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# The Daily Star

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DHAKA TUESDAY MAY 14, 1991

SHAWAL 29, 1411 HIJRI

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Troops from Saudi Arabia due today

Members of the Bangladesh Military contingent started returning home from Saudi Arabia the first batch of officers and troops numbering about 400 arrives in Dhaka early hours today (Tuesday), reports BSS.

### Bush bans chemical weapons

WASHINGTON, May 13: President George Bush on Monday announced a ban on the use of American chemical weapons for any reason and ordered the destruction of those weapons now in the US arsenal. Bush issued a statement saying he was taking the action to "demonstrate the United States' commitment to banning chemical weapons", reports Reuter.

### Typhoon may strike Philippines today

MANILA, May 13: Weathermen raised the second of a three-stage storm alert over seven provinces today as Typhoon walter moved closer to the northern Philippines. The typhoon, packing maximum 220 kilometer (136.4 mile) per hour winds was moving northwest at 19 kilometers (12 miles) an hour. Weathermen forecast it would strike the country tomorrow, reports AFP.

## Severe storm hits Manikganj, Pabna : Many feared killed

At least 8 people were killed and many feared drowned in severe storms that hit different parts of the country on Monday.

The storms in Manikganj and Pabna districts also left over 100 people injured and a large number of houses damaged.

Many small vessels were sunk by the storms in the river Jamuna.

UNB adds: At least three people were killed and many feared drowned in the Jamuna as about a hundred vessels sank during a severe storm that battered the district Monday evening.

About 100 fishermen in at least 50 fishing boats were also missing in the river, officials and local people said.

The three dead were identified as Mozif (50), a

housewife aged about 25 and her minor son of village Jhartarbagh in Shibbalaya upazila.

Some 100 people were injured and nearly 3,000 houses damaged in the storm which with a velocity of more than 100 kilometre per hour raged through all seven upazilas. BIWTA sources said.

Markman Shahjahan (50) was feared drowned after BI-

### Star Report

WTA markboat sank in the river. Hashem (20), Anar (35) and Kalam (10) were also missing after two dinghy boats capsized.

Two others were missing after a small vessel, "Mohna", sank in the Jamuna.

An oil tanker, MV Tapash, bound for Baghabari Ghat in Pabna from Narayanganj sank near Hemganj.

An empty passenger launch

'Salimabad', anchored at Aricha ferry ghat also capsized during the storm which lasted about 45 minutes.

BIWTA cargo vessel 'Palashpur' and the houseboat of dredger-137 also went down the river, officials at Aricha said. Vessel Sayeda and pontoon of ferry number 3 were damaged.

Floating BIWTA workshop and four other ferry boats were

untraced till writing of the report.

Ferry services from Aricha were disrupted and power supply in Manikganj snapped by the storm, which also hit neighbouring Pabna district this afternoon, killing five.

In Pabna district five fishermen of Latifpur village in Bera upazila were also missing after their boat capsized in the See Page 10 Col. 1

## Bodies yet being washed ashore in Banskhali Survivors fight grim battle for succour



KUTUBDIA: Cyclone survivors thus wait for relief goods.

—Photo: Mohsin

Floating carcasses are being washed up by the sea along the coastline of Banskhali upazila in Chittagong district everyday.

Till Sunday nearly 100 bodies were found on the coastline and buried.

Eyewitnesses said that the survivors in the upazila were fighting a grim battle for life as food and shelter were not available.

The survivors in Baharchhara, Ratchhata, Khankhabad, Badgaon and Premashia complained that they did not get any relief till Sunday. Diarrhoea has broken out in the affected areas.

Our Staffer AKM Mohsin who visited Kutubdia, Banskhali and Anwara upazilas reported that massive relief operations are continuing in the battered zones.

In Kutubdia, relief operations have been geared up and coordinated efforts are underway to redress the sufferings of the survivors.

In Anwara the total affected area is 61 square kilometers in 10 unions having 1,46,500 people.

Deaths of 10,100 persons were confirmed while 1,100 others remained missing.

Nearly 100 educational institutions were destroyed completely while 250 others were partially damaged.

Nearly 80 miles of roads and embankments were damaged and 10 miles of coastal embankments washed away. See Page 10 Col. 7

## Post-cyclone exigencies may cost Tk 200 cr more for current budget

### Star Economic Report

Relief and other operations to meet the post-cyclone exigencies are likely to cost at least Taka 200 crore more for the revenue or current budget of the government in fiscal 1990-91, Ministry of Finance sources said.

With only one and a half months now left for the current fiscal year to expire, Ministry of Finance is making a fresh stock-taking about the revenue or day-to-day expenditures of the government.

