Education Minister Prof **Badruddoza** Choudhury said that he preliminary work for implementing the Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1990 had started this year, re-

ports BSS. Replying to a question from Principal M M Nazrul Islam, M A (AL-Bhola-4), the Minister said that an implementation and survey cell had been set up under the Ministry of Education in this respect.

He said necessary measures were being taken in the first phase to give monthly honorartum at the rate of Taka 500 private primary school from January 1,1991 under the relevant clause of the act.

460 NGOs working

Meanwhile, according to another report: 460 non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) have been working for poverty alleviation in 436 upazilas of the country. minister in charge of the President Secretariat in Parliament Prof Badurddoza Choudhury said Sunday.

Replying to a question from Mr A T M Alamgir (BNP-Comilla) the Minister said that 170 NGOs had distributed Tk 271 crore as rotating loans among he people. As soon as the loans are realised, they are distributed again among he people, he said.

The Jatiya Sangsad Sunday adopted a condolence reference for those who were killed in the tornadoes that hit Chorashal in Narsingdi district and different areas of Stratgant. Habiganj, 'Narayanganj, Noakhali, Comilia and Mymen-

Khaleda greets Creson

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday felicitated Ms Edith Creson on her being appointed as the Prime Minister of France, reports

In a message to the newly appointed Prime Minister, Begum Zia expressed the hope that the friendly relations and wide ranging cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened under the dynamic leadership of Ms Creson.

singh districts on May 8 and 9. The condolence reference was moved by the Speaker and was adopted unanimously by the House.

The House expressed its

Vessels asked to move with caution

The government has asked masters and drivers of all riverine vessels to move with caution following damage of marking buoys and lights in the recent cyclone, reports

Many vessels sank during the recent cyclone and tidal surge, official sources on Sunday said calling for extreme caution in navigation.

Pir Sayedabadi sued

By Staff Correspondent

A case was filed against Pir Sayedabadi for allegedly ordering the assault of a newspaper vendor of the weekly Chitrakalpa and for the ransacking of the office of the weekly. The case filed by Md Uzzal

says when he was vending the magazine at Sayedabad bus terminal Saturday, a group of 'mastans' rounded him up and started beating him. They tore up his magazines and threatened him for selling the magazine which had a story against the 'Pir'.

The case further said the 'mastans' later forcibly took Uzzal to the Pir. The Pir ordered his followers to beat Uzzal and also ordered to catch hold and bring in Shamsul Haq Durrani, the Editor of the megazine, Uzzal alleged.

The 'mastans' also snatched the wrist watch and cash of Taka 700, Uzzal complained. He also said he was held hostage inside the 'Dargah' of Pir Sayedabadi for two hours.

After his release, Uzzal went to the office of the weekly and found the 'mastans' ransacking the Chitrakalpa office. When contacted the Demra

thana, police said they would soon start the investigation into the case.

profound shock at the deaths of the tornado victims and extended sympathy to the mem-

bers of the bereaved families. One minute's silence was observed in the House and a special 'Munajat' was offered seeking divine blessings for the departed souls.

Dr Ahmed Sharif's death condoled

SSMCH Correspondent

Prof Anwarul Azim and Dr Gazi Abdul Haque President and Secretary General respectively of Bangladesh Medical Shikhok Samity Federation have condoled the sudden death of Prof Ahmed Shartf.

Ctg samity

Former Deputy Prime Minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed and Rezaul Haque Chowdhury President and Secretary of Chittagong Samity in Dhaka Thursday condoled the sudden demise of renowned eye specialist and former Director of National Institute of Ophthal mology Prof Ahmed Sharif. They said that with the death of Prof Ahmed Sharif the na tion had lost a medical scientist and social reformer.

