

Shekhar pledges

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High Commissioner in New Delhi that India could provide as many helicopters as Bangladesh required.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia saw Indian Prime Minister off at the airport.

Chandra Shekhar's visit lasted for three hours, during which he called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Indian Prime Minister said New Delhi gave Rs. 1.5 crore as relief assistance as soon as the news of calamity reached there. He later sanctioned another Rs. 10 crore from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

"Everybody should help Bangladesh overcome this situation", he said.

Asked whether this assistance was enough, Chandra Shekhar said nothing was enough under this condition but India would try to extend help in all possible ways.

He told a questioner his country could help Bangladesh in the long-term rehabilitation programme of reconstruction of roads, railways and bridges.

The Prime Minister said his country would like to know from Bangladesh its requirements.

Later, Prime Minister Begum Zia told newsmen she had asked for rice and medicine at the moment and India could assist in many ways as it is a neighbouring country.

Chandra Shekhar flew to Savar in Bangladesh Air Force helicopter to pay respects to martyrs of the Liberation War at the National Memorial for martyrs. He placed wreaths at the memorial and stood in solemn silence in reverence to the memory of heroes of Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Calls on Shahabuddin

Prime Minister Shekhar called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat.

Shekhar said he had come to Bangladesh to "find out what we can do" for the people caught in a grave situation.

He said the pictures on the

and had told the Bangladesh television showed the situation here was "devastating".

Shekhar said Bangladesh had been losing much because of recurrence of natural disaster every year.

He conveyed to Acting President a message of Indian President R. Venkataraman expressing sympathy and solidarity with the cyclone affected people.

The Acting President expressed his gratitude to Indian President and thanked government and people of India for the gesture of goodwill towards the people of Bangladesh. He said the new government formed after a historic, free election in the country had to face the sudden calamity.

Justice Shahabuddin said support and sympathy extended by friendly countries provided Bangladesh with the strength to face the aftermath of recent natural disaster.

Khaleda Zia

Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence Sunday morning.

Begum Khaleda Zia apprised her Indian counterpart of the extent of damage caused by the recent cyclone. She also informed the Indian Prime Minister of the floods that have engulfed Moulvibazar and Sylhet.

She expressed her thanks and gratitude to Indian Prime Minister, the government and people for extending their support in meeting the crisis.

Chandra Shekhar assured her of further help in tackling the situation in Bangladesh. He requested Begum Zia to inform the Indian government of the requirement.

The Indian Prime Minister told Begum Khaleda Zia his government would set up Bangladesh Prime Minister's Relief Fund in India.

Indian Prime Minister accompanied by his Bangladesh counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia, attended the briefing session at the Relief Cell at the President's Secretariat.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia receiving her Indian counterpart Chandra Shekhar at Zia International Airport on Sunday. —PID photo

MCCI suggests drastic cut in govt expenditure

By Staff Correspondent

The government should curtail drastically its current expenditures to avoid a major budgetary deficit, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) suggested Sunday.

The Chamber pleaded strongly for a zero growth rate in the wages bill for government and other public sector employees. Otherwise, there will be severe budgetary imbalances, it cautioned.

The MCCI observed that current expenditures of the government would go up substantially in 1990-91 because of a number of unforeseen developments including costs of repatriation and rehabilitation of the returnees from the Gulf and ten per cent dearness allowance given to the government employees with effect from December last year.

Relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of recent devastating cyclone will now severely strain the budgetary resources, it said.

The Speaker said the question is whether the arrest of Anwar Hossain Manju, (JP-Pirojpur) at the reception counter of Parliament, was lawful and legal in view of Rule 174 of the Rule of Procedure of Parliament which provides that without the permission of the Speaker nobody could be arrested within the precincts of Parliament.

In view of the definition given about the precincts of the House under Rule 2 (F), it was held by the Speaker that Anwar Hossain Manju was not arrested within the precincts of Parliament and as such the Speaker's permission for the arrest was not required or necessary.

