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DHAKA MONDAY MAY 20, 1991

# -Inside Today -



Predictions can go awry. Journalists predict out of gut feeling and that predictions go like this: Congress will be the largest party, BJP will be the next, Janata Dal will be the third .....

Noted Indian columnist Chanchal Sarkar specially writes for The Daily Star Page 4

### International

Four men in scramble for wooing 514 million Indian voters Page 5

# Feature

Health

Coronary artery graft bypass operation saves lives, writes Prof Habibuz Zaman Page 6

### Metropolitan

For Joy and Health



Bangladesh Mahila Krira Sangstha in Dhanmondi offers girls an excellent opportunity to achieve freshness of body and mind

# Business

Page 3

Power Development Board claims its revenue was enhanced three to four times following introduction of one point metering system

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

Page 8

### Earthquake in Indonesia

GOLDEN (Colorado), May 19 An earthquake shook Indonesia's Minahassa peninsula about 150 miles (240 km) southwest of Manado city today, the US geological survey reported. The tremor measured 6.7 on the Richter Scale and was felt at 8:58 am there

### 'Tipu Sultan' won't be telecast

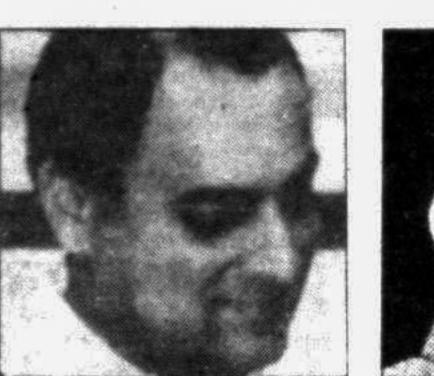
NEW DELHI, May 19: The popular TV serial "Sword of Tipu Sultan" produced by Sanjay Khan will not be telecast by the Indian television Doordarshan during the period between May 19 and 26, it was announced here, reports PTI.

## Observers for Benazir's trial

KARACHI, May 19: The International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR) is to send two French lawyers to observe the trials of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her husband Asif Zardari. the press here reported today. says AFP.

# Rightist BJP challenging top three contenders for power

# India goes to polls today



Rajiv: Vote for stability

NEW DELHI, May 19: India goes to the polls tomorrow to decide who will rule the country for the next five years, with the national press nervously predicting no clearcut winner and a changed political scenario, reports AFP.

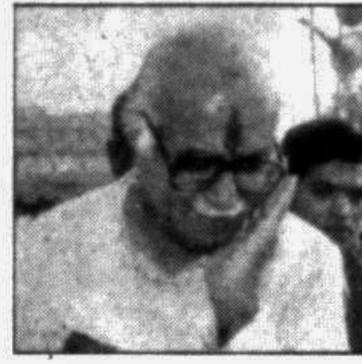
The election follows 18 months of political confusion that has been three governments and no national budget



VP Singh: Vote for 'Mandal

and for the first time in history a stridently Hindu revivalist party staking its claim to power at the centre.

The saffron-clad party, the rightist Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party (BJP) is challenging the top three contenders for power in the world's largest democracy former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Vishwanath Pratap



Advani : Vote for 'Mandir'

Singh and Chandra Shekhar.

The well-heeled BJP described by the Illustrated Weekly of India as "until now on the lunatic fringe, seemed at the last minute to be a nonwinner but has already upset traditional election arithmetic and is in a commanding post tion to influence post-electoral alliances."

Religious and caste feeling

were simmering just below flash point in several politically sensitive localities in midsummer heat that touched a seering 47 degrees centigrade (117 Fahrenheit) in the eentral plains, with 204 dead in pre-poll bloodshed.

Police imposed curfews in two Indian cities torn by riots and bloodshed on the eve of the elections.

Police clamped a curfew on parts of a northern industrial city where rioters hurled homemade bombs and set shops ablaze. At least three people were reported killed in Kanpur, 400 km (240 miles) east of Delhi on the sweltering Ganges river plain. Police used batons to disperse stonethrowing crowds setting fire to the office of a local communist party candidate.

