

# Fallout of Monday Night's Catastrophic Cyclone



While the human survivors could move to safer places before Monday night's deadly cyclone, dumb animals were left to the nature's whims. And they were killed. Hundreds of them lay dead at Kutubdia.



Two cows were victims of nature's wrath at the Patenga airport.



Cyclone devastation at Patenga

## Directive to medical officers

All newly-appointed Medical Officers (MCHFP) working under the Directorate of Family Planning have been directed by the Director General (Family Planning) to work round the clock in relief operation in the cyclone affected areas in co-ordination with the local administration, reports BSS.

Similarly, all Family Welfare Inspectors and Medical Assistants in the affected areas working under local MO (MCHFP) are to be engaged in relief operation, according to an official handout.

In the meantime, the Directorate of Family Planning has made arrangements for supply of 10 lakh ampicillin capsules, 10 lakh vitamin B complex, 20,000 Metronidazol, 10 lakh Paracetamol tablets, 1150 pieces of clothes.

Photos taken by Photographer Mohsin



Sea-going vessels were blown off to the ground near the Chittagong Port.

## Tk 400 crore shrimps washed away, 100 p.c. crops damaged

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday urged all Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to supplement the government relief activities for mitigating the sufferings of the cyclone affected people, reports BSS.

Addressing the representatives of different NGOs, donor agencies and foreign missions at her secretariat office the Prime Minister said "We can bring back the good days of the suffering people with our united and coordinated endeavours."

The meeting, held to find out ways and means for better coordination between the government and NGOs relief activities, was also addressed, among others, by Education Minister Dr Bodruddoza Chowdhury, Shipping Minister MK Anwar, State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfar Rahman Khan, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur Rahman and representatives of different NGOs and foreign missions. Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf was present in the meeting.

Begum Zia told the meeting that the devastation of the cyclone was so colossal that the extent of damage was yet to be ascertained.

Begum Zia pointed out that many of the off-shore islands

which were inundated in the tidal bore were still under water.

The Prime Minister informed the meeting that the government with its limited resources was trying its best to bring succour to the affected people. Efforts have to be supplemented to overcome the crisis following the devastation of the severe cyclonic storm, she said.

The meeting was informed that about 10 million people were directly affected by the devastating cyclone and it was feared that more than 100 thousands people were killed in the cyclone. The meeting was told that 90 to 100 per cent of houses and crops in the affected areas were damaged. Extensive damage of tubewells in the affected coastal belt has caused crisis of pure drinking water. The disruption of power supply in the cyclone affected areas is widening.

In Chittagong port, some private ships numbering seven to eight have been feared drowned during the cyclone. The meeting pointed out that salt and shrimp projects in the off-shore islands were extensively damaged. The loss in the shrimp projects is roughly about Taka 400 crore. The disruption of telecommunication system in the affected areas is

hampering the overall relief activities.

The meeting observed that the country now needed food, shelter, medicines, live saving materials, house building materials and other relief materials to save the affected people of the coastal belt.

