

Relief operation

Armed Forces continue relief

The members of the armed forces are carrying on relief operations at the cyclone-torn coastal areas and the offshore islands, an ISPR press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The army personnel on Wednesday supplied three lakh 80 thousand ruti for the distressed people. Out of these ruti, one lakh 50 thousands from the Dhaka and Savar cantonments were air-dropped at inaccessible areas of Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, and Sandwip Islands.

One lakh 20 thousands from the Chittagong cantonment, 70 thousand from the Comilla

cantonment and 40 thousand from the Jessore cantonment were sent to different destinations including Char Fession, Char Kukri-Mukri, Char Mamataz, Hatiya, Monpura, Char Patila, Dhal Char and Char Zahiruddin.

Besides, the Chittagong area troops dispatched other relief materials including 20 thousands kgs of chira, muri, gur and medicines by helicopters.

Earlier, they distributed 10 maunds of ruti, eight maunds of khichuri, 1000 pieces of old

cloth, 100 pieces of saree, 100 pieces of lungi, eight groces of match-boxes and one maund of chira and muri provided by the Ladies Club and the Soldiers, Family Welfare Association of the Chittagong cantonment among the affected people of Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Urir Char, Banshkhali and Sandwip.

Comilla are troops sent other relief materials including 881 pieces of cloth, 140 pieces of butter bun, 6000 bread, 130 tins of biscuits, 50

tins of corn beef, seven packets of baby food, 230 kgs of sugar, 7000 kgs of rice, 7400 kgs of wheat, 77 kgs of salt, 75 kgs of dal, 190 kgs of chira, 50 kgs of gur, 525 pieces of saree, 455 pieces of lungi, 20 pieces of shirt, 20 sets of baby garments and 20 thousands pieces of water purifying tablets to different affected areas.

The Jessore area troops also sent two and a half tons of chira and gur to different places.

The Bogra area troops sent nine thousand more packets of dry food containing chira, gur, sugar and milk powder to Chittagong by road for distribution to the distressed people.

A Landing Craft Tank (LCT) of the army in Dhaka is being loaded with relief materials including 20 thousand pieces of saree, 20 thousand pieces of old clothes, 1 thousand pieces of bankets, 500 pieces of tents, 100 pieces of furniture, 30 tons of chira, 10 tons of gur, 10 bales of markin cloth, 1000 pieces of water filter and 100 relief boxes. The vessel is expected to sail for Bhola tomorrow.

Other relief activities of Chittagong, Comilla and Jessore area troops are going on. Army Medical Teams working at different places are carrying on their medical assistance to the affected people. Army medical teams from the Jessore area are also working at different remote islands on board trawlers, the press release said.

Meanwhile, army personnel carried out rescue operation at the tornado-affected village near Tongi.

They evacuated injured persons to the nearest hospital and provided other assistance to the tornado victims in co-operation with the local administration and other concerned agencies.

The army troops from the local engineer brigade were sent to the locality immediately on receipt of information of the devastating tornado on Tuesday evening.

Bangladesh Navy has deployed two frigates to further expedite the relief mission in the greater coastal areas affected by the cyclone.

The frigates earlier could not sail because of the closure

of Chittagong Port caused by the sunken merchant vessels.

These are in addition to the other 15 naval ships now engaged in relief distribution at Sandwip, Urirchar, Monpura, Char Nizam and the adjoining islands.

Naval ships of Khulna area Wednesday distributed a sizeable quantity of relief goods received from different government agencies.

