

# Flood-hit people to get food aid for 8 months

Says food minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to give food aid to people affected by recent flash floods in haor areas of Netrakona, Sunamganj and Kishoreganj from May through vulnerable group feeding (VGF) cards.

"We'll distribute the food aid among the affected for the next eight to nine months," Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak told reporters after inaugurating a workshop in the city yesterday.

Disaster Management and Relief Division under the ministry organised the workshop on Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) Phase-II at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

The government is fully prepared for any kind of disasters and it will keep Tk 1,00 crore to face any such incidents, he said adding that they have also 5 to 6 lakh tonnes of food stock to distribute through

open market sale (OMS).

Razzaque said they have been taking measures to solve problems in cyclone Aila-affected areas.

"We'll be able to tell the exact time by the next 20 days when the problems of all the affected areas will be solved though only 10 to 12 unions out of 16 in two districts still remain under the sufferings," he said.

Describing the drinking water crisis as the basic problem of the area, the minister said they drink water from ponds and the government is taking steps to reduce the problem on a long-term basis.

He said they have received Tk 1,13 crore from Japan to purchase equipment for purifying water.

About the CDMP Phase-II, the minister in his speech in the inaugural session said CDMP Phase-I from 2004 to 2009 has developed essentially a pilot process and it has worked on collaborative partnership, policy reform, mainstreaming,

capacity building, community empowerment, urban risk, climate change, emergency response and information management and many of its stated targets.

He said CDMP Phase-II builds on CDMP on that aim to institutionalise the adoption of risk reduction approaches not just in its host ministry of food and disaster management but more broadly across thirteen key ministries and agencies.

Disaster Management Secretary Mohammad Mokhlesur Rahman chaired the inaugural session.

Dr Stefan Frowein, ambassador of the delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, Dr Justin Lee, high commissioner of Australia, Stefan Priesner, resident representative of DFID Bangladesh, Nick Russel, project management expert, CDMP, and Md Abdul Wazed, joint secretary to the food ministry, addressed the inaugural session.



Children of the freedom fighters take a vow at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to hold trial of the war criminals. Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan organised the programme.

# 'Resist plot against war crimes trial'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam yesterday urged the pro-liberation forces to remain united to resist any conspiracy to foil the trial of war criminals.

"The anti-liberation forces have been engaged in hatching conspiracy to foil the trial by bringing different issues such as water, gas and power crises into focus. But we along with all other pro-liberation forces will have to remain united against the conspiracy," he said.

The minister made the call while addressing an oath taking ceremony for

the children of freedom fighters at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city where they vowed to launch coordinated movement to try war criminals and not to return home before the completion of the trial.

They also pledged to work together to establish Bangladesh as a non-communal democratic country to make Bangladesh's dreams come true.

World University Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan Chowdhury administered the oath.

State Minister Tajul Islam said souls of the freedom fighters would not remain in peace unless the war criminals are put

on trial. He said it is the prime duty of the present generation to launch a coordinated movement to try the war criminals.

He added that the nation has been freed from stigma partly through execution of Bangladesh's killers. It would be free from stigma completely after the trial of war criminals.

Awami League information and research secretary Afzal Hossain and former chairman of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad central command council Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury also spoke.

# Concern over violence after Bhola by-poll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War Crimes Fact-Finding Committee yesterday expressed concern over the post-poll violence in Bhola-3 constituency, says a press release.

In a statement, Convener of the committee Dr MA Hasan called on the prime minister to launch an impartial enquiry into the incidents and ensure security of people in the area.

People want to believe that the post-poll violence did not take place at the behest of the ruling party, he added.

No conscious person can remain silent at a time when lives, valuables and dignity of political rivals are in danger.

Dr Hasan said people do not want to see a repetition of criminal activities perpetrated after the elections in 2001.

# One dies in train crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

One person was crushed to death under the wheels of a Khulna-bound train at Saldalpur railway station in Jhenidah on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Mannan Mollah, 60, of Bankira village under Sadar upazila.

# Form commission to ensure proper compensation

Urge labour leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Council of Textile Garment and Leather Workers, a platform of 13 trade unions, demanded formation of workers compensation commission to ensure proper compensation for injured and dead workers in workplace-related accidents and rehabilitation of the families.

The leaders of the platform placed the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity on the occasion of International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers and World Day for Safety and Health at Work yesterday.

