

Govt to provide yarn to weavers at fair price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Adviser Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said the government will provide yarn to the country's weavers at fair price so that they can produce clothes at a low cost.

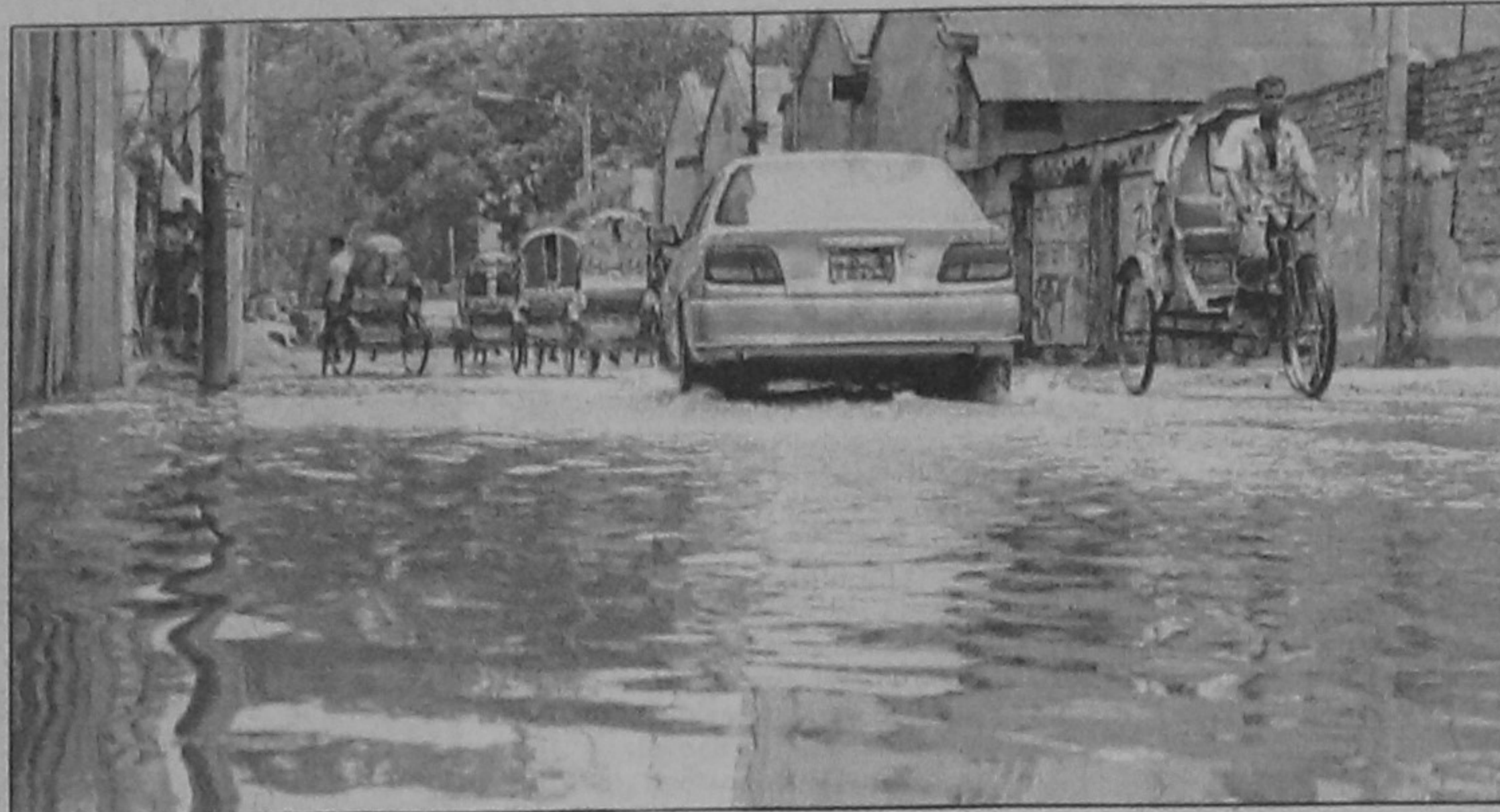
He said this while addressing a cheque distribution ceremony as the chief guest at Shahzadpur upazila auditorium.

The adviser distributed cheques for Tk 2,000 each among 100 flood-affected weavers in the upazila to flourish the handloom sector. A total of 4,737 weavers of the district will get the cheques in phases.

