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The Daily Star

We grieve with the victims of
 devastating cyclone. At this time of
 their anguish mere words are not
 enough.
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 misery

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The promotion of two liberal economic reformers to the Chinese cabinet reflects the fact that gradual reform is once more the order of the day in China.
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Dhaka Day by Day



A self-taught painter Hosne Ara Laila depicts death and devastation in simple grey and brown strokes.
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Business

Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) will resume operations by May 17. Refining remains suspended following devastating cyclone on April 29 which caused substantial damage to oil sector. First hand report from Chittagong
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NEWS BRIEFS

\$ 7.5m more Japanese aid

Japan decided today to provide 7.5 million dollars in additional emergency aid to Bangladesh in the aftermath of last month's devastating cyclone, the Foreign Ministry said in Tokyo.
 Japan is also considering providing an extra 1.5 million yen in food aid.

Relief inadequate : More diarrhoea deaths reported

Cyclone victims regaining will for survival

Star Report

As the victims of catastrophic cyclone and tidal bore slowly regaining their will to survive, response from world community to help Bangladesh in her hour of distress appears encouraging. Relief measures so far taken by the Government and several other voluntary agencies are quite inadequate to mitigate the sufferings of the people in the coastal belt which was hit by one of the century's worst natural disasters on April 29.

Sufferings of the cyclone affected people in the coastal districts mounted as the inclement weather persisted during the last few days. Barbed survivors are braving scorching heat and rains under the open sky.

Relief materials are gradually entering the inaccessible offshore islands. On Friday, relief operations were further geared up in some badly affected places in Chittagong, Hatiya and Sandwip. Airdropping of relief materials continued.

Door-to-door assessment of the loss of lives and damage to property has been intensified. The relief work and assessment of damage are being conducted an armyman, an official of the upazila parishad and a public representative. In Hatiya, about 100 armymen have been working in close co-ordination with the civil administration and the public representatives.

An eyewitness account said on Thursday, each of the cyclone affected islanders received Taka 200 in cash and 10 kgs of rice.

Among the affected islands, Hatiya is the worst hit as the protection embankment

around the island was completely washed away by the tidal surge. Standing crops, mainly groundnut, have been totally damaged it Hatiya, eyewitnesses said. Rural infrastructure, water supply and sanitation system were completely damaged.

Bagerhat control room told The Daily Star that 2,032 persons were affected by diarrhoeal diseases in nine upazilas of the district. On Friday, 15 died of diarrhoea. The situation may worsen if saline, water purifying tablets and drinking water cannot be supplied to the affected areas abundantly.

There are more reports of See Page 10 Col. 7

Khaleda meets editors

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met editors of national dailies and news agencies at her office at Sugandha Friday night, reports BSS.

Begum Zia gave the latest position of relief and rehabilitation activities being carried out in the cyclone-affected areas of the country by the government.

She sought cooperation of the press in meeting the challenge of overcoming the crisis following the catastrophic cyclone.

The editors assured her of their all cooperation in this regard.

State Minister for Information, Nurul Huda, Cabinet Secretary, Siddiqur Rahman and Information Secretary, Kazi Mohammad Manzoor-e-Mowla were present on the occasion.



Cyclone survivors with regained will for starting life anew are trying to recover from the debris whatever left to reconstruct their homes. — Star photo

PM warns against irregularities in relief distribution



Mrs Maria Pia Fanfani called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence in Dhaka on Friday evening.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned to the capital after her four-day stay in Chittagong where she supervised and helped gear up relief and rehabilitation activities in the affected coastal ar-

reas and islands, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister, who had shifted her office to cyclone battered Chittagong during her stay, extensively toured affected areas every day to see the condition of cyclone vic-

tims and supervise and gear up relief and rehabilitation activities there. She visited, Sandwip, Kutubdia, Chakaria, Banskhali, Anwara, Patiya and a few places of Rangamati district.