ZM Qamrul Anam, chairman of the platform, said workers in Bangladesh often cannot negotiate their rights with owners for absence of trade unions in many sectors.

A national-level commission would give them access to the higher authorities to meet their demands, he added.

The main purpose of the commission would be to lay down rules of compensation in different sectors, fixing suitable amounts, monitoring delivery process, ensure safety at workplace, proper implementation of labour law and training on safety.

Anam said the commission might be con-

sisted of tripartite bodies, including government officials, with special participation by legal experts working on labour issues.

The labour leaders informed that during the last 10 years about 3,000 workers died in different workplace-related accidents. According to the existing law, the family of a dead worker receives a compensation of Tk 1 lakh while injured workers get Tk 1.25 lakh.

The amount is meagre compared to the sufferings of a family, which loses their breadwinner, they added.

Anam pointed out that the compensation law -- Workmen's Compensation Act 1923, which was amended in 1987, -- is not up to date to deal with the current issues.

The labour leaders, however, suggested that a compensation fund should be created for workers through insurance, imposing mandatory amount on owners, imposing taxes on products, by slashing an amount from the monthly salaries of workers.

The government should also give its contributions to the fund, they added.

Members of the platform Badruddoza Nizam, Hedayetul Islam, Kutubuddin Ahmed, Asma, Safia Parvin and Nurul Islam were present, among others.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds a meeting with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse at Sri Lanka House at Saarc Village in Thimphu, Bhutan, yesterday.

# Call to form trade unions at garment factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan called on workers yesterday to take a concerted step to form trade unions (TUs) at all garment factories across the country.

"If workers remain united, it is possible to form trade unions at all garment factories. Trade unionism is a must to ensure just wage and rights of workers and to maintain peace in the sector."

The minister made the call at a seminar on 'Emerging risk and new pattern of prevention in a changing world of work' at the National Press Club in the city marking the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers and World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

Criticising garment factory owners, he said the government could not achieve significant success to convince them to form trade union in the RMG sector.

About the ship-breaking sector, Shajahan said over 100 organisations and around 50,000 workers are involved in the sector. So, it would not be a

wise decision to put an end to the industry.

He suggested that the workers use all the necessary equipment like hand gloves and caps during their working period to prevent health hazards.

The government is working to amend the Labour Law-2006 to make it time befitting and worker-friendly, the minister added.

He admitted that the government fails to implement different laws due to indifferent attitude of bureaucrats.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian stressed the need for ensuring maximum security of workers at their workplaces and infrastructural development of garment factories to minimise mortalities.

She also called on the workers to remain conscious of their rights, which are preserved in the existing laws.

Osho Chairperson Saki Rezwana presided over the seminar while Jatiya Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master and Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad Coordinator Dr Wajedul Islam Khan also spoke.

Find your sweet home at **Niketon...**

**Roza green**  
... a lifestyle of modern luxury

committed to build the best...

**Amin Mohammad Foundation**

- ▶ 55% open space
- ▶ Opening to the South
- ▶ Outstanding elevation
- ▶ Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, Leisure Club
- ▶ Exclusive community living with natural garden, play ground

**Amin Mohammad Foundation Ltd.** (A Sister Concern of Amin Mohammad Group.)

Corporate Office: 752 Satmasjid Road, Dhamondi C/A, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 9124538-42, 8155101-5, Mobile: 01819-261912, 01817-031031, 01817-031035, 01819-261913, 01817-031079, 01817-031066. **Motijheel Office** : Phone: 7162017-8, 7172789. Mobile: 01817-031081, 01817-031036. **Uttara Office**: Mobile: 01817-031074, 01817-145905, 01817-031032, 01817-031040. Fax: 9127120. Web: www.amgd.com, E-mail: amfi@amgd.com

**Su-Kam**  
powered by innovation

**WORLD'S NO-1**  
**Su-Kam** IPS / UPS / BATTERY  
১৮ মাসের Replacement\*  
ওয়ারেন্টি সহ এখন বাংলাদেশে

আজীবন পানি কিংবা এসিড ঢালার প্রয়োজন নেই

বিশেষ অফার  
IPS + SMF Battery\*  
১০,৯৯৯.০০

Full branded IPS/UPS 250VA to 100KVA

\* সর্ব প্রযোজ্য

সম্পূর্ণ মাসেল্যান্ড ৩ ১০০% পরিবেশ বান্দ

**UNION POWER SYSTEMS LIMITED**  
68/1 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh  
Tel : +880 2 988 5771-4, Fax : +880 2 882 3454  
www.upslbd.com; www.su-kam.com  
Hotline : Sales - 01811418186, Service - 01841758775

