airport since Saturday for technical glitches.

A Riyadh-bound flight was also forced to be rescheduled, the sources added.

The flight was to leave for Riyadh at 8:40pm on Tuesday, but it has now been rescheduled for Friday at 6:00pm.

LALBAGH FIRE Factory worker succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A factory worker who sustained severe burn injuries during a fire at Lalbagh on Sunday succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The victim, identified as Dulal Hossain, 19, was a worker of Lily Chemicals, a glue-making factory.

Three other workers of the factory who also sustained burn injuries in the fire are still undergoing treatment at the Burn Unit of the DMCH.

Rupchada Melamine, a melamine factory, and a three-storied tin-roofed house also gutted in the fire.

Iftekhar leaves for Moscow Sept 1

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury will leave for Moscow on September 1 on a three day official visit to Russia at the invitation of the Russian counterpart Sergey V. Lavrov.

It will be the first high-level bilateral meeting between Dhaka and Moscow since 1991, official sources said.

The talks between the two sides will cover the whole range of bilateral issues, including trade, investment, cooperation in energy sector and education and cultural exchanges.

A consular agreement will be signed during the visit. The foreign adviser is also expected to pay a courtesy call on Russian prime minister.

The foreign adviser will be accompanied by Director General (Europe) Nazmul Quamrune. He will return home on September 5.

WFP online quiz contest

World Food Programme (WFP) distributed Fight Hunger Online Quiz Competition Award 2007 among its three winners yesterday.

WFP Bangladesh Representative Douglas Broderick handed over cheques for Tk 10,000 and citations to the three top scorers Iqbal Ahmed of Mirpur, Reema of Pallabi and Dilruba Begum of Mirpur.

Broderick said, "We hope the awards will encourage general mass to understand the food security and hunger issues and realise the sufferings of the ultra-poor people of Bangladesh."

WFP initiated the competition to improve the general understanding of food security and hunger issues. The competition received 126 valid entries from across the country.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) at NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

'Release five university teachers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Krishibid Parishad yesterday demanded immediate release of the teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities and innocent students.

In a statement they urged the authorities concerned to rethink whether it would be rational to consider the students' demonstration as a conspiracy to topple the government.

The statement urged the government to identify the reasons behind the protest of the students and common people before blaming them.

The parishad leaders called for holding discussions with the teachers, students and politicians to overcome the current instable situation.

They also urged the government to create suitable environment for the newsmen to perform their duties properly.

Voter registration begins in Gazipur municipality area on Sept 12

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Work on preparing a voter list with photographs and national identity cards will kick-off in Gazipur municipality area on September 12.

A publicity campaign will start on September 3 and the distribution of voter forms will begin on September 5.

This was decided at a preparatory meeting at the Rice Research Institute in Gazipur on Monday.

The meeting also discussed a number of issues including formation of co-ordination committees at district and upazila levels, fixing the voter registration centres, selecting the data entry operators and the method for voter registration.

Commanding Officer of Gazipur military camp Lt Col Zakir Hossain presided over the meeting where Gazipur Municipality Chairman AKM Mozammel Haque, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Additional Police Super Saifullah Al Mamun, District Election Officer Md Shah Alam, Election Officer of sadar upazila Md Nasir-ud-Doula and ward commissioners were present.

Meeting sources said the municipality area would be divided into 38 zones.

By now, nine assistant registration officers have been appointed and the training of data collectors and data entry operators will be completed by September 4.

IITM, Shoishab sign MoU

The International Institute of Technology & Management (IITM) and Shoishab Bangladesh signed an MoU on joint cooperation in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on Monday, says a press release.

This unique and innovative programme will incorporate CSR-driven initiatives from the corporate sector into the programmes of Shoishab to be implemented in the country.

Shoishab has been working with children, especially child domestic workers (CDW) since 1991. IITM will be the CSR facilitative organisation that specialises on building CSR partnerships.

The executive director of Shoishab Bangladesh Husni Ara Quasem and IITM CEO Ziaur Rahman were present at the signing ceremony.

Verdict in extortion case against Chy Alam today

Commissioner Maju remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will deliver the judgement of a Tk 20 lakh extortion case against detained Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam and three others today.

Another Ward Commissioner Mujibur Rahman Maju, who was picked up from his residence on August 27, was shown arrested and placed on a 12-day remand in four cases filed in connection with arson and violence in the city's Dhanmondi area on August 21 and 22.

Meanwhile, the proceedings of arms case and money laundering case against detained former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, were adjourned yesterday.

ALAM CASE Judge Mohammad Shafiqul Azam of the Sixth Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka will deliver the verdict in the extortion case against Alam and others at 2:00pm, court sources said.

Three of his accomplices are Delwar Hossain alias Ripon, Harunur Rashid and Rezaul Talukder. All of them were arrested and they are now in jail custody.

According to the prosecution, Alam and his accomplices took Tk 20 lakh in toll from Babul Miah, owner of Bangladesh Super Market adjacent to the Police Headquarters on August 30, 2003.

The victim's wife Aleya Begum filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against Alam and 24 others on May 7 this year. The investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against Alam and three others on June 18.

MAJU REMANDED

A Dhaka court yesterday placed

Maju, commissioner of Ward No 58, on a 12-day remand in connection with four cases filed in connection with August 21 and 22 violence at Dhanmondi.

Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah passed the order after Dhanmondi police produced Maju before the court with prayers for a 28-day remand in four cases.

