



**FOOD THERE!** — Three hungry children seen rushing towards food relief dropped by helicopters at Sanctiwip. —Star photo



Members of Fulkuri-Asar organising a procession in city on Thursday saying that cyclone-hit children must get preference in getting relief as per UN Charter. —Star photo

### 4 copters, one plane arrive soon

Four helicopters and a big transport plane are arriving in Dhaka soon to join the fleet of aircraft flying relief goods to the coastal areas and offshore islands, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen Thursday evening, Information Secretary Quazi Md. Munzur-e-Mowla said three helicopters from India arrived in the afternoon bringing the number of helicopters provided by New Delhi

to six. He said a lone naval ship equipped with medical facilities will be provided by the UK which is also providing two helicopters.

A transport planes, AC-130 Hercules, will be given by Indonesia and two helicopters by Thailand.

Mowla said 21 sorties were carried out 15 helicopters and 6 aircraft dropping 57 metric tons of foodstuffs. He said 3

aircraft of plant protection department for spraying insecticides have been placed under the disposal of the Relief Ministry.

The Information Secretary said relief goods arrived from UK, Japan, India, Thailand. The United Kingdom sent 3080 cans of biscuit, while India dispatched two plane loads of saree, chira, lungi, pulses, frocks and trousers. Japanese relief goods include 50 water purifying machines, 10 water tanks and some electric generators. The relief goods from Thailand are 100 bags of rice and 60 cartons of medicine.

The Information Secretary said 13 ministers and State Ministers and a number of Parliament members are supervising relief activities in the affected areas where more than fifty officers from secretaries down to Deputy Directors were despatched earlier to coordinate relief works.

Mowla said dry foods were dropped on the offshore islands of Char Nizam, Kukri Mukri, Patiya and Dhal Char. He said to help people to reconstruct houses, 32,400 bundles of C.I. sheets were sent to 10 affected districts.

### Aid to contain cyclones sought

By Staff Correspondent

International Institute of Environmental Studies and Disaster Management, Thursday appealed to the developed countries, particularly the USA and the scientific communities there to assist Bangladesh in devising means to diminish the intensity of tropical cyclones.

There already exists some techno-scientific measures to contain the ferocity of cyclones and there are reports of successful containment, particularly in the USA, the institute

in a statement issued in view of the worst cyclone that hit coastal belt of the country on the night of April 29, said.

Since the increased intensity and frequency of tropical storm surges are related with greenhouse effect. It was not possible for Bangladesh government alone to mitigate the causes of such calamities, the statement said.

As part of its on-going research programme, the institute had already set up study and relief team to work on the offshore islands. The institute hoped that with favourable response from the world scientific community it would be possible to augment the scope of these studies.



Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan distributing relief goods among the cyclone affected people on Thursday. —Star photo

## National

### Upazila roundup

#### BARISAL

#### Nine miscreants arrested

**From Our Correspondent**  
May 9: Kotwali police arrested a gang of nine inter-district armed dacoits, recently and recovered one rifle, one gun and a revolver including ammunition from their possessions.

According to police, this gang was linked with so many armed dacoities committed earlier in different places of Barisal and Patuakhali districts. Police was on chase to arrest them for a long time.

Police also recovered some looted articles from their possessions, it is alleged.

#### FENI

#### Development projects progressing well

May 9: Seven uplift projects are underway in local Pourashava at a cost of Tk 13.30 lakh, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the projects include construction of markets, latrines, five Maktabs and reconstruction of boundary wall of Feni stadium.

About 50,000 people of the Pourashava will get benefit after the implementation of the schemes.

#### PABNA

#### Production in Paksey paper mills hampered

May 9: Production in North Bengal paper mills at Paksey is being seriously hampered by inadequate water supply to the mill, reports UNB.

Fall in water level of the river Padma at Harding bridge has affected the supply which, according to water experts, was caused by large scale withdrawal of waters at Farakkah.

Sources said the normal supply of river water required to keep production going ceased two months back threatening closure of the paper mills.

