

Tornado battered Gazipur, above, and people removing a body, below.

-Star photo

20 killed

From Page 1 Col. 8

The air was filled with the

People were frantically

Hatem Ali, an eye witness

Suddenly the tornado hit

The body of a child was re-

High voltage electric lines

Families who lost every-

sitting with a vacant look. An

old man was seen lamenting

the death of his granddaughter

and his son whose bodies

could not be recovered from

under the debris. He just

pleaded for help to recover the

Along with the fire person-

Our correspondent from

Mymensingh said, three peo-

ple were killed and some 200

others, wounded when

nor'wester lashed over four

upazilas of the district mid-

The storm also caused dam-

age to over 1000 kutcha

houses and standing Boro

paddy and uprooted many

identified as Akram Ali (35), a

farmer of Kurkuti village of

Fulpur upazila and a boy Ali

Hossain of the same village.

Other victim, a women aged

about 30, could not be identi-

nor'wester were: Mymensingh

Sadar, Fulpur, Gouripur and

Sherpur said, one person died

on the spot and two others

were injured when they came

in touch with loose electric

wire during a storm that hit

the district Monday night. The

victim was identified as

Santosh Kumar Chakravarty

(55). a primary school teacher.

tutions of the district were

damaged during the storm.

Standing Boro and Irri crops

were affected. Many electric

poles were uprooted plunging

many areas of the town into

Kishoreganj adds: A nor'wester

swept over the district in the

early hours of Monday injuring

at least 25 persons, damaging

about 1500 houses and stand-

Of the injured, the condi-

In the worst-hit area of

tion of three were stated to be

Itna, 60 engine boats were

missing. Roofs of Itna High

School hostel and Itna flood

shelter centre were blown

away while the roof of Itna po-

lice station along with its wire-

rising, the protection em

bankment along Dhanpur Bazar

is now under serious threat.

1 crore suffering

from diarrhoea

of last week's catastrophic cy-

clone are vulnerable to diar-

rhoea and of them some 80

lakh cases may turn into

cholera, international agencies

working in the affected areas

Nearly nine crore survivors

With water of river Dhanu

less tower were damaged.

ing crops over a large area.

Our correspondent from

About 30 educational insti-

Gafargaon.

darkness

critical.

The upazilas affected by the

Another report from

Two of those killed were

night Monday night.

nel, local people were also

helping in the rescue opera-

side the Gazipur road.

bodies.



Essafi: Massive aid

From Page 1 Col. 3 donor nations NGOs and

others. "Undoubtedly, it is a great tragedy - it is not possible for the government alone to face such a situation although it is doing its best" Essafi said prior to his departure for Geneva.

We would make an interna tional appeal again on the basis of what we have seen." he said. Essaft said the list of imme-

diate requirements included helicopters, which would be most useful for relief opera-

He said UNDRO made an immediate appeal to the inter national community on May 1 on Bangladesh's needs in the wake of the cyclonic disaster and would keep on making fresh appeals

He said food, medicine. clothes and housing materials were all needed urgently but the food requirement could be met from Bangladesh government's own stock which could be replenished later.

Cooked food and high protein biscuits were badly needed at this stage, he said Essaft said drinking water was needed but its supply has now improved considerably About relief operations, he

said it was a massive tob government and others were working round the clock but that might not be enough. "Bangladesh needs great help under this situation." he ob-

The UN Secretary Generals Special Envoy, who was here in 1987 and 1988 in the wake of floods, said some kind of effective ways would have to the envolved to protect people of Bangladesh from nature's on slaughts.

He mentioned the flood protection schemes under the supervision of World Bank after the 1988 floods and said several projects were under exc

Essafi said reconstruction of infrastructures that suffered badly in affected areas needed priority. His report to the Secretary General would envisage short and long-term mea-

sures to minimise people's suf-UNDRO Secretary General told a questioner that needs of the affected people were being met from different sources as far as possible. The Red Crescent and other voluntary relief organisations were

also doing a commendable job.

Hasina: Relief

From Page 1 Col. 6 to help them, she said.