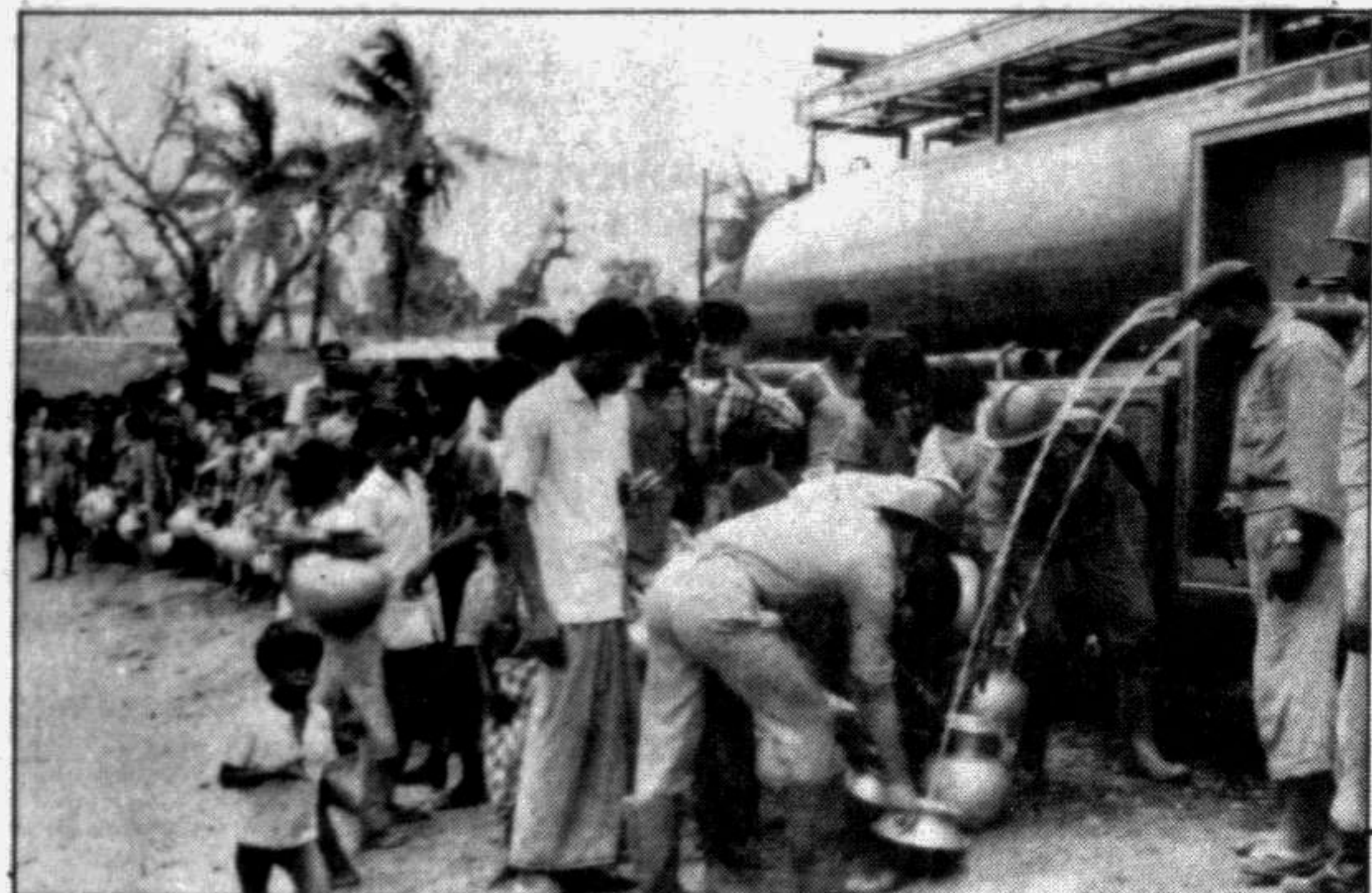
They also delivered 50 tubewells at Kutubdia received from the Khulna Public Health Engineering Department. Besides, the BN personnel also arranged burial of 130 decomposed bodies of men, women and children.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa, who is now extensively visiting the coastal areas, is personally supervising entire gamut of relief missions by the BN ships through temporary relief stations both afloat and ashore set up by Bangladesh Navy.

Meanwhile, the officers and sailors of Bangladesh Navy in Chittagong despatched huge quantity of cooked food by helicopter to Sandwip Wednesday morning.

They also served cooked food to the affected people at Patenga and Katighar in Chittagong.

Bangladesh Air Force despatched 47 tons of food-stuff, medicines and other relief materials to the cyclone affected offshore islands by transport aircrafts and helicopters.



Fire Service personnel providing pure water to cyclone victims at Chittagong on Wednesday.



Special envoy of the German government Bernhard Schweiger addressing a news conference on Wednesday to announce DM 50m assistance. Ambassador Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtyssek also spoke on the occasion.

Rich urged to help cyclone victims

The State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs, Tariqul Islam, Tuesday urged all elite, journalists and voluntary organisations to strengthen and mobilize their concerted effort for the aid of cyclone affected people of south and south eastern devastated region of the country, reports BSS.

He was discussing with representatives of local relief committee or Borguna district after arriving here to supervise the relief distribution work among the cyclone victims. He also reviewed the progress of relief distribution

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Moudud Ahmed distributing relief materials among tornado victims at Gazipur on Wednesday.



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Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha collecting relief goods in city.