In the forwarding report, the IOs of the cases mentioned that Maju was directly involved in the violent incidents that took place on August 21 and 22 at different places of Jhigatala in Dhanmondi. So, he needs to be quizzed to know the whereabouts of his accomplices and their names and addresses.

The joint forces picked up Maju, a close aide to former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, from his Hazaribagh residence in the city on August 27.

Another Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of the arms case against Babar until September 5 following a time petition submitted by the prosecution lawyers.

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-9 passed the order after the police produced Babar before the court at 11:00am amid tight security.

The case was filed against Babar on June 3 on charges of possessing illegal firearms and ammunition.

HARRIS CASE

The same court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of the money laundering case against Harris until September 2.

The adjournment came following a time petition submitted by the prosecution lawyers.

The case was filed against Harris on February 4 on charges of possessing huge foreign currencies.

CJ goes to Nairobi on Sept 8

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin will leave for Nairobi on September 8 to attend the 15th Commonwealth Law Conference.

He is expected to return home on September 16, court sources said.

During his absence, senior most judge of the Appellate Division M Fazlul Karim will perform the responsibilities of the Chief Justice, the sources added.

Death anniversary

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Rasel Bhuian, founder of Murapara Pilot High School, Shahitunnessa Pilot Girls School, Rasel Park and Mini Zoo and life member of Rugganj Press Club and Rugganj Reporters Club, says a press release.

On the occasion, Nagorik Oikya Parishad and different organisations will organise discussions and milad mahfil at his village home and Rasel Park after Asr prayers today.

He was shot by a gang of criminals at Rasel Park on August 26 in 2000 and succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital on August 29.

Kazi Jahan-ara Begum

Today is the first death anniversary of Kazi Jahan-ara Begum, former teacher of New Government High School at Armentola in the city, and a social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at 37 Agamosh Lane in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Shahid Hossain Chowdhury

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Shahid Hossain Chowdhury (Nanna), son of late Enayet Hossain Chowdhury (Taramia) of Faridpur, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for his departed soul.

Muntazirul Hi Sabir

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Muntazirul Hi Sabir, son of Prof AH Shibli and Nazia Shibli, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are reminiscing the day with due affection and love.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held and all have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

DHAKA TODAY

Launching ceremony Centre for Policy Research (CPR) of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) organises the launching ceremony of a monograph titled 'Barriers to girls' secondary school participation in rural Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

British Council organises a seminar on 'How to apply for a UK student visa'. Venue: British Council. Time: 2:30pm.



Brig Gen AKM Mahfuzul Haque, regional chief coordinator for preparing NIDs and voter list with photograph, inaugurates the distribution programme by giving an identity card to a person at a function in Rajshahi City Corporation yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Former UNB news editor wins legal battle for dues

BSS, Dhaka

The appellate division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the appeal plea of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) against the High Court division's judgement to pay the dues to its former news editor.

An appellate division bench headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin gave the order after hearing the petition. Other members of the bench were Justice Fazlul Karim and Justice MM Ruhul Amin.

Earlier, the High Court division rejected a writ petition filed by UNB challenging the First Labour Court's judgement ordering the UNB management to pay the dues to Bakhtiar Rana, following his resignation as its news editor on July 1, 2002.

Rana, who served the news agency since its inception in 1988, had filed the case with the First Labour Court in Dhaka as UNB did not pay the dues despite repeated requests.

The Labour Court in its judgement on June 26, 2003 ordered the UNB to pay the dues.

The UNB management then filed a writ petition with the High Court division against the Labour Court's judgement.

The High Court division rejected the writ petition on April 13, 2004.

Later, the UNB management filed a petition seeking leave to appeal against the High Court division's order.

Advocate Mahbubul Huq appeared for Bakhtiar Rana.

58 North Korean fishermen freed

AFP, Moscow

Russia has released 58 North Korean fishermen and nine boats after they entered Russian territorial waters and were detained for a week, the Interfax news agency reported yesterday.

The fishermen were held from August 21 to 27 after their boats entered Russian waters off the coast of the far eastern Primorsk region, which borders North Korea, a border guard spokesman in Primorsk told Interfax.

Japan asks Taiwan to improve aviation safety

AFP, Tokyo

Japan yesterday asked Taiwan to improve aviation safety after a fuel tank hole was suspected of sending a China Airlines plane into flames moments after landing.

All 165 passengers and crew fled to safety, sliding down emergency chutes with minutes to spare as the Boeing 737-800 burst into fire and then exploded after landing on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on August 20.

The transport ministry's aviation bureau asked Taiwan via diplomatic channels to ensure safety, a ministry official said.

"The aviation bureau requested that the Taiwanese authorities exert utmost efforts to prevent a recurrence of accidents and

increase safety by giving new instructions" to airlines on flight operations and maintenance, a statement said.

While an investigation is ongoing, the ministry said it had found that a bolt came off from a movable flap on the front of the right wing called a slat and damaged the fuel tank.

The transport ministry official, who is in charge of the issue, said the request was not a criticism of China Airlines.

"We have no proof that the accident occurred due to any fault by China Airlines," he said.

"We believe the Taiwanese authorities are regularly instructing (airlines) over safety but we asked them just to be double-sure," he said.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting slight rise in day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.3 degree Celsius at Teknaf.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:20pm today and rises at 5:39am 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	32.6	26.4	74	73
Chittagong	30.5	25.1	77	83
Rajshahi	34.3	26.2	81	79
Khulna	32.5	26.4	81	81
Barisal	31.5	26.0	87	83
Sylhet	32.7	25.5	87	82
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.0	76	83