Probhati

Md Faruque Ahmed and Md Kamruzzaman President and General Secretary of Probhati on Thursday condoled the death of Prof Sharif. They said he was a social worker and re-

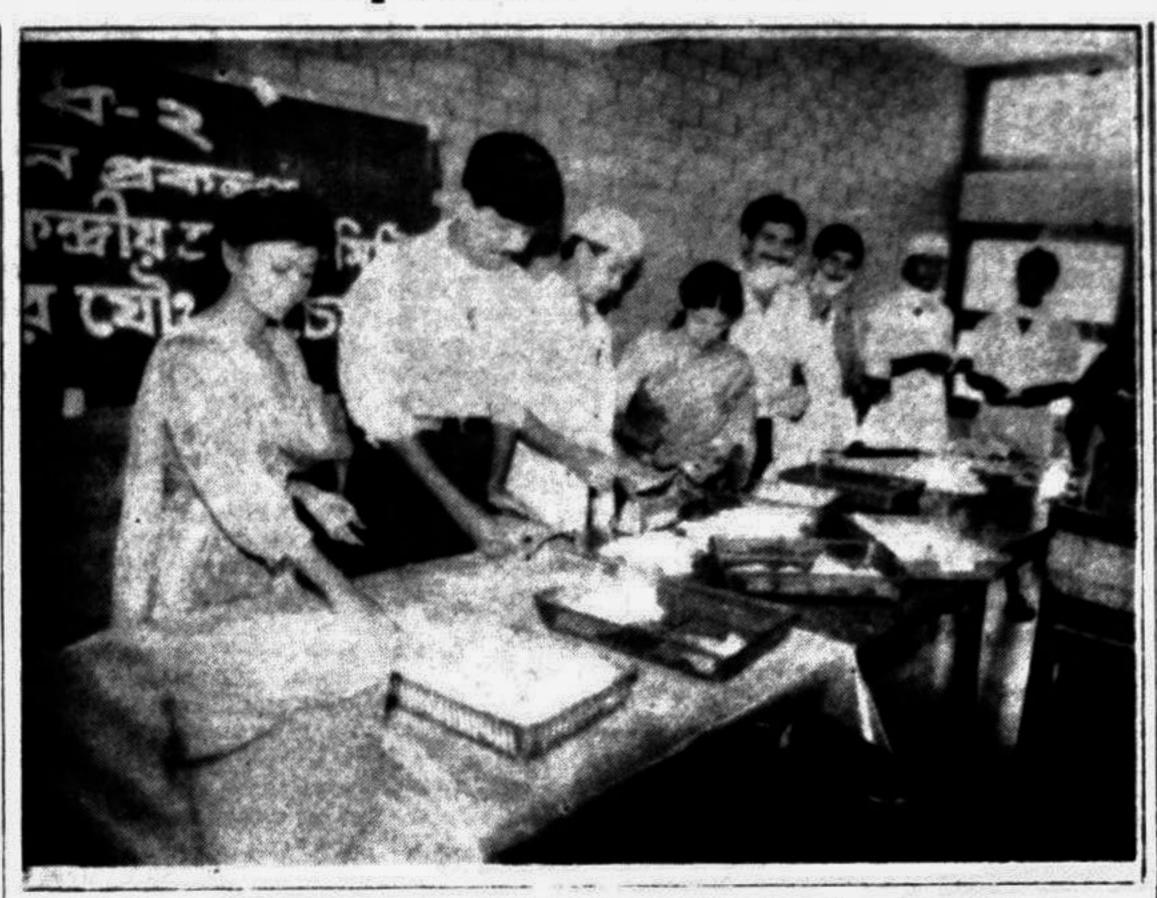
Speaker

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed profound grief at the death of Dr Ahmed Sharif, an eminent eye specialist of the country.

In a condolence message, the Speaker maintained that Dr Ahmed Sharif was not only a distinguished specialist but was also a dedicated social worker. His death was a great loss for the country, he added.

Badruddoza

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has expressed his deep shock at the death of Prof Ahmed Sharif, an eminent eye specialist and former Director of National Institute of Ophthalmol-



DU students are busy making bread and oral saline to dispatch to the cyclone-baltered areas being of course the crying need of the hour.



A Japanese technical team arrived in Dhaka on Thursday to help reconstruction work in the cyclone-battered areas of Bangladesh. The team leader Mr. Yokota is seen being interviewed by a Japanese newsman at Zia International Airport. - Star photo

More foreign donations

A chartered plane carrying relief materials donated by the French government arrived here Thursday.

