Different political parties. social and voluntary organisations have organised relief teams for conducting relief operation in the cyclone-battered coastal areas, reports

The national Executive Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party at a meeting held at the party office here Wednesday afternoon formed a central relief committee with Mirza Golam Hafiz, Vice Chairman of BNP, as convenor.

Presided over by the Party Secretary General. Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, the meeting in a resolution urged the government to rush relief and help to the affected areas.

In another resolution, the meeting urged the members of the National Executive Committee of the party now staying in Dhaka to go to the affected areas immediately, organise relief committees and coordinate relief operations.

The meeting appealed to the well-to-do people to donate relief materials, and money to the party's central relief committee at Road 27(Old) of Number Dhanmondi. The office of the central relief committee will remain open from 9 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 9 pm.

The donors have been requested not to give any subscription of relief materials at individual level excepting the central relief committee.

BRAC

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BR-AC) has undertaken relief programmes in the cycloneaffected areas at different upazilas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Noakhali and Luxmipur districts.

BRAC has initially allocated Taka one crore for the relief operation. Thirty teams are already working in the areas battered by the cyclone, says a press release in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The cyclone packed with a windspeed of 235 kph lashed the off-shore islands and coastal districts of the country early hours Tuesday leaving behind a trial of devastation.

A number of medical teams will soon join the existing

Relief materials include food, Sarees, lungis, clothes, medicines, saline packets and

water purifying tablets. It has also formed a cell on disaster management in

Chittagong. Rotary district 328

Rtn Mustafa Zaman Abbasi District Governor, Rotary International District 328, Bangladesh, has appealed to all Rotarians and their families of 76 Rotary Clubs to come forward with their total help and support for the victims of cyclone in the coastal areas of the country.

He said, immediate action plans are to be undertaken by all Rotarians, their wives. Rotaracts. Inner Wheel Members and Ladies in Rotary Committees to do whatever is possible to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people.

Chhatra Kalyan Sangstha

Bangladesh Chhatra Kalyan Sangstha, a student welfare organisation on Wednesday despatched several teams with relief materials for the affected people in the cyclone-battered southern region of the country. The relief goods included 'chira', 'gur', medicine, oral

saline and old clothings. Sangstha opened two booths in the city to collect donations in kind, one in front of the National Press Club and the other at its office at 13 New Circular Road, said a press release.

People's Pharma donated 40,000 Aspirin, 20,000 Paracetamol and 5,000 anti-biotics to the Sangstha for free distribution among the distressed people in the cyclone affected areas.

Lions District- 315B

The Central Cyclone Relief Committee of Lions District 315-B Bangladesh sent a Relief Team to Pirojpur this afternoon for distribution of relief materials among the affected people.

According to a press release, the relief materials. worth about Taka one lakh, include chira, gur, oral saline, old clothes and water purifying

Nganj Freedom Party

Narayanganj Zila Freedom Party on Wednesday formed a team comprising seven members to reach relief materials to the cyclone-htt areas.

The party in a press release

requested the persons who are interested in giving aid to the victims to contact the General Secretary of Narayanganj Zila Freedom Party.

At a special meeting presided over by Abdul Latif, Zila President of the party, the speakers also urged the concerned quarters to notice the interest of the workers.

Ahsania Mission

Dhaka Ahsania Mission directed all its units to send volunteer teams to the cyclonebattered areas.

The mission has already opened a Relief and Rehabilitation Centre in its head office at House No-8. Road No-12, Dhanmondi,

Feni Association

Dhaka-based Fent Association has worked out a relief operation programme for the affected areas of Feni and greater Noakhali district. Interested social workers,

philanthropists and donors have been requested to contact Feni Association office at Red Crescent Chamber Building at 87. Motifheel Commercial or Mr. Area. Dhaka Mohammad Ali, Secretary National Credit Limited at 7-8 Motifheel Commercial Area,

N'ganj Chamber

The President of Narayangant Chamber of Commerce and Industry Alhaj Mohammed Faziur Rahman Tuesday thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for the preliminary measures taken by her in view of the cyclonic storm.

