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The Daily Star

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World Telecommunications Day is celebrated by member countries of the International Telecommunication Union every year this day Page 4

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The cyclone and tidal surge has caused heavy damage to the ship-breaking industry. Page 9

International



Chancellor Helmut Kohl, charting a collision course with opposition Social Democrats, said Germany must play a larger military role Page 5
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Agreement to facilitate relief operations of Task Force likely on Sunday

11000 US troops may arrive in second phase

By Moinuddin Naser

The United States and Bangladesh are to sign an agreement to facilitate the operation of the US task force now in Bangladesh.
 According to Foreign Ministry sources the agreement, to determine the areas of cooperation as per the need of the hour, will be signed on Sunday.
 According to diplomatic sources the United States may send 11000 more troops in addition to the 7000 man Task Force, in the second phase to facilitate relief and rehabilitation operations.
 The troops will stay in international waters in the Bay and as per agreement not more than 400 US troops will come ashore at a time to carry out relief operations, it is reliably learnt.

The sources said that the US Task Force had been diverted to Bangladesh on its way back home from the Gulf area while the troops who may come in the next phase would be sent from a Philippine base, raising the total number to 18000.

Task Force begins relief operations

The US relief team comprising Marines has started its relief work in cooperation with the Bangladesh Armed Forces in the cyclone and tidal surge-hit areas of the country, Brig. M.S.A. Bhuiyan, acting PSO to the Supreme Commander and in charge of the relief activities
 See Page 12 Col. 4



US Task Force troops disembarking from their vessel at Chittagong on Thursday.

—Star photo

100 deaths so far : Relief inadequate : Diarrhoea cases reported

Sylhet floods take serious turn

By Staff Correspondent



An affected family of flood-engulfed Bianibazar upazila is moving in a raft to a safer place. — Photo : Mohsin

The flood situation in Sylhet Sadar and Balaganj upazilas took a serious turn with inundation of fresh areas on Thursday. Thirty four deaths in flood-hit areas were officially confirmed so far.
 The unofficial death toll was however 100.
 Situation in other parts of greater Sylhet district however remained unchanged, official sources said.
 Eight unions of Sylhet Sadar and 14 unions of Balaganj upazila have been submerged by the onrush of waters from Indian hilly districts. An official of Sylhet flood control room told The Daily Star.

The river Surma registered a fall in all the places but was still flowing nine cm above the danger mark at Sylhet and 54 cm above in Kanaihat.
 The river Kushiara receded but was flowing 44 cm above danger level.
 Our staffer A K M Mohsin reported from Sylhet that the Surma and the Kushiara had inundated Balaganj upazila situated in the middle of the two rivers.
 The other worst hit upazilas are Jakiganj, Baniabazar, Golaganj, Companyganj, Goringhat, Kanaihat and Fenchuganj.
 One flood victim of Golaganj told The Daily Star that

'they have never seen such flood earlier'.
 The badly affected upazilas were still inaccessible by road. Boats were the only means of transportation. There was nothing but water in between Sylhet and Fenchuganj, our staffer noticed while travelling by train.
 'We are fighting a grim battle for survival,' Raqib AH (50) of village Mohammadpur under Baniabazar upazila said.
 Over one million people have been rendered homeless. Relief measures so far taken were inadequate. Taka two lakh 80 thousand in cash, 65 metric tons of wheat, 25 met-

ric tons of rice, 351 sacks of flattened rice, 57 tins of molasses, five lakh water purifying tablets, 30 cartons of biscuits, 300 tins of milk food and 30 sacks of old clothes have been distributed so far among the 12 lakh flood victims.
 Outbreak of waterborne diseases seems likely. Almost all the tubewells, the only means of pure water, were under water causing acute scarcity of safe drinking water in the affected areas. Diarrhoeal diseases were reported from most of the 11 affected upazilas.
 Seventyfive medical teams
 See Page 12 Col. 3

Kazi Zafar arrested

Former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed was arrested on Thursday and sent to Dhaka Central Jail on 120 days' detention under Special Powers Act, police said, reports UNB.
 The former prime minister of the deposed Ershad regime, Zafar was taken into custody at about 11.35 am while he was entering the Parliament building reportedly to take oath as MP.
 Kazi Zafar, elected from Comilla-12 constituency in the recent parliamentary polls, was wanted by police under the Special Powers Act.
 Bespectacled and clean-shaven Zafar, looking fresh and wearing a cream-coloured safari, came to the Jatiya Sangsad in a private car and was about to enter the Parliament Secretariat when police nabbed him.
 Police took him to the Central jail in a Pajero jeep. He was given division in the jail, jail sources said.
 Meanwhile, a specific case against the former Prime Minister started Thursday at the Dhaka District Judge Court for violating a government order for surrendering to the law enforcing agency. Officer-in-Charge of Lalbahar Thana Thursday appeared in the court as witness.
 The next date of the case has been fixed on May 18.

Relief operations reviewed

Progress of relief operations in the cyclone and flood affected areas was reviewed at a meeting of the Council of Ministers held in Bangabhaban on Thursday with Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, cabinet ministers, state ministers, secretaries to the government and chiefs of three services attended the meeting.
 The Council of Ministers observed that the first phase of relief operations aimed at reaching immediate succour to
 See Page 12 Col. 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Sylhet relief supervision

The government has given the charge of overall supervision of relief and rehabilitation activities of flood affected districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj to Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, MP, has been entrusted with the overall supervision* of such activities in Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts, reports BSS.