Some Members of Parliament, who also visited affected areas in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, were present at the press conference. They Sajeda were Begum Chowdhury. Rashed Khan Menon, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Maulana Obaidul Huq,

Nurul Islam Moni. Dipankar

Talukdar, Shahjahan Seraj,

Mazhar Hussein and others. Sheikh Hasina said that rescue and relief works were not upto expectation and thus scores of bodies and carcasses of were lying in the coastal areas of Kutubdia. Moheshkhali. Chakaria of Cox's Bazar and Anwara, Banskhali, Sandwip, Chittagong. She said the stench of decomposed bodies and carcasses make it impos-

sible for survivors to live there. She said she saw some relief work here and there but they were quite inadequate in consideration of the seriousness of the situation.

She said the government had received huge amount of money and relief goods from friendly countries but had failed to reach them to the needy people.

Sheikh Hasina claimed at least ten lakh were killed in the cyclone and tidal surge in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar she said that disrupted communications between district headquarters and upazilas and particularly with Kutubdia and Sandwip was not restored and the government officials did not visit most of the affected

She said the loss on account of the cyclone and tidal surge was colossal and Chittagong port alone suffered loss of Taka 241 crore.

She criticised what she called government ban on showing bodies and carcasses on television saying, "I do not find any reason for such censorship.

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Writ for holding

Court Division of Supreme Court on Tuesday summarily rejected the writ petition for direction upon the Election Commission for holding election to the offices of the President and Vice-President by June 4, 1991.

While rejecting the writ petition the court certified that the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution. The appeal will now lie with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The petition was heard by a Division Bench comprising Justice Md. Abdul Jalil and Justice Md. Badruzzaman. The petitioner M. Saleem Ullah raised substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution with regard to the holding of elections within 180 days ending on June 4.

The copy of the judgement delivered by the High Court Division was not readily available for reporting.

Master plan

From Page 1 Col. 3 NGOs', she told a questioner.

She told the newsmen that it was not true that relief and rehabilitation activities were not well coordinated at the centre and said: " How can there be coordinated relief activities at the field level if we do not give directives from the centre?".

She told another questioner that the Government was in constant tough with the affected areas through wireless communication. Data are being collected through government officials and ministers deputed to the cyclone-hit areas, the Prime Minister said.

She said, a relief coordination cell was opened at the Supreme Command headquarters and all information about relief and rehabilitation activities would be available from the cell. A high powered emergency relief committee headed by the PM is functioning. Relief committees have been formed at regional, district and upazila levels.

She said the people were now united to face the natural disaster.

About assistance received from abroad she said, at the hour of distress many brotherly and friendly countries had offered spontaneous help and support. "We are confident that the international community will stand by us and extend support and help to our democratically elected government to face the present catastrophe and in implementing future rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes."

She denied reports that food was not reaching the affected people. No relief goods are stockpiled at the airport or anywhere in Dhaka, she said adding relief goods were being sent by planes, helicopters, trucks and trains.

The Prime Minister denied reports that diarrhoea was widespread in the cyclone affected areas. She said the Press in Bangladesh was free, and newspapers wrote anything they liked. But reports about diarrhoea were not based on facts. There is outbreak of diarrhoea at some places, and the Government has taken adequate measures to prevent further spread of the disease.

Ershad's trial

From Page Col. 5 ited Iraq in 1989. In his statement before the

Tribunal, Ershad who could not remember the exact year of his visit, said that he probably visited Iraq in 1984 and that the certificate issued by the Iraqi Ambassador Zuhair Mohammad Al Omar on April 21. 1991 was correct.

Abdul Jalil who carried a statement on Ershad's foreign visits between 1982 and 1990 to the Tribunal at the behest of the Military Secretary to the President was examined by the Judge Mohammad Habibullah and the Defence Lawyer Strajul

On the fourth of May Judge Mohammad Habibullah had asked the former Chief of Protocol of the deposed President and the Military Secretary to the President Manjoor Rashid Khan to send documents related to the foreign visits of Ershad to the Tribunal.

Abdul Jalil further said that there was no record in the hands of the protocol that Ershad received any gift from the Iraqi President during his visit to Iraq from August 14 to 16, 1989.

The Iraqi Ambassador. summoned by the Tribunal as a witness, did not appear before the Tribunal yesterday.