The Narayanganj Chamber chief also lauded the timely step of adjourning the session of the Jatiya Sangsad Monday to enable its members to engage themselves in relief work.

Rahman expressed his deep grief at the loss of life and property in the severe cyclonic storm that lashed the coastal districts of the country last He said the industrialists

businessmen of Narayangani have decided to send relief materials to the distressed people. Rahman also ealled upon people to come forward to the help of the humanity.



Electric towers grounded, trees uprooted in Ctg, Khulna

Power system in the Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal and Khulna districts was. PDB engineers and workers severely damaged due to the violent cyclonic storm that swept over the area in early hours Wednesday, reports BSS. A number of 132 KV tow-

ers, 33 KV and 440 volt poles were grounded and distribution lines snapped. Besides, widespread damage was caused to 33 KV, 11 KV and 0.4 KV poles and lines in the affected areas. Trees uprooted falling on many electric lines also caused disruption in telecommunication. Power Development Board (PDB) had to depend on its own carrier services for contacts with its field offices in the cyclone-hit areas, a PDB Press release said in Dhaka Wednesday.

Two towers of Kaptai-Madanhat 132 KV line were damaged. Lightning arrester on Halishahar-Shikalbaha line burst and conductor on Feni-Hathazari line was snapped. Halishahar Control Room had gone under four-feet water.

Hathazari-Kaptai, Madanhat-Kaptai, Hathazari-Madanhat and Madanhat-Dohazari-Cox's Bazar were among other power lines damaged. Besides, extensive damage was caused to the distribution system, particularly in Chittagong area. Barisal-Patuakhali, Barisal-Muladi and other transmission and distribution lines in the district were broken. Immediately after the storm

took up the repair work. A board meeting with acting PDB Chairman Syed Qumrul Alam in the chair was held in Dhaka to assess the extent of damage and review the measures for restoration work on an emergency basis. Necessary instructions were given to the respective chief engineers in this connection.

Meanwhile, supply to many transmission lines, about 80 per cent was restored but connection to consumers premises was difficult due to serious disruption of the distribution network. Supply to WASA and Medical College Hospital was restored partly. Power supply has been restored on to Hathazari-Kaptai, Hathazari-Madanhat, Madanhat-Shikalbaha. Shikalbaha-Halishahar, Kulshi-Baroawlia

Power supply at Mongla, Barisal, Jhalakathi and Madaripur was partially restored Wednesday. Repair work was continuing, the Press release said.

Another report from Chittagong adds: Bangladesh Navy has despatched three naval ships and craft Tuesday morning to carry out relief and rescue operations in the cyclone-affected areas of Monpura, Moheshkhali,

Sandwip. Dublarchar, Bhola and the adjoining areas in the Bay of Bengal.

Besides, the BN ships are carrying emergency relief materials from the district administration for distribution among the cyclone-hit people. A medical squad of the Bangladesh Navy has also been despatched to provide medical assistance to them.

BN ships rescued 20 fishermen off Dublarchar at about 10 a.m. Thursday.

FBCCI opens relief fund

All Chamber of Commerce and Industry and trade associations would undertake relief activities in the cyclone affected areas, reports BSS. A decision to this affect was

taken at an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry with its President Alhaj Md. Akram Hossain in the chair, a Press release said. The meeting discussed the loss of lives and property caused by the cyclonic storm and the possible relief measures to be taken.

The meeting asked the members of the Federation to immediately hand over cash or kind to the relief fund.

6,000 tubewells to be sunk in affected areas

The government has sanctioned six thousand tubewells to be sunk in the coastal district most severely affected by Monday's cyclonic storms and tidal surge, reports BSS.

According to an official handout Wednesday, the Public Engineering Health Department has been instructed by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives to make brisk arrangements for sinking the tubewells on emergency basis in view of the desperate need for pure drinking water in affected areas . This is just the preliminary sanction.