During her visits to the cyclone ravaged areas the Prime Minister asked to affected people there and asked them if they were receiving relief materials. She also enquired and saw whether distribution of relief materials was going on See Page 10 Col. 3

Moulvibazar town threatened

By Staff Correspondent

Flood situation in greater Sylhet district is worsening with fresh areas inundated by major rivers flowing above the danger level. Heavy rainfall is likely in next 24 hours, according to Flood Forecasting and Warning Division.

Fresh breaches on the embankment along the rivers Surma and Kushiara on Friday worsened flood situation.

Our Correspondent from Moulvibazar reports: The Kushiara on Friday noon swallowed a large area of Manmukh Bazar where the union health

complex, a mosque and 11 houses including shops are situated. Moulvibazar town protection embankment was still under serious threat as the river Monu was flowing 1.2 metre above the danger level till Friday evening. The river Dalu also crossed the danger level by 0.96 metre. The flash flood in the district took a critical turn engulfing fresh areas of five unions under two more upazilas. With these, 50 unions of five upazilas of the district went under flood water.

The worst affected areas are Chanighat, Akhalkura, Monumukh, Bekatona of Sadar upazila, Hajipur, Sharifpur, Kadipur, Brithimpasha, Sagarnal of Kulaura upazila, Kamar-chal, Mansurnagar, Munshibazar, Uttarbagh, Fatepur and Panchgaon of Rajnagar upazila, Shamsnagar, Komolganj, Adampur and Munshibazar of Komolganj upazila. People of the town are in great panic as they fear the town protection embankment may be washed away inundated. See Page 10 Col. 1

Relief activities mismanaged : Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina has blamed the Government for politicising the relief activities for the cyclone survivors.

Addressing a crowded press conference on Friday at the National Press Club she said, due to lack of preparedness, despite warnings by the meteorological department much earlier, the extent of loss of lives and damage to property was colossal.

The Leader of the Opposition in parliament, who visited different affected areas, also gave a gloomy picture of the vast coastal areas and described the situation as terrible and disappointing. See Page 10 Col. 1



Sheikh Hasina addressing a press conference at the National Press Club Friday

Damaged infrastructures

Rehabilitation to cost Tk 417 crore

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Rehabilitation of rural infrastructures, water supply and sanitation in the cyclone affected coastal districts and offshore islands will cost Taka 417.24 crore. This includes both short and medium/long term rehabilitation programme to be taken up by the local government division of the Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives.

According to preliminary assessment of the ministry, damage to rural infrastructures and water supply installations was enormous. Survey teams both from the Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) and the Department of Public Health Engineering

(DPHE) could not reach many inaccessible islands as communications to those islands could not be fully restored. The ministry sources said the assessment of damage was made on the basis of primary information received from the district officers.

The physical infrastructures damaged mainly include the coastal embankment where a vast road network was either destroyed or washed away. Many hydraulic structures and protection works were also damaged. Considerable damage was done to schools, navigation facilities and equipment, embankments protecting ports. See Page 10 Col. 1

US, Swedish plane arrive with relief

A US aircraft measuring a length of a football field touched down at Zia International Airport Friday afternoon, reports UNB.

The US C-5 Galaxy, largest transport plane in the American infantry, has been despatched from Dahrn, Saudi Arabia, USIS sources said. It carried a huge quantity of relief materials for the cyclone victims of the country.

The relief goods brought by the aircraft included medicines, containers and medical equipment.

A plane from Sweden with 34 tons of relief goods worth about Tk. 40 lakh arrived at Zia See Page 10 Col. 2

Shekhar arrives tomorrow

Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, will arrive tomorrow (Sunday) to express his country's solidarity with people of Bangladesh in the aftermath of devastating cyclone, reports BSS.

The Indian Prime Minister will break off his election tour in Uttar Pradesh state and fly to Bangladesh for a few hours. He is expected to discuss with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia ways and means about assisting Bangladesh in the gigantic relief operation. He will also call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

India has already provided relief assistance to Bangladesh including services of six helicopters.

