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The Daily Star

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Canada's embattled Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, is faced with presiding over the disintegration of Canada. To head off Quebec sovereignty in 1992 he has appointed his old foe, Foreign Minister Joe Clark, to sort out the mess **Page 4**

Business

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Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida waves to the crowd after making an imprint of her hands at Cannes. The imprint will be put on the celebrated Croisette along with those of other stars **Page 5**

Metropolitan

Rebecca Gurung, Bhutan's first architect hankers for heritage. "Traditional ones are special in this age," she says **Page 3**

NEWS BRIEFS

Sangsad polls cost Tk 25cr

The government spent more than Tk 25 crore for Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) election held February 27, reports UNB.

Education Minister in charge of the President Secretariat in Parliament Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury informed the House Sunday.

Case against Mustafa Jamal

The Anti-corruption Bureau has instituted a case against former Works Minister Mustafa Jamal Haider, former RAJUK Chairman Rahmatullah and Abdul Monem, his predecessor and proprietor of Messrs Abdul Monem Limited for causing a loss of Taka 8,34,87,450 to the government by giving work order for the Sayedabad-Kamalapur, Atish Dipankar Road, Rampura Link road via Khilgaon-Malibagh at 63 per cent above the estimated cost, reports BSS.

Rashid, Maksud chargesheeted

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has chargesheeted former T & T Minister Kazi Feroz Rashid, former chairman of T & T Board Maksud Ali Khan and owner of United Traders Shahjad Ali for their trial in court for causing a loss of Taka 1,22,23,839 to the government through buying VIP Radio Exchange and other spares on increased prices. A Bureau press release said Sunday, reports BSS.

Bush orders urgent disaster assistance

High-powered US Army delegation arrives

By Staff Correspondent

A high-powered US army delegation led by Major General Henry C. Stackpole arrived in Dhaka on Sunday on an appraisal mission of relief operations in the cyclone-battered coastal areas.

US President George Bush ordered on Saturday the Department of Defence in Washington to provide immediate disaster assistance to Bangladesh's efforts to recover from the recent devastating cyclone, according to a USIS press release issued in Dhaka. The order came in response to the request of the Bangladesh Government.

The US Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Admiral Charles

R. Larson despatched the 29-member joint task force, commanded by Major General Stackpole of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), to Bangladesh under the directive of the US President.

An ISPR press release said, the US military delegation brought with them some relief goods and specialised equipment for disaster management like restoration of telecommunication and emergency medical aid. The delegation will assess "as to how far the US Armed Forces can render physical assistance in overcoming the aftermath of the recent cyclone in the coastal areas and the off-shore

island". The USIS press release said, five UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and crews, air traffic control teams, Seabees (construction brigade) and environmental preventive medicine units are also en route to Bangladesh and expected to arrive today. Also being diverted to Bangladesh to assist in the relief efforts are elements of an amphibious task force which will arrive at the coast of Bangladesh by May 15.

The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, embarked abroad USS Tarawa and other amphibious ships, is home-based at Marine Corps base, Camp Pendleton, California, the USIS press release added. They departed from the Persian Gulf on May 7 for the United States with an en route stop in the Philippines when they were diverted to assist in "this humanitarian effort".

An agency report from Washington said: The White House spokesman told the newsmen that the US aid was being provided in response to a request from Bangladesh, reeling from last week's cyclone. The helicopters will be used to deliver food and medicine to millions of survivors stranded by the cyclone and a series of floods and tor-

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Rice stock from W Bengal to be shifted in two days

Shekhar pledges all possible assistance

Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar Sunday pledged all possible assistance to help Bangladesh cope with the situation caused by the catastrophic cyclone, reports BSS.

"Whatever we can do we will do within our means," he told newsmen at the VVIP Terminal of Zia International Airport prior to his departure after a brief visit.

Earlier, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar flew in at 9-30 in a Boeing 737 aircraft of the Indian Air Force from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, where he broke off his electioneering for the visit. Prime Minister Begum Zia received him at the airport.

I. P. Khosla, Secretary External Affairs Ministry and a former High Commissioner to Bangladesh accompanied Chandra Shekhar. The Indian Prime Minister

described the devastation caused by cyclone and tidal surge in coastal areas of Bangladesh as "tragic and worst calamity Bangladesh experienced".