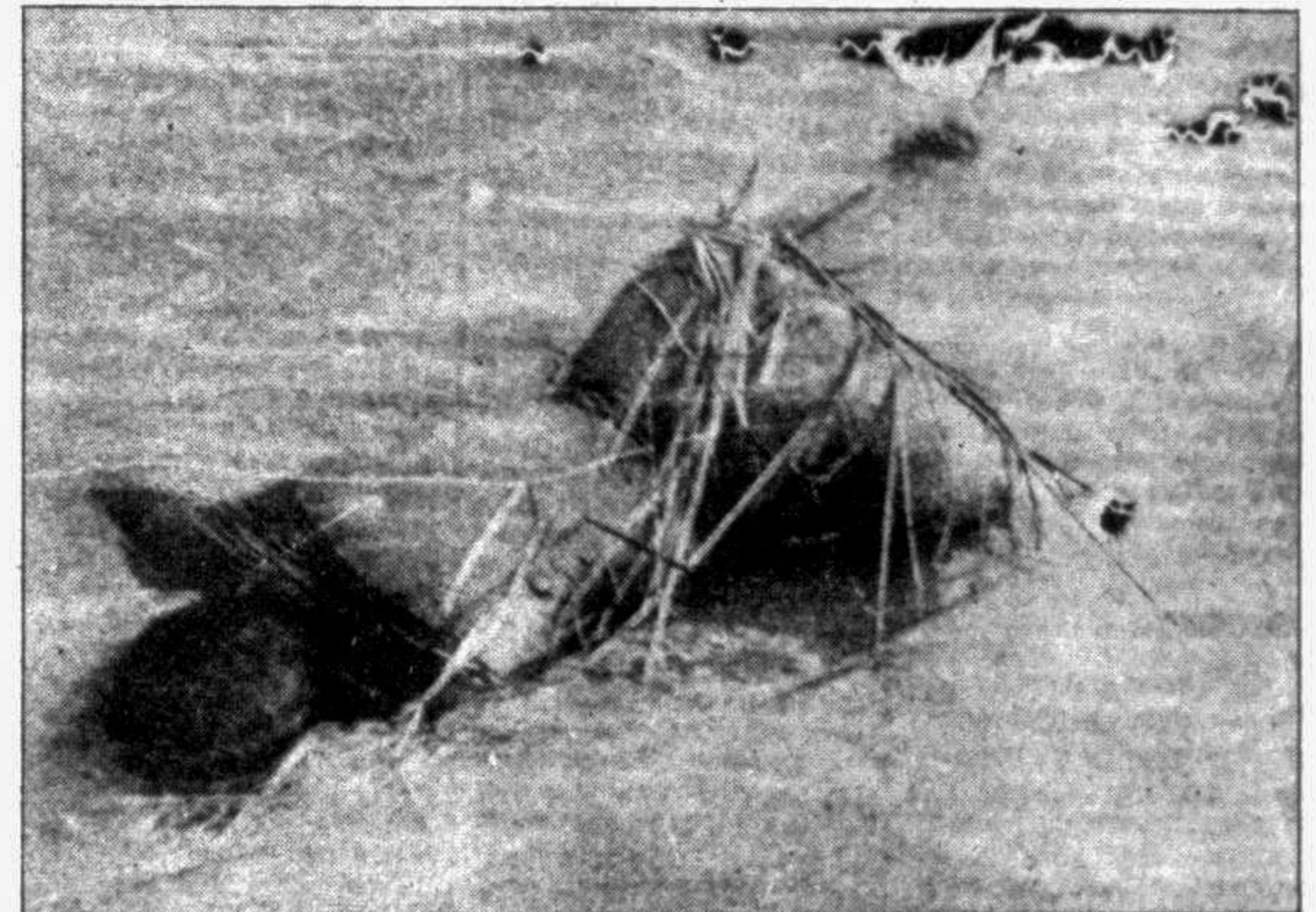
The meeting pointed out that the sending of relief materials specially food stuff was

being hampered because of less number of helicopters. It urged the foreign countries to provide more helicopters for expediting the relief activities in the affected areas where thousands of people needed immediate succour.

The NGO representatives showed keen interest in extending their all-out support to the present government in its

relief activities. They pointed out to the Prime Minister that they would need well coordinated transportation facilities to take the relief materials to the affected off-shore islands.

The NGO representatives also stressed the need for immediate coordination work from the government to save and rescue the marooned people.



A dead body of a woman near Moheshkhali. Perhaps, her children are still in anxious for her return.



A partial view of Patenga Airport in ruins.



A sampan now at rest on the ground at Chittagong. It was lifted out of river by the cyclone.

## Cyclones in Bangladesh—a flashback

The Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh, 1990 lists 60 cyclonic storms and tidal surges of various intensity occurring between the years 1797 and 1989, reports UNB.

According to records compiled by the weekly Dhaka Courier, 24 of these natural calamities occurred in the months of April, May and

June. Almost in all cases, the coastal districts and the Meghna estuary have been the areas affected.

In May-June 1797, a severe storm hit Chittagong levelling every hut to ground and sinking two vessels in Chittagong port.

The storm that hit Barisal in May, 1822 'swept away the collectorate records', killed 40,000 people and caused loss of 1,00,000 cattle.

A severe cyclonic storm of 90-92 mph with 8-10 feet high tidal surge hit Meghna estuary in May, 1961 killing 11,468 and causing heavy loss of life in Char Alexander.

Another severe cyclonic storm in 1963 (wind speed 125 mph and wave 8-12 feet high) badly affected Chittagong, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar and off-shore islands, killing 11,520 people.

A most severe cyclonic storm (maximum wind speed 100 mph with 12 feet high tidal surge) hit Barisal in May, 1965 taking a toll of 19,270 lives.

In May, 1985 a severe cyclonic storm hit Chittagong and the Noakhali coast (wind speed 66 mph with surge of 14 feet height) affecting Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sandwip, Hatiya, Noakhali and Urir Char. The Urir Char disaster, as it later came to be known, killed 11,069 people, damaged 94,379 houses and 40 miles of roads and embankment. 1,35,033 cattleheads were lost.