

Students imbued with humanity

Come to the aid of flood victims

DURDANA GHIAS

Students and teachers of various educational institutions in the city have come forward to distribute relief materials among flood-hit people on their own initiative.

The students from Mastermind, Holy Cross, Viqarunnisa Noon, Oxford and many other schools in the city took part in the relief distribution.

Zubair Idris, an A-level student and president of a 35-member student club named Mastermind Community Service Club, said working for the flood-hit people was one of their main targets this year. They made it sure that whatever relief they could offer reach the most affected ones.

"Our aim was to help those who had suffered the worst in the flood. We visited and sent notices to all the eight campuses of our school and motivated the students through posters so that they can help us in the process," Zubair said.

We thought of how to present the situation to the students so that they can understand how devastating the flood is and how people are living without food and drinking water, he added.

"We made a guideline for the students so they could help us and know how we are doing it. We gave them a list of the amount of food, medicine and other essentials needed for an average affected family. We calculated that on an average, Tk 360 per person would do it to save a family. We asked the students to tell their parents about this," Zubair elaborated.

The lowest individual donation Mastermind Community Service Club received was Tk 50 and the highest was Tk 25,000.

We asked the students whose parents are doctors to have their parents donate medicines or give

advice on the type of medicines we might need. Also, we asked them to request their relatives, friends and neighbours for help," Zubair said.

"The club members were divided into several groups and each group were given a collection target of Tk 5,000," the club president went on adding, "The

"We could give the money to other organisations for distribution, but we decided to go ourselves. Police and local volunteers of Shahjadpur helped us in the distribution. We asked them to make several lists of the most affected people, the elderly and the physically challenged. We prepared 900 relief cards. We

and other essentials among flood victims.

We went to Keraniganj and distributed cooked food that we cooked there. The items distributed among the affected people included eggs, potatoes and rice, she said.

"We had exams at that time in our school section. So, the school could not participate in the

flood victims from his school. The teaching staff and others have donated their one-day's salary for the affected people.

"Our Scouts team went to Manikganj where they distributed relief materials among 400 affected families. Our relief work is still going on in Bogra and Sirajganj. We have plans to distribute relief in other affected places," he added.

Holy Cross School sources said the students donated 75 maunds of rice, 15 maunds of pulses, 50 sacks of clothes, and saline, candles and matches -- one sack each. Girl Guides and Porthom Alo Bondhu Shabha helped in the distribution of the relief goods.

Numerous other voluntary organisations in the city came forward to help the flood victims as well.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolok, said they have distributed cash, medicine, water purifying tablets and home repairing materials among the flood victims.

"We distributed relief at Louhajang in Munshiganj with the help of Louhajang Mukti Joddha Command Council. After the water recedes, we will go there again to distribute repairing materials for homes," he said.

"We went to a char in the area where we found families that survived only because female members of the family had earlier saved up gur and khud [leftover from uncooked rice]. Discovering the women's role in the time of survival, we decided to give the relief only to the female members of the affected families," said Habib.



COURTESY: MASTERMIND

Students of Mastermind giving cash taka to flood victims in Sirajganj.

total amount of cash we received was Tk 6,18,000 -- of which Tk 4,50,000 have been distributed to the flood affected families of Shahjadpur thana in Sirajganj district."

The remainder of the cash will be donated to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund, said Zubair.

also distributed 14 cartons of medicine," Zubair explained.

Tahmina Khanam, principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, said employees of the school had donated one-day's

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