Judge Mohammad Habibullah first examined the Protocol Officer:

Judge: How long have you been serving as Protocol Officer?

Protocol Officer (Abdu Jalil): Since 1980. Judge: Have you come after

getting summoned by the court? PO: Military Secretary to the President asked me to

Judge: Have you given the list of the foreign visits of the ex-President during the years 1985 and 1989?

PO: Yes. Judge: See whether there is any date of his going to Iraq in 1985?

PO: No. Judge: He visited Iraq from August 14 to 16, 1989. Did he receive any gift at that time? Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque intervening asked: Is it mentioned in the tour pro-

PO: There is no record. Later the Defence Lawyer cross-examined the witness. DL: Do you know how many times Ershad visited foreign

gramme?

countries from 1982 to 1989 PO: I don't know. DL: Can you give any proof on the timings of the foreign visits of Ershad if the court

wants it? PO: If there was any record it could be given.

DL: What you are? PO: Protocol Officer.

DL: Do you have any list?

PO: No. DL: When did Ershad visit

Yemen? PO: I don't know.

Judge: There is no need to know about the Yemen visit.

Then Judge Mohammad Habibullah asked Ershad, sitting in the dock, to give his statement under Section 342 about his visit to Iraq in 1985. Deposing before the

Tribunal Ershad said that he had visited Iraq three to four times during his presidency. The first visit was probably in 1984 when, he added, he was given as a gift one black pistol by President Saddam Hussein. "Who was my close friend."

He said, he visited Iraq last in 1989 when he was gifted two golden pistols by Mrs. Saddam Hussein as a gesture of goodwill.

Occasions of presenting such gifts were not ceremonial

and as such were not men

from Iraq, he added.

tioned in the certificate. But the fact remained that he had received those pistols as gifts

> He suggested that the confusion over the year of the visit could be cleared by the Foreign Ministry with the Iraqi government.

He said that he is confident the truth will come out from the Iraqi government.

He also said that the persons who accompanied him on his first visit to fraq also received pistols as gifts. On ending his statement

see his Lawyer. He said that he could not meet his lawyer for the past one and a half month. At this stage, the Attorney General Aminul Haque said that he had no objection to al-

Ershad prayed to the Tribunal

that he be given a chance to

lowing the Lawyers, except Kazi Shahadat Hossain, meet the accused. The deposed President literally broke down into tears while complaining that he was

He screamed, Why can't I

not being allowed to see his

see my son? Mohammad Judge Habibullah said that it had not been brought to his notice ear lier. He asked the Attorney General to provide the accused all facilities in accordance with

Ershad also made a petition through his Lawyer to allow him to donate Taka one lakh as relief to the distressed people of the April 29 cyclone.

But the Judge returned the petition to the Defence Lawyer saying that the petition should mention in detail the number of the account from which the money would be withdrawn and the fund to which the money would be donated.

At the beginning of yesterday's hearing the Defence made a plea that the Tribunal exempt the accused from appearing at the hearing during the current session of the Parliament, and till seven days after the end of the current session, and also to adjourn hearing of the case till that date.

The petition was filed quoting the privileges guaranteed to the Members of Parliament in the Court Privileges Guaranteed Act 1963 and the East Pakistan Assembly Members Privileges Act 1965.

In the petition it was said that those laws were adapted through Bangladesh Order (Adaptation of Existing Laws)

Attorney General Aminul Haque objected to the petition saying that those laws were not effective as those were made for the East Pakistan assembly members.

The judge said that judgement on the petition would be given today at the Sessions

The Special Tribunal was adjourned yesterday afternoon to resume on May 14. The Prosecution and the Defence are expected to start arguments on that day which may continue for two days.

Till yesterday Prosecution Witnesses, three Defence Witnesses and two Court Witnesses have testified before the Tribunal.

Yesterday was also the date for hearing of the case on Ershad's amassing of resources beyond his known sources. The court set the date for hearing of the case on May 21.

The Special Tribunal scheduled the date with the suggestion of the Prosecution Counsel that the second case may be started after judgement on the first case.

Six held for SSC exam fraud

Six persons including four SSC examinees were arrested by the CID police Sunday night from the capital on charges of their alleged involvement with examination racket.