There was a diarchy in the administration. The Prime Minister got prominence in the media and headed relief committee, but referred to the presidential form of government to shrug off responsibilities. Three political alliances had called for restoration of a parliamentary form of government, she said.

She called for repair of all coastal embankments, food godowns, tubewells reconstruction of schools, colleges and madrasahs and start of Food for Works Programme in the cyclone affected areas.

US Army delegation

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advice that followed the storm. The United States has already provided more than 7.2 million dollars in cash, food and medicine to the international relief effort, and sent 15 Army engineers to repair vital port facilities in Bangladesh, the news agency report added.

The ISPR press release in Dhaka said, the 29-member military delegation led by Major General Stackpole, which arrived in Dhaka on Sunday is scheduled to call on the Acting President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Nooruddin Khan.

General Stackpole would meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other relief officials to assess the extent of damage, news agency UNB reported quoting the US Embassy officials in Dhaka. The delegation will also visit the cyclone affected areas during their stay in Bangladesh. They will formulate a phase-wise programme for relief and rehabilitation of the affected

people. BSS reports: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan received the US Army delegation led by General Stackpole at Zia International Airport on Sunday morning, according to an official handout.

The State Minister thanked Gen Stackpole and expressed his gratitude to President Bush and the people of the United States for the assistance.

Later, General Stackpole and the 11-member US relief reconnaissance mission met the ERD Secretary, USAID Director Mary C Kilgour was also present in the meeting. The ERD Secretary explained to them the relief and rehabilitation requirements for the cyclone affected area. The nature and extent of foreign assistance pledged and received so far and the measures adopted for effective cooperation at all levels also came up in their discussions.

The US delegation discussed certain relevant issues and assured of all possible assistance and cooperation in conducting the massive relief operation that the government of Bangladesh has undertaken.

Acting President

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"any other cause". He said the Acting President could also transfer power to the Speaker due to "occurrence of uncertainty" under clause 55 (3) of the Constitution.

Nazmul Huda said BNP did never agree to the Parliamentary form of government having been a party to the Joint Declaration of the three alliance. He said there was no mention of the Parliamentary form of government in the Joint Declaration. He said BNP always said that the form of government would be decided by the members of Parliament after the election of the "sovereign Parliament".

He said a certain quarter was trying to confuse the people about the Joint Declaration but BNP would never tolerate any confusion or attempt to create any unnecessary debate over the Joint Declaration of the three alliances.

Nazmul Huda said the speech of the President gave some wrong interpretation to the Constitution about this handing over of power to the Speaker. If the Constitution was correctly interpreted there would be no scope of any misunderstanding, he added.

Huda said different newspapers were giving hints about the misunderstanding between the Acting President and the Cabinet. He added that now the Acting President could leave his office just by declaring that he was unable to continue in his office just because of the prevailing situation. He said the Acting President in his speech also clearly mentioned about the possible misunderstanding between the neutral presidency and the partisan government.

The state minister also said the Parliament could take decision about the form of government through discussion at any time.

Awami League MP Col. (Retd) Sawkat Ali said, according to the Constitution, the President is the Head of the Government but in practice it was observed that the Prime Minister was enjoying all power leaving the Constitution unworkable. He said, when the constitutional power lies with the President the Prime Minister has got no constitutional support to exercise her power. He said by amending the Constitution the Parliament could be made sovereign—through which the aspiration of the people could be fulfilled.

Canada has so far provided 2.66 million US dollars in assistance for the cyclone victims, official sources said Sunday.

A chartered plane with 70 tonnes of emergency relief materials donated by Norway arrived at Zia International Airport on Sunday.

The consignment carried by the world's largest transport plane Antonov was received by the Director of Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, Torben V Peterson.

A consignment of medicines donated by the Philippines government for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh is expected to arrive tomorrow (Tuesday).

