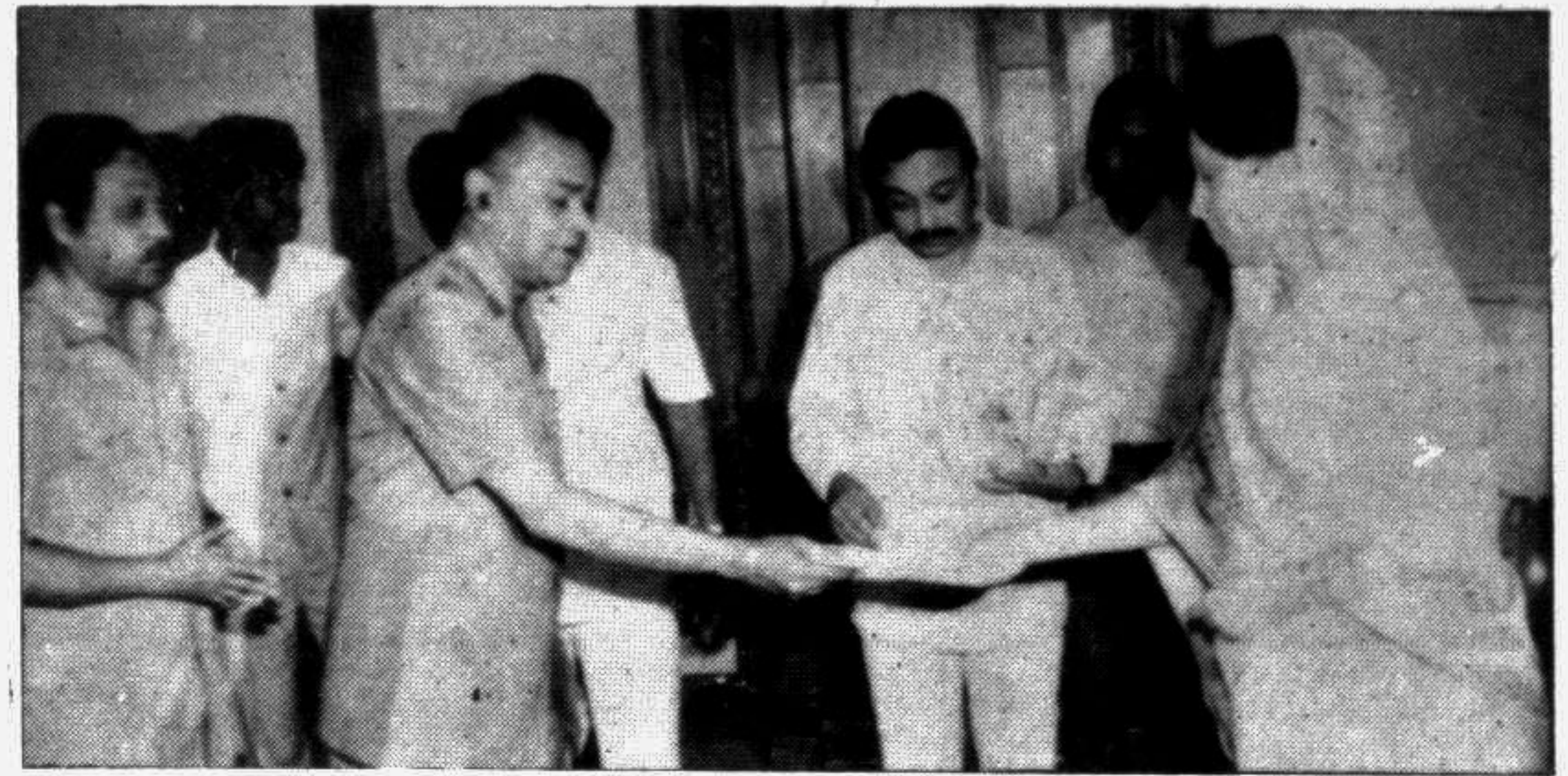


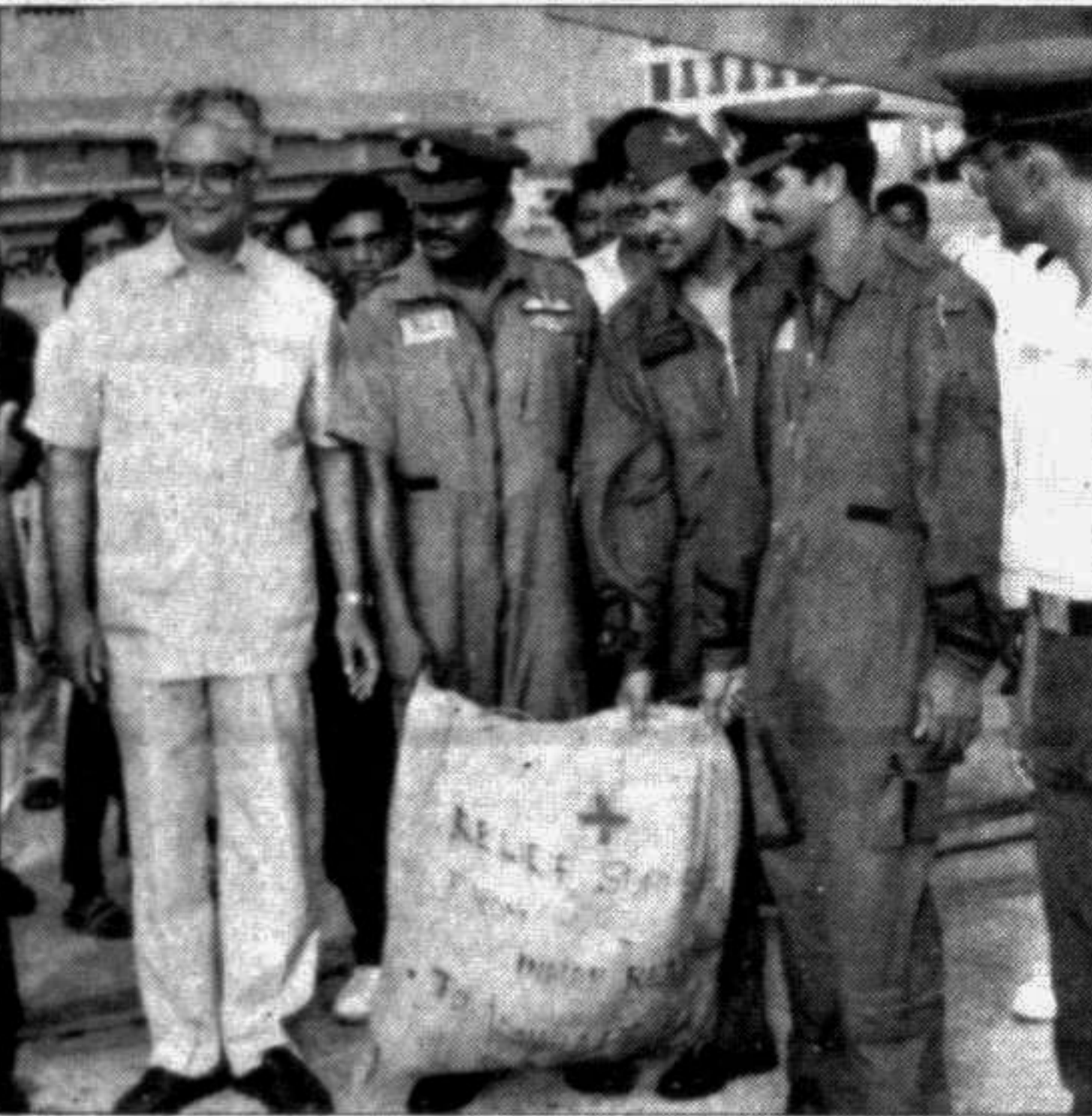
Air Chief of Staff Air Vice-Marshal Momtazuddin Ahmed talking to distressed people of Sonadia union of Hatia on Tuesday. No relief has yet reached the distressed area. — Star photo



Nuruddin Ahmed, President, Dhaka Club, handed over a cheque of Taka 3,00,000 to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday on behalf of the Members of the Club as contribution towards Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone affected people of the coastal areas.



