The Baily Star

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Representatives

of donors

meet today

Star Economic Report

donor aencies and countries.

included in the local consulta-

tive and group, will meet this

morning in Dhaka to consider

wasys and means for providing

assistance to Bangladesh in

post-cyclone relief and rehabil-

The donor agencies and

countries committed a total of

219 million US dollars in cash

an kind for relief and rehabili

tation purposes in the coastal

areas and offshore islands, till

Sunday, according to an official

ternational agencies disbursed

or committed aid, in cash adn

kind, to Bangladesh in the

wake of the century's worst

cyclone and tidal surge of April

Morizur-e-Mowla said on Sun-

day at a press briefing at Sher-

Information Secretary

In all, 33 countries and in-

itation operations.

source.

The representatives of

-Inside Today

Article

Canada's embattled Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, is faced with presiding over the disintegration of Canada. To head off Quebec sovereignty in 1992 he has appointed his old foe, Foreign Minister Joe Clark, to sort out the mess

Business

Page 4

Jute mills located in Chittagong incurred an estimated loss of Tk 58 crore in damages due to cyclone and accompanying tidal surge Page 8

Parliament proceedings

Navy suffers Tk 8,000 cr damage, BAF Tk 4,000 cr : Hasina Page 6

International



Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida waves to the crowd after making an imprint of her hands at Cannes. The imprint will be put on the celebrated Croisette along with those of other stars

Metropolitan

Page 5

Rebecca Gurung, Bhutan's first architect hankers for heritage. "Traditional ones are special in this age, she says Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Sangsad polls cost Tk 25cr

The government spent more than Tk 25 crore for Jattya Sangsad (Parliament) election held February 27, reports

Education Minister in charge of the President Secretariat in Parliament Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury informed the House Sunday.

Case against Mustafa Jamal

The Anti-corruption Bureau has instituted a case against former Works Minister Mustafa Jamal Haider, former RAJUK Chairman Rahmatullah and Abdul Monem, his predecessor and proprietor of Messrs Abdul Monem Limited for causing a loss of Taka 8,34,87,450 to the government by giving work orders for the Sayedabad-Kamalapur, Atish Dipanker Road, Rampura Link road via Khilgaon-Malibagh at 63 percent above the estimated cost, reports BSS.

Rashid, Maksud chargesheeted

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has chargesheeted former T & T Minister Kazi Feroz Rashid, former chairman of T & T Board Maksud Ali Khan and owner of United Traders Shahjad Ali for their trial in court for causing a loss of Taka 1,22,23,839 to the government through buying VVIP Radio Exchange and other spares on increased prices, a Bureau press release said Sunday, reports BSS.

Bush orders urgent disaster assistance

High-powered US Army delegation arrives

By Staff Correspondent

A high-powered US army delegation led by Major General Henry C. Stackpole arrived in Dhaka on Sunday on an appraisal mission of relief operations in the cyclone-battered coastal areas.

US President George Bush ordered on Saturday the Department of Defence in Washington to provide immediate disaster assistance to Bangladesh's efforts to recover from the recent devastating cyclone, according to a USIS press release issued in Dhaka. The order came in response to the request of the Bangladesh Government.

The US Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Admiral Charles

R. Larson despatched the 29member joint task force. commanded by Major General Stackpole of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). to Bangladesh under the directive of the US President.

An ISPR press release said. the US military delegation brought with them some relief goods and specialised equipment for disaster management like restoration of telecommunication and emergency medical aid. The delegation will assess "as to how far the US Armed Forces can render physical assistance in overcoming the aftermath of the recent cyclone in the

coastal areas and the off-shore

The USIS press release said, five UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and crews, air traffic control teams, Seabecs (construction brigade) and environmental preventive medicine units are also en route to Bangladesh and expected to arrive today. Also being diverted to Bangladesh to assist in the relief efforts are elements of an amphibious task force which will arrive at the coast of Bangladesh by May

The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, embarked abroad USS Tarawa and other amphibious ships, is homebased at Marine Corps base.

Chinese plane

with relief

arrives

A Chinese special plane car-

rying 25 tonnes of emergency

relief materials arrived at Zia

International Airport on Friday

for cyclone affected people of

State Minister for Relief

Lutfar Rahman received relief

materials form Chinese Ambas-

sador Chen Songlu, an embassy

food, medicine and tents.