Food shortage

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Giving a vivid description of the economic situation of the country Osman Ghani Khan said that among the Least Developed Countries Bangladesh is ranked 3rd or 4th in a descending order, with its per capita income of 160 dollar.

He said that the country was made over dependent on the foreign aid due to political crisis and now the difference between investments and savings was about 6.5 per cent. During the last Five-Year Plan the country could not achieve more than three and a half per cent economic growth causing over-dependence on the foreign debts.

He said that last year the country achieved only 38 crore Taka surplus against the estimated surplus of about Tk1000 crore due to which only one per cent of the total investment could be met from the domestic resources.

He said that the land revenue was increased from Taka 2 to 3 crore in 1972-73 to Taka 114 crore in 1990. He said that due to centralisation of power at the President's Secretariat the civil servants were being unnecessarily blamed for delay in discharging their duties. He stressed the need for taking some bold steps to free the civil administration from corruption and said the debate on the system of government, whether it would be parliamentary or presidential, should be resolved by the Parliament.

National election in Nepal

KATMANDU, May 12: The people of this mystical Himalayan kingdom jammed polling stations in snowbound mountain villages and across dusty plains Sunday to vote in record numbers for their first multiparty election in three decades. Eleven million people were eligible to choose a government to replace the interim cabinet named last year, which ended the absolute rule of the 200-year-old Shah dynasty of monarchs, reports AP.

Victory for Lankan ruling party

COLOMBO, May 12: The ruling party won an overwhelming victory Sunday in local council elections, in what President Ranasinghe Premadasa called a vote of confidence for his embattled government.

Opposition leaders said the United National Party took unfair advantage of government machinery to capture 189 of the 236 city, town and village councils, reports AP.

Albanian cabinet sworn in

VIENNA, May 12: Albania's new Communist government won a vote of confidence Sunday from the first multiparty Parliament, but faced an immediate challenge from newly independent trade unions. After the government of Premier Fatos Nano received the endorsement, Nano and his cabinet were sworn in at a session attended by President Ramiz Alia, the state-run ATA news agency reported, states AP.

Zulus kill 25 opponents

JOHANNESBURG, May 12: About 1,000 Zulus armed with spears and clubs rampaged through a squatter camp Sunday, hacking and burning at least 25 people to death as screaming residents ran for their lives. Police and survivors said the Zulus swarmed through the shantytown at dawn, clubbing and stabbing men and setting fire to about 80 of the wooden and cardboard shacks, reports AP.

Soviet children treated in UK

LONDON, May 12: Four-year-old Merceel Karev of the Soviet Union kissed his British doctor goodbye and headed home Sunday after two weeks of treatment for leukemia in a London hospital. Karev was among 12 children, ranging in age from 4 to 16, treated at Hammersmith Hospital courtesy of British Petroleum and the Ramco Coal Company, reports AP.

The Midnight File

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Maj Gen Henry Stackpole of United States Marine Corps being received by chief of General Staff Maj Gen Abdus Salam at the Zia International Airport Sunday. State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman was also present. —PID photo

Donors meet today

From Page 1 Col. 8

non-governmental at organisations (NGOs). Out of this amount, Taka 19 crore is in the form of cash and Taka 21 crore in kind.

He said, World Bank as multilateral lending agencies are considering moves to assist Bangladesh in post-cyclone reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes.

M. Hammed Essaafi, Director of the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO), reported to the UN quarters in Washington on his return from Bangladesh, that the long-term cost of replacing homes, lost crops, factories, and the country's infrastructures, could reach 1,400 million US dollars. He will be presenting a report on Bangladesh's needs to the July session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva and plans to launch an international appeal for reconstruction aid at that time.

Diarchy

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rescue operations. Narrating her own visit to the cyclone affected areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar areas she said relief materials did not reach worst affected Kutubdia before May 6. There

was hardly a family which did not lose its members. People there were going unfed, remaining shelterless and becoming sick. Army and Navy reached there but could not start relief work before May 6, she said.

