



Passangers helped by Nepal Police to cross Agra River at Mahadevbesi



Relief camps in Sarlahi overcrowded

7/28

By Kahnaiya Lal Keshari

Karmaiya, Sarlahi, July 27:

Relief works in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts, which were ravaged by the floods in the Bagmati river, are being carried out here in full swing.

But relief camps in Sarlahi are overcrowded and lack of resources can be seen as the impediment for effective operations.

Food, medicines and doctors are not adequate in the district where the floods are estimated to have taken a toll of over 1000 lives, though the immediate relief assistance of Rs.100,000 sought for the district was already received, officials involved in the relief operations say.

Thousands have become homeless of which, according to Tanka Prasad Prasai, an area member of Sarlahi, about, 3,000 families are being housed in relief camps in Karmaiya secondary school, Karmaiya mill, Karmaiya Primary school, Sukke Pokhari campus, Dungere Khola Primary school, Thing tole, Dungere Dharahara Primary school and Hariwan secondary school.

There are twelve relief camps being run at various places near Hariwan in addition to these, Mr. Prasai said.

Constituency No.5 of Sarlahi were the most affected area where 33 corpses were found in the Karmaiya village alone, he said. Two hundred and two people were missing from the village. Similarly many people are missing from Sankarpur and Barhathwa.

According to Rameshraj Kafle, area No. 5 member of Karmaiya village development committee, the heavy loss of lives and property was inflicted in the village as the main gate of Bagmati Irrigation Project's eastern canal was closed and a gate which was open during the floods on July 20 got for plugged causing the water to spill onto the villages.

Kafle said six members of the family of Krishna Kumar Jogi of ward No. 4 of Karmaiya village were swept away in the floods while his two sons and two daughters working in Kathmandu survived.

All the five members of Laxmanbal Tamang of the same ward are missing yet. Fourty people who dwelt at Sri Ram Dharmashala got swept away by the floods. Of them Arjun Prasad Kandel is undergoing treatment at Malangwa Hospital after he was found five kilometers far in the river side

on the 21st.

In Rautahat, villages of Samanpur, Paurahi, Dharampur, Pakaha Bakhri including the headquarters of Gaur have been severly affected with 65 people of Paurahi missing. According to police inspector Dilip Basnet 13 corpses have been recovered and search is on for the remaining.

Pakaha and Bakhri villages near the Bagmati river have now only 40-50 houses out of the 200 houses which were there before the floods hit the villages. The number of people missing from the villages have not been estimated yet. Uddav Dhakal of Nepali Congress, who is active in the relief works, said constituency 4 was the most severely affected area in the district.

The flood victims have been housed in Janjyoti secondary school, Mangalpur primary school, Bagmati mill and Gaur Dharmashala in the Rautahat district.

Lack of drinking water and medicines for the victims has been most severely felt in the relief camps in Sarlahi and Rautahat. Various organizations and individuals have now joined the relief works initially started by the local people.

RELIEF WORK GOING ON



Flood victims waiting outside their plastic tents at the Dharahara relief camp in Sarlahi.

RELIEF: ^{8/2} Roads being rebuilt

materials. A total of 9,323 flood victims have been kept in 12 relief camps set up in Sarlahi district. According to Mr Amartya, sufficient relief services have been provided to the victims. However, people of southern villages who have been rendered homeless by the flood are still awaiting relief operations. The lifeline of southern part of Sarlahi-Manusnara irrigation project - has been heavily destroyed due to which transportation of relief materials has been obstructed.

Two bulldozers have been in operation to reconstruct the road that links 40 villages with the district headquarters. However, the work is very slow and road construction equipment have been sent to reconstruct the road linking with the capital.

As the relief works are concentrated in northern areas, flood affected people are heading toward the north leaving the southern parts.

The displaced persons have put up makeshift huts along the road in Barhaiya, Murtaiya, and Dharahara. Most of them are those who fled their village in the south seeking relief materials. The local administration in Sarlahi has, so far, registered 30,000 people as flood victims.

Mr Amartya said relief materials were being distributed through the relief committee comprised of representatives of political parties. However, Punit Sahani complained that relief materials have not reached Hajariya village.

