

Face natural calamity with fortitude

Army chief urges flood victims

UNB, Jamalpur

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday urged the flood victims to face the natural calamity with fortitude as they did twice last year.

"The Army is always with you in facing the disasters," he said this while he was addressing the flood-affected people at Kulkandi and Noarpara unions of Islampur upazila here.

He said the government has undertaken a plan to construct a 4.5-km embankment at Dewanganj hard point and urged the farmers to plant Aman after recession of floodwaters as seed-beds are being prepared under the supervision of Army.

Earlier, he distributed relief goods among the flood victims in Dewanganj upazila.

GOC of 10 Infantry division Major Gen AKM Mujahid, Brig Gen Abu Musa Sharfuddin, among others, accompanied the Army

chief. Another report from Faridpur adds: General Moeen visited some of the worst flood affected areas of Faridpur and Jamalpur and distributed relief among the destitute.

Pointing to the conspicuous absence of the politicians and political parties in aid of the flood victims Gen Moeen said, "It is not known to us why the leaders of the political parties are not coming to the flood victims with extending hands of assistance. But the army and the caretaker government had been and would always stand on the side of the affected people to face up any calamitous situation."

He was talking to flood affected people at Mohannir Hat of Sadar upazila after distributing relief materials among them. "We are also providing necessary assistance to the affected people along with the government," said the general.

Accompanied by GOC of the 9th Division Major General

Ahsabuddin the army chief visited some of the affected areas in a speedboat.

He said the government, as in the last year, had taken precautionary measures to face the flood. That is why the government officials came sharp with aid where flood affected the people.

Gen Moeen advised the farmers to replant aman seedlings where the plants were perished by the flooding. For this government will provide help.

Recalling his visit last year he said Tk 10 crore was sanctioned for protection of the town from the flood. That is why waters could not enter the town this year.

The army chief distributed relief among more than 400 flood victims. Senior civil, police and army officials were present.

The river Padma was flowing 90cm above the danger level flooding at least 18 unions of Faridpur. About one lakh people have been marooned by the flood.

Cop arrested on bribery charge in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Chittagong yesterday arrested a police officer with money and a motorbike that he took as bribes from a complainant for evicting illegal occupants from his land.

The arrestee identified as Nabi Ullah, 48, was a sub-inspector (SI) of Bayezid Police Station in the port city.

Sources said one Humayun Kabir of Malyeezpara under Mohammadpur upazila in Magura purchased 10 ganda of land with a registered deed at Jalalabad mouza under Bayezid Police Station.

But the owner failed to take the possession of the land since a group of local miscreants kept it under their illegal occupants.

Fresh survey of the land by Chittagong Development Authority and land acquisition section of the district administration found the land owned by Humayun Kabir.

Following a complaint by the plaintiff, CMP commissioner in a written order directed the concerned officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station to look into the matter.

The OC entrusted SI Nabi Ullah with the responsibility of evicting the occupants from the land.

With Humayun doing job in Dhaka, Nabi Ullah demanded Tk 2 lakh and a motorbike from his wife Reba Kabir for the eviction that prompted her to lodge a complaint with ACC divisional office here.

As Nabi Ullah was taking Tk 20,000 as a portion of the demand for Tk 2 lakh and a new motorbike from Reba's residence at Baluchara, an ACC team arrested him red-handed at around 4:00pm.

ACC Assistant Inspector Jahangir Alam lodged a case with Bayezid Police Station, accusing the SI in this connection.

Clarification

FROM PAGE 1 controlled as per standard, the clarification added.

The clarification also said the reporter saw a few films in rusty tins, just collected from producers and waiting for preliminary checking, piled up in the corridor. If the collected films are sent unchecked directly into the film vault those may cause damage to other films, the clarification added.

The clarification also mentioned that in response to The Daily Star correspondent's query regarding BFA ordinance and policies, the director general declined to make any comment on the issues as the matter lies with the ministry for decision.

The report lastly mentioned some recent activities and progress made to modernise BFA. The BFA also clarified that the total number of celluloid films, DVDs and DV camcorders is 2836, not 2,538 as mentioned in the report.

OUR REPLY Regarding Devdas The Daily Star reporter mentioned that the film was found being cleaned manually and using bare hands at the time The Daily Star correspondent visited the BFA film preservation vaults.

The point the report of The Daily Star raised was that manual cleaning system was causing damage to the film which different film experts and directors supported in their comments in the report.

The clarification says the quality of the film was not good when it was collected during the 1980's. And the reporter found that even the bad quality of the film is still being cleaned and preserved manually and using bare hands. Moreover, the duplicate print of the film prepared for preservation is being cleaned in the same way using bare hands and manually.

