

Unprotected EPZ

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 noted.
 The CEPZ became operational in 1983. The first export shipment from the Zone started in 1984. After an initial lukewarm attitude of the foreign investors, the wind started changing, with investments from abroad coming in over the last four years.
 A total of 38 units at CEPZ are fully operational now with their aggregate investments worth 45 million US dollars. The operational units include 20 fully foreign owned units, 11 joint ventures and seven Bangladeshi-owned enterprises.
 So far, 70 units with total investments of about 60 million dollars have been sanctioned.
 The operational units in CEPZ have generated employment opportunities for about 9,000 workers. Exports by the units also rose sharply over the years. From 0.16 million dollars in 1983-84, exports increased to 16.47 million dollars in 1986-87, and 34.21 million dollars in 1989-90. In first nine months of the current fiscal year up to March 1991, receipts totalled 35.83 million US dollars.
 BEPZA developed so far 256 acres (104 hectares) of land for CEPZ. The master plan for the Zone covers an area of 630 acres (255 hectares) of land. Out of 202 plots developed till today, in the Zone, 177 plots

have already been allotted.
 Reviewing the post-cyclone situation and its likely impact on foreign investors, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCC&I) Amir Khasru Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the CEPZ should receive the priority attention of the government for restoring the confidence and sustaining the interest of the foreign investors.
 "The damage caused to the CEPZ and the embankment adjoining it has shaken the confidence of the investors at a time when things have been moving very positively", he said. He estimated that the loss of the Japanese investors in CEPZ would be around Taka 200 crore and that of the Korean investors, Taka 35 crore.
 The Chamber chief said all-out arrangements should be made to restore the infrastructural facilities at the Zone. He stressed the need for construction of the embankment from zero point at the estuary of the Karnaphuli to Kumira. This is an urgent priority for agricultural production and industrial operations along the shore, he added.
 Amir Khasru Chowdhury maintained that the intrusion of saline water during the high tide would make it difficult to raise agricultural output in the fields along the shore without the embankment.



Part of the destruction wrought by Tuesday's tornado in Gazipur.

-Star photo

Makeshift hospitals

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 of the offshore islands have narrated their pathetic experiences to The Daily Star staffer.
 Wherever the teams went with relief goods, they were mobbed by the thousands of half-naked hungry survivors. The relief workers were told that the survivors did not see any generous hands extended to them even nine days after the disaster had struck. Desperate need of the hour is to provide succour to the distressed humanity.
 In an impromptu briefing on Monday at Chittagong, Communication Minister Oli Ahmed told newsmen that the total loss might reach four billion US dollars. Earlier the loss was estimated at two billion US dollars.
 On Wednesday, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made a whirlwind tour of the battered zones of the offshore islands. She saw the relief operations in progress. She landed at several places and talked to the distressed people.
 In Cox's Bazar, 60 to 70 per cent power supply was restored in the town. Nearly 300 shallow and deep tubewells were sunk in the affected areas.
 Stagnant water from coastal areas like Badarkhali, Manami and Kutubdia was being pumped out by electric pumps.
 A 15-member engineer detachment currently constructing a school in Mymensingh has been redeployed in Chittagong to assist in repairing commercial airport facilities severely damaged during the cyclone. The engineers, part of a 22-person team in Bangladesh from the US 84th Engineer Battalion will repair the Chittagong Airport civilian facilities. The detachment is expected to stay in Chittagong for two weeks.