BAF Transport aircraft para-dropping relief goods in the cyclone affected area.



Indian Deputy High Commissioner Amitav Tripathi handing over a consignment of relief materials to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on arrival of the goods by special IAF flight.

EPI programme in coastal areas crippled

By Staff Correspondent

The devastating cyclone has crippled the immunisation programme in the coastal areas as immunisation equipment and vaccines have been badly damaged, sources said. As a result, it will be difficult to achieve the EPI (Extended Programme for Immunization) target in Chittagong division.

A preliminary report says equipment were damaged and vaccine kits were washed away in Hatia, Sandwip, Anwara, Banskhal, Patiya, Boalkhali.

Co-operatives Insurance

A special general meeting of Bangladesh Co-operatives Insurance Ltd. has decided to donate Taka 50,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The meeting presided over by Al-haj Mohammad Giasuddin, Chairman of the society.

Sitakund, Kutubdia, Moheskhal, Chokoria and Sadar areas. The health centres in Patiya and Sadar were badly damaged.

EPI authority expects measles to break out in the cyclone-hit areas, specially in relief camps. EPI authority have cancelled all other immunisation programmes and decided to take up a crash programme to apply measles vaccines among the children. Authority have already sent teams to the affected areas with vaccines for 1.2 lakh children on Tuesday. More teams will be sent soon. All children aged up to five years will come under the drive.

EPI authorities have decided to form 34 vaccination teams to combat measles. Two teams will work in each of the 17 worst affected wards.

Relief goods distributed

By Staff Correspondent

The Moulvi Bazar Pourashava of Sylhet district has arranged dispatch relief goods for the distressed people at coastal areas for a week.

The distribution of relief which began on Monday will continue till May 13.

Everyday the relief team which was headed by the Chairman of Moulvi Bazar Pourashava Syed Mohsin Ali will distribute 5000 bun and 5000 pieces of gur at the cyclone-hit areas.

TV Shilpi Sangsad

Bangladesh Betar Television Shilpi Sangsad has taken a three-day programme to collect relief. The sangsad will organise programme at Mogh-bazar crossing on Wednesday at 3 pm, at Shahab crossing on Thursday from 10 am and at new Market crossing on Friday at 3 pm.



An unemployed youth donating Tk 10 to a voluntary organisation, which set up camps in city to collect funds for the cyclone victims. — Star photo

National

2,433 schools damaged in Noakhali

By Chapal Bashar

The devastating cyclone and tidal bore of April 29 caused severe damage to the educational institutions in Noakhali district. The district administration recorded damage to 2,433 institutions so far. However, the figure may rise since the administration is yet to get detail information from remote areas.

The damaged institutions include high and primary schools and madrasahs. About 961 educational institutions have been totally destroyed while 1,472 damaged partly.

When contacted, a district administration source told this correspondent that they have no fund to repair all this damaged institutions. "We are preparing a detailed report on the extent of damages and requirement of fund for the repair work. The report will be sent to the Education Ministry for consideration," said the source and mentioned that the rehabilitation of the damaged schools and madrasahs will depend on the availability of fund from the concerned ministry.

Among the six upazilas of Noakhali, the extent of damage to the educational institutions is the highest in Begumganj where 300 educational institutions including 20 high schools have been damaged totally. Damage caused to 450 other schools and madrasahs were, more or less, partial.

This correspondent visited some areas of Begumganj after the cyclone and found a large number of schools almost razed to the ground while tin

roofs of many were blown away.