Meanwhile, ten inspection teams from the department have been sent to the coastal districts to assess the extent of damage and to ascertain the need for sinking new tubewells and repairing the damaged

The department has already

Pry teachers to donate one day's salary for cyclone victims

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA) in a meeting of its Central Executive Committee on Wednesday urged all the primary teachers to donate their one day's salary for the victims of the Monday's cyclone and extend all sorts of assistance in response to the call of the Prime Minister .

The meeting urged the government to take steps for collecting donations from the primary teachers. The meeting also expressed grave concern over the death and devastation following the cyclone :

The emergency meeting was presided over by Professor Abul Kalam Azad, President of

Drama staged

Darpan Natya Gosthi staged a drama titled 'Mou Ranir Shangshar' at the Guide House auditorium in the city recently. says a press release. Noted play writer

Momtazuddin Ahmed directed the drama while Aminul Haque Amin was the co-director.

begun placing the services of additional mechanical staff to

Ten more inspection teams have been sent to the affected districts by the Local Government Engineering Bureau for assessing the extent

Ansar, VDP to donate Tk 5 lakh

Ansar and VDP officials and employees have decided to donate Tk 5,00,000 to President's relief fund from their one day's salary for the cyclone victims, reports UNB.

Ansar and VDP members had also joined rescue, relief and rehabilitation operation in the cyclone-devastated coastal belt of the country.

The VDP and Ansar members are also cooperating with the local adminstration in the cyclone-affected areas where they have sent three medical

The have also arranged to distribute chira-muri, 10,000 pieces of shirt, 2000 pieces of saree, 2000 under-garments and other relief materials on emergency basis. The Ansars and VDP will also distribute summer vegetable seeds in the calamity areas.

Ansar and VDP has asked the members of the organisation to take part in the releif and rehabilitation work in their respective affected areas.

Urs

The 14th Urs Mubarak of Hadi-e-Zaman Khaturiyapuri Pak Dastagir Hazrat Kebla Mohammad Yasin Rahmatullah Allaihe will be held on May 2 and 3 at Khatuiya, upazila Domar, district Nilphamari, reports BSS. The programme of the Urs

includes Quran Khwani, milad. halqa-e-zikr, hamd, naat, and sawab rasani.

Upazila roundup

MAULVI BAZAR

Employment exchange centre needed

From Our Correspondent May 1: Absence of employ-

ment exchange centre in Maulvi Bazar is causing much problems to the job seekers in the district. Job seekers have to travel

another districts to enroll their names because there is no employment exchange centre in Maulvi Bazar district. They complained that they have to spend a lot of money for the purpose.

They have urged the concerned authorities to establish an employment exchange centre at an earliest.

NETRAKONA

3 injured in clash

May 1: At least three persons were injured and two cloth shops were ransacked in a violent clash between two groups of cloth traders at a crowded shopping centre here Saturday last, reports BSS.

The clash ensued from exchange of words between the groups, police and eyewitnesses said.

The injured persons were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital. The injured persons were identified as Mir Afzal Hussain (57). Dipok Sarker (29) and Pradip Sarker (28). hospital sources said.

Two separate cases were filed with Netrakona police.

BRAHMANBARIA

Minor girl crushed under wheels

May 1 : A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a Comilia-bound bus on Comilia-Brahmanbaria road Monday last, reports UNB.

The victim Sumi Akhtar (4). daughter of a farmer Anisul Haq of Saydabad village under Koshba upazila of the district, was killed on the spot when

she was crossing the road. The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Police seized the vehicle

FARIDPUR

hurt in road accidents

May 1: One unidentified person was killed and 13 others were injured in two separate road accidents on Sunday in the suburb of the town, reports BSS.

Hospital. Others including the bus driver are under treatment managed to escape.

sons received injuries. They

Two separate cases were registered with Kotwali police

CHANDPUR

not getting fair price

metric tons of potato was produced in 15,000 acres of land in Chandpur district this year. reports BSS.