Meanwhile, some temporary arrangements were made to fetch water by digging canals from Padma to the mill area. But water carrying mud and other trash caused damage to the machinery of the mills.

#### JHENIDAH

#### It was all for a saree

May 9: It was all for a saree, a young house wife at village Hamdodanga committed suicide here, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Shamsunnahar (22) had been longing for a saree on Eid occasion. But Abdur Rashid, the husband who was a low-paid employee of a private concern, could not afford it.

As a result, Shamsunnahar, killed herself by taking pesticides on Eid day leaving behind a son.

Abdur Rashid told UNB that he could not believe his wife would do this for such a simple matter. They were, otherwise, a happy couple, he added.

#### RAJSHAHI

#### RU teachers' donation to relief fund

May 9: Teachers of Rajshahi University decided to donate their one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, reports UNB.

The decision was taken Sunday in a general meeting of the University Teachers Association at the campus.

The meeting also expressed deep shock at the colossal loss of life and property in Monday's storm that battered the southern coastal belt of the country.

#### RAJSHAHI

#### Two burnt alive

May 9: At least three people including two children were roasted alive and ten others sustained serious burn injuries in a fire at Razabari hat in Godagari upazila on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said about 100 houses were totally destroyed and property worth about Tk 40 lakh was gutted in the incident.

They said the fire originated from a kitchen and soon engulfed the neighbouring houses.

Local people after frantic efforts put out the fire by spraying buckets of sand and water.

## Flood engulfs Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, May 9: Flood water has been engulfing Maulvi Bazar fast. Forty unions out of 66 of the district have been affected by the flood.

Water level in the Manu and Dhalai rivers are rising fast. The Manu is flowing at 1.20 metre above the danger level and the Dhalai is flowing .85 metre above the danger level.

Cracks have developed at many points of Maulvi Bazar town protection embankment. About 300 kutchha houses in six upazilas of the district have been affected by the flood. Crops on about 50,000 acres of land have gone under water.

No relief and rescue operation has been started as yet. Two shelter centres have been opened at Maulvi Bazar town.

Communication of Shamsher Nagar, Kamalganj, Jury, Fultala and Kurna with

the district headquarters has been snapped. Residents of the town are fleeing out of panic.

District administration and municipal authorities have been advising the people through mike to move to safer places.

#### Land fertility declines

Fertility of agricultural land is declining rapidly due to rampant use of chemical fertilizer, and rare use of cowdung manure in the district.

According to the sources, use of cowdung is essential for keeping pace in land productivity. But it is not used proportionately due to the fact that the number of cattlehead has decreased and increased use of cowdung as fuel in rural areas following scarcity and price spiral of firewood.

Due to the scarcity of cowdung farmers are compelled to use chemical fertilizers in almost five lakh acres of land in the district.

The livestock Department has failed in motivating cultivators to use cowdung as manure as the department cannot do the needful in this regard.

#### Drug addicts on rise

UNB adds: The number of drug addicts is increasing jeopardising social serenity in the town.

Dwellers alleged that young people in large numbers are being drawn to drug habits causing concern among their guardians.

Drugs are being sold openly in medicine and grocery shops with impunity, it is alleged.

Besides, selling of sedatives, foreign and country made

liquors are going on unabated in many places of the town. A well organised group has been smuggling different kinds of drugs from India into the country, local people complained.

Lack of adequate number of street lights in Pourashava areas in the town are causing much inconveniences to the dwellers after sundown.

According to sources, most light posts have no bulbs creating problems to the pedestrians as well as vehicular movement.

Most of the time, the town plunges into darkness after sunset due to frequent power failure and loadshedding giving rise to anti-social activities.

The residents alleged that the authorities have not yet taken initiative in this respect despite repeated appeal.

### 25 shops gutted

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, May 9: Twenty five shops and a boarding house were burnt into ashes at Rahman Market in Natun Bazar area of the district headquarters recently. None of the 40 boarders of Nirala boarding house was hurt as they managed to come out soon after the fire started engulfing the house.

The gutted shops include stationeries, bakeries and electronic goods sales centres.