Necessary steps will also be taken immediately to provide small loans on easy terms to the flood-affected poor weavers, he added.

He further said weavers are playing a vital role in earning huge foreign currencies by exporting locally made clothes, especially sharee, lungi and napkin.

Presided over by Bangladesh Tint Board Chairman Abdul Hakim Mondal, the programme was also addressed by Joint Secretary of Textile Ministry Shah Mohammad Ali, Deputy Commissioner in Sirajganj Ashraf Ali, Police Super Alamgir Rahman, UNO of Shahzadpur MA Kamal Billah and Chairman of Shahzadpur Municipality Halimul Haque Miru.



A car makes its way through stagnant rainwater in front of the drainage department of Dhaka Wasa at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday. The road went under water following rain because of poor maintenance of the drainage system.

PHOTO: STAR

VoIP equipment seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment worth Tk 10 lakh in the port city on Thursday night.

Sources said Rab-7 members raided a room at the rooftop of a six-story building in Sugandha Residential Area under Panchlaish Police Station at around 11:30pm on Thursday.

The seized equipment include

seven SIM (subscriber identity module) connectors, two tower suppliers (Tenorex), one monitor, one CPU, one keyboard, three mobile chargers, two batteries and other equipment, said a Rab official.

He said one Md Faruque, 30, son of Abdul Halim of North Baraichhar of Hathazari, had been running illegal VoIP business in the room for long. None could be arrested in this connection.

Girl rescued from trafficker

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday rescued a teenage girl and arrested a trafficker at Benapole Bazar.

The trafficker was identified as Salam. He was trying to take the girl to India through Benapole border.

Sensing something wrong, local people informed the BDR members who rushed to the spot and arrested Salam, sources said.

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Work together for dev, poverty alleviation

Stakeholders urged at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, civil society members and international development partners should work together to support development, pro-poor growth and poverty alleviation.

This was recommended in a three-day workshop that was held in the capital from May 12 to 14.

The workshop brought together officials of different ministries, development agencies and civil society members who focused on the upcoming Second National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR), according to a press release issued by the Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka on May 15.

The workshop identified three crucial actions that include ensuring wide dissemination, strengthening monitoring system, and clarification of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the delivery of the NSAPR.

The NSAPR II will be the key document to guide the interim government's development and poverty reduction policies and programmes while the country moves towards the general elections.

It will also be a crucial document for the new government in 2009 and beyond, said the release.

The document is also crucially important for donor strategies in

Bangladesh and will help identify priorities and influences crucial budgetary decisions.

"As such, it is the starting point for what is going to happen, when, where and for whom," it added.

Recognising the importance of the second NSAPR and the inherent challenges of encouraging international development partners to work in close collaboration with the government, the workshop sought to build a shared understanding.

It observed that despite many successes in economic development, health, education, birthrate and women empowerment, reducing inequality between social groups and different areas of the country remains a challenge.

The workshop identified problems that include lower adult women's literacy rate, increase in poverty of female-headed households, slow growth of formal sector, child labour, poor infrastructure and landlessness of many people.

Discussions were led by Dane Rogers of ITAD Ltd, UK, and Kate Bird of Overseas Development Institute, UK.



A 15-day exhibition of artworks titled 'The dance of life on the horizon' by Mahmudul Haque began at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

2 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Sirajganj and Pabna in last two days.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: A homeopathic doctor was killed in a road accident at Soyadhandghora area in Sirajganj town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Dr Abdus Sobhan, 40, of Magurabinod village in Tarash upazila.

Quoting witness police said the accident occurred when he was crossing the road a speeding truck hit him and crushed under its wheels.

Police recovered the body and sent it for autopsy.

Our Pabna correspondent adds: An old man was killed when a speeding three-wheeler (tempo) hit him on Pabna-Chatmohar highway at Arghoria Bazar on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Md Alim Uddin, 60, of Chadva village at Arghoria upazila.

Sources said the three-wheeler hit Alim while he was crossing the road leaving him injured seriously.

Later, he succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 38th edition of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital today.

Awami League organising secretary Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, BNP Joint secretary general Nazrul Islam Khan, President of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman and Barrister Tania Ameer will take part in the programme as panellists.

The recorded programme will be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 8:00pm tomorrow and on Channel 1 at 8:00pm on Monday.

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