Upazila roundup

**JAMALPUR**  
24 SSC examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent  
May 8: At least 24 SSC examinees were expelled from different centres for adopting unfair means on the first day of the examination in Jamalpur district.

At least 7,470 students are appearing in the SSC examination under nine centres of the district this year.

Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner Mr Jalal Ahmed, Additional District Magistrate and three board teams from Dhaka visited different examination centres on the first day.

**KISHOREGANJ**  
Boat dacoity

From Our Correspondent  
May 8: A daring boat dacoity was committed in the river Kushiara of Itna upazila in broad daylight on Sunday last. The boat carrying potato for sale when reached near village Linepasha under Mirga Union, a gang of dacoits armed with deadly weapons attacked the boatmen and looted the potato, engine of the boat and cash money amounting to about taka 50,000.

A case was registered with Itna police station in this connection. Police arrested Dulal Miah and Master for their alleged involvement in the dacoity and recovered the looted engine from their possession.

**25 arrested**

Twenty-five persons were arrested by Kishoreganj police on various charges during the first week of May.

They were arrested on the charges of dacoity, theft, robbery and other criminal offences, police said.

**MEHERPUR**  
4 killed in road mishap

May 8: Four people were killed and more than 50 injured after a truck knocked down a minibus near the district town recently, police said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as local businessmen Habib (22), Anzul Huj (32) and Rabiu (30) and Shefu (20), the helper of the bus.



Best college teacher

Mr. Abdul Jabbar Miah, Lecturer in English of Government Nazimuddin College was adjudged as the best college teacher of Madaripur district in the Education Week '91.

He has a good academic career and has got 18 years teaching experience as a college teacher. He has successfully completed the Foundation Training and also received training on English conducted by the NIEER, Dhaka. He has reputation as a successful teacher.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar is associated with many socio-cultural organisations of the district. He is the General Secretary of Madaripur Zila Unit of the Federation of Teacher's Association. He is also the Secretary of Madaripur Islamic Academy, Vice-President of Madaripur Shilpakala Academy, Joint Secretary of Hajera Howlader Diabetic Association and Vice-President of Anjuman Khedmate Khadya, Madaripur.

National Islanders anxiously wait for succour

BARISAL, May 8: It was a fateful night for more than fifty lakh people of about 50 islands along the coast line in the southern region of the country. The cyclone has hit the vast areas of about 15 districts including far-flung char and offshore islands. Within two to three hours the cyclonic storm washed away at least 30 offshore islands with its inhabitants, educational institutions, kutchas, semi-pucca dwellings, cattleheads and crops of thousands acres of land.

According to an eye witness a captain of a Chittagong bound vessel from Barisal, dead bodies of men and women with cattleheads are floating all together along the coast line of Sandwip. A stinky odour has engulfed the entire environment with the fast flowing wind.

The tidal surge washed away as many as 40 thousand people into the deep sea although many of them could come ashore in return tide some hours back.

Cyclone has also hit Monpura, an island 18 miles from mainland Bhola. More than 40 thousand people of this island experienced a horrifying nightmare during the time of cyclone disaster.

There were only seven cyclone shelters for men and six shelters for cattleheads in Monpura upazila. Those were very meagre for 40 thousand inhabitants of the upazila. As a

result, thousands of people had to face cyclonic catastrophe outside the shelters.

Now Monpura is being considered as one of the worst affected upazila out of the 47 cyclone hit upazilas in southern region of the country.

It may be recalled here that this Monpura island was completely washed away with its all inhabitants, crops, cattleheads in the flood of 1970.

**No food, no water**

Char Nizam, a far-flung island of Monpura upazila is now seems to be an abandoned land. Some people are still living there having no food or

**Milk production declines**

From Our Correspondent  
MADARIPUR, May 8: Milk production is declining rapidly due to decrease of milch cows in the district.

According to the informed sources, the number of milch cows are decreasing due to the attack of cattle diseases since last few years in the district.

Recreational facilities are completely absent in the district. There are three cinema halls which are in poor condition. Cultural activities are considerable insignificant. There is a very poor number of socio-cultural organisation in the pourashava, most of which remain inactive

that about 10 thousand cattle-head of Char Nizam, Monpura, Dhalchar, Char Sakuchia and Char Kukrimukri have been perished on April 29.

However, five cyclone shelters were reported to have been built by the Red Crescent at different places of Bhola last year. But the construction of another 15 cyclone shelters to be built under the Japanese Red Cross aid came to a halt due to red tapism of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, according to the unit chief of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society based at Char Fassion. He, however, hoped that with the damage of this year's cyclone at Bhola, the Red Crescent as well as the government may come up with massive construction of cyclone shelters at the offshore islands.