Temporary shifting of offices to Ctg ordered

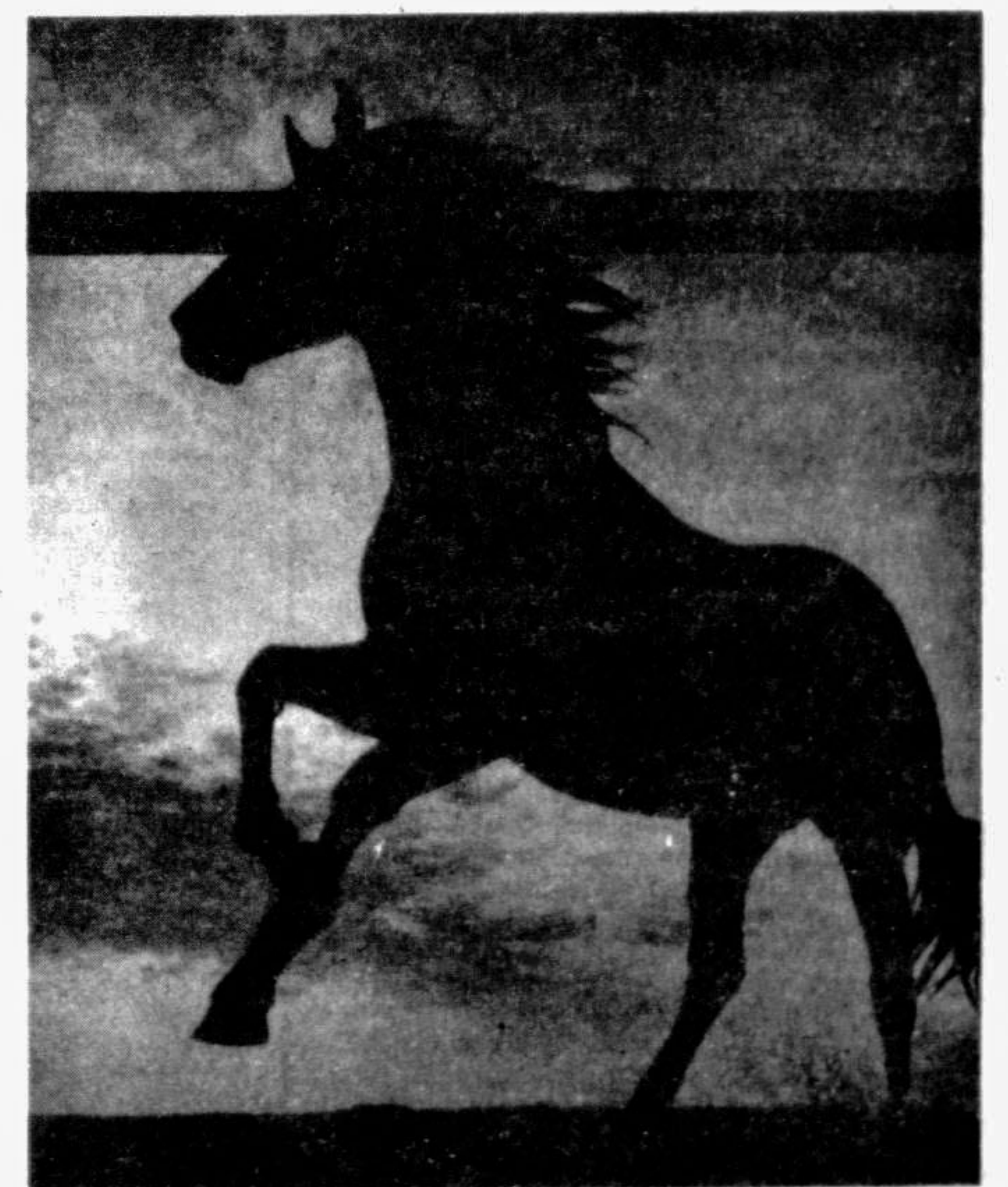
By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has instructed all departments related to construction of infrastructures to shift their head offices temporarily to Chittagong in order to accelerate rehabilitation work.

Begum Zia during her four-day stay in Chittagong from May 7 to May 10 held two cabinet meetings of the available ministers to work out programmes for rehabilitation.

She instructed the top officials of Power Development Board (PDB), Public Health Engineering, Irrigation See Page 10 Col. 4

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