According to an official source, capacity of eight cold storages in the district is only 17,000 metric tons.

growers are selling potato at Taka 70 to 75 per maund to the wholesalers.

body formed

NANDAIL, May 1: The executive committee of the Diploma Krishibid Society. Nandail upazila branch was formed in a conference held in the office premises recently.

body elected for the next term includes Mr. Taibuddin. Mr. Abul Hussain, Mr. Abul Hashem, Mohammed Ali and Muazzem Hossain as Chairman, Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Cashier and member representatives respectively.

Granta Surid

the Haq Fatima Granta Shurid Samity was elected in its biennial conference held at its

The newly elected office bearers include Mr. Enamul Haq Babul, Mahbubul Haq Roton, Naheed Anjoman Ara. Ismat Ara and Ehteshamul Haq Shaheen as President, Vice President, Secretary. Cashier

on-rush of water at Mitamoin

The worst affected areas are Char Baulat, Dhakt, Katbol, Ghara. The IRRI-Boro crops of Itna, Nikhli and Astogram upazilas are affected due to the on-rush flood water of Sunamgani area resulting in heavy loss of IRRI-Boro crops.

Dacoit arrested in Nabinagar

BRAHMANBARIA, May 1: In a bid to ward off crimes. Nabinagar police nabbed an alleged dacott and recovered a stzeable amount of ammunition, reports UNB.

rounded up Humayun Kabir wanted by police in connection with several criminal cases. On his confessional statement, police recovered 335

A case was lodged in this connection with Nabinagar police station.

BDR steps up anti-smuggling drive in Meherpur

MEHERPUR. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel of 13 Rifle Battalion. Chuadanga recovered 47 Indian buffaloes Hogolbaria under Gangni upazila of the district.

villagers of Hogoldanga informed about the smuggling of the buffaloes to 13 Rifle Battalion head quarters, Chuadanga. A patrol team of eight BDR personnel led by Captain Mohiuddin rushed to the place and recovered the

smuggled Indian cows and buffaloes are being sold at the Hogoldanga cattle market.

The villagers alleged that The people of the area

hailed the BDR personnel for

JAMALPUR, May 1 : Boro,

Rabi and other crops have

greatly been damaged by the

prolonged drought throughout

Jamalpur district as there was

Only a month ago Jamalpur

no rainfall for the last one

experienced moderate shower.

Aus paddy, jute and other sea-

sonal crops are either drying

up in fields or suffering

vested in the Bengali months

of Chaitra and Baishakh in the

low lying areas of Jamalpur

sadar, Melandah, Madarganj,

Sarishabari, Dewangani,

Islampur and Bakshiganj upazi-

las. According to an official

source. Boro was cultivated on

20,000 acres of land in the

district this year but due to

drought production shortfall

would be 20 to 30 per cent as

apprehended by the farmers.

But in practice it would be

tract of agricultural land pre-

pared for cultivation of Aus and

On the other hand a vast

Boro paddy is usually har-

retarded growth.

much more.

month.

the raid at the cattle market.

in its anti-smuggling raids seized huge quantity of Indian smuggled goods and bullocks on April 22.

led by Mr. Sayed Hafiz Ahmed. Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Abu Bakar Siddique. SP Kushtia. Police and customs of-Bheramara and Daulatpur and sized a truck bearing No. Ta 109 loaded with Indian smug gled goods like 110 bags of Mosur pulse, 400 pieces of sarees, ten kgs of jute seed and two kgs of hemp and two bullocks worth about Taka

ADM. Nabo Bikraim Kishore Tripura, Additional SP and Shawkat Ali, Assistant Collector, Customs and Excise, Kushtia also played a role in the anti-smuggling drive. A case has been registered with Bheramara PS in this connec-

of the truck have been arrested and the truck seized. The seized goods have been deposited to Kushtia customs. The task force in another raid seized one hundred

Industrial estate

After establishment of the district a plan was taken to

Extension Department under-

took an ambitious programme

to cultivate Aus and trans-

planted Aman on about one

lakh acres this year. But sow-

ing on five percent the land

area of four hectares of land on the bank of a big pond at the outskirt of the town six years The plan has been shelved. The plan could not be materialised owing to some com-

of khas lands. The BSIC is not coming forward to take up the work for the dispute over land.

plexity arose from distribution

Meherpur, the small border district of the country may be developed into an industrial town by setting up small industries to provide job opportunity to thousands of unem-

ployed young men. The step may also be helpful in curbing smuggling along the border areas if the unemployed people are provided

Prize-giving ceremony

tion ceremony of Kumira Pilot Girls High School under Tala upaztla was held recently. Mr. Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, was present as Samity was present as special guest. Abdul Muttalib. Chairman of the school, presided over the function.