The United News of India (UNI) news agency said it was the second major northern See Page 10 Col. 1

# 15 die as killer wind hits Barisal again

By Staff Correspondent

At least 15 persons were killed and hundreds of others injured when a tornado rav aged Gournadi and Agailjhara upazilas in Barisal district on Saturday.

A severe nor wester also hit two other districts — Jhenidah and Magura -- causing extensivedamage to standing crops

and property the same day. Our Barisal correspondent Arup Talukder reports: The ternado hit at a speed of 230 to 250 km an hour and lasted for about two minutes.

In the two affected upazilas, over 150 kutcha dwellings were raged to the ground. Eighty per cent betel leaf groves were damaged. The storm destroyed 50 per cent

Of the injured persons, 16 were admittedto Barisal Medi

CHITTAGONG. May 19

The US Task Force has made

ping about 800 tons of relief

materials in the battered

coastal areas of Chittagong and

Cox's Bazar, official sources

Replacing the name

'Operation Productive Efforts"

with "Operation Sea Angel" the

Task Force that arrived here

May 15 went for a massive re-

lief operation and other pro-

grammes including medical

and water purification works

changing the name of the op-

cration an official said. The ac-

tivities of the Task Force were

found so helpful, timely and

gigantic that it was almost like

that of a Sea Angel. The Task

Blockade

paralyses

Sirajganj

allout blockade and gherao of

the district administration

paralysed official activity and

transportation here for the

second day today, reports

Thousands of SKOP activists

rallied at the New Market this

morning and then gheraoed

offices of the Deputy Commis-

Police and the Civil Surgeon.

sioner, the Superintendent of

The district chapter of

Sramik Karmachari Oikya

Parishad (SKOP) launched the

See Page 10 Col. 2

SIRAJGANJ, May 19 : An

Explaining the reason for

in order to provide succour.

over 300 sorties so far drop-

cal College Hospital and 50 sent to Gournadi Hospital and Agailjhara upazila health com-

The tornado wrought havoc to several villages and disrupted communications betweenDhaka Barisal. Hundreds of trees and electric poles were uprooted by the tornado. About 60 per cent educational institutions were destroyed,.

According to preliminary reports, the 33 kv power line betweenBarisal and Madaripur was also blown away. District officials visited the tornado-hit areas on Sunday and detailed reports on the damaged were yet to be received. Meanwhile, the districtad-

ministration sanctioned 20 tons of rice, 110 kg beaten rice. Taka 20,000 in cash and

Task Force makes 300 sorties,

drops 800 tons of relief goods

From Nurul Alam

Force members made possible

what was impossible for

Bangladeshis, said the official

adding that if they would not

come thousands of survivors

Kent Ross told The Daily Star

that 262 personnel were

working on the shore to run

relief operations while the rest

out of about 700 forces com-

prising four kinds of troops

like airmen, soldiers, Marines,

and satlors were staying in the

for Environment and Forest,

Fisheries and Livestock

Abdullah-al-Noman alongwith

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen

Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan,

Chief of Naval Staff Rear

Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa,

At least 10 students, includ-

ing the acting vice-president

of Jahangirnagar University

Central Students Union

(JUCSU), were seriously in-

jured in a clash on the campus

between two factions of Jatiy-

atabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in

Liton (3rd year Statistics).

Moazzem, (3rd year Statistics).

Jewel (2nd year Statistics),

Runu (2nd year Geology).

Rezaul Karim (final year Statis-

tics). Shahroj (2nd year Statis-

The injured students are:

the early hours of Sunday.

BSS adds: State Minister

ships anchored in the Bay.

Task Force spokesman Lt

might have died by this time.

75 pieces of saree for distribution among the tornado vic-

On Friday two persons were killed in Mehendiganj upazila in two separate incidents of house collapse andlightningduring a nor wester. Our Jhenidah correspon-

dent Aminur Rahman says: The severe cyclonic storm swept over 10 villages of Shailkupa upazila on Saturday evening. Over 1,000 kutcha houses were razed to the ground. Five persons were injured. The worst affected villages are: Taminagar, Krishnapur, Goal Barta, Hatfazilpur, Abhoypur, Kumirdah and Kamannah.

