

If you miss your copy of The Daily Star today, please call Tel: 863035, 246023-4 PABX or Hawkers' Union Tel: 231947, 244297. For excellence in journalism please read The Daily Star regularly.

The Daily Star

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT The House of Peace a Rest, The Place of High Class. We Cordially invite you to try our Beautifully prepared and Beautifully presented authentic THAI CUISINE and SEAFOOD in the, cosy atmosphere of a LOVELY HOUSE. 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL 226803

VOL. 1 NO. 109 REGD. NO. DA 781

BAISAKH 26, 1398 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 10, 1991

SHAWAL 25, 1411 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 3.00

Inside today

Magazine

A murder that sealed the fate of a family : Composite stories on the Baldah Zeminder family and the Baldah Garden in Dhaka that has an incredible collection of rare plants Page 10

Article



Sri Lanka's local government elections have been reactivated after several years, apparently in an attempt to persuade donor countries that democracy is alive and well in the island state Page 4

International



Nepal is to go 'dry' for the first time in her history during the general elections Page 5
Parliament proceedings Cyclone victims did not believe in Met warning Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day More than a drop into the ocean Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Ctg-Chowkighata river route opens

Chittagong-Chowkighata river route was opened for traffic during day time only. Necessary steps have already been taken to open this route for night navigation also, according to a press release of BIWTA, reports BSS.

India-China meet begins Sunday

BEIJING, May 9 : India and China will hold a new round of talks on a long-standing border dispute beginning Sunday, the Foreign Ministry announced. It will be the first meeting of the joint Sino-Indian border working group since the neighbours agreed in February to resume overland trade, halted after a short but bloody war 29 years ago, reports AFP.

Hasina to visit Japan

Awami League chairman Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit Tokyo at the invitation of the Japanese government, party sources said. Japanese embassy officials were not available Thursday night to confirm the invitation. Hasina will visit Japan May 17-22. She will meet the Japanese leaders including Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, reports UNB.

Three Dhaka-Ctg flights a day

Biman will Operate three flights a day between Dhaka and Chittagong from today instead of two flights. Biman flights were suspended till May 4 as the Chittagong Airport was badly damaged following a cyclone that lashed the airport in the early hours on April 30.

250 die, thousands attacked : Water purifying tablets, oral saline needed Diarrhoea in cyclone-hit areas

Star Report

Diarrhoeal diseases, already broken out in an epidemic form in many parts of the cyclone-hit coastal belt, have so far claimed lives of several hundred people. Thousands of others have been attacked with the diseases. The diarrhoea cases, it is apprehended, may turn into cholera and take a heavy toll of the survivors who are now under the open sky without drinking water, food and life-saving drugs.

Relief workers on returning

to Chittagong town after visiting Kutubdia, Banskhali, Anwara and Sitakunda told our staffer that 250 people in all those places had died of diarrhoeal diseases so far. Pure water is virtually non-existent in vast areas of the coastal belt and the survivors are forced to drink contaminated water for their survival. This has resulted in the outbreak of gastro intestinal diseases. Medical teams with saline and essential drugs could not reach inaccessible places till Thursday.

Natural resistance of the hungry survivors against diseases has already exhausted and they are very much susceptible to all sorts of communicable diseases, according to medical teams who have visited some of the islands.

Our correspondent from Bhola reports : Inclement weather caused dislocation in conducting relief operations in the cyclone affected areas of the district. The Deputy Com-

missioner of Bhola, however, reached some char areas with a relief team by a motor launch of the Forest Department. Cases of diarrhoea have been reported from Dhalchar, Char Bata, Char Nizam and Char Kukrimukri. The number of afflicted persons or any death due to diarrhoeal diseases could not be confirmed as yet. An army medical team and a civil medical team are now working in these char areas. The immediate need is the

supply of adequate quantity of water purifying tablets and oral saline to the affected zone. Our Bhola correspondent further said, the cyclone had either completely or partially damaged one and a half lakh dwellings rendering over seven lakh people homeless in those char areas. Relief materials so far sent to the affected areas are inadequate.

