

10. RELIEF OPERATION

Relief materials airlifted 7/28

Birgunj, July 27 (RSS): from regional service centre Simraha Relief materials from Monday were airlifted by helicopter from Rautahat, Sarlahi, Makwanpur and Chitwan according to the centre. Meanwhile, two people who sustained serious injuries in a landslide in Makwanpur were also brought by the helicopter to the Narayani Zonal Hospital. Necessary medical supplies for Rautahat were also sent by helicopter, Monday.

Supervision of flood relief works 7/29

Birgunj, July 28 (RSS): Minister of State for Forest and Soil Conservation Birmani Dhakal and MP Purna Bahadur Khadka reached Chitwan Tuesday to inspect and direct the distribution of relief materials and reconstruction works in the flood-hit areas of Chitwan, Makwanpur, Rautahat and Sarlahi. Acharya Ram Chandra Adhikari left for Rautahat for the same purpose. Minister for Tourism Ramhari Joshi and Deputy Speaker Mahanta Thakur are meanwhile in Sarlahi for relief work supervision, according to the Simraha service centre. Minister for committee for relief and Transport Khum Bahadur Bahadur K.C. and MPs Bal Bahadur Shaha and Govinda Yadav left for teams in Sarlahi and Rautahat supervision. Likewise, Assistant Shrestha and Rishikesh Gautam are at the Simraha service centre to supervise the relief materials sent to the disaster areas. Minister for Housing and Physical Planning Dilendra Prasad Badu and MPs Bishnuraj

Need for more air lifts for fast relief

By Rajendra Sharma 7/29

Simraha, July 28: Authorities at the regional centre set up here to provide relief assistance to the victims of recent floods in five districts are pooling all their energies to forge better coordination in relief work. Although there is no scarcity of relief materials there is increasing demands for air lifting these materials to the affected districts and villages so that the needy people get them early.

Additionally, the sick and injured ones can also be picked up by relief helicopters for treatment at Birgunj. Nanaku Sahani of Ramnagar Baharba in Sarlahi who was suffering from cholera is now undergoing treatment at Birgunj. As soon as helicopters carrying relief materials land in villages, sick people line up for a lift to Birgunj for treatment. For the people who have been saved from the floods, getting free of cost relief assistance has become a matter for satisfaction. Communication is a big problem in the flood affected areas due to which relief materials have repeatedly reached at certain places while many other areas do not get the assistance. According to Kul Chandra

Shrestha, an official at the relief services centre there exists a great deal of coordination now among relief agencies although there was a problem initially in absence of communications among them. Mr. Shrestha is in constant coordination with the district administration of all the five affected districts in the area. Relief work is now far more managed than before, Mr. Shrestha said. However, relief materials are yet to be delivered to the affected areas in Sarlahi east of Bagmati in a satisfactory manner.

There is no surface transportation, possible in those areas and army helicopters are carrying relief materials. Relief materials should also be taken to Janakpur by air and then sent to Sarlahi overland. Keshab Krishna Adhikary, a spokesman of the supply ministry said that food grains have started to be sent by surface too to different places. According to Mr Adhikary about 100 tonnes of rice have been taken to Sarlahi from Hariwan and Malangwa and there will be no problem of food grains in that area. At present a stock of about 1600 quintals of rice in Janakpur and 5000 quintals in Lahan has been maintained.

Traffic resumes on sectors of highway

7/27

Efforts on to reopen Tribhuvan Highway

Kathmandu, July 26 (RSS): Traffic on various sectors of the Prithvi Highway serving as one of the surface routes linking the Kathmandu Valley with other parts of the country has now resumed. The road link with the Kathmandu Valley was cut off following incessant rains last week.

The sectors now opened to vehicular traffic with several exchange points on the highway for the commuters bound for Narayangadh and from there further eastward or westward are Mahadevsthan (37 kilometres from Kathmandu), Mahadevsthan, Belkhu, Majhitar, and Majhitar-Narayanghat. Commuters can traverse all these points in one day thereby proceeding toward East-West highway according to the valley traffic office superintendent Rohit Thapa.

A team comprising traffic police, officer of the transport office and transport entrepreneurs today inspected the intersection of Prithvi Highway and 49 k. m. of the Tribhuvan Highway and the condition thereof.

About four thousand commuters managed to travel along the highway, changing buses at several points today, according to the team that inspected these arrangements at Mahadevsthan points today.

With these arrangements travellers who were stranded while travelling in various means of transport such as bus, trucks, government or corporation vehicles, have also been able to proceed further towards their destination, some who have to go on the other side of the river have also been ferried across at Rs. 5/- per head, it is learnt.

Meanwhile general secretary of Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs Association Hom Prasad Adhikari has said that the transport entrepreneurs, particularly those associated with day and night bus services, have agreed to run daytime bus services through such exchanges on the Prithvi Highway till normal traffic on the whole portion of the highway is restored.

At present thirty buses are plying on Kathmandu-Mahadevsthan sector and the travel costs Rs. 15/- per head.

Meanwhile, a team of Royal Nepalese Army is actively involved in the repair works to reopen the Tribhuvan Highway as soon as possible, according to the Home

Ministry. Foodgrains, medicines and medical teams were dispatched from Kathmandu and Seralhi to Seralhi, Rauwahat, Chitwan and Makwanpur by helicopter today. According to the Home Ministry spokesman, relief materials contributed by the Lions Club and Leo Club of Birgunj, Birgunj Petroleum Dealer Service Trust, Birgunj Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the people of Simara were distributed through the regional service centre, Simara to the flood and landslide affected people.

A meeting of the action committee formed under the natural disaster relief committee held under the chairmanship of Sher Bahadur Deupa today reviewed the rescue and relief work carried out so far in different parts of the affected areas and decided to form different units under the committee to expedite reconstruction and repair works.

Meanwhile, the meeting has decided to form a committee comprising agriculture, drinking water, road and irrigation office

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Donations are tax deductible

Kathmandu, July 28 (RSS): His Majesty's Government has decided to exempt the amount donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in aid of the landslides and flood affected families from income tax, the Finance Ministry said in a press release today.

NRCS provides relief materials

Kathmandu, July 26 (RSS): Nepal Red Cross Society central office distributed relief materials worth about Rs. 207,000/- to the flood and landslide affected people in Fedikhola, Markhu, Namtar and Agara VDC's in Makwanpur district Sunday.

Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa and Red Cross general secretary Devratna Dhakhwa were also present on the occasion.

The Red Cross central office also distributed relief materials worth Rs. 250,000/- to 100 additional affected families in Seralhi. It also provided relief materials worth Rs. 140,000/- to 56 affected families in Baidapur and materials worth about 250,000/- to



Nepal Police helping to fill boulders in gabions in Saptakoshi River on August 4, 1993.