The CID police told BSS that they raided a boarding house at Kakrail on Sunday night and caught red-handed two examinees who were writing answer scripts of English first paper. The police also arrested two other accomplices.

fied as Abul Hasanat and Zahirul Islam, two irregular candidates from Varulia centre under Tangail district. The police, on the basis of

the confession of the arrested persons, also raided the house of Mohiuddin of Shajahanpur

64 arrested

KUSHTIA, May 7: The clash between the residents

At least 30 people, including jured and a motorcycle was set

The Midnight File

Bangladeshis in New York raise funds

Bangladeshis living in New York city and adjacent areas have started raising fund for the relief of the cyclone victims of coastal areas and offshore island. The leaders of about 25 political, cultural and social organisations and other important members of Bangladeshi community met at the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations recently and made initial commitment of about 38,000 US dollars, reports BSS.

Bush back at work

WASHINGTON, May 7: President George Bush, recovering from a minor heart ailment that put him in hospital at the weekend, was back at work early today, wired for electronic monitoring of his heartbeat. White House spokesman Marlin Pitzwater said Bush had a good night's sleep and was at his oval office desk at 7.23 am (1123 GMT). The President's heartbeat had been normal since Monday morning. Fitzwater said, reports Reuter.

28 killed in Punjab

NEW DELHI. May 7: Sikh separatists today gunned down seven police and federal troopers in India's Punjab state, where violence linked to a bloody Sikh homeland campaign claimed 28 more lives. The unrelenting campaign for a theocratic state called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) has left at least 1,701 people dead this year, reports AFP.

US troops to stay in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Some US troops are to remain in Kuwait for "months to come" but the United States wants to avoid any permanent basing of its forces in the Gulf, US Defense Secretary Richard Chency said today. He was speaking following meetings with Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and Defense Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem, reports AFP.

Bury the dead

From Page 1 Col. 7

landed on a road. The Air Chief dropped packets of relief goods and departed.

Our correspondent from Chittagong reports : Sufferings of the affected people mounted on Tuesday when there was rain again. The inclement weather hampered relief operations. Rescue workers continued their operation in bad weather.

The administration could not give the figure of the corpses recovered from the affected areas. Corpses litter the coastal belt. Awami League Chief Sheikh

Hasina, in a press conference at Chittagong on Tuesday, said the cyclone death toll might reach 10 lakh. She called for forming an all-party committee to face the challenge of the disaster. She was giving her reaction after visiting different affected areas.

Our staffer A.K.M. Mehsin filed the following eyewitness account after touring the cyclone affected areas on Tuesday:

This was another day, another relief mission aboard an Air Force helicopter. But there was a difference. This was 'Operation Parachute Drop'.

We took off from Dhaka at around 12:30 p.m. in a Bell helicopter, and followed another Bell which had Air Chief Air Vice-Marshal Momtazuddin Ahmed on board.

Our destination Hatiya and

Sandwip. Within 45 minutes we were over Hatiya. This was vastly different from what I had seen in Kutubdia. For one thing, the devastation did not look as widespread. It was also clear that the death toll here would not be as heavy as in Kutubdia. But all the paddy fields were still under saline water, mostly kept locked by high aisles dividing small plots.

We flew over Sonadia union in the western part of Hatiya. The pilot landed his craft on what looked like dry land, but was in fact quite wet and muddy. As the chopper came down, there did not seem to be anybody around, but suddenly literally hundreds of people, men, women and thildren, came running from all directions. Amazingly, they were swarming all around the helicopter as we landed. Air Chief Momtazuddin Ahmed seemed quite at home talking to the crowd, enquiring about how they had been since the storm. This was the first time any relief had come their way since the night of April 29.

they told him. A radio message was then sent to the AN-32 transporter high above in the sky to begin its drop. People were asked to clear the area, and the drop

Large bags came tumbling out of the AN-32, and glorious red parachutes unfolded to guide the sacks full of dry food and jerry cans of water to a soft landing. Wherever they landed, at least they would not burst on contact, like some had done before.

Base Commander Rashid Ahmed proved another soft touch. He was so moved by the plight of the hungry multitude that he emptied his pocker right there and gave away whatever money he had.