He said the extent of devastation was beyond all proportions and India would do its best despite its own financial constraints "because Bangladesh needed to be helped".

Chandra Shekhar said he had assured Prime Minister Begum Zia of all possible assistance and added rice would be shifted from West Bengal to Bangladesh in two days' time.

Asked about the possibility of India providing more helicopters of Bangladesh for relief operations, the Indian Prime Minister said his country had already given six helicopters **See Page 10 Col. 1**

Representatives of donors meet today

Star Economic Report

The representatives of donor agencies and countries, included in the local consultative and group, will meet this morning in Dhaka to consider ways and means for providing assistance to Bangladesh in post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation operations.

The donor agencies and countries committed a total of 219 million US dollars in cash and kind for relief and rehabilitation purposes in the coastal areas and offshore islands, till Sunday, according to an official source.

In all, 33 countries and international agencies disbursed or committed aid, in cash and kind, to Bangladesh in the wake of the century's worst cyclone and tidal surge of April 29.

Information Secretary Morzuar-e-Mowla said on Sunday at a press briefing at Sheraton Hotel that a total of Taka 40 crore had so far been pledged by 22 foreign-aided **See Page 10 Col. 6**

ADB VP assures assistance

The Asian Development Bank Vice President William R. Thomson, called on the ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury at latter's office on Sunday, reports BSS.

They discussed various aspects of ADB operation in Bangladesh. The relief and rehabilitation requirements of Bangladesh in the wake of the recent devastating cyclone were also discussed.

The visiting Vice President assured the Asian Development Bank would like to extend assistance to Bangladesh both on short and long-term measures. All possible steps that can be taken will be explored during the visit, he added.

Food shortage may shoot up to 30 lakh tonnes

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Establishment Osman Ghani Khan Sunday told the Parliament that the food shortage may shoot up from 12 to 15 lakh tonnes to 30 to 31 lakh tonnes due to adverse climatic situation this year.

Taking part in the discussion on the President's speech the bureaucrat-turned-politician Osman Ghani Khan said that the total country's production in general was estimated at 18 million tonnes while the country in an average had been facing a deficit of 19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains every year. **See Page 10 Col. 6**

Ershad prays for transfer of case

Former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad Sunday filed a petition under Section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code before a Division Bench of the High Court Division for transfer of the Special Tribunal Case No 60 of 1991 now pending in the Court of Senior Special Tribunal, Dhaka to the court of any other special tribunal or to the High Court Division Bench itself, reports BSS.

The court, comprising Justice ARM Amirul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury, did not hear this petition as they felt embarrassed and referred the matter to the Chief Justice for placing the same before any other court.

Report of Air Force Chief's removal baseless

By Staff Correspondent

The report of termination of Air Force Chief Air Vice-Marshal Mottazuddin Ahmed from services published in a daily is untrue and baseless, an ISPR press release said on Sunday.

The press release said, attention of the Government was drawn to a news item published in a Dhaka daily on Sunday. The report is not based on facts, the press release said in order to remove confusion created among the members of the public. **See Page 10 Col. 5**

Diarrhoea situation in Sandwip alarming



What's there to risk after braving the storm seems to be the attitude of these survivors who struggle in a new home — a boat. — Star photo.

Chinese plane with relief arrives

A Chinese special plane carrying 25 tonnes of emergency relief materials arrived at Zia International Airport on Friday for cyclone affected people of Bangladesh, reports agencies.

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman received relief materials from Chinese Ambassador Chen Songhu, an embassy source said Sunday.

The relief goods include food, medicine and tents. These are part of Chinese emergency relief materials worth US dollar 2 million, announced by its government on May 7.

Another Chinese plane carrying 25 tonnes of relief goods will arrive today (Monday). Besides, three sorties of special planes will also arrive in the next few days.

Chinese government also decided to provide the services of two helicopters to join relief operation and they will be arriving very soon.

The Chinese Red Cross Society has also pledged to donate emergency relief goods worth US dollar 40,000 to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The composition of the relief goods will be decided in consultation with its Bangladesh counterpart.

Maldives

A special envoy of President Maumoon Abdul Gayum of the Maldives arrives on Wednesday **See Page 10 Col. 4**

Anwar Hossain arrested outside 'House precincts'

The Speaker Abdul Rahman Biswas Sunday told the Jatiya Sangsad that Anwar Hossain Manju (JP-Protpur) was not arrested within the "precincts of parliament" and as such Speaker's permission for the arrest was not necessary, reports BSS.