Chhayani Bazar area of the upazila was badly affected by the cyclone where damage to dwellings were heavy. Chhayani Girls' High School and Chhayani Boys High Schools were found damaged totally and the classes cannot be resumed unless the school

houses are reconstructed. Nine primary schools and about 40 madrasahs have the same condition.

Barkatullah Bhulu, the local MP, told the Daily Star that he was very much anxious about immediate reconstruction of the school houses so that the normal functioning of the in-

stitutions could be resumed and the students continue their studies. He informed that 50 per cent of the thatched houses and 35 per cent of standing crops have been totally damaged by the cyclone in the upazila.

In Noakhali Sadar Upazila, 200 educational institutions

were totally damaged while another 471 affected partly. The primary schools and madrasahs on the coastal areas were found totally demolished which now require rebuilding.

The schools and madrasahs in the coastal area of Companyganj Upazila faced the same devastations like that of sadar. A total of 141 educational institutions including six high schools in different areas of Companyganj were destroyed. The number of partially damaged schools are 129.

In Senbagh Upazila, a total of 345 educational institutions were affected by cyclone. One hundred of the affected institutions were damaged totally.

Seventy schools and madrasahs in Chatkhal Upazila have been totally destroyed by the cyclone while 107 were damaged partially. Salauddin Kamran, the local MP, told this correspondent that villages like Baor, Vinpur, Parakot, Ramnarayan and the adjoining areas were the worst affected in his upazila where the schools, madrasahs and all the thatched houses were razed to the ground. He mentioned that nearly 2500 dwellings in the upazila were damaged among which 1000 would require full reconstruction.

In Hatia, the worst affected part of the district, details of damage to educational institutions is yet to be gathered. However, the district administration recorded damage to 220 schools and madrasahs, among which 150 were totally destroyed and would require reconstruction.



Noakhali: This is how cyclone played havoc with a school at Char Jabbar. — Star photo

Upazila roundup

MYMENSINGH

BAU exams date shifted

The examinations of four papers of B.Sc AG (Hons) Part-III examination for 1988 of Bangladesh Agricultural University, scheduled to be held on May 7, 11, 15 and 19 have been deferred in view of the recent devastating cyclone and tidal surge in the coastal belts of the country, reports BSS.

However, the examinations of the rest papers of the aforesaid examination will be held on and from May 23, as per schedule "published earlier", a university press release said.

The new dates for holding of the deferred examinations will soon be announced through a separate notification to be issued by the Controller of examinations, BAU, the press release said.

HABIGANJ

15 get life-term for murder

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Mannan has sentenced 15 people to life imprisonment in connection with a murder case, reports UNB.

Court sources said they were also fined Tk 500 each or will suffer six months rigorous imprisonment in default.

According to the judgement delivered on April 19, the convicted people killed Abu Miah of village Protappur with a sharp weapon in 1988 as a sequel to previous enmity.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge convicted Nannu Sheikh, Sajal Sheikh, Bajju Sheikh, Kajal Sheikh, Iltus Sheikh, Khalik Sheikh, Arjan Sheikh, Nabab Sheikh, Rahmat Sheikh, Ayub Sheikh, Altu Sheikh, Sakir Miah, Sabuj Sheikh, Abu Sheikh, Samsul Haque of the same village under Baniachong upazila.

MANIKGANJ

Price of farm products drops

In absence of adequate procurement at government level, farmers are selling their produce at throw away prices, reports UNB.

Growers complain that a section of unscrupulous middlemen has been purchasing paddy between Tk 150 and 160 per maund depriving them of fair price.

The government rate has been fixed at Tk 240 including carrying cost.

Food officials said the procurement drive in Sadar, Shibalya, Ghior, Daulatpur, Singair, Saturia and Harirampur upazilas suffered a set back due to lack of space in the local godowns. The local godowns are full of wheat.

MAULVI BAZAR

Young wife found hanging

From Our Correspondent

May 7: Body of Khairun Bibi (18), wife of Anwar Ullah of village Ashrakapan under Rajnagar upazila of Maulvibazar district was hanging in a tree on April 30.