Dealer Point : Mohakhali Auto- Mohakhali-011998147201732585816, Globe Battery- Mohakhali-01675239857, Gulshan Tyre And Battery- Gulshan-2, 01711548741, 0119983799, New Khan Tyre & Battery- Gulshan-2, 9883451, 01552301221, Shikder Enterprise- Gulshan-1-01817002940, Auto Energy- Link road - Tege-01612625152, Bew Battery- Tajuddin Ahmed Road- Tege-01912042726, Believe One Corporation- Bhatnagar City- 01916814914, Nids Corporation- Nikaton, Gulshan-0155252506, Goldenboy- Banam- 01711542001, SR Electronics- Old Dhaka (Wairoghat)- 01715191592, Chowdhury and Sons- Jessore- 01712336452, 0421-63631, Kaporia Traders- Jessore- 01713213955, Parvej Traders- Faridpur-01824672917, 0631-67028, Hello Faridpur- Faridpur- 01715955555, Rajshahi Battery House- Rajshahi-01714666252, Raju Electronics- Rajshahi- 01716257505, Shuman Electronics- Madaripur-01722388252, Bhai Bhai Auto- Sharikpur-01717718281, Procheta L.T. Sharikpur- 01727086431, B.S. Motors- Kushtia- 01716153898, Redwan Motors- Chaudanga-01711320939, Showkhis Electronics- Magura- 0171259018, Kajal Battery- Meherpur-01716057163, Iqbal Electronics & Computer System- Jendabha-01915420980, Khana Tyre And Battery- Khulna- 01912011225, A.Rahman Electronics- 01718125939, New Amanat Traders-01741303139, Ankon Automobiles- 01912588538, H.S. Enterprises- Jalokati-01827455184, 01558601044, Khondaker Traders- Patuakhali- 0167499482, 0441-64148, Nabil Motors- Bogra-01712062055, Bismillah Motors- Kachua- Dhaka-01727516219, 873338, Akash Electronics- Mirpur- 12-01718078060, Javed Traders- Nimtola road- Dinapur-01199397813, S.S. Enterprise- New Dhaka Road- Siragong-01716039515, New Ripon Battery- Truck Terminal- Nowga-0171113659, Unik Motors- Boala tana more- Rajshahi-01721221825, I-Speed Power System- Rajshahi-01711436688, Lopa Tyre and Battery- Sec-8, Uttara-8931904, 01722050333, Mojumder Battery- Lusham- Comilla- 01711738781, Khan Power System- B.Baria- 01712805380, Safa Motors- Police Line, Comilla-63258, 01711346233, Haque Enterprise- Chapainobgonj- 01711061403, Quality Battery & Tyre- Jigotola, Dhaka-01819039363, New City Motors- Mirpur-10 - 01711209465, Modina Traders- Sylhet-0821-812328, 01671994244, Anika Electronics- Goalabazar- Sylhet-01711940642, Dolphin Engineering & Electronics- Nasirabad- Chittagong-01711881376, Agrabad Electro- Access Road- Chittagong-01913618540, Lucky Enterprise- Sylhet-0821-719081, All Tyre & Battery- Panthopath, Dhaka-01714452113, Shomir Radio- Narayanganj-01711328144, H.R. Trading- Satmaha- Bogra-01713368290, Brothers Corporation & Store- Nawabbari Road- Bogra-01723672067, Power Electronics- Rampura- 01713261626, Nasir Battery- Juralai (Old Dhaka)- 01715665344, Chunu Enterprise- Nawabpur, Dhaka-01715003005, Mobile Media- Narayanganj-01711328144, Shimul Electronics- Maymensing- 01712729275, Bismillah Tyre & Battery- Labag- Dhaka-01552400805, Rahman Tyre- Patton, Dhaka- 01917004852, R.B.Motors, Arambag, Dhaka-02-9350123, Energetic Electronics- Comilla-01925171201, Nushin Electronics- Chandpur-01818317824, Jamal IPS & Battery House- Sylhet-01716467561, M.R. Power Distribution- Bandar Bazar- Sylhet-01715719123