Our correspondent from Barisal reports : The district administration had difficulty in

sending relief teams to the affected areas in the offshore islands due to inclement weather. The local authorities managed to send some relief materials to a few affected areas on the day.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have geared up relief operations in 35 affected upazilas of Chittagong, Bhola, Noakhali, Barguna, Patuakhali and Jhalakati districts. The NGOs have taken up projects worth Taka 45 crore 72 lakh.

Nor'wester lashes city, other parts of country

22 killed in Sirajganj, Habiganj

By Staff Correspondent



At least 22 people were killed and over 250 injured when nor'wester lashed Sirajganj, Habiganj and Dhaka city Thursday evening.

According to Met Office, the storm swept over Sirajganj with a velocity of 150 to 180 kilometre per hour killing 13 persons while the nor'wester in Habiganj with a windspeed of 130 km left at least nine people dead. The storm in Dhaka had a velocity of 100 to 112 km.

According to a report from Sirajganj, the storm raged through five upazilas — Kazipur, Raiganj, Belkuchi, Kamarkhand and Sadar where 13 persons were killed and most of the kutcha houses and crops were damaged extensively.

Three people were killed in Sadar upazila, seven in Kazipur and three in Dhekuria, the report said.

According to UNB, Kazipur See Page 12 Col. 4

8 killed as Nor'wester lashes Ghorasal

GHORASAL (Narsingdi), May 9 : At least eight people were killed and 15 injured in a severe storm that hit several villages of Ghorasal union of Narsingdi district Wednesday evening, reports UNB.

Four children of a 'Bede' (gypsy) family were drowned when a boat sank in the Sitalakkha river during the Nor'wester.

They were named Nargis Begum (12), Glasuddin (10), Uzzal (6) and Mala Khatun (3). Jalaluddin, the ill-fated father was seen waiting beside his dead children waiting for burial.

Three others killed were identified as Abdus Samad (29), a worker of Bangladesh Jute Mills, Abdul Halim (26), a sub-contractor of Pubali Jute Mills and Helal (23), a rickshawpuller.

Helal and Halim died when a boundary wall near Bangladesh Jute Mills collapsed upon them while they were passing See Page 12 Col. 3

Storm sweeps parliament

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Thursday witnessed heated exchanges between the Treasury and the Opposition benches during a general discussion on the April 29 cyclone. All other business of the House was suspended.

Opposition bench members repeated their demand for the constitution of a national relief committee headed by the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Treasury Bench members accused the opposition of doing politics with natural disasters and urged them to take part in relief activities taking the cyclone devastation as a humanitarian problem.

The opposition complained that relief materials were not being reached to affected areas. They accused the government of failure to take adequate preparedness measures. Otherwise the air and naval bases at Chittagong would not

have been damaged, they said.

The Treasury Bench maintained that there was adequate preparedness. Otherwise losses would have been much higher. BNP members brushed aside an allegation that the government had associated BNP with its relief activities. As a party the BNP was carrying out relief activities separately, they said.

The House was locked in a dispute when State Minister for Land made a remark about opposition members, and the opposition challenged his competence to make such a remark because he was not an elected member. A constitutional debate ensued and in the process the House lost about two and a half hours of valuable time.

The matter was later resolved by expunging the remark of the State Minister, and some other remarks made See Page 12 Col. 7

Unity a must to face difficulties : Khaleda

RANGAMATI, May 9 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said people of Bangladesh would have to live with natural calamities which visit the country almost every year and face them with courage and fortitude, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge gathering at the Local Government Parishad Hall, she assured the people her government would stand by them and all available resources would be utilised for rehabilitation of the cyclone-affected people.

Begum Zia came here as part of her tour of the cyclone and tidal surge affected areas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Hill Tracts on the third day today of her stay in Chittagong. Health Minister Kamal ibne Yusuf, Communications Minister Oli Ahmad, and Rangamati Local Government Parishad Chairman Goutam Dewan were present.