It is alleged that Khairun Bibi was missing from her husband's house since April 29. After a vigorous search by her relations the body was found the following morning.

A case was lodged by her father Anchabullah with Rajnagar police station accusing the husband. The body was sent for post mortem.

None arrested in this connection.

PABNA

Imam killed

May 7: Local leader of Jamaat-e-Islami and Imam of a mosque was beaten to death by unknown miscreants at Arifpur village, police said here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the victim, Moulana Mohammad Abu Bakar was returning home from Arifpur mosque after Fazar prayer recently when the assailants attacked him with lethal weapons. He died on the spot.

The reason behind the killing could not be ascertained.

Later police arrested Sajeda Khatun (35) of the same village in this connection.

Shimul cotton output falls in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, May 7: Production of age old traditional cotton has decreased with gradual destruction of Shimul trees in Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Rajbari districts of Faridpur zone, reports UNB.

There were countless shimul trees in these areas but most of the trees are decaying due to lack of proper maintenance and cotton yield has dwindled. Consequently, the prices of shimul cotton has increased.

Interest-free agri loan urged

ON BOARD M V LALI, May 7: Awami League organising Secretary Tofael Ahmed MP has called upon the government to give interest-free agricultural loans to the farmers of the cyclone affected areas of the country, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen on board M V Lali Mr. Ahmed, who was returning from cyclone-hit areas of Bhola, said unless adequate agri-loan without interest was extended to the farmers the country's peasantry would not be able to keep their backbone erect.

He demanded house building grants to those who have lost their dwelling houses in Monday's cyclonic storm. Referring to the prices of building materials vis a vis the economic condition of the masses, Mr. Ahmed said, even the higher middle-class and the middle-class people would not be able to re-build their houses if government grants were not given.

He also demanded cash-money for reconstruction of damaged educational institutions, mosques and other public buildings.

Mr. Tofael Ahmed called upon all concerned quarter not to do any politics with the miseries of the people. He called upon them to come to the aid of the people on humanitarian reason shunning individual political colours and identity.

Meanwhile, Maj (Rtd) Hafizuddin MP, who also returning from his constituency in Bhola, narrated his experiences in the cyclone hit areas.

Terming the available relief inadequate, Maj. Hafiz demanded more relief and cash money for the affected people.

Call to take part in relief operation

BAGERHAT, May 7: Foreign Minister A. S. M. Mustafaizur Rahman called upon all, irrespective of political affiliation, to take part in the relief operation to mitigate sufferings of the cyclonehit people.

He was addressing as the chief guest the inauguration of the library and reading room at Ramkrishna Mission here yesterday.

The Minister said it was not possible to assess the loss of lives and extent of destruction.

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

May 7: Three persons were burnt alive and 10 others injured in a devastating fire that broke out at Premali village under Godagari upazila of the district on May 3.

At least one hundred houses, paddy and household goods were burnt to ashes. Loss was estimated at Taka 40 lakh.

The fire originated from the kitchen of a house in the village and spread rapidly to the nearby dwellings and went out of control within a short time.

The fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after six hours.

Plan to boost farm output

Six lakh eighty four thousand and seven hundred hectares of land will be brought under Aus cultivation in 16 districts of Northern Region during current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, 1,68,347 hectares of land will be brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) 5,16,287 hectares under local variety and the rest under pajam variety.

The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply necessary seeds, fertilizers and other inputs at fair price to farmers to make the scheme a success.

The Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) will disburse necessary items among the growers to enable them to purchase agricultural inputs.

Erratic power supply

Frequent power failure and fluctuation of voltage have become rampant in Rajshahi city and its adjoining areas causing financial loss to the businessmen and inconvenience to the city dwellers.

The power disruption has suspended operation of deep and shallow tubewells, power and pumps and husking mills. As a result production in agricultural and cottage industries are being hampered in district.

Moreover, frequent fluctuations in voltage badly affect household electric and electronic gadgets.