Think twice before pouring

a-spoonful of sugar in your cup

of tea or coffee. If you have the

misfortune of getting the sugar

adulterated with urea fertilizer

or raw glass dust, the effect on

trous. And we have tons of

adulterated sugar coming non-

With regard to the ultimate

result of consuming urea and

glass dust, a noted physician

told The Daily Star that it was

simply horrible to think about

such a situation. Urea fertilizer

which is used for the nourish-

ment of a plant can be devas-

tating in a human body. Glass

dusts is another material no

less dangerous than urea, he

Chawk Bazar and Maulvi Bazar

in Dhaka city, has now ade-

quate stock of locally produced

sugar kept unsold because of

very low demand, some whole-

salers told The Star. They said

that a few days before the last

Eid-ul-Fitr celebration thou-

sands of tons of sugar were

smuggled into the country

from India. The price of Indian

sugar varies from Taka 18 to

Taka 20 per kilogram. The

adulterated stock in India, at

times, is put on "grand clear-

ance" by the producers at a

much-cheaper rate, of which

smugglers are the monopoly

sugar dealers of the border

belt. The stock enters

Bangladesh by trucks, carts,

boats and on head loads and

sugar in border districts

sometimes becomes so huge

that the simile of which can be

drawn with the sands in a sea

beach, a trader who visits the

areas regularly, told me. He

also said the rate of adulter-

ation varies from 10 to 15

kilograms of either urea or

glass dust in every bag of 40

kilograms of sugar. That means

sugar content in each 40-kg

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 8 that would be possible for us to

elected representatives, gov-

ernment employees, personnel

of local government institu-

tions and workers, NGOs have

been working relentlessly. The

members of the armed forces

have been extending their all-

out cooperation in relief opera-

tion. So is the local administra-

tion, she added. She urged

them all to gear up their ef-

forts and continue to do so ig-

noring all obstacles. She told

them that they are not only

discharging their duties but

also serving the humanity in

distrees, holding high the best

example of patriotism enhanc-

ing our dignity before the

whole world. "Inshaallah, you

will surely succeed - the

whole nation is with you," she

complete communications

could not be restored. As a re-

sult the reports collected so

far regarding damage and loss

of life remain incomplete and

She said, "We took up every

precautionary measure before

the cyclone struck". She said

radio and television repeatedly

broadcast the message of

warning and the local

administration took necessary

steps on an emergency basis to

save the lives and property of

the people in areas where

the damage caused by the last

cyclone was apprehended to

be much greater than the pre-

vious cyclones. She said com-

munications with almost all

the affected areas were

snapped immediately after the

on to collect full information

and the government would let

the people know about it as

The Prime Minister said

she along with her colleagues

had rushed to the affected ar-

eas at the first opportunity.

The cyclone struck Kutubdia.

Maheshkhali, Hatiya, Swandip,

Manpura, Char Fashion,

soon as it was available.

She said all-our efforts are

The Prime Minister said but

cyclone was likely to hit.

Begum Khaleda Zia said

emphasised.

primary.

cyclone.

The Prime Minister said

The availability of Indian

floods the market.

buyers, according to some

The wholesale market at

stop from across the border.

your body is certainly disas

DOWN TO EARTH

Sugar is not always sweet

By Khalilur Rahman bag is no more than 25 or 30

Rush of Indian sugar to . Bangladesh has an alarming effect both on health of the users and on industries as a whole. At present, we have 16 sugar mills in the country and all are in the public sector. Indian sugar mills are in the private sector and as such those can sell their produce at competitive prices.

The country's target for sugar production during the current crushing season was set at one lakh 99 thousand tons. Till April last two lakh 33 thousand tons have been produced. The total production may reach the limit of two lakh 40 thousand tons this season leaving a surplus of 41,000 tons. A total stock of one lakh 78,000 tons of sugar is now lying unsold with the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation which runs country's mills and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), the state trading body.

The destabilising situation in the sugar industry aggravated following the import of sugar by the deposed government of HM Ershad. A group of favoured individuals and firms. in addition to TCB, was allowed to import nearly four and a half lakh tons of sugar during the last three years since 1987-1988. The previous government gave special allocations for import of sugar. In addition, the import of the item was also allowed under public notice of the Chief Controller of Import and

A huge quantity of sugar was wasted at different godowns in absence of buyers during those last three fiscal years. Relevant papers and documents are not available to ascertain whether the ousted Government followed proper policies and rules while issuing import licences for sugar under the

Special Trade Arrangement (STA) to a particular group of business houses. The government is now investigating into

the matter. Measures so far taken by the government to stop illegal entry of Indian sugar and protect the local industry are quite inadequate. The price of sugar was lowered from Taka 29.74 to Taka 25 per kg by the government. But this has almost no impact. Because the price of illegally imported sugar is still much lower. So Indian sugar has a wider sale.