The latest estimates by the ministry about revenue expenditures in 1990-91 are a total of Taka 7,400 crore. Before the cyclone and tidal surge of

April 29, the ministry projected such expenditures at Taka 7,200 crore, about Taka 100 crore lower than the original budgetary estimate for 1990-91.

The worst natural disaster in the coastal belt and offshore islands has now strained the budgetary resources.

The preparatory work for the national budget for forthcoming fiscal 1991-92 is now proceeding fast. The new budget is expected to be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) by the middle of next month.

Meanwhile, the annual meeting of the Aid Club in

Paris, will take place. The meeting is scheduled for May 29 and 30. There are no chances for postponement of the meeting particularly after the cyclone and tidal surge, official sources said.

The World Bank (WB) as the coordinator of the Aid Club has already finalised its Country Economic Memorandum (CEM) and forwarded the same to the government. A WB team will visit Dhaka before the Aid Club meet in Paris.

While reviewing the budgetary performance in 1990-91, the official sources said the current or revenue expenditure will be 100 crore less. See Page 10 Col. 3

### No reports of cholera

### No diarrhoea epidemic : WHO

By Staff Correspondent

The World Health Organisation (WHO) representative in Bangladesh, Dr A N A Abeyasundere told a press briefing at the Secretariat on Monday that there was no report of cholera from any of the cyclone hit areas.

He also said that there was no report of diarrhoea in an epidemic form.

Briefing the pressmen on the report of a 5-member WHO team working in the coastal areas, Dr. Abeyasundere said diarrhoea cases prevailed in some areas of Chittagong, but these were normal.

People were collecting oral See Page 10 Col. 3

## Debate on form of govt continues

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Monday continued discussion on the inaugural address of the Acting President, in which he referred to the Joint Declaration of the three alliances.

The Treasury Bench members resuming their discussion said, BNP which is committed to the presidential form of government came to power with the mandate of the people, who at the same time rejected Awami League's manifesto which pleaded for parliamentary democracy.

On the other hand, the members of the Opposition said

the people's desire was to establish parliamentary democracy. The Joint Declaration was formulated keeping in mind the establishment of parliamentary democracy.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman said, BNP inherited the presidential system from Awami League. In 1981, Awami League also participated in the presidential election, in which Justice See Page 10 Col. 1

## Marxist leading Bhattarai in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, May 13: A centrist party that took on a long-ruling monarchy in a struggle for democracy in this remote Himalayan kingdom won an early lead Monday in the first free elections held in three decades, officials said, reports AP.

But the Nepali Congress Party suffered some unexpected reverses to a Communist alliance in Sunday's nationwide voting.

Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai trailed behind a Marxist leader in counting for a parliamentary seat from Kathmandu, the Election Commission announced.

Bhattarai's centrist party

won four places in the 205-member House of Representatives out of six results announced, it lost two seats to Communist candidates. Election Commission Secretary A N Raj Bhandari said.

Counting for remaining seats will begin after all ballots are collected in district centres. Some poll stations are in remote mountainous areas and final results may be available only on Friday.

Earlier report adds: The Nepali Congress Party, which was the pre-poll favorite for Sunday's historic elections, lost one of the five seats to a Communist alliance and trailed behind in counting for 18

other races, the Election Commission said.

It led the count in only six districts, said Election Commission Secretary A N Raj Bhandari.

Firebrand Marxist leader Madan Bhandari led the prime minister by 3,000 votes in their key Kathmandu constituency, the Commission said. Jog Meher Shrestha, a minister and a pro-monarchy candidate, was a close third.

Counting began for 29 of the country's 205 parliamentary constituencies on Monday. Polls have been ordered in 37 polling centers spread out in 25 constituencies because of vote fraud and violence.

## Farakka seriously affects ecological balance: Majid

Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Majid-ul Haq on Monday said the overall ecological balance in the country's northern and south-western regions was seriously affected due to construction of the Farakka Barrage in India, reports BSS.

He said water scarcity in the regions had seriously affected irrigation, navigation, afforestation, industries, human habitation and pisciculture due to withdrawal of water from the Ganges through the Farakka Barrage. As a result, saline water

entered the region at an increased rate, the Minister said in Parliament replying to a question from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna).

The Minister said the only way to avert this adverse situation was to get the just share of the Ganges water for Bangladesh during the dry season.

Talking about the steps taken so far in this respect, the Irrigation Minister said the then government of Bangladesh had raised the issue to the United Nations following the adverse situation in See Page 10 Col. 6

## Flood situation in Sylhet, Moulvibazar deteriorates

The flood situation in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts further deteriorated, while the situation in Sunamganj, Habiganj and Netrokona remained unchanged, Monday official sources said.