Prime Minister said the adverse situation created by the cyclone and tidal surge would have to be faced unitedly by the government and the people and mutual cooperation

was indispensable for overcoming problems and difficulties. She said her government had left no stone unturned to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

She visited a number of relief camps here and distributed relief goods including rice, lungis, sarees and cash.

Begum Zia granted additional 50 metric tons of rice for Rangamati and Taka five lakh for reconstruction of educational institutions there.

She also flew over Sandwip, Anowara and Patiya by helicopter and landed at these places to see relief operations being carried on there. She distributed rice, cash amount, sarees, lungis and dry food among affected people.

She instructed the officers and others engaged in relief work to see that each and every one affected received relief goods. She asked them to further gear up relief and rehabilitation activities so the affected people could resume their normal work at the shortest possible time.

In the afternoon, Begum Zia See Page 12 Col. 2

Govt relief only in media : Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and President of Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina Thursday said her party had opened a permanent office at Chittagong and started Gruel kitchen indifferent cyclone and tidal surge hit areas, reports BSS.

Discussing about relief measures with the representatives

of NGOs who met her in her Conference Room in the Jatiya Sangsad, Sheikh Hasina said the gruel kitchen launched for feeding the distressed people would continue till the return of normalcy in the affected areas, according to a party press release.

Sheikh Hasina claimed that she had found innumerable See Page 12 Col. 8

Industrial loss staggering

CHITTAGONG, May 9: The wheels of Major industries in the Port City will take at least one more month to start turning.

The April 29 cyclonic disaster brought industrial operations in and around the city to a grinding halt.

The extent of loss is so enormous that one shivers even to think about possible ways for resumption of industrial operations.

Only some cases of loss and

From Moazzem Hossain damage in different industrial areas are cited were: Eastern Cables lost assets including plant, equipment, raw materials, infrastructure and other logistics valued at Taka seven crore. Osmania Glass Factory sustained a loss of Taka six crore.

The damage to Triple Superphosphate Complex is even more staggering. The amount lost is Taka 22 crore.

Chittagong Cement Clinkers lost Taka 1.50 crore. These are

all preliminary estimates available with industrial circles.

The situation is more or less the same in every other unit. The picture is more frustrating in large public sector units, particularly those located in Patenga. Chittagong steel mills has borne the brunt.

The trail of industrial devastation stretches far beyond Patenga. Karnaphuli Rayon, Karnaphuli Paper Mills, Bangladesh Chemical Complex.

See Page 12 Col. 5

Five more tornado victims die

By Staff Correspondent

Five more victims of Tuesday's tornado, that lashed Gazipur died on Thursday, pushing the death toll to 45.

Of the five, four died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while another unidentified old man died in Soydana village.

The Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur said, about 500 See Page 12 Col. 8

Govt relief only in media : Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and President of Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina Thursday said her party had opened a permanent office at Chittagong and started Gruel kitchen indifferent cyclone and tidal surge hit areas, reports BSS.

Discussing about relief measures with the representatives

of NGOs who met her in her Conference Room in the Jatiya Sangsad, Sheikh Hasina said the gruel kitchen launched for feeding the distressed people would continue till the return of normalcy in the affected areas, according to a party press release.

Sheikh Hasina claimed that she had found innumerable See Page 12 Col. 8

Cyclones : Manifestation of greenhouse effect ?

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Are the cyclones and repeated tornadoes manifestations of the greenhouse effect? Scientists are not quite sure.

But the intensity of these storms is increasing in keeping with predictions related to such effect, they say.

Scientists around the globe have predicted that global warming due to the greenhouse effect will make cyclones and floods more devas-

tating and lead to a sea level rise inundating low lying countries like Bangladesh and the Maldives.

The April 29 cyclone has been termed by weathermen as the severest, recorded so far, in terms of windspeed — reaching upto 235 kilometres per hour.