The materials include 40 tons of medicine, water treatment units, and shelters. A top level doctor, a nutri-

tionist and eight water technicians also came by the same plane.

Representatives Bangladesh government and the French Ambassador, Mr. Serge Degallaix, were present at Zia International Airport to receive the materials.

The French government had earlier made available 5 metric tons of medicine and rendered assistance through NGOs for the cyclone affected people. More than 37,000 families would be beneficiaries of the programme aimed at providing food, shelter and work to the people in the affected areas and help them restart productive activities, a press release issued by the French embassy said.

Malaysia

The government of Malaysia has donated Bangladesh Ms one Million (approximately US dollar 3,70,000). The amount will used to send milk powder. medicine, biscuits, new clothings, rice and flour as relief goods. The first consignment of about 15 tons of relief goods shall be sent by one C-130 Malaysian Air Force plane May 18 or 19. The rest will follow in an ocean freighter within this month.
Philippines

The first and second shipments of Philippine relief assistance composed of 15 tons of various medicines arrived in two Biman flights on Monday and Tuesday at the Zia International Airport, an embassy press release said Thursday.

Mr. Cesar C. Pastores, Philippine Ambassador in Bangladesh, assisted by members of the embassy staff, received the relief goods and turned the more than five hundred big boxes to the relief cell at the Supreme Command Headquarters at the Airport headed by Commodore A. Z. Nizam and Colonel Kamal. Pak Senate

Members of Pakistan Senate

have decided to contribute their one month's salary to Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Bangladesh.

A press release issued by the Pakistan High Commission here said Thursday that the Senate also offered Fateha for the salvation of those who lost their lives in the devastating cyclone in the coastal areas of Bangladesh last month.

South Korea

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh Jat Chun Lee Thursday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat chamber. The envoy handed over a cheque for 100,000 US dollar provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea to the Prime Minister. During the meeting, the Ambassador discussed with Begum Zia matters relating to relief operations in the cyclone ravaged coastal areas in Bangladesh.

The first consignment of emergency relief goods from the State of Qatar for the cyclone affected people arrived here at the Zia International Airport Thursday morning.

Mohammad Khater Al Kahater, the Charge'd Affaires of Qutar to Bangladesh ceremonially handed over the relief goods to Commodore AR Nizam of the Supreme Com-

The Swedish government

has committed 20 million Swedish kronor [11 crore 57 lakh Taka) to support the relief work in the cyclone-htt area of Bangladesh.

Out of the 20 million Swedish kronor, Swedish Red Cross and the International League of the Red Cross, cooperating with the Red Crescent of Bangladesh, has received 7 million kronor (4 crore 5 lakh Taka), the Lutheran World Federation, in cooperation with Rangpur Dinajpur Rural services, has received 4 million kronor (2 erore 31 lakh Taka), Proshika 2 million kronor (1 erore 15 lakh Taka) and the Swedish Free Mission 900000 kronor (52 lakh Taka).

Abdur Rahman Biswas, in the

Mohiuddin Ahmed

sion. Mohiuddin Ahmed (AL-

Bakergani) paid tributes to

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

never comprised the causes of

the people even after facing

He said Bangladesh would

Ahmed called for restora-

tion of parliamentary democ-

racy as envisaged in the joint

declaration of the three al-

Dr. Moin Khan

Moin Khan (BNP-Narsingdi)

proposed non-conventional

approach towards taxation and

reduction of expenditure in

failed to understand as to how

the country's national budget

had always been shown as a

surplus budget during the last

nine years when the people

sion, Abdul Wahed Chowdhury

(AL-Rajbari) described the

Acting President's speech as

"historic" and said it had pro-

Amanullah Chowdhury

Amanullah Chowdhury (BNP-

Mymensingh) in his speech

said the Acting President had

reminded us our responsibility

ment had already fulfilled

some of its election pledges.

electrification in Bhaluka.

He said the BNP govern-

Chowdhury demanded rura

The Speaker, Abdur

Rahman Biswas, expressed his

gratitude to all the members

for their cooperation in con-

Speaking next. Alhaj

vided a sense of direction.

Participating in the discus-

could not pay tax.

and duty.

the BNP member said he

the non-productive sector.