Seventeen people have died so far in Sylhet and three in Moulvibazar raising the toll to 20.

The last upazila of the district to be affected.

The Surma swelled due to incessant rain in Sylhet, submerging fresh areas of Balaganj upazila.

Earlier, six of the 11 upazilas were cut off from district headquarters. The upazilas are Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Bani-bazar, Goatghat, Companyganj and Fenchuganj.

Telecommunication with all upazilas, except Zakiganj, also remained cut off, the district

By Staff Correspondent

flood control room told The Daily Star over telephone.

Outbreak of diarrhoea was reported from Goatghat upazila.

Over 1000 families took shelter in nearly 100 makeshift camps. Over 400,000 people are marooned.

The river Manu at Moulvibazar was flowing 88 cm above the danger level. Rain and onrush of water from hilly Indian districts continued, breaching the embankment 42

places.

"Repair of the embankment is impossible now," a district official said.

The Dhalai and the Juri, flowing through the district, were also flowing above the red mark.

Crops of 34174 acres of land were under water and 4484 houses totally and 10,530 partially damaged. Five lakh people were affected.

Relief operation was on in the affected areas, officials said.

Mohanganj and Khaliazuri upazilas of Netrakona district bordering Sylhet have been submerged by flood water, a district official said.

The Surma at Sunamganj was flowing 8 cm above the danger mark but overall flood situation in the district remained unchanged.

Flood water was yet to recede from low-lying areas of the district, though the Khowai at Habiganj recorded a sharp fall

## Jobs to be created for affected people : Khaleda

The government has decided to construct multi-purpose buildings in the coastal and cyclone-prone areas of the country to be used as cyclone shelters and warehouses of relief materials, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when the visiting President of CARE-International, Dr Philip Johnston, called on her at the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Begum Zia said in normal times these buildings would be See Page 10 Col. 8

## WFP finalises food assistance plan

World Food Programme has finalised with the Government of Bangladesh a plan of intervention for relief food assistance to 2,326,000 persons during three months in the affected areas by the cyclone, a WFP press release said Monday, reports BSS.

This constitutes an initial plan immediately applicable See Page 10 Col. 7

## US official arrives May 20 to discuss rehabilitation

A senior American official arrives in Dhaka shortly to talk to Bangladesh authorities about cyclone aftermath and relief and rehabilitation programme.

John S. Wolf, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organisations at the US State Department, will arrive in Dhaka on May 20 on a two-day official visit. Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan told UNB on Monday.

## Population will rise to over 23 cr in 2025

By Staff Correspondent

Population in Bangladesh will rise to 23.50 crore in the year 2025, according to this year's state of world population report by the UNFPA.

The report revealed Monday in Dhaka says, the world population in the same year will increase to 850.4 crore and in the year 2050 it will reach 1000 crore.

The assumption was made considering that the women worldwide would have, on an average, about two children each by the year 2035, according to the report.

The report estimated the average growth rate in Bangladesh at 2.7 per cent during 1990-95. According to the report, birth rate per 1000 people in 1990 was 41 while the death rate per 100 was only 14. The infant mortality per 1000 in the year was 108, the fertility per woman was 5.1 in 1990, the report said.

আগামীকাল ১৫ই মে ঢাকায় ৫০ টাকা প্রাইজ বণ্ডের ৩৩ তম ড্র

ঢাকা বিভাগীয় কমিশনার অফিসের সম্মেলন কক্ষে সকাল ১০ টায় এই ড্র অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

৫০ টাকা প্রাইজ বণ্ডের প্রতিটি সিরিজে পুরস্কার রয়েছেঃ ২,৫০,০০০ টাকার ১টি ৫০,০০০ টাকার ১টি ৫,০০০ টাকার ৪টি ২,৫০০ টাকার ৪টি ৫০০ টাকার ৯০টি।

প্রতি ড্র'তে অনেক সিরিজ, আর তাই লক লক টাকার পুরস্কার। পুরস্কারের টাকা সম্পূর্ণ করমুক্ত।

প্রাইজ বণ্ডের পুরস্কারের টাকা বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে পরিশোধ করা হয়। ড্রই সমাপ্ত হলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে টাকার ড্রই করে অবশিষ্ট টাকা সরকারি পুরস্কারের টাকা দাখিল করা যায়। এ সময় বাংলাদেশি ও দেশে বসবাসকারী ব্যক্তিগণ অবশিষ্ট টাকা সরকারি পুরস্কারের টাকা দাখিল করতে পারেন।

জাতীয় সমন্বয় পরিষদ

ডি.এম.পি(সি) ৪৬১৭-২০/৬