These are part of Chinese

emergency relief materials

worth US dollar 2 million, an-

Another Chinese plane car-

rying 25 tonnes of relief goods

will arrive today (Monday). Be-

sides, three sorties of special

planes will also arrive in the

decided to provide the ser-

relief operation and they will

ciety has also pledged to do-

nate emergency relief goods

worth US dollar 40,000 to

Bangladesh Red Crescent So-

ciety. The composition of the

relief goods will be decided in

consultation with its

Maldives

Maumoon Abdul Gayum of the

Maldives arrives on Wednesday

See Page 10 Col. 4

A special envoy of President

Bangladesh counterpart.

be arriving very soon.

vices of two helicopters to join

The Chinese Red Cross So-

Chinese government also

The relief goods include

nounced by its government on - said.

source said Sunday.

next few days.

Bangladesh, reports agencies.

Diarrhoea situation in Sandwip alarming

Camp Pendleton, California. the USIS press release added. They departed from the Persian Gulf on May 7 for the United States with an en route stop in the Philippines when they were diverted to assist in "this humanitarian effort".

An agency report from Washington said: The White House spokesman told the newsmen that the US aid was being provided in response to a request from Bangladesh. reeling from last week's cyclone. The helicopters will be used to deliver food and medicine to millions of survivors stranded by the cyclone and a series of floods and tor-See Page 10 Col. 4

About 4500 people have

Official sources however put

died of diarrhoeal diseases so

far in Sandwip alone even

after having survived the catas-

trophic April 29 cyclone, ac-

the diarrhoea-related death

toll at 1000 in Banshkhali.

Anwara and Setakundu of

in Sandwip at 600 and said

been attacked by the disease.

that about 20,000 people have

Nurul Alam writes from

Chittagong: An average of 20

people are dying daily in the

worst affected island of

Sandwip, an official source

from Sandwip told The Daily

Star that the situation in the

cyclone affected offshore is-

He said that relief goods

In tripes to Sandwip.

sent to the battered areas so

Banshkhali and Anwara it was

found that water purifying

tablets and saline were in

geared up but distribution of

relief goods was chaotic with

many complaining that the

worst affected were not being

newsmen that more food and

medicine were needed to

Communications Minister

meet the emergency situation.

Oli Ahmed said that the sur-

vivors needed food provisions

for at least six months.

Survivors told visiting

Relief operations have been

lands was alarming.

far were not adequate.

short supply.

Mustafizur Rahman MP (AL)

The sources put the deaths

Our Staff Correspondent

Chittagong district.

cording to unofficial sources.

Rice stock from W Bengal to be shifted in two days

Shekhar pledges all possible assistance

Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar Sunday pledged all possible assistance to help Bangladesh cope with the situation caused by the catastrophic eyelone, reports

Whatever we can do we will do within our means," he told newsmen at the VVIP Terminal of Zia International Airport prior to his departure after a brief visit.

Earlier, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar flew in at 9-30 in a Boeing 737 aircraft of the Indian Air Force from Varansai, Uttar Pradesh, where he broke off his electioneering for the visit. Prime Minister Begum Zia received him at the airport.

P. Khosla, Secretary External Affairs Ministry and a former High Commissioner to Bangladesh accompanied Chandra Shekhar.

The Indian Prime Minister

The minister has been su-

Water is receding from the

pervising relief operation in

islands slowly. Till Saturday.

rains and gusty winds were

sweeping the coastal belt. The

sufferings of the survivors

still muddy and slippery ham-

languishing at different camps

in the worst affected unions of

Anwara upazila. While talking

to some of the survivors it was

learnt that most of the affected

people were still not visited by

any relief workers and that

hundreds of them had fled the

camps being disgusted with

the unbearable situation there.

camps and at their homes are

now confronted with a host of

Next crop in danger

following eyewitness account

after visiting Cox's Bazar: The

almost-ripe rice liesflat in the

fields. Abul Sattar, a farmer.

salvages what he can from his

plot. "The crops would have

been good," he muses, "but

now the boro rice is spoilt."

The water in the fields is

saline, and he cannot sow the

next seeds till rainwater

engineer M A Bari Talukdar

echoes the farmer. "Thirty to

forty per cent of our embank-

ment is gone. The related loss

amounts to nearly 102 crore

See Page 10 Col. 1

Water Development Board

S. Bari, our staffer files the

problems.

washes it out.

Those who stay in the

pering relief operation.

Roads on the islands are

Thousands of survivors are

the affected areas.

knew no bound.

described the devastation caused by cyclone and tidal surge in coastal areas of Bangladesh as "tragic and worst calamity Bangladesh experienced".