Regarding temperature, The Daily Star reporter stayed for around two hours in the BFA film vault when there was load shedding for about an hour and there was no generator and the temperature in the film vault was more than 30°C. And load shedding is frequent in the BFA rented house, preservers said.

The Daily Star reporter stayed inside the vault for an hour after the power supply resumed and the temperature inside the film vault was around 30°C during the whole period.

BFA preservers said even though they claim to maintain temperature of 18°C in the vault they can hardly maintain the temperature due to frequent load shedding and the window-type air conditioner used for maintaining temperature.

Preservers preferring anonymity also added that humidity cannot be controlled as per standard as the humidifier they have is meant for domestic use, not for such an important and huge job.

Regarding piled up rusty film cans our reply is that those remained fallen for about a month in the BFA corridor unattended. The BFA preserver could not check any of them since collection. Moreover, preservers even said drug-addicts have access to the corridor and they feared that those might be stolen.

And many of over 400 tin-made cans still in use at the BFA have become rusty.

If the BFA preservers' statement is taken into account, our point is that when there are possibilities of films being stolen then it is reasonable to keep such important films in the corridor in the name of checking?

The fact about the recent activities and progress the clarification mentioned was published in both The Daily Star reports.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed gives away a crest and certificate to a winner of a competition marking the National Primary Education Week - 2007 and 2008 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

ACC okays charge sheets against Engr Mosharraf, Obaidul Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has approved four charge sheets to be submitted against five people including former housing and public works minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain and Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim.

This was stated by ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal at a routine press briefing in the city yesterday.

He said the ACC has also decided to hold view exchange meetings with heads of different ministries and the institutes under them to curb institutional corruption.

The ACC has also sent a letter to

the cabinet ministry to know how to dispose of 12 lakh wealth statements submitted by government servicemen following a government decision, he added.

Charge Sheet

Engr Mosharraf will be charged with concealing information about his wealth statement submitted earlier to the commission and amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income totaling about Tk 2.29 crore.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station on November 11, 2007, he added.

In another charge sheet, Obaidul Karim and Sayedul Haque, former lawmaker from Brahmanbaria, will be charged with causing a loss of Tk 84.55 lakh to state exchequer.

According to the charge sheet the accused imported duty-free car and caused the loss to the state by selling the cars.

Rafiqul Anwar, a former lawmaker of Chittagong, will be charged with concealing information about his wealth worth Tk 50.98 lakh in the wealth statement submitted earlier to the commission and for amassing wealth worth Tk 2.09 lakh beyond his known sources of income.

Shuvadda UP Chairman Nazim Uddin will be charged with concealing information about his wealth worth Tk 7.01 crore in the wealth statement submitted earlier to the commission and for amassing wealth worth Tk 14.26 crore beyond known sources of income.

Institutional Corruption

The ACC has sent letter to cabinet secretary informing about its decision and with the request to give necessary directives to different ministries to help hold the view exchange meeting, he added.

In the first phase they expect to hold the view exchange meetings

with land, health, communications and local government ministries in October and November.

"Only the government officials can say it for sure how corruption infect government offices and how it spreads through. The government servants can also inform ACC if there is any weakness in the legal structure of a ministry," said Col Hanif.

"It would not be possible to make drive against institutional corruption a success unless the government officials participate directly in the drive and assist to resist corruption in government offices," he added.

He said such meeting would establish a contact with government servicemen against corruption and thus facilitate the drive against institutional corruption.

Senior assistant secretaries of the ministries concerned and top-level officials of the institutes would be requested to attend the meeting, he added.

Wealth Statement of Government Servicemen

The ACC has also sent letters to respective ministries to prepare a database containing wealth statement submitted by its officials while the commission also recommended cabinet ministry to sort out a way for involving concerned ministry and directorate to dispose of own cases regarding wealth statement submitted by their officials.

"The number of wealth statement submitted is huge and it would be time consuming. We wanted to know from cabinet ministry how to deal with the huge task," he added.

The commission has also decided that all the investigations against corruption suspects facing Tac through ACC will remain closed and the next course of action in this regard will depend on the decision of Tac.



Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed distributes relief among the flood-affected people at Mohan Miarhat under Sadar upazila in Faridpur yesterday.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK



Mainuddin Ahmed Rafi, an eight-month-old boy, has been suffering from the deadly disease thalassaemia.

Doctors said an amount of Tk 40 lakh will be needed for his treatment.

His father Zakir Hossain, a banker by profession, is in no position to arrange such a big amount. So he has appealed to well-off section of the society for financial assistance to save the life of his child.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No 21015419, Prime Bank, Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka. Mobile: 01715970404.

Abdul Mannan



Abdul Mannan, a domestic help, has been suffering from heart ailment and there is a hole in his heart.