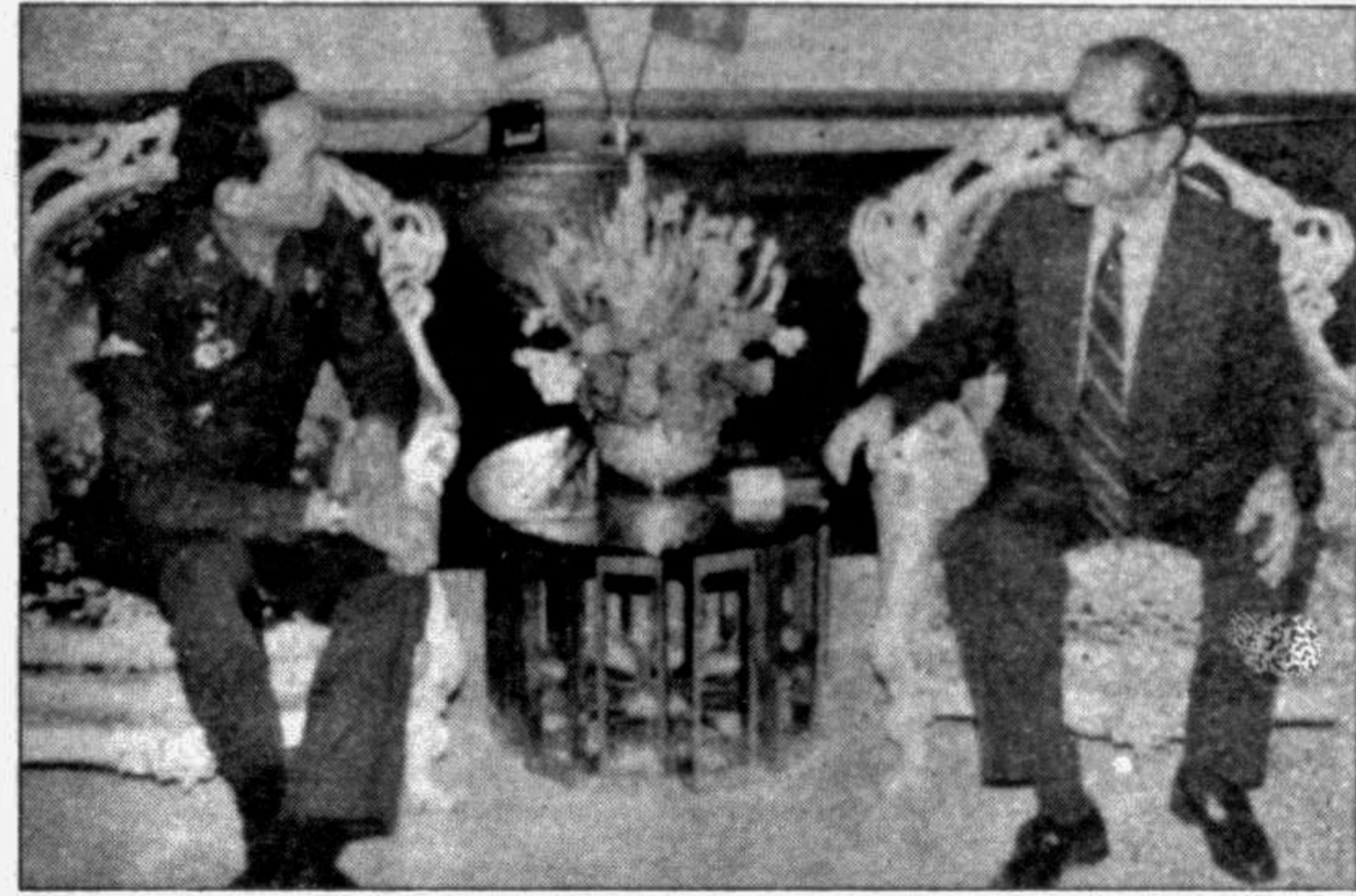
A Dhaka-based businessman, who went to affected areas of Banskhali upazila of Chittagong district told The Daily Star that relief materials are yet to reach the inaccessible places of the offshore island. During his tour of the affected areas, he saw one or two persons of a family alive.
JS session
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 demand was ignored.
 The Opposition MPs who visited the cyclone affected areas alleged that the Government had failed to cope with the situation. The job needs united efforts, said the Opposition leaders in the city on Wednesday.
 But ruling party sources dismissed the possibility of forming an all-party relief committee at the national level. A senior leader of BNP said, already the Opposition leaders were involved in relief operations in their localities. "All cooperation was extended to the Opposition members of parliament in the affected areas," said a ruling party source. But Opposition MPs in Chittagong alleged that the Government was taking discriminatory attitude in distributing relief materials. The Opposition MPs were not involved in relief work and Government did not help them with relief materials. But the allegation was dismissed by the administration.
 A senior leader of the ruling party said the Opposition was trying to cash the issue. He said the people in the affected areas appreciate the difficulties being faced by the administration in reaching relief materials to the inaccessible offshore islands. In spite of the difficulties, the administration did its best to save the survivors.