He said the the extent of devastation was beyond all proportions and India would do its best despite its own financial constraints "because Bangladesh needed to be

Chandra Shekhar said he had assured Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zta of all possible assistance and added rice would be shifted from government's stock in West Bengal to Bangladesh in two day's

Asked about the possibility of India providing more helicopters of Bangladesh for relief operations, the Indian Prime Minister said his country had already given six helicopters See Page 10 Col. 1

No reason for

govt to suppress

death figure

By Staff Correspondent

disbursed cash Taka 2.98

erore, 8,225 metric tons of

rice. 5,100 mt of wheat,

33,400 bundles of tin for the

cyclone affected people. State

Minister for Relief Lutfur

Rahman told Jattya Sangsad

cussion on cyclone he said so

far 241 sorties of helicopters

and fixed wing aircraft supply-

ing 531 mt of emergency food

to affected areas have been

carried out. About five thou-

sand tents have been dis-

to view the cyclone from not a

political but a humanitarian

point of view and extend help

for government to suppress

death figure. There was noth-

ing to be happy about discovery

of new bodies either, the State

measures taken by government

as precautions before cyclone

struck he termed the opposi-

tion allegation that there was

no preparedness as untrue.

The district and the upazila

administrations were directed

to evacuate people from low-ly-

ing areas and many people

were actually evacuated. Some

people did not leave their

homes despite repeated per-

suasion, he said.

Giving a detailed account of

He said there was no reason

to the affected people.

Minister for Relief said.

The state minister urged all

Winding up the general dis-

Sunday.

tributed.

The government has so far

aton Hotel that a total of Taka 40 crore hd so far been pledged by 22 foreign aided See Page 10 Col. 6

ADB VP assures

The Asian Development Bank Vice President William R Thomson, called on the ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury at latter's office on

They discussed various aspects of ADB operation in Bangladesh. The relief and rehabilitation requirements of Bangladesh in the wake of the recent devastating cyclone

The visiting Vice President assured the Asian Development Bank would like to extend assistance to Bangladesh both on short and long-term measures. All possible steps that can be taken will be explored during the visit, he added.

State Minister for Est Sunday told the Parliament that the food shortage may

Taking part in the discussion on the President's speech the bureaucrat-turned-politician Osman Ghant Khan said that the total country's production in general was estimated at 18 million tonnes while the country in an average had been facing a deficit of 19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains every

See Page 10 Col. 6

Ershad prays

Diarchy is in force, says Sheikh Hasina

What's there to risk after braving the storm seems to

be the attitude of these survivors who struggle in a new

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina told the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday government statements on the situation in cyclone affected areas were contrary to newspaper reports and eyewitness accounts. Hiding of information only amounts to self-deception, she said.

home - a boat.

The Leader of Opposition. Sheikh Hasina reiterated her claim that 10 lakh people were killed in the April 29 cyclone. Innumerable corpses still remain to be buried. Many people who were washed into the sea were eaten by crocodiles and sharks, and many others died of epidemics, she said.

Taking part in the general discussion on the post-cyclone situation she said many human Japan from May 18 to May 24.

lives could have been saved had the government taken adequate precautions before the cyclone struck and carried out See Page 10 Col.

Star photo.

Hasina puts off Japan visit

Leader of Opposition in Parliament and chief of Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina has postponed her visit to Japan in view of the critical situation arising out of the recent cyclonic storm and tidal surge, a Jatiya Sangsad source said Sunday, reports

She was scheduled to visit

Anwar Hossain

'House precincts'

arrested outside

Biswas Sunday told the Jatiya Sangsad that Anwar Hossain Manju (JP-Pirojpur) was not ports BSS.

See Page 10 Col. 3

The Speaker Abdur Rahmah

arrested within the "precincts of parliament" and as such Speaker's permission for the arrest was not necessary, re-Giving a ruling on the question of arrest of Anwar Hossain

Manju from the reception counter of the Parliament house (outside the security check-point) on April 29 as raised by Suranjit Sen Gupta (Gonotantree Party), the Speaker said such arrest not being preventive detention. the exemption provided for a member from preventive detention under Ordinance IX. of

Opposition pleads for reverting to Parliamentary form

Acting President can hand over power to Speaker: Treasury

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda, participating in the discussion on the President's inaugural speech, on Sunday said the Acting President could easily hand over power to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) under the Constitution.