\$ 341m foreign aid pledged so far

The international community pledged so far a total of \$341.10 million US dollar worth of assistance, in cash and kind, for relief and other emergency operations in the cyclone-battered areas, official sources said on Thursday.

Pak parliament adopts Sharia law

ISLAMABAD, May 16: Pakistan's National Assembly today adopted a controversial government bill to enforce Islamic law or Sharia in the country, reports AFP.

Japanese relief team arrives

The first group of 11 Japanese emergency assistance personnel arrived in Dhaka on Thursday. Immediately after arrival, they started preparation of the assistance activities for the cyclone devastated people.

Sino-Soviet border accord

MOSCOW, May 16: The Soviet Union and China today signed an agreement solving part of their border dispute, in the eastern sector, Tass news agency reported, reports AFP.

Khaleda seeks help for disaster management

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Thursday that constitution of a Task Force involving all professional groups could play an effective role in formulating programmes and evolving permanent measures for disaster management in the country, reports BSS.
 "It is not the time to make criticisms or to reply them. The need of the hour is to stand by the helpless and distressed survivors of the cyclone," the Prime Minister told a gathering of the mem-

ADB assures PM all possible help

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will extend all possible assistance to Bangladesh at this hour of need to overcome the crisis caused by the recent cyclone, reports BSS.
 Vice President of ADB William R Thomson told this Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when he called on her at her Secretariat office. He said though ADB was a bank to provide development assistance it would provide possible help to Bangladesh in its effort.
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Clashing students go on rampage

Two rival student groups on Thursday renewed violence between them firing guns in the Dhaka University campus. They damaged several vehicles in some areas setting one ablaze.
 Gunfire between the rivals created panic among the general students.
 Thursday's clash started when a procession of Chhatra League (S-A) was passing by the adjoining road of Aparajoo Bangla, where a rally was being held by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at noon to protest the previous day's violence.
 Supporters of both feuding groups chanted provocative slogans against each other and fired guns at the same time.
 Witnesses said the JCD supporters chased the Chhatra League supporters and managed to oust them from the arts building area.
 Agitated Chhatra League workers set a microbus on fire in the Plassey area and damaged several more in the New Market area.
 Later police restricted entry of all types of vehicles into the Science Laboratory to Nilkhet road.
 Police put up roadblocks at all entry points to the Dhaka University.
 At least 25 rounds were fired from the Arts building area during the incident.
 The general students, frightened by the incident, began running helter-skelter.
 Moazzem Hossain, Dhaka University Correspondent of the Dainik Bangla was injured in the rush.
 He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and released after receiving two stitches on his face.
 Later the JCD again held its
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Proceedings of Ershad's arms case again adjourned

The Special Tribunal trying deposed President Ershad adjourned for the second time yesterday following a Defence petition at the High Court Division of the Supreme Court to transfer the case.
 The petition was submitted on May 12 and after a primary hearing the case was referred to the Chief Justice.
 The Chief Justice yesterday sent the case to a Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice
 See Page 12 Col. 4

Mrs Quayle due May 21

Mrs Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of US Vice-President Dan Quayle, comes to Dhaka May 21 on a three-day mission to express sympathy with survivors of the devastating cyclone.
 Mrs Quayle, chairperson of International Disaster Advisory Committee of the United States, will fly into Dhaka in a special aircraft of the US Air Force, officials told UNB on Thursday.
 Madame Quayle will make a trip to the cyclone-battered coastal areas to see the trail of devastation left by the strongest storm ever recorded in the region.

Opinion polls predict victory of Congress

NEW DELHI, May 16: Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party will win next week's national elections but will fall short of a majority again, two opinion polls reported Thursday, reports AP.
 A third opinion poll predicted the Congress Party will get a majority, winning at least 310 seats in the 545-member Parliament.
 The polls were conducted for leading national news

magazines, India Today, Frontline and Sunday which appear over the weekend.
 The results were reported by the Press Trust of India news agency, but the full details of the polls will not be available until the magazines are published.
 All three predicted that the Bharatiya Janata Party, a Hindu revivalist party, will come second in the voting on May 20, 23 and 26. The elections are for the policy-making lower

house.
 Congress had emerged as the single largest party in the last elections in 1989, but was unable to form a government with the 210 seats it controlled.
 The India today poll, conducted in 51 constituencies this month, predicted 233 seats for the Congress, about 30 seats short of a majority. It gave the Bharatiya Janata, or Indian People's Party, 155 seats, 69 more than it won in

1989.
 The Frontline poll said Gandhi will win 224 seats and the Hindu party 140. Both the polls indicated Indira was heading for a deadlocked parliament and possibly a coalition government.
 Frontline gave 115 seats to former Prime Minister V P Singh's National Front alliance, which ruled for 11 months after Gandhi lost power in 1989.
 Incumbent Chandra

Shekhar, who replaced V P Singh last November, was not a factor in the polls. He heads a breakaway faction of Singh alliance which has no national organisation.
 Another report of AP says: A Parliament member running for reelection has been assassinated in the northern state of Bihar, where officials fear violence between rival political gangs may disrupt next week's elections.
 Also, Sikh militants killed

Nepal Congress edges towards majority

KATHMANDU, May 16: The Nepal Congress (NC) was getting ready to take power today as it edged towards a majority, taking 89 of the 188 seats declared since polling at the weekend, reports AFP.
 The NC was just five seats short of the majority needed to form a government, with 17 seats still to be declared from last Sunday's general elections,
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