MPs demand

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 cyclone-hit areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar from May 4 to May 7 bitterly criticised the government for ignoring an opposition call on formation of a all-party relief committee in the JS.
 They said the disaster could not be faced by the government alone. A coordination of the relief operations by the government, political parties, NGOs, professional and other communities was a must to salvage the nation from the deep crisis. The MPs made a fervent call to the government to uphold the national unity, forged through the anti-autocratic movement, to overcome the crisis. Failing this, they warned, the fallen autocratic forces may stage a comeback.
 Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantry Party said, failure of ruling BNP to overcome the crisis involves threats to consolidation of newly-born democracy. "If the party fails to resolve the problem, the nation will be thrown back to autocracy", he commented.
 Suranjit warned the Prime Minister of what he said conspiracy by the allies of the fallen autocratic regime who were coming to surface again.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has become prey to the conspiracy, he commented.
 We want national unity to foil the conspiracy, resist threat to democracy, salvage the crippled economy and overcome the post-cyclone crisis", he maintained.
 Shahjahan Seraj of JSD said the proposal to form an all-party relief team was made considering the limitations of the government. But the government has so far ignored offer, he said adding: this will obviously throw the nation into deep crisis.
 Other MPs were also very critical of the government and accused it of utter failure.
 The team included Mohiuddin Ahmed of BKSAL, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of NDP, Abdur Razzaq of BKSAL, Azizur Rahman of Awami League, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Obaidul Huq of Islamic Oikya Jote, Mojahar Hossain of CPB and Nurul Islam Independent.
 Moudud
 Yet at another press conference JP leader Moudud Ahmed also criticized the government for what he said its total failure in disaster damage control.
Report on Jamaat's press conference on page 3.

Editor: S. M. Ali



The visiting Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Sunthorn Kongsompong on Wednesday called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

-PID photo

Solarz: US contribution

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 cyclone affected people.
 AHS Ataul Karim, Ambassador of Bangladesh made a statement before the Sub-Committee. Thomas W. Drahman, Regional Director of CARE and Dr. Barnett Baron, Vice President of 'Save the Children' also gave testimony before the committee on the enormity of the disaster and the need for immediate, short term and long-term assistance.
 Congressman Solarz conveyed his best wishes to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia asked the Bangladesh Ambassador "please tell her she has friends in the Congress."
 Congressman Solarz in his opening statement said the magnitude of the cyclone was staggering and stressed the relief and rehabilitation requirement would be enormous. At a time "when we are facing refugee and relief crisis in the Gulf, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, the crisis in Bangladesh poses a major test of our ability to continue to provide leadership on international humanitarian issue." He said the US must continue to demonstrate that - even in circumstances where there are not clearly defined geo-political or National security interests implicated - the US will respond promptly and generously to urgent humanitarian needs.
 He said in Bangladesh's case such a response seem to

Gen Kongsompong

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 5,70,63,542.
 Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Maj Gen Moinul Hossain Chowdhury, who accompanied the Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander to Dhaka, handed over the cheque of cash donation to the Foreign Minister.
 That government gave this cheque to the Bangladesh Ambassador in Bangkok.
 The Daily Star has learnt that the Bangladesh Ambassador in Bangkok also played a major role for the generous Thai help this time. After the 1988 catastrophe Thailand provided 500 tonnes of rice as relief.
 The Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander flew in here in a Thai Air Force plane and was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, Chief of the Army Staff Lt Gen Noor Uddin Khan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Moutazuddin Ahmed, Chief of the Naval Staff Commodore Fakhruddin Ahmed.
 That Ambassador in Bangladesh Chaiyav Chindawongse was also present.
 Gen Sunthorn said his government would also consider sending three helicopters to Bangladesh to participate in the relief operation.
Meets Shahabuddin
 Later Gen Kongsompong called on the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at Bangabhaban.

41 BAF planes

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 agreed to supply the spare parts as early as possible and that on receipt of the spare parts those aircraft could be made serviceable within 15 days.
 About the other six aircraft out of the 41, damaged during the cyclone, he said that the government had earlier made arrangements to send them abroad for repairs.
 About the Soviet-made MI-17 helicopters, the Air Force Chief said that these helicopters had not yet been formally handed over to the Bangladesh Air Force.
 He said that Soviet pilots had brought those in a knocked down condition and after fitting and test flying the helicopters the Soviet pilots and engineers left Bangladesh.
 The Soviet pilots were scheduled to arrive again on April 26 to train the Bangladesh pilots. But due to other reasons they could not come, he added.
 He claimed that there was an agreement with the Soviet Union that it would impart training to our pilots to fly the helicopters.
 Air Chief Muntazuddin said