Downward revision of the price of sugar will force the government to grant subsidy to at least Taka 25 crore to the local industry during the current year. Besides, taka five crore more will be wasted on account of stockpiling of unsold sugar.

According to a report. about 10,000 tons of sugar are now lying unsold at the Darsana Sugar Mills godown for want of buyers. If the present situation persists for the next one and a half months the entire stock of the item is likely to melt. The mill will thus lose Taka 25 crore for failing to sell its product, the manager reported to our Kushtia-based correspondent.

Meanwhile, the death of popular labour leader, Mozahid Hussain, president of Darsana Sugar Mills Sramik Union in mysterious circumstances recently has caused widespread resentment among the workers of all the sugar mills in the country. Mozahid had been campaigning vigorously against the illegal entry of Indian sugar into Bangladesh for quite a long time. The workers are demanding proper investigation into his death.

There is no other way of protecting local industry except total curb on the entry of sugar into Bangladesh.

Tk 200 cr urgently needed The Midnight Mid to face situation

By Staff Correspondent

relief operations in the af-The official death toll in fected areas. At present, six Monday's cyclone was put at helicopters are available for re-37,543 on Thursday. Lutfur Rahman Khan, State Minister lief work. for Relier and Rehabilitation, He said that he cyclone-afsaid he would not be surprised

fected people now needed food, safe drinking water, if the figure reached one lakh. medicine and shelter. Briefing newsmen at the He said the catastrophic cy clone damaged cent per cent

crops, 95 per cent kutcha (including tin-roofed) houses, 50 per cent pucca and semipucca houses, 85 per cent tubewells, 50 to 60 per cent of communication infrastructure, disrupted power supply, and killed 70 per cent of the cattlehead in the affected areas. The worst cyclone affected

> areas are Moheskhali. Chakaria, Cox's Bazar Sadar Sandwip. Hatiya. Kutubdia. Anwara, Patenga, Sitakund Urir Char, Manpura, Bhola and Char Fashion, the state minis-About relief operations he

said Armed Forces, BDR, police and ansar were engaged in relief operation in the worst affected areas of Cox's Bazar. On Thursday a five-wing aeroplane and six helicopters dropped dry food in Sandwip. Hatiya, Manpura and Cox's Bazar areas. Food was carried from Dhaka, Comilla, Jessore, Maijdi and Chittagong.

Cans filled with safe drinking water were sent to the affected areas by navy ships.

Following a high-level meet *ing on Wednesday ministers were asked to supervise relief operations in the affected

districts. Secretaries to the government Mokammel Huq and Hedayetul Hug have been assigned to coordinate relief operations in Chittagong and Dhaka, the State Minister said.

For local purchase of dry food and other necessities for immediate distribution among the affected people the government has sanctioned Taka 13 lakh for Chittagong Taka 22 lakh for Cox's Bazar, Taka 15 lakh for Bhola, Taka eight lakh for Feni. Taka five lakh each for Barisal, Barguna and Laksmipur and Taka 15 lakh for Noakhalt. Besides, Taka 11 lakh has been allocated in favour of the Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong to take emergency measures.

Lutfur Rahman Khan told a questioner that a number of foreign missions have indicated that their countries would come up with help for the cyclone affected people.

Of the cyclone deaths confirmed on Thursday 11,000 were from Moheshkhali. 10,000 from Chakaria, 8,000 from Kutubdia, 5:022 from Sandwip, 3,001 from Hatiya, 54 from Patuakhali, 32 from Companyganj, 29 from Char Fashion, 18 from Cox's Bazar Sadar, 12 each from Tekhaf and Manpura, 9 from Noakhali sadar, seven each from Mirersharai and Barguna, six from Borhanuddin, five from Sitakunda, four from Daulat Khan and three from Tajumuddin.

Martial Law goes in Thailand

BANGKOK, May 2: King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the Prime Minister Thursday ordered the lifting of Martial Law, Radio Thatland reported. Military rule was imposed nationwide after a February coup. Sensitive border areas that have been under Martial Law for years will, however, remain under military rule. The areas include the borders with Burma and Cambodia, where guerilla groups are active, reports AP.

Devi Lal asked to pack up

NEW DELHI. May 2: Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman has asked Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal to pack up his cows and buffalos and quit his government house on the Presidential estate, press reports said today. The mass-circulation Indian Express, in a story confirmed by PTI, said Venkataraman had sent a letter to Prime Minister Chandra Shekahr saying the official residence was "not meant to be used for agricultural purposes".