Giving a ruling on the question of arrest of Anwar Hossain Manju from the reception counter of the Parliament house (outside the security check-point) on April 29 as raised by Suranjit Sen Gupta (Gonotantree Party), the Speaker said such arrest not being preventive detention, the exemption provided for a member from preventive detention under Ordinance IX of **See Page 10 Col. 3**

Opposition pleads for reverting to Parliamentary form Acting President can hand over power to Speaker: Treasury

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda, participating in the discussion on the President's inaugural speech, on Sunday said the Acting President could easily hand over power to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) under the Constitution.

On the other hand, Awami League MP Col (Retd) Sawkat Ali said, at present the country was virtually being governed under Parliamentary system as the Acting President recently said he had no power in his hand and the Prime Minister herself was doing everything in

her present capacity. He pleaded for introducing a bill to provide constitutional cover to the present role of the Prime Minister in running the government affairs and thus remove the constitutional anomalies.

Among the Treasury bench members, State Minister for Establishment Osman Gani Khan, Khandaker Abdul Malek, Selina Rahman and Haroon-ur-Rashid Khan took part in the discussion.

Awami League MP Abdul Mannan, Khazruzzaman, Syed Abul Hossain and Jamaat MP

Shah Ruhul Quddus and Jatiya Party MP Rezauddin Ahmed (Bhola Mia) also participated in the discussion.

Nazmul Huda said the supremacy of Parliament as a legislature was beyond question and the President could easily hand over power to the Speaker under Article 55 (2) of the Constitution where it is clearly stated that the Speaker will act as President if the President or the Vice-president is unable to discharge their functions at a time or they have to leave the office for **See Page 10 Col. 4**

Flood situation in Sylhet, B'baria worsens: 5 die

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in greater Sylhet and Brahmanbaria districts further worsened Sunday with onrush of water from Indian states of Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam, official sources said.

Five more people died on Sunday in Sylhet and Moulvi Bazar district raising the toll to 11.

All major rivers of the district were flowing above the danger mark leaving several lakh people marooned and damaging crops on about one lakh acres. The Manu at Moulvi Bazar

was slowing 64 cm above the danger mark, the Khowai at Habiganj 90 cm, the Surma at Sylhet 9 cm and the Surma at Sunamganj 7 cm above the danger mark.

Our Moulvi Bazar correspondent reports: Fifty-four unions out of 66 have been inundated where 451800 people are affected. Standing crops across 557 sq mile areas were damaged.

One more person was killed at Konagaon under Rajnagar upazila raising the number of death to three in the district on Sunday.

According to a Control Room source, 3185 houses of the affected areas have been completely damaged and 8080 houses partially.

Relief materials distributed among the victims were inadequate, another source said.

Diarrhoea has broken out in the district and over 100 people in Kamar Chak village under Rajnagar upazila have been attacked. Communication with Kamalganj upazila remained disrupted on Sunday while over 8000 people were living

in their makeshift camps on the embankment.

Our Sylhet Correspondent adds: Flood situation in the district worsened with four more people dead of diarrhoea in Boalghat upazila.

All roads in Zakiganj and Beanbazar were under five feet of water. A dam near Zakiganj-Beanbazar has been washed away with a vast area going under flood water.

Part of Sylhet town remained under water on Sunday. River Khowai at Habiganj rose sharply by 130 cm during

last 24 hours and was flowing above the danger mark at 6 am this morning resulting in serious deterioration of flood situation in the district. The Someswari at Durgapur also marked sharp rise by 130 cm, but was 100 cm below the danger level.

Crops in nearly 1,25,000 acres in Habiganj have been affected, of which 40,000 acres totally damaged by flood water gushing through a breach in the embankment at Lambak.

Water is also flowing through the district town pro-

tection dam through several breaches.

Our Netrokona correspondent adds: Standing crops of about 25 thousand acres of land have gone under water.

Mohanganj, Kalibari and Madon upazila of the district are worst affected.

The Meghna at Bhairab Bazar registered rise by 11 cm while the Gumti at Comilla recorded fall by 7 cm and are flowing below their respective danger level. In Brahmanbaria, all six upazilas have been affected as **See Page 10 Col. 4**