that there was no pilot in the Bangladesh Air Force who could fly the Soviet helicopters.
 He said in such a case the Air Force was undone.
 He, however, said that the helicopters were not so badly damaged and that those could be made serviceable after minor repairs.
 He said that four of the aircraft pushed out of the hangars by the tidal surge, were badly damaged.
 He further said that five Air Force personnel died in the tidal surge.
 The Air Chief said that a court of enquiry set up by the Acting President would give its report very soon.
 Meanwhile donor agencies, keen on financing the Patenga Airport, said that the Air Force base should be shifted from Patenga to some other place.
 The donors are interested to make the Patenga Airport free from military use. The donors' condition is reportedly being very actively considered.
 Concerned quarters suggested that the Bangladesh Air Force base be shifted to Hathazari where the British built an aerodrome during the Second World War.
 They said that if the Air Force base was shifted there it would not only be saved from the onslaught of the sea but would also help fulfil the condition of the donors to expand the Patenga Airport and make it of international standard.
 When asked the Air Chief Muntazuddin Ahmed said that in Hathazari there was only a firing range and that the aerodrome was not suitable as an atbase.
 He also said that it would require Taka 400 to 500 crore to shift the Air Force base.

Rajshahi town paralysed after clashes

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, May 8: Rajshahi town became paralysed on Wednesday and road communication remained cut off with rest of following country violent clashes between rickshawpullers and motor workers on Tuesday midnight and the following morning, police and hospital sources said.

Tornado toll

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 darkness. A three-year-old child and a young man were rescued alive from the debris in the morning from Chaidana village. The victims were trapped under cots. They were too shocked to tell their harrowing tales.

Hekmot, another survivor, was seen standing dumb beside the bodies of his father Akmal and mother Malekjan. Hekmot was working in a mill near Tongi hospital when the tornado lashed his village. On hearing the news he rushed home to find the tragedy.
 Uprooted trees, strewn tin sheets, twisted power poles and ripped off clothes gave a desolate look to the scene. None of the houses were found intact in the village. Dead sparrows, shaliks and other birds lay dead along with domestic animals.
 The villagers said they spent the sleepless night under the open sky. They had no shelter, no dry patch to keep their body warm. As thunders roared, they feared more tornadoes. The children were quiet like mutes although they had nothing for dinner. The villagers said some outsiders were engaged in looting.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent reports: More than 20 people were injured and about 500 houses were destroyed as nor'wester lashed five unions of Kaliar Char Upazila on Wednesday evening.
 The unions are: Osmanpur, Soysutt, Laxmpur, Ramdi and Bazra. Electric lines were snapped in the storm and many trees were uprooted.

Telelinks

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 city, remains inoperative since the cyclone of April 29. The cyclone caused severe damage to the microwave tower at Nandan Kanan in Chittagong city. This damage has disrupted the telelink systems in the country and badly affected telecommunication with the outside world.
 Betunia station, which operates through the microwave tower and maintains international telelinks now remains inoperative.
 "Betunia Satellite Earth Station is perfectly alright and is not affected by the cyclone. But it is unable to function since the microwave tower is almost demolished," says a Telecommunication Ministry source.
 International telelink is not maintained partially through Talibabad Satellite Earth Station at Kaliakoir near Dhaka.
 The 87-metre-high microwave tower of Chittagong was broken in the cyclone. The tower has 19 antennas, all of which were damaged. One of these antennas is used by Bangladesh Television.
 According to information received from Chittagong technicians of the T & T Board have started working for a temporary arrangement to place the antennas at a requisite height to make Betunia operative.
 The microwave tower will have to be reconstructed, for which the cost has been estimated at Taka six crore and it will take about eight months to complete the work.
 The tower was built in 1969 by Lencurp Company of the USA and microwave system was installed by the local engineers. The tower has a total of 1800 channels for maintaining telelink.
 After the destruction of the microwave tower, the international subscribers dialling (ISD) system totally collapsed while direct dialling as well as other telelinks between Chittagong and other parts of the country were disrupted. However, trunk call system and telex link with Chittagong have been restored partially.

The Midnight File

Bessmertnykh to visit Israel
 MOSCOW, May 8: Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh left Moscow today on a Middle East tour which will include the first trip to Israel by a Soviet Foreign Minister. The official Tass news agency said Bessmertnykh would also visit Syria, Jordan, Egypt and possibly Lebanon to try to find ways towards peace in the region. Palestine Liberation Organisation sources said he would meet PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

Talks on Yugoslavia deadlocked
 BELGRADE, May 8: Yugoslavia's state presidency and leaders of its feuding republics appeared deadlocked in crisis talks on Wednesday while the army was in combat alert after ethnic clashes which have claimed 18 lives. The collective presidency talked with the Republican leaders late into Tuesday night but reached no agreement except to continue on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

50 killed in Kashmir valley
 SRINAGAR, May 8: Fifty people including 20 militants, were killed in the Kashmir valley today as day-long violence gripped Srinagar and other major towns. The killing of 73 militants at the border on Sunday triggered widespread protests and violence throughout the valley, paralysing normal life for the second successive day today, reports PTI.