Soviet Defence Minister in China

MOSCOW. May 2: Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov left for Beijing on Thursday, the highest ranking Soviet military offictal to visit China. Tass reported. The official Soviet news agency said Yazov's trip was a sign of improving Sino-Soviet relations. It gave no details about his itinerary, says AP.

Number of the devil

LONDON, May 2: British authorities said today they no longer use the number 666 on car licence plates because it is associated with the devil. The biblical Book of Revelation says: "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast for it is the number of a man and his number is six hundred three score and six', reports Reuter.

Economic loss

From Page 1 Col. 5 The telecommunication and the electric power sectors also suffered extensive damages. The satellite ground station at Betbonia, T&T towers and other installations including poles and services lines were the worst casualty. The power installations and network in the affected areas were badly

The Taka 170-crore Karnaphuli Bridge was damaged with its middle span blown away, being struck by a whipped-up ship. The Muhuri irrigation project at Feni also caved in.

The Chittagong Port came under the severest assault. Five cranes and a number of observatory and search towers were damaged. The port facilities will require crores of Taka for repair and rehabilitation, besides technical assistance from abroad. A number of Ships were sunk while many others were agrounded. Some inland coastal vessels were also lost

or damaged. Otl drums and other imported materials were blown away by the cyclone. The loss or damage of salt,

sugar, onion, foodgrains, pulses, garlic and other items in public and private warehouses in the affected areas will run into several hundred crores of Taka. At Asadgant and Khatunganj whole sale markets in the port city of Chittagong. the damage to stocks is colossal, reports said.

The industrial installations at Chittagong, Sitakunda and Barabkund were also damaged by the tidal waves. One automatic rice mill at Chaktai near Chittagong alone sustained a loss of Taka 30 lakh because of damage to its machinery and stocks. The damage is also substantial at Patenga. At least 20 factories at Chittagong Export Processing Zone suffered major loss of machinery and goods because of mud and

saline water, a report said. In Cox's Bazar, 50 lakh maunds of salt melted. Besides, damage to shrimp culture projects in the area has been estimated at over Taka 400 crore. About 1500 fishing boats are missing, Fishing Trawlers Owners Association

While a complete picture of loss and damage will be available only after full reports come from the far-flung affected areas, the most immediate adverse impact of the disaster will be on the budgetary resources of the government. Relief and rescue operations apart, the post-cyclone situation will call for an expanded Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme. This will require a substantial amount of additional funds to support the programme.

The budgetary resources in the current fiscal year were earlier strained by the Gulf crisis. Sources said, evacuation of Bangladeshis from Kuwait and Iraq and other expenditures related with the Gulf erisis entailed an expenditure of about Taka 250 crore in 1990-

Envoys

From Page 1 Col. 8

He appreciated that the government would need huge emergency aid in for food, cloths, medicare and shelter to tide over the situation aris-

ing out of the calamity. All the envoys included in the six-member team echoed similar sentiments and expressed great shock at the loss of lives and destruction of property in the latest calamity

that befell the country.

The route of their flight included the Meghna belt, Chandpur, Bhola, Sandwip. Hatiya, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Bashkhali, Chakoria and Chittagong.

As the helicopter flew low over the affected areas, it gave a cursory view of the ravages of the cyclone that flattened all mud-and-straw homes along the coastal belt and on the offshore island.

The team of envoys included British High Commissioner Colin Henry Imray. French Ambassador Serge Degalltax, Pakistan High Commissioner Anwar Kamal, Canadian High Commissioner Emile Gauvreau, Windian Deputy High Commissioner Amitava Tripathi and the Swedish Ambassador, UNICEF

During the brief stopover at

Secretariat he said, another one lakh people were totally homeless. It was difficult to assess the number of people still missing, he said. The State Minister said

they received reports about hundreds of bodies floating rear the shore in Bhola. It was impossible to search for bodies in the sea and bring those for burial, due to lack of transportation facilities, he said. The State Minister ap-

pealed to all friendly countries for help in terms of goods. house building materials and cash. About Taka 200 crore is needed immediately for tackling the situation. The communication infrastructure needs to be rebuild urgently. he said pointing out that Chittagong Port cannot be operative without salvaging eight vessels that capsized in the mouth of the Karnaphuli.

"We need not only cash but also materials to repair the damaged power generation and supply network' to restore power supply to industries in the coastal belt. *Otherwise, an unprecedented loss awaits us," he said.