The injured persons were admitted to sadar hospital where the condition of Abdul Karim Mandal was critical. See Page 10 Col. 5

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice

Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed

Additional Secretary in-Charge

of the Ministry of Relief M

Akhtar Ali and other high civil

and military officials visited

the Operation Sea Angel's

headquarters at Patenga in

release, US Marine Joint Task

Force commander Major

General HC Stackpole briefed

them on the progress of the

Environment and Forest,

Fisheries and Livestock, three

services chiefs and other offi-

cials visited the USS Tarawa in

the high seas. They were re-

ceived by the amphibious

group commander Rear

tics). Aminul Islam Mukul

(final year Government & Poli-

tics), Abdul Halim, Golam

Faruq, vice-president of Mir

Mosharraf Hossain Hall and

Saidur Rahman, acting vice-

president of JUCSU. Eight of

the injured were admitted to

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

tal in a critical condition,

while Jewel and Runu admit-

25 outsiders, some of them in

hood, attacked and ransacked

See Page 10 Col. 3

It is learnt that about 20 to

ted to Ganoswasthya Kendro.

See Page 10 Col. 6

The State Minister for

According to an ISPR press

Chittagong Sunday.

joint operations there.

JCD rival group raids

JU halls: 10 hospitalised

By JU Correspondent

# **BUET** experts for 800km embankment along coast

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) teachers Sunday suggested construction of 20 feet high embankment along country's coastline to protect human habitation from recurrence of storm surges. reports UNB.

Prof Humayun Kabir, a leader of the BUET Teachers Association, told a press conference in city Sunday afternoon that construction of every kilometer of the dam would cost about Tk 4 crore. According to the estimate, See Page 10 Col. 5

### Judgement on Ershad's arms case transfer

likely today By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Haque said on Sunday that the Defence petition for transferring Ershad's arms case from the special Tribunal to any other court was not based on

Arguing against the petition before the two member High Court Division Bench, the Attorney General said, "This application suffers from infirmity, which tantamounts to illegality of the fact."

He said, "This transfer petition was made after the deposition of Defence Witnesses" See Page 10 Col. 1

# Anis gives jail officials a surprise

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud surrendered before the jail authorities on Sunday after remaining in hiding for over five months, reports UNB.

Anis walked into the office of the DIG Prisons at Dhaka Central jail at about 11 a.m. accompanied by two close friends and offered himself to be arrested, official sources

The jail officials, surprised at his unexpected appearance. contacted the ministry of Home Affairs and the Special Branch seeking instructions. After a two-hour wait, the

former minister was served with a detention order for 120 days under the Special Powers Act by the Home Ministry at about 1-15 pm.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) with Prime Minister Begum

proposed bridge over river Jamuna connecting country's northern region with the eastern Part including the capital was an election pledge of rul-

The four-lane bridge will be ends.

# Freedom Party worker killed

By DU Correspondent

A Freedom Party worker was brutally tortured and shot through the kidney at noon Sunday. He later died.

Shahid (25) son of Shahar Ali, a trader of Bangabandhu Hawkers Market was brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 1.30 pm with the tendons of his heels and elbows severed.

He also had a bullet injury in his right kidney. He died at 2.00 pm and his

body was lying in the DMCH Shahid was called allegedly

See Page 10 Col. 4

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina came face-to-face while paying last respects to Ilias Ahmed Choudhury, MP, who died of a heart attack on Sunday .

# Jamuna Bridge okayed without railtrack

The National Economic Council on Sunday approved the much-talked Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project with an estimated cost of Tk 2500.90 crore, reports UNB.

Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Early construction of the ing BNP.

18.5 metre in width and 2.7 kilometre in length with 16kilometre entrance at both Initially, there will be no

railway track, but provision has been kept for setting up metergauge railtrack.