According to the doctors, he needs an immediate heart operation which will cost him about Tk 2 lakh.

It is not possible for him to arrange the money.

So he has appealed to well-to-do members of the society for financial assistance to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Abdul Mannan, C/O Monwara Begum, Account No 204-200-19188, Dhaka Bank, Uttara Branch, Dhaka-1230. Mobile: 01911046953.

Biman MD, 3 other joint secretaries transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred four joint secretaries, including Dr MA Momen, managing director and chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Dr Momen has been transferred to agriculture ministry while Muhammad Abdus Samad, member of National Housing Authority, to health and family welfare ministry, Dil Afroz, joint secretary to agriculture ministry, to Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation as member director, joint secretary of roads and railway division under communications ministry, to National Housing Authority as member.

Biman, which was facing a near bankruptcy in 2006, now has cash reserves of several crores of taka, a Biman official said.

A losing concern for long, Biman was made a public limited company while Dr Momen was serving as its managing director.

Biman also sealed a deal with US plane-maker Boeing to procure 10 new aircraft—four 777-300ERs (Extended Range), four 787-8 Dreamliners and two 737-800s—at a cost of Tk 17,250 crore (\$2.5 billion).

Talking to The Daily Star Dr

Momen said he is happy to join his new post that is related to his academic career.

7TH WAGE BOARD Monitoring team starts visiting media houses

UNB, Dhaka

The monitoring team for implementation of the 7th Wage Board Award started visiting newspaper offices to monitor if the journalists and employees are getting the wage board benefits.

As part of the monitoring activities, the team yesterday visited the offices of the daily Ittefaq and the daily Inqilab to exchange views with managers and employees.

During the visit, the team members looked into the revised salary statements, appointment letters and other related documents of the journalists, officials and employees, said a statement by the Press Information Department.

They also discussed with the representatives of various units including news, press, management, accounts and publications over the implementation of the 7th Wage Board Award.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office.

Highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and Jessore and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Faridpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:08pm today and rises at 5:43am 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 | 31.9 | 25.0 | 89 | 89 |
| Chittagong | 31.3 | 26.0 | 85 | 79 |
| Rajshahi | 33.4 | 26.5 | 84 | 80 |
| Khulna | 33.0 | 27.0 | 72 | 88 |
| Barisal | 31.0 | 26.6 | 89 | 78 |
| Sylhet | 31.8 | 25.2 | 86 | 80 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.4 | 25.0 | 76 | 84 |

The monitoring and investigation team of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited Mitford Hospital yesterday as part of its special drive in different city hospitals.

The team led by Joint Secretary (hospital and nursing) Golam Kuddus warned of taking administrative action against six employees for negligence in duties, mismanagement and irregularities.

Director (hospital and nursing) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Akhter Hossain Bhuiyan and Director of Mitford Hospital Brig Gen Shahidul Haque Malik were present during the visit.

"Condition of Mitford Hospital has improved much," said Akhter, adding that they visited the hospital this year several times and the condition and service of the hospital is now much better than before.

The special drive to improve health services in the city's 11 public hospitals by curbing corruption and irregularities began last month.

The team is supposed to visit all the hospitals within a month and make recommendations to the ministry for taking necessary steps regarding various issues.

The team has so far visited National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), National Institute of Ophthalmology, Suhrawardi Hospital, Begum Khaleida Zia Medical College and Hospital and Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Till now some 75 doctors, officials and employees of these hospitals were enlisted for taking necessary actions against them.

Actions were also taken to evict encroachers running businesses on the hospital premises.

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Two minor flower vendors participate in a human chain with a call to save the lives of children at the TSC intersection on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Save the Children-UK organised the programme.

Drug baron Amin Huda rearrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amin Huda, known as one of the top drug barons in Bangladesh, was rearrested yesterday hour after his release from jail on bail in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act.

Police said they arrested him from Gulshan under the Emergency Power Rules when he was returning home after his release. Later, he was produced before a Dhaka court, which ordered to send him to Dhaka Central Jail in the evening.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested him at his Gulshan office on October 25 last year with 130,000 Yaba tablets, over 5,000 Yaba's alternative drugs ice pills, ice pill preparing chemical, foreign liquor, phensidyl, over Tk 46 lakh and currencies of six other countries.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star last night that the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at noon after they received papers of his release. He was sent back to jail in the evening, he said.

Three held with over 8.70 lakh Indian rupees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-1) yesterday seized 8,70,500 Indian rupees and 49 mobile phone sets from a shop at the Moulana Bhashani Stadium in the city and arrested three people on charges of illegal business of foreign currencies and theft mobile sets.

The arrestees are as Mohammad Ashraf Alam, Delwar Hossain and Belayet Hossain.

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Obituary

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