The State Minister said, at least 20 helicopters were required to carry out immediate

From Page 1 Col. 8

prayer would be offered in all

the mosques of the country to-

day (Friday) after the Juma

prayers. Gayebana Janaza will

also be held after Juma prayer.

The meeting decided prayers

will also be offered at various

places of worship including

Deputy Commissioners of

Greater Sylhet and Comilla

districts to buy chira and gur

from their contingency funds

and send those to Chittagong

of Dhaka, Mymensingh and

The Deputy Commissioners

From Page 1 Col. 1

ravaged. The villages in all the

unions are still under water.

Human bodies and carcasses

litter the vast char areas, the

MP said. There was no trace of

dwellings in the battered ar-

30,000 people were killed by

unofficial count. The official

death toll in the upazila was,

however, pegged at 5,000 un-

Correspondent further writes:

Union parishad chairman of

Raipur under Anwara upazila

said at least five unions were

badly battered by the cyclone

accompanied by tidal bore up

to 20 feet high that left at least

30,000 people killed. Lakhs of

cattlehead were also lost.

Human bodies floating in stag-

nant water are a common

From Sandwip upazila the

casualty reports are yet be re-

ceived as it is still submerged.

Rafiqullah Chowdhury, ex-

upazila Chairman of Sandwip

said that he apprehended that

Besides, in Chittagong city

Chittagong

til yesterday.

Our

In Anwara upazila, about

The meeting directed the

temples and churches.

by trucks.

Tangail have been asked to buy chira and gur from their own funds and store those in Dhaka to be airdropped in the affected areas later.

Mourning day tomorrow

The meeting decided to further strengthen the mobilisation of all resources and manpower of the country to save the disaster affected people in the areas hit by cyclone and tidal surge.

The meeting reviewed the relief measures at length and decided to further gear up the relief measures and designated two senior secretaries as the regional relief coordinators in Chittagong and Bhola regions.

airdrop sufficient dry food including bread, chapati, chira and muri, medicines, water purifying tablets and other essentials for human sustenance in the affected areas on emergency basis. As per decision of the

The meeting decided to

meeting the administration of the adjoining districts of the affected ones have been given directives to accumulate dry foods for immediate despatch to the affected areas.

The meeting felt that any agency including NGOs may donate dry food to the local authorities in Chittagong

a message to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said his government "was ready to work with you to help where we can in providing relief to the affected areas." Milam said in response to a

World leaders

From Page 1 Col. 7
Bangladesh on Monday night killing a great number of peo-

request from Communications

Minister Oli Ahmed on

Wednesday in Chittagong.

The French leader conveyed his sincere condolence on this "New and distressing hardship" faced by Bangladesh and extended his sympathy on behalf of the French people and on his own behalf.

British Prime Minister John Major in a message to Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday expressed deep sorrow at the deaths and severe destruction caused by the cyclone and tidal

The British Prime Minister expressed his sincere condolences to the bereaved and injured. He said "We stand ready to help in any way we can."

UN Secretary General Javier Perz de Cuellar, has sent message of condolence to Begum Khaleda Zia on learning he heavy loss of life and extensive destruction caused by the cy-

Chittagong: Greens gone

new pride piece the Karnaphuli Bridge. It cannot be retrieved to any measure of serviceability without calling the Dutch back - and that would each for another equally

are the salt beds. Gone is a thousand crore taka with the former and another hundred crore with the latter. Getting there back to gears with need lefty doses of fresh money that will be hard to muster.

But all of this together cannot match the loss of housing. And we are talking of the port city and its surrounds - and not of the islands which are a

Coming back to trees - no a kind of deforstation caused by the winds.

proached the city. And hit totality in a sweet little famous house in the heart of the city - just by the Circuit House. In the tree smothered house called the Molehill — not a green thing Death toll may cross lakh people were killed in those

> Different local leaders said the relief goods supplied to the affected areas are really inadequate. The rescue operation should be geared up.

persons were still untraced in the district. Worst affected islands of the

district are Chulchar, Char Kukrimukri, Char Patiya, under Char Fashon upazila while in Manpura upazila the most battered island is Char Nizam. In Char Fashon upazila, official death toll until now is 50 but unofficial figure is much higher. Two naval vessels with meagre relief supplies have left for Manpura. The distressed people of Dhulchar are yet to get any relief.