Sheikh Hastna said the present parliament was meant for institutionalising democracy, but the ruling party was taking no initiative in this direction.

There was a diarchy in the administration. The Prime Minister got prominence in the media and headed relief committee, but referred to the presidential form of government to shrug off responsibilities. Three political alliances had called for restoration of a parliamentary form of government, she said.

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1963 was not applicable to him (Anwar).

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Flood situation

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water from across the border broke the embankment of river Howra causing flash flood. Some 3,000 acres of standing crops have been damaged in affected Kasba, Akhaura, Sarail, Nasiragar, Nabinagar and Sadar upazilas.

Sources at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Division said the situation would continue to deteriorate for another couple of days due to continuous downpour.

Chinese plane

From Page 1 Col. 4

to express solidarity with people of Bangladesh fighting the aftermath of a devastating cyclone.

Italy will send four military helicopters to Bangladesh to help ferry aid to survivors of a cyclone that devastated coastal areas late last month, Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni said Saturday.

Canada has so far provided 2.66 million US dollars in assistance for the cyclone victims, official sources said Sunday.

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বিশুদ্ধ পানি প্রাপ্তি সম্পর্কিত ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা মহানগরীতে বিশুদ্ধ পানি প্রাপ্তির স্বার্থে সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার ভিত্তিতে অবিলম্বে নিম্নলিখিত ব্যবস্থাদি গ্রহণের জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের প্রতি ওয়াসা সর্বিনয় অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছে:

- ** সূ-গর্তস্থ ও ছাদে রক্ষিত জলাধারসহ আপনার সকল জলাধার সঠিক পাউডার দিয়ে ভাল ভাবে পরিষ্কার করুন।
- ** জলাধারে ঢাকনা লাগান।
- ** জলাধারের লিকেজ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে মেরামত করুন।
- ** রাস্তার পাশের কল-তলা পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন।
- ** আপনার বাড়ীর পানির লাইনের ছিদ্র দৃষ্ মেরামত করুন এবং ওয়াসার মূল পানির লাইনে ছিদ্র বা ফাটল অথবা পানিতে ময়লা দেখা গেলে তা অবিলম্বে ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক অফিসকে জানান।

আঞ্চলিক অফিস সমূহের টেলিফোনঃ

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী মতিঝিল	আঞ্চলিক	অফিস	২৫৪৬১০
ঐ চাঁদনীঘাট	"	"	২৩০৪৯৬
ঐ লালমাটিয়া	"	"	৩১৮০০১
ঐ মিরপুর	"	"	৩৮০৫১৯
ঐ মহাখালী	"	"	৬১০৮৭০
ঐ ফকিরাপুল	"	"	৪১৪৫১৩
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী-পানি সরবরাহ, সংরক্ষণ ও পরিচালন			৩২৭৩৬৭

ওয়াসা - জরুরী ১৭৮/৯১
ডি-৩৪

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ভূমণ্ডল উত্তপ্ত হচ্ছে

কাল

ঘন ঘন বন্যা, খরা, টর্নেডো,
ঝড়-ঝঞ্জা, সাইক্লোন, জলোচ্ছ্বাস
সহ নানা প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ ও
তার তীব্রতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে

বৃক্ষ বাতাসকে সস্তীর্ণ রাখে, তাপ শোষণ করে, মাটির ক্ষয় রোধ করে,
প্রয়োজনীয় ঝাঁপ ও পতকস্বকুলে অশ্রয় দান করে, মানুষের
মনও একান্তর বায়ু ও আবাসস্থ উন্নয়ন করে

এবং পৃথিবীকে শীতল রাখে
জন্ম থেকে মৃত্যু পর্যন্ত মানুষের জন্য গাছ অপরিহার্য

অধিকহারে গাছ লাগান। পরিবেশকে রক্ষা করুন
পরিবেশ আমাদেরকে রক্ষা করবে।

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

পশ্চিমবঙ্গী বাংলাদেশ সরকার