On the other hand, Awami League MP Col (Retd) Sawkat Alt said, at present the country was virtually being governed under Parliamentary system as the Acting President recently said he had no power in his hand and the Prime Minister herself was doing everything in Abul Hossain and Jamaat MP

her present capacity. He pleaded for introducing a bill to provide constitutional

cover to the present role of the Prime Minister in running the government affairs and thus remove the constitutional Among the Treasury bench

members. State Minister for Establishment Osman Gani Khan, Khandakher Abdul Malek, Selina Rahman and Haroon-ur-Rashid Khan took part in the discussion. Awami League MP Abdul

Mannan, Khasruzzaman, Syed

last 24 hours and was flowing

Shah Ruhul Quddus and Jativa Party MP Reazuddin Ahmed (Bhola Mia) also participated in the discussion.

Nazmul Huda said the supremacy of Parliament as a legislature was beyond question and the President could easily hand over power to the Speaker under Article 55 (2) of the Constitution where it is clearly stated that the Speaker will act as President if the President or the Vice-president is unable to discharge their functions at a time or they have to leave the office for See Page 10 Col. 4

of Air Force Chief Air Vicemarshal Momtazuddin Ahmed from services published in a daily is untrue and baseless, an ISPR press release said on

The press release said, attention of the Government was drawn to a news item published in a Dhaka daily on Sunday. The report is not based on facts, the press release said in order to remove confusion created among the members of the public.

See Page 10 Coi. 5

Flood situation in Sylhet, B'baria worsens: 5 die By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in greater Sylhet and Brahmanbaria districts further worsened Sunday with onrush of water from Indian states of Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam, official sources said.

Five more people died on Sunday in Sylhet and Moulvi Bazar district raising the toll to

All major rivers of the district were flowing above the danger mark leaving several lakh people marooned and damaging crops on about one lakh acres.

The Manu at Moulvi Bazar

was slowing 64 cm above the danger mark, the Khowai at Habiganj 90 cm, the Surma at Sylhet 9 cm and the Surma at Sunamganj 7 cm above the danger mark. Our Moulvi Bazar corre-

spondent reports: Fifty-four unions out of 66 have been inundated where 451800 people are affected. Standing crops across 557 sq mile areas were damaged.

One more person was killed at Konagaon under Rajnagar upazila raising the number of death to three in the district on Suhday.

According to a Control Room source. 3185 houses of the affected areas have been completely damaged and 8080 houses partially. Relief materials distributed among the victims were

inadequate, another source Diarrhoea has broken out in the district and over 100 peo-

ple in Kamar Chak village under Rajnagar upazila have been attacked . Communication with Kamalgani upazila remained disrupted on Sunday while

over 8000 people were living

in their makeshift camps on the embankment. Our Sylhet Correspondent

adds: Flood situation in the district worsened with four more people dead of diarrhoea in Boailghat upazila. All roads in Zakiganj and

Beanibazar were under five feet of water. A dam near Zakiganj-Beanibazar has been washed away with a vast area going under flood water. Part of Sylhet town re-

mained under water on Sunday. River Khowai at Habiganj rose sharply by 130 cm during

Someswari at Durgapur also marked sharp rise by 130 cm. but was 100 cm below the danger level. Crops in nearly 1.25,000

acres in Habigani have been affected, of which 40,000 acres totally damaged by flood water gushing through a breach in the embankment at Lambabak.

Water is also flowing through the district town pro-

above the danger mark at 6 am breaches. Our Netrokona corresponthis morning resulting in serident adds: Standing crops of ous deterioration of flood situaabout 25 thousand acres of tion in the district. The land have gone under water. Mohanganj, Kalibari and

Madon upazila of the district are worst affected. The Meghna at Bhairab Bazar registered rise by 11 cm while the Gumti at Comilla

tection dam through several

recorded fall by 7 cm and are flowing below their respective danger level. In Brahmanbarta, all stx upazilas have been affected as

See Page 10 Col. 4

assistance

Sunday, reports BSS.

were also discussed

Food shortage may shoot up to 30 lakh tonnes

By Staff Correspondent

shoot up from 12 to 15 lakh tonnes to 30 to 31 lakh tonnes due to adverse climatic situation this year.

for transfer of case Former President Hussain

Muhammad Ershad Sunday filed a petition under Section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code before a Division Bench of the High Court Division for transfer of the Special Tribunal Case No 60 of 1991 now pending in the Court of Senior Special Tribunal. Dhaka to the court of any other special tribunal or to the High Court Division Bench itself, reports The court, comprising Jus-

tice ARM Amirul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury. did not hear this petition as they felt embrassed and referred the matter to the Chief Justice for placing the same before any other court.

Chief's removal baseless By Staff Correspondent

Report of Air Force

The report of termination