Then we moved on. Flying low over Sandwip, we spotted a large group of people waving, as if to call us down. On landing we were quite surprised to find two stranded foreign journalists among the crowd. This was an unscheduled stop, so we unloaded two extra 100 kg bags to make room for the

foreign guests. These drops carried an ob-

vious danger with them. Whenever they landed, people simply surrounded the craft, eager to get whatever they could. But on all occasions people ran the risk of being killed by the rotor blades at the top and tail section of the chopper. Sometimes crew had to hold back the crowd to a safe distance with one hand while unloading bags with the other. In parts of these islands there was no such thing as local administration or police. and if there were, they too were looking to survive like everybody else. Therefore, there was no one on the ground to conduct an orderly or even safe distribution.

Air crew were looking for empty roads or fields, and before any crowd was seen on the horizon, swooped down low and unloaded the bags as fast as they could and took off. Danger to life was minimised that way. What happened to the materials was another matter. All we could do was hope that people, all being on the same boat of hunger and thirst, would share with one

Health sector

another.

From Page 1 Col. 6

steps to face the challenge. We are confident that we will be able to overcome these problems if Allah is with us,' the Minister said

Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said drugs and medical equipment were donated by UNICEF. France. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The first consignment of US medical supplies has already been dispatched to the affected areas.

The United States has pledged more life-saving drugs and other equipment for the distressed people. Many other donor agencies and countries are coming up with similar pledges.

The Minister, however, admitted that the donors' total commitment will be made based on the assessment of the losses. They are now offering only emergency medical supplies, he added. The donor agencies have so

far sent 572 cartons of emergency medical supplies to Bangladesh in aid of the cyclone victims. Out of them. 189 cartons have been received by the Central Medical Store (CMS). The Health Ministry and the Relief Ministry are working in close cooperation in the affected areas, the Minister said.

He said that six trucks each of medicines were despatched to Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. two trucks each to Khagrachhari and Rangamati and two trucks each to Noakhali and Laxmipur so far.

He said that bad communications has become a major problem in speedy transport of essential drug supply to the battered zones.

Details on business page

Tk 50420m

From Page 1 Col 8

for short-term and long-term relief and rehabilitation programme: Taka 50,420 million Crops damaged fully: In over 74,000 acres.

Total requirements

Crops damaged partially: In over 3,00,000 acres. Details on the total damage

would be available soon, the Information Secretary said.

Donors assure adequate aid

The donors, friendly countries and international agencies in Dhaka assured the government of giving short-term relief and long-term reconstruction assistance in feeding affected people and rebuilding infrastructure damaged by recent cyclone and tidal surge, report agencies.

Division (ERD) provided the preliminary official assessment to the representatives of foreign missions and international agencies at a meeting in the NEC conference room

Tuesday afternoon. Special envoy of UN Secretary General and UNDRO Co-ordinator, Hamed Essafi. the special representative of German government, Beruhard Schweiger, all ambassadors and high commissioners, concerned secretaries and members of Planning Commission attended the meeting.

The ERD presented a detailed statement indicating short-term and long-term relief and rehabilitation requirements which was compiled on the basis of information from different ministries and field-level offices. The participants appreciated the presentation and consolidated

list which, they hoped will help generate and channelise

A number of Western mission and agency chiefs including US Ambassador William B. Milam, Canadian High Commissioner Emile Gauvreau, British High Commissioner Colin H. Imray, German The Economic Relations Ambassador Dr KH Scholtyssek and French Ambassador Serge Degallix stressed effective coordination of relief operation.

> unnecessary duplication of relief and rehabilitation activities in any area in order to ensure smooth operation in all affected areas. While assuring adequate aid to the victims of century's worst cyclone in the region the mission representatives

> sought to be informed of the

government's day-to-day relief

They suggested avoidance of

operation and specific requirements. The representatives of NGOs mentioned the smooth functioning of NGO operation and complimented the government for making it possible for the NGOs and the private organisations to supplement the government relief opera-

The examinees were identi-

Clash in Kushtia:

Haripur and Thanapara-Kutipara localities of the town apparently ended Tuesday morning with the arrest of 64 people who allegedly attacked their rivals and police, reports

six police personnel were inablaze in the clash that erupted Saturday.