The tornado, the deadliest localised storm, which is being experienced more frequently

in recent years was unknown to this part of the world even a little over two decade ago, say experts.

The tragedy for Bangladesh, according to an environmentalist is that it accounts for only 0.03 per cent of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions which are mainly responsible for the global warming, but is destined to experience its

worst possible effects.

Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury, Director, Meteorological Department told the correspondent that it was difficult to say whether or not the April 29 cyclone was an outcome of the global warming.

He said that records of Bay cyclones of the last one hundred years do not suggest that their frequency is increasing. Decadewise records show

the Bay of Bengal produced the highest number of cyclone — 57 — in the 1960s. In the 1970s the figure fell to 48. The figure stayed between 32 and 56 a decade from 1891 to 1960, he said adding that meteorologists will be able to give a picture about the trend by the year 2010 when 'a cycle will be completed'.

Chowdhury, however, disclosed that the average day

temperature in the cities of Dhaka and Chittagong have increased by 0.3 Celsius over the last 40 years.

About tornadoes Mir Fakhru Qayyum, Deputy Director of the Meteorological Department said that before the Demra tornado of 1969 which killed about one thousand people the word 'tornado' was never used to describe the phenomenon. See Page 12 Col. 1

Dhaka to draw 40,000 tons of food from SAARC reserves

Bangladesh has decided to draw 40,000 tons of food from its own allocation in the SAARC food security reserves. BSS officially learnt it in Dhaka Thursday.

In addition to its own allocation, Bangladesh will also draw substantial quantities of food from the allocation of India and Pakistan from the stock to meet the emergency needs caused by the catastrophic cyclones.

The SAARC food security reserve was set up in 1987 at the SAARC summit in Kathmandu to meet the needs See Page 12 Col. 2

Japan likely to help reconstruct microwave tower

Star Report

Japan is likely to help reconstruct Chittagong microwave tower which was destroyed by the April 29 cyclone.

A high official of the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka told The Daily Star Thursday their experts would render all possible technical assistance to bring the microwave system of the tower in a working condition under a temporary arrangement.

Two Japanese experts, who were in Bangladesh for a different project, may help local technicians for the purpose. The experts have already visited Chittagong to see the destroyed tower through which the Betunia earth satellite station remained operative so long.

Japan is also considering both financial and technical help for the reconstruction of the microwave tower, it is reliably learnt. However, Japan's decision in this regard would be finalised after the assess-

See Page 12 Col. 3

Mrs Fanfani arrives, plane due today with relief

President of Italian Red Cross, Mrs Mariapia Fanfani, arrived in Dhaka Thursday morning to express her sympathy with the victims of recent cyclone and tidal surge in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Wife of former Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani, Mariapia Fanfani is heading an eight-member delegation and an Italian TV crew.

A special flight carrying 40 tons of emergency medical supply food and clothing from the Italian Red Cross will arrive today.

On her arrival Mrs Fanfani a former President of the Italian Senate, was received by Chairman of Bangladesh Red See Page 12 Col. 7

3 lakh marooned, Monu threatens Moulvibazar

By Staff Correspondent

Over three lakh people are marooned in six upazilas of Moulvibazar in the flash flood from Kailash hills of Tripura that inundated the places while the town itself is threatened by the rapidly rising Monu river.

About 1200 houses have been totally destroyed in the flood while 1800 have been partly damaged in the six upazilas. Crops of 34,909 acres of land have gone under water.

About 40 unions of the upazilas have been affected in the flood. The upazilas are : Kamalganj, Bajannagar, Kulaura, Sadar, Barolekha and Srimangal.

Kamalganj upazila is the worst affected as the river Dhulai is now flowing 69 centimeters above danger level. See Page 12 Col. 7

Reconstruction of embankment along CEPZ ordered

The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, ordered Wednesday for immediate reconstruction of the embankment along the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) area damaged by the recent cyclone and tidal surge, reports BSS. The order has been given See Page 12 Col. 7