Some people of Barhaiya village complained about the mismanagement of the relief materials with police inspector Bulkrishna Chaudhary, who later assured the people that necessary action will be taken to ensure relief distribution.

So far, 507 persons were killed and 537 are still missing due to floods in Sarlahi district. However, the number could be much higher, said local people.

Minister for Tourism Ram Hari Joshi said the relief operations are being expanded and weaknesses would be gradually ironed out.

Flood affected people ^{8/29} receive relief materials

Lalitpur, Aug. 28 (RSS):

Cash, clothing materials and medicines were distributed to the flood and landslide-affected people of the 10 VDCs of Lalitpur district at the initiative of the Working Committee of the Nepali Congress and Lalitpur Municipality.

Representative of the Lalitpur Municipality Pushkar K.C. distributed Rs. 61,500/- to the victims families.

Agni Prasad Bajgain of Chandanpur VDC Ward No. 9 received Rs. 2,000/- for performing his 11 year's daughter Urmila Bajgain's last rites, who was killed in the disaster.

Dwarika Khanal of general committee of Nepali Congress, Lalitpur DDC vice-chairman Babu Kaji pradhan and others distributed 405 bundles of clothing materials to 29 families of Bukhel VDC, 19 of Bhardav VDC, one of Manikhel and Gimdi VDCs each, 5 of Chandanpur, Durlung and Golikhel VDCs each, and 15 of Chandanpur VDC.

Free medicines were also distributed free of cost by various medical teams on the

occasion. Similarly, Nepal Catholic Society, Jawalakhel distributed Rs. 16,400/- clothing materials and utensils to the affected families.

Meanwhile The Himalayan Health Care Nepal's chairman handed over medical equipment and medicines worth 1.1 million rupees to Minister of State for Health Dr. Ram Varan Yadav in aid of the flood and landslide-affected people in Kathmandu.

It is learnt from the Ministry of Health. Health Organization also contributed medicines and medical equipment worth Rs. 95,550/- in aid of the flood and landslide victims.

A five-member medical team with necessary medicines has already left for Palung, Agra and Markhu VDCs of Makawanpur district to help the flood and landslide-affected people.

Additional medicines have been sent to those places under the supervision of the Makawanpur Hospital superintendent.

Similarly, health education materials have been sent to

Bhojpur, Chaitwan and Sarlahi districts for the flood and landslide-affected people of these districts, the Health Ministry has said.

Likewise Tehrathum district Nepal Red Cross Society distributed relief materials to 37 flood affected families.

The VDC's receiving relief material are Angbung, Solma Sabla, Oyakjung, Sungnam, Myalunglung and Piple.

The relief materials included plastic, clothes and cooking utensils.

A demand for an additional relief material has been made.

Meanwhile Suresh Nath Dhungana handed over 60 kgs of clothes being dispatched by president of the Nepalese Association in Canada Kiran Dhungana in aid of the flood affected victims to the natural disaster relief materials collection centre, in Tribhuvan Airport.

Nepalese residing in Canada are currently engaged in collecting additional relief materials for the flood and landslide victims, according to president of the Nepalese Association in Canada Dhungana.

Coupon system ^{7/28} introduced

Kathmandu, July 27 (RSS): Special arrangements have been made to ensure regularity in the supplies of petroleum products in Kathmandu Valley, according to the supplies ministry spokesman.

Coupon system has been introduced from Tuesday to make sure that the distribution of petroleum products will be properly.

With the introduction of the coupon system the petroleum products in stock will be enough to meet the requirements of the valley for one month, the spokesman said.

Similarly arrangements have been made to provide three litres of kerosene a week to a family of five private cars and jeeps will be provided with 15 litres of petrol, hired cars and jeeps with 30 litres and tempos with 15 litres a week. Likewise, motor cycles and scooters will be given three litres of diesel and tempo, tractors and power tillers 20 litres a week. Trucks (over 5 tons) will be given 50 litres of diesel, trucks (upto 5 tons) 30 litres and public

**Coupon: ^{7/28}
No problem**
buses and minibuses 20 litres of diesel a week.
Meanwhile, 7,600 litres of kerosene was brought yesterday from the terai area and about 7,000 litres from Simara and Bhairahawa to Kathmandu today by air.