Solarz warns Pakistan of aid cut-off
 WASHINGTON, May 8: The Solarz Sub-Committee has warned Pakistan aid has to be cut-off to Pakistan under the law if it supports terrorists in Kashmir. This is apart from the aid cut-off mandated by the Pressler Amendment as well as under the anti-narcotics law if the US is not satisfied with its cooperation on that score, reports PTI.

Allout efforts

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 Kutubdia, Sandwip, Chakaria and Banskhal.
 She talked to the affected people there and asked them if they were receiving relief materials. The people she met at Cox's Bazar and Moheshkhali expressed their gratitude to Begum Zia for her presence among them at this critical hour of their life.
 Begum Zia asked them to face the situation created by natural calamity with patience and courage. She said there would be no dearth of resources for their rehabilitation and that her government would make all-out efforts for their rehabilitation at the earliest possible time.
 At Cox's Bazar the Prime Minister was told by the local administration that 60 to 70 per cent power supply had already been restored in the town. She was also told that 300 shallow and deep tubewells were sunk in the affected areas of the district to ensure supply of drinking water.
 Cox's Bazar district administration also informed her that stagnant water from the low-lying coastal areas like Badarkhali, Magnama, Kutubdia were being pumped out.
 Begum Zia expressed satisfaction over proper distribution of relief goods at Ghatibhanga and Matikhat of Moheshkhali and asked officers engaged in relief works to take on-the-spot decision for solving local problems.
 The Prime Minister landed at Sandwip and distributed relief goods including saris, lungis and rice among the affected people. She assured the people that her government would do everything possible for their quick rehabilitation.
 She also asked the officers and others concerned there to gear up rehabilitation work. She said that her government considered it as a sacred duty to stand by the distressed people and as such she was visiting the affected areas to know their condition.
 In the afternoon, Begum Zia visited Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and Cement Clinker Factory at Patenga and

Tagore
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 with the courage to overcome them.
 Acting President said the nation was shocked and stunned today at the loss of countless people in the cyclone and tidal surge and added let Rabinadrath's message of humanity inspire us to serve the victims.
 Different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out programmes to celebrate the day but due to recent cyclone and tidal surge the day will be celebrated rather in a low key.
 Bangla Academy will hold a discussion meeting to mark the day.
 A paper on 'religion of man' will be presented by Dr. Sanjida Khatun. The discussion will be followed by a documentary film 'Tagore's visit to Russia'.

Overseas aid pledge

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 Sonargaon with evening on relief activities in the cyclone-hit areas. Kazi Monjur-e-Mowla said relief goods from four more countries—India, Italy, Thailand and Iran—arrived in Dhaka on the day.
 The United States Wednesday pledged 5.1 million dollar for relief of the cyclone affected people. This is in addition to 2.139 million dollar committed earlier for the cyclone victims thus bringing the total to 7.239 million dollar.
 The British government said today it was sending two helicopters and a naval supply ship to Bangladesh to help cyclone relief operations and announced an additional two million pounds (3.5 million dollars) in aid.
 But the opposition Labour Party accused the government of doing too little, too late to help Bangladesh. Labour member of parliament Ann Clwyd said "wasted 10 valuable days" before sending helicopters to the flooded area.
 General Sunthorn Kongsompong, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces immediately after his arrival, handed over at Zia International Airport 20 tonnes of Thai rice to Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman as a part of Thailand's relief to the cyclone affected people.
 The Chinese government has decided to provide two million dollars worth of goods to Bangladesh and the delivery is well under way, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Tuesday night.
 Germany will give DM 50 million (US dollar 30 million) for reconstruction and rehabilitation work. Special envoy of the German government Bernard Schweiger said Wednesday.
 The Government of India has decided to provide an assistance of Taka 20 crore to the cyclone relief victims in Bangladesh. It is in addition to the Taka three crore pledged earlier.
 Myanmar (Burma) is to provide 500 tonnes of rice for victims of last week's cyclone in Bangladesh. Radio Rangon said today in a report monitored in Bangkok.
 Italy is providing aid to victims of the cyclone in Bangladesh of 10 billion Lira (eight million dollars) through various international organisations on the spot, the Italian Foreign Ministry said today.
 The aid included finance for food, medicine and health supplies and Italy was considering making available military helicopter teams to distribute aid.
 Malaysia will give one million Ringgit (370,000 dollars) in aid to Bangladesh for victims of last month's devastating cyclone, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said today.
 The Chinese government has decided to provide two