Many of the cyclone victims of Daulatkhan, Borhanuddin, Char Fassion demanded immediate construction of at least 400 to 500 cyclone shelters at the offshore islands.

Golam Akbar Milon Mia, the UP Chairman of Bhoanipur under Daulatkhan upazila told me that kutchas kilas (Earthen shelters) should be made at the chars to protect the livestock including buffaloes from the tidal surges.

It may be mentioned there

**From Our Correspondent**

drinking water. Actually, none could give the exact figures of death and missing persons.

Telecommunications is yet to be restored between mainland of Bhola and off-shore islands like Monpura, Dhalchar, Char Nizam, Charpatila, Char Lulin, Char Kukrimukri, Char Motahar, Char Shiba, Koralia, Char Jahiruddin, Baharchar, Maganama, Rajakhali, Char Montaj, Latachapali and Barabagi.

Relief carrying army helicopters could manage to drop relief materials in Monpura and Char Nizam two days back.

**Diarrhoea breaks out**

Meanwhile, diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have already been broken out in affected off-shore island areas but no medical team could reach there to provide any sort of medicare. Drinking water is still absent in the affected areas.

It is learnt that due to shortage of vehicles or water transport relief materials can not be sent to the far-flung islands.

Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education who recently returned from the cyclone-hit areas narrated his shocking experience. He termed the devastation as a great disaster for the people of this southern region. He urged all to intensify relief operations immediately to save the dying people of the cyclone affected areas.

Intact pages of the holy Quran found over the date tree on May 5 at village Aat Anwara in Chittagong. — Star photo

Cyclone centres inadequate

By Syed Isa

BHOLA, May 8: The colossal damage caused by the cyclone of April 29 in Bhola district particularly in the offshore islands could be minimised by constructing more cyclone shelters in those areas. The official death figures rose to 219 in the chars within a week. Many more were feared to be added to this number.

Only 68 cyclone shelters were constructed in the upazilas of Bhola, Daulatkhan, Char Fassion, Lalmojon, Tazumuddin, Borhanuddin and Monpura including offshore islands like Char Nizam, Dhalchar and Char Kukrimukri.

Of the total cyclone shelters, six have already been eroded by the river Meghna and the rest are in a deplorable condition. The doors and windows of all the cyclone shelters I visited in those areas



Intact pages of the holy Quran found over the date tree on May 5 at village Aat Anwara in Chittagong. — Star photo

Pucca bridge over Chitra demanded

MAGURA, May 8: Road communication between Salikha and Mohamadpur upazila headquarters is being hampered due to absence of a pucca bridge over river Chitra, reports UNB.

The distance between the two upazila headquarters is about 20 kilometres and they are connected by road only.

Salikha upazila parishad constructed a wooden bridge on the river Chitra two years back but it broke after a year.

Local people said prices of consumer goods shot up in markets as motorised vehicles carrying supplies stopped plying through the road.

Meanwhile, three women allegedly committed suicide in

Relief bodies formed

MAULVIBAZAR, May 8: Maulvibazar pourashava has decided to form a relief committee with pourashava chairman as its convener for the cyclone and tidal bore affected people, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting held on Saturday with pourashava chairman in chair. The relief committee started collecting funds and relief materials from local people.

A relief team headed by Poura Chairman has already left for Chittagong with relief materials.

**TANGAIL**

A report from Tangail adds: Tangail District Relief Coordination Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner was formed on Monday at a meeting, here with Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

Political leaders, elite of the town and district level officers attended the meeting held at the Deputy Commissioners' conference room. The meeting stressed on collecting relief materials and sending them to the affected areas.

Meanwhile, different socio-political organisations have started collecting relief goods for the distressed people.

Miss Shahana Sultana, leader of JUBA Red Crescent, Government Kumudini College Unit met the students of the college and urged them to extend their helping hands to alleviate the suffering of the people in the coastal region.

Meanwhile CARE, Tangail has sent 3,000 kgs of flattened rice to the affected areas.

**NETRAKONA**

Another message from Netrakona adds: Under the post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation programme of the government Netrakona district administration has started sending relief materials to the cyclone and tidal surge hit areas. Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Abul Kashem told local newsmen here Saturday.

The Deputy Commissioner said 1573 kgs of flattened rice and 300 kgs of molasses have already been sent from here to the affected areas on an emergency basis.

Netrakona district administration has taken measures to collect more relief materials including foodstuff and clothes to send to the affected areas, the DC added.