During the two-hour devastation of the fire, 800 maunds of rice, 100 maunds of sugar and other stocked goods of the boarding house were completely damaged. The extent of damage could not be assessed immediately.

None of the marker people mentions the cause of the fire.

### Notes from Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, May 9: One Mrs. Bharati Rani (18) of village Sinderai in Kaharol upazila of the district was beaten to death by her husband for her failure to pay the dowry amount recently.

According to the reports, Chaituram of the same village married Bharati Rani ten months ago. On the day of the incident Chaituram asked his wife to bring the dowry amount from his father's house. As her father (a poor landless cultivator) failed to pay the said amount she returned back home empty handed. Her husband on not receiving any money started beating Bharati Rani mercilessly till she died.

The police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy Chaituram, however, managed to escape.

A case has been filed with the Kaharol police station in this regard and further investigation is going on.

#### C' NAWABGANJ

A report from Chapaina-wabganj says: A meeting of the local elite, upazila chairman, UNO's, heads of all educational institutions and the district level officials was held in the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner, Nawabganj recently.

Ashraf Ali, Deputy Commissioner presided over the meeting.

The meeting decided to raise fund for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the recent devastating cyclone in the coastal belt.

A 15-member relief and rehabilitation committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner was formed.

#### Comilla

Our Comilla Correspondent adds: The World Health Day was observed here with much enthusiasm. A seminar was held at the local Town Hall.

Badruzzaman Bara Loskor, D.C. in-charge of Comilla was the chief guest while Dr Shamsul Haq Civil Surgeon was in the chair.

"Should disaster strike be prepared" a key note paper was presented by Ali Akber, senior Health Education Officer which was written by the Civil Surgeon Comilla. A good number of speakers participated in the discussion.

### Hashish plant worth Tk 50 lakh seized

From Our Correspondent

NETROKONA, May 9: Netrokona Narcotic and Liquor Department recovered Hashish plant worth about Taka 50 lakh from village Jhoypur Nallajuri in Sadar Upazila of the district recently.

Thirteen separate cases have been registered in this connection, department sources said.

Acting on a secret information, departmental forces surrounded the Jhoypur Nallajuri village and recovered Hashish plant from two acres of field. None has been arrested so far.

At least 150 cattlehead perished during the last one month in 10 upazilas of the

district owing to various diseases including 'khura'. Another 1000 have been affected by the disease of which 600 have been rendered unfit for draft.

According to sources, cattle diseases like khura, Jarka, badli are common in the affected parts of the district.

Madan, Mohonganj and Khalajuri.

It is alleged that lack of veterinary medicines and surgeons have compounded the misery of the farmers.

The affected cultivators have urged the authority to take necessary steps immediately to combat the menace.



COX'S BAZAR: Distressed children waiting for relief at Kutub Jhum at Maheshkhali. —Star photo

## Tk 10 cr property washed away in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, May 6: Properties worth about Taka 10 crore were washed away following the severe erosion of the river Meghna at Chandpur due to gusty wind and tidal surge on April 29, reports BSS.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) office sources, about 20,000-square-foot town protection embankment and a

large areas were eroded. As a result century old Chandpur Railway Station, steamer ghat, fish market, launch terminal, business firms, shops, educational institutions are threatened by erosion. Many cracks were found in boulders-made town protection embankment at railway station yard.

Chandpur pujan bazar are threatened to be eroded. So far

30 business firms including valuable goods were washed away in the river.

Bangladesh Water Development Board, Chandpur dumped concrete cement blocks in about 4,000 square feet area along the bank of the river Meghna at a cost of Tk. 13 crore recently.

The Water Development Board source said that they

have no fund to meet the situation.

Erosion in the area has been continuing alarmingly. The panicky businessmen and people are busy in dismantling their premises due to fear of erosion.

The Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur sent an appeal to the government to save Chandpur from the erosion. Erosion may

further aggravate if effective measures are not taken immediately.

Mr Jahangir Akhand Selim, President, Chandpur Chamber of Commerce urged the government to save Chandpur town from the erosion. Besides, different political parties urged the government to protect the town from erosion.