In his speech the Deputy Commissioner said that games and sports brings about physical fitness.

From A Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 1: The annual sports and prize distribu-

chief guest while Mrs Nargis Rahman, President Mahila

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 1: Number of child labourers is on the increase in Barisal town and its adjoining areas with the influx of floating population in the district.

heed to the matter.

being compelled take odd jobs for their livelihood. These tenderaged boys, are being engaged mostly as helpers of passenger buses and trucks, in restaurants and hotels and in brickfields or repairing work-

If is observed that children even below 10 or 12 are being compelled to take up such hardwork jobs due to poverty.

number (Chittagong-Jha-143) with the driver.

One killed, 13

The first accident took place when a Takerhat bound passenger bus collided with a truck coming from opposite direction near Bismiliah Shah Mazar on Faridpur-Barisal highway, three miles from here. At least eight passenger of the bus were injured. One of them succumbed to his injuries at Faridpur General

at the hospital. The truck in another incident a passenger bus turned turtle in the roadside ditch while overtaking a vehicle near Gangabardi on Faridpur-Kamar Khali road. four miles from here. Five per-

were admitted to hospital. in this connections.

Potato growers

May 1 : About 1,24,000

Potato growers alleged that they were not getting fair price of their produce. Retail price of potato in the local market is around Taka 110-120 per maund while the

DKS executive

From Our Correspondent

The five-member executive

Samity The Managing Committee of

Nandail Road office recently.

and member respectively.

Crops damaged Standing crops over 7000 acres of land were damaged by

Acting on a tip. the police

raided village Kazalia and

rounds of machine gun ammunition from Kazalia primary school and a neighbouring house of Kabir.

National

been intensified in the border areas and other places in Kushtia district. The task force

The task force operation ficials were included in the team. The task force team raided a place between

From Our Correspondent

Mr Sikander Ali Mandal.

The driver and the helper

maunds of Hilsha fish on way to India worth about Taka 4.000.

Task force operation has 4.00,000 setup an industrial zone on an Drought damages crops in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

transplanted Aman have been lying fallow for want of rain. The sowing of Aus and early Aman seeds was not possible due to continued drought.

It may be mentioned that district Agriculture has so far been done.



The Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh addressing as chief guest at a blood donation programme jointly organised by local unit of Sandhani and Mymensingh Ram Krishna Asram recently. -Star photo

Absconder arrested

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, May 1 :

murder case. Sawdagar Ali was arrested

Bangladeshi girls languish in

From Our Correspondent

women traffickers of Bangladesh and India have started using new routes at different border zones including Kamalpur and Garo hill areas under Jamalpur and Sherpur districts for the illegal business.

A competent source said Bangladeshi women have high demand in India. The Bangladeshi women are Mainly

Many women were sent to

India through Sherpur border

on the allurement of giving

They are passing hard days and waiting for scope to return

Child labour on rise

Though the labour laws does not permit to engage in hard work a boy below 16 years of age, none is paying

Many minor children are

repair the damaged tubewells.

of damage caused to the communication-infrastructure. Arrangements are being made to repair and reconstruct the roads, bridges and culverts on the basis of reports from these

teams, the handout said.

A press release in Dhaka on Wednesday said, about 2,000

The Director General of

Nabiganj thana police arrested an absconding criminal from a remote village. According to sources. Sawdagar Miah was wanted by

the police in connection with a

from Bara Altpur village of Nabiganj upazila under Habiganj district recently.

Indian brothels

JAMALPUR, May 1: The

them jobs. Most of the induced women were engaged in prostitution in Calcutta and

tween 12 and 25 years of age.

widows and maid servants be-