Our staff correspondent Chapal Bashar reports from Hatiya: Over 10,000 are feared killed in Hatiya in the cyclone. At least 700 bodies were recovered on Thursday while hundreds of bodies were found floating in the river Meghna. About 16,000 inhabitants of

An official who has visited Hatiya on Thursday told The Daily Star that large number of bodies were floating near the coast of Hattya. The official beies were from Sandwip and Kutubdia islands which were badly affected. The district administration

CYCLONE DAMAGE: The Karnaphuli bridge with mid-section severed and a ship that ran aground near the bridge

has sanctioned Taka two lakh for burial of the dead in Hatiya. Southern part of Hattya including Nijhum Deep, Urir Char, Jalmara and Char Tenga were badly affected and casualties were believed to be much higher in these areas than the other affected areas.

Death toll in Sadar upazila of Noakhali is rising. In southern coastal areas of this upazila more bodies were recovered on Thursday and officially 33 deaths were confirmed. However, unofficial sources say over 100 people died in char areas while hundreds of fishermen who went to sea with their boats before cyclone have not yet returned. Vast areas of Char Clark

union in Sadar upazila which

open sky. There is acute shortage of drinking water in the Char Clark area and relief materials distributed in that area were

Eleven moujas of Char Clark Union are still cut off from the rest of the world. The fate of

AL-Jamaat clash at Sirajganj:

SIRAJGANJ, May 2: One person was killed and 10 others injured in a clash between Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami supporters at Hatakadna village in Raiganj

relief goods reached the battered island before. Clothes for burial are also in short supply. In Nijum Deep, hundreds of bodies are lying scattered and there is no arrangement for their burial. An unofficial esti-

mate said at least 25,000 are feared killed in Sandwip alone.

-Star photo

areas was unknown. The

mouzas are Char Akramuddin,

Char Alauddin, Char Lakshi .

South Char Clark, North Char

Clark, Char Karamatpur,

Baishakhi, Char Gangchil, Char

Dhanershinsh, Char Nabagram,

reports : One helicopter

landed at Sandwip on

Thursday with meagre sup-

plies of relief goods. The hun-

gry people, waiting eagerly for

relief, assaulted the Red

Crescent officials who landed

from the helicopter seeing the

meagre amount of relief. No

Our Barisal Correspondent

Char Batirtak.

upazila today, reports UNB.

Nijhum Dip and other islands. It also hit Cox's Bazar, Chittagong. Noakhali Lakkhipur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna and Pirojpur districts and adjoining areas. She said, "We saw that houses and buildings in many areas had perished, salt water had not receded from many areas till then, damage was caused to

roads, bridges, schools,

mosques and madrashas."

Editor : S. M. Ali

Pledges of help from abroad

BRUSSELS, May 2 : The European Community is giving Bangladesh emergency food and medical supplies worth 12 million dollars to help the millions of people injured or left homeless by Monday's cyclone.

Britain said today it would immediately provide 2.5 million pounds (4.3 million dollars) in aid for cyclone victims in 20 years, reports Reuter.

Foreign Office Minister Mark Lennox-Boyd told parliament the government would consider further assistance "once we have a clearer picture of what is required in this tragic situation.

Half of the 2.5 million pounds represented Britain's contribution to 12.12 million dollars being sent by the European community.

Indian copters

India is to extend some 700,000 dollars worth of aid for Bangladesh's cyclone victims. New Delhi also decided to provide three helicopters for use in relief work, officials said in New Delhi today.

Saudi tents A special Saudia aircraft carrying relief materials for the cyclone victims of the country from the Saudi government arrived at Zia International Airport Thursday

The US Ambassador in

Bangladesh William B Milam in

From Page 1 Col. 7 Gone is also Tk 150-crore fat bill.

Gone are the shrimps. Gone

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA. | stoord.

completely different story. amount of loss caused by Monday's elemental battering including that of standing crop - can equal the loss caused by

The night inter-city train was running late on Tuesday night. It was full day light when it had still some 60 kilometers to go. What did the daylight bring to sight. The signs started showing much before that but from the station. Baro Takia or Twelve Pillows, 53 km from Chittagong it was a continuous unachieved scene of devastation - of trees and even shrubs and crops. The intensity of the rampage joined as one ap-

> about one hundred people were killed. In other upazilas of Chittagong around three thousand persons were killed, official sources said. Sources from Kutubdia, Chokaria and Moheskali said around 15,000

none was alive.

sight.

Our Khulna-based staff correspondent reports from Bhola: Hundreds of missing

Hatiya are still missing.

lieves that most of these bod-

was hit by surge is still under Thousands of people are now homeless and living on the embankment under the

inadequate. about one lakh people of those

representative Cole P Dodge was also in the team.

Chittagong, the Army Area Commander Major General Mahmudul Hassan briefed the envoys on the situation.