### second East-West electricity interconnector and gas pipeline. Approval of the bridge, af-

The bridge will also have

fordability of which has been questioned by World Bank over the years, in the wake of Paris Consortium meet is seen by insiders as the new government's move to press the Aid Club into acceptance of the

The ECNEC meeting was told the foreign exchange component of the construction cost equivalent to Tk 1498.66 crore was expected to be equally funded by World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan. They will provide 150 million US dollar each in soft credit.

The government will have to contribute Tk 1,000 crore-Tk 500 crore as CDST (Customs Duty and Sales Tax) See Page 10 Col. 4

# Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury dead

Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury MP, who died of a heart attack Sunday morning at his Dhanmondi residence was buried at the family graveyard at Shibchar upazila o Madartpur, family sources said.

reports BSS. Chowdhury, 58, was suffering from diabetes.

He was elected to the Jattya Sangsad in February general elections on Awami League ticket from Madaripur -! constituency.

He left behind his wife, four sons and three daughters besides a host of relations. friends and well-wishers to See Page 10 Col. 7

# Shahabuddin unhappy over relief steps in Sylhet

SYLHET, May 19: Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed dissatisfaction the way relief activities were being carried out when he visited the flood-hit areas of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Netrokona and Kishoreganj on Sunday to see the extent of damage, reports

The Acting President flew low over those places by a helicopter and saw vast areas including standing crops submerged by flood waters.

He was accompanied by the Minister of State for Relief and See Page 10 Col. 2

# PM's directive to gear up relief in Sylhet

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday night directed all concerned to gear up relief activities in Sylhet district and ensure proper coordination of various agencies at work, reports BSS.

She was presiding over a meeting of the high-powered emergency relief-co-ordination committee at the International Conference Centre.

The meeting reviewed the overall situation of the cyclone and flood affected areas of he

State Minister for Relief See Page 10 Col. 1

# Task Force

### Govt yet to decide who will sign accord with US

By Staff Correspondent The administration is yet to

finalise the details of the agreement between Bangladesh and the United States on relief operations, by the US Task Force.

The signing was delayed due to lack of decision about who should sign the agreement on behalf of the Bangladesh Government. A top-level meeting was

discussing the issue on Sunday See Page 10 Col. 2

# Worrying about Delta Life's

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advanced by financial institutions.)



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### Rains multiply sufferings of flood victims By Staff Correspondent The flood Warning Centre The Dhaka-Sylhet highway

The overall flood situation in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Netrakona remain unchanged on Sunday.

Heavy downpours increased the sufferings of flood affected people in these districts.

According to reports received in Dhaka the river Surma at both Sylhet and Sunamgani, and the Kushiara at Sheola marked slight fall, but the Manu at Moulvibazar

According to the Flood Warning Centre in Dhaka the Kushiara at Sheola, the Manu at Moulvibazar and the Khowai

rose on Sunday.

at Habiganj are likely to rise further while the Surma at both Sylhet and Sunamganj is likely to recede. Meanwhile, a fresh spell of flood is feared in another four to five days as Assam, Tripura and neighbouring regions in

India are likely to experience

heavy downpours today and tomorrow.

Outbreak of diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases has been reported from the flood affected areas, as the people are facing an acute scarcity of safe drinking water. The death toll rose to 64 in

10 in Moulvibazar, reports

reaching Dhaka said.

greater Sylhet region on Sunday. There were 39 deaths in Sylhet, 15 in Habiganj and

said during the 24 hours ending Sunday evening there was 62.2 millimetres rainfall in Habigani, 57 mm in Moulvibazar, 26 mm in Sheola and 46 mm in Durgapur.

Out Staffer S. Y. Bakht reports: On Saturday five more people were killed - two in Golapganj and three in Balaganj-in a nor'wester raising the death toll in Sylhet to 39 in the last two weeks.

was submerged at four places between Balagani and Sylhet A Sylhet — bound night coach skidded off the muddy road into a ditch on Saturday

leaving six people injured. Two of them were admitted to the Sylhet Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said. Incessant rainfall which worsened the flood situation

See Page 10 Col. 5