

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 Matiur 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, Siddhiganj, Fatullah and Godnai.

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 Fazluruddin 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 Shishiboy upazila in Manikganj.

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



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 Fazlur 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 1984, 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 slot 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) on safety but we asked them just to be double-sure," he said.

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