Speaking next, Dr. Abdul

not have emerged had there

been no Bangabandhu.

Rahman who, he said, had

Participating in the discus-

chair.

the gallows.

-Parliament= 'Opposition ready to accept US type of presidential system' prayer with the Speaker, said and made a fervent appeal

Following is the remaining part of Wednesday's Jatiya Sangsad proceedings.

Md Ali Jinnah

The Acting President in his speech had depicted the correct picture obtained during the last nine years rule of autocrat Ershad, said Mohammad Ali Jinnah (BNP-Chittagong).

He said this Sangsad is the fruit of sacrifices of many people and we should work in a manner so that we could realise their hopes and aspira-

Referring to the Acting President's speech that the country was burdened with loans. Jinnah said, we should make all-out efforts to salvage ourselves from this situation. He called for taking immediate measures against the industrialists defaulting to repay wans.

Turning to the food situation. Jinnah said Shaheed Zia had exported rice while the autocrat Ershad had turned the country into a deficit case.

Jinnah said the people had voted BNP to power to run the country according to its own choice. He said the opposition has failed to win the hearts of the people by offering a parliamentary system of government. Now, he said they should not oppose everything for the sake of opposition only. He called upon the opposition to show respect to the verdict of the people.

He demanded setting up of a government college at Mirersarat. He also sought help for the cyclone and tidal surge affected people of the area.

Mir Shawkat Ali

At this stage Mir Shawkat Ali (BNP-Dhaka) took the floor on a point of clarification which was allowed by the Deputy Speaker.

He said though our economy was village based, the majority of the villagers were landless. To boost the national economy, these people should be provided with work through setting up rural based industries. He said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had taken a plan to set up small industries in the rural areas for turning the idle manpower into a productive force. President Zia had also taken steps for providing jobs to the

women. Referring to the law and order situation. Shawkat said we had only one police man for every 7,500 people, so it was not possible for the police

alone to cope with the situation. He said if the local leaders took initiative. law and order situation could be improved. President Zia, he said, had taken steps in this direction and introduced the Gram Sarkar system.

The BNP member said if there were no March 7, possibly there would be no March 26 and if there were no February 21, possibly there would be no March 7.

Shawkat said there might not be a liberation war if Shaheed Zia did not proclaim the declaration of independence on March 26. At this stage opposition members belonging to Awami League stood up and began protesting at the top of their voice.

Abdur Razzak

Interfering Mir Shawkat Ali. BAKSAL leader Abdur Razzak said it would have been better if Shawkat gave a clarification on the declaration of independence. He said late President Ziaur Rahman himself in writing in the daily Ittefaq said he (Zia) read out the declaration of independence in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Before that the then President of Chittagong District Awami League late M. A. Hannan also proclaim the declaration of independence.

Resuming his deliberations Shawkat said Sheikh Mujib had called for launching a movement for independence. He said Sheikh Mujib did not declare independence on March

Tofael Ahmed

At this state Tofael Ahmed took the floor and said the independence was not achieved through a day's movement. He said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had carried forward the independence movement stage by stage.

Tofael Ahmed said late President Ziaur Rahman had made it clear in his writing that the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the inspiration of the liberation war. He said the independence was the culmination of the mass upsurge of 1969, elections of 1970, historic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 7 and the independence declaration on March 26 in 1971.

Shawkat Ali said there was a gulf of difference between fighting the liberation war sitting at road theater in Calcutta,

and fighting actually in the

As he uttered the words, "if Shaheed Zia did not voluntarily proclaim the declaration independence", the opposition members from the Awami League and BAKSAL, without letting him finish, stood and began protesting. It was met with counter protests from the treasury bench.

At this stage the Deputy Speaker ruled that there should not be any more debate

Khademul Islam

Taking the floor Khademul Islam (AL-Thakurgaon) disagreed with the contention of the treasury bench member Lt. General (retd) Mir Shawkat Ali that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman gave the declaration of the independence. He said the movement for the independence was not built up in a day. It passed through a process over the years. He said the independence was not achieved

with just one declaration. He said likewise it took long nine years to oust the autocratic government led by Ershad on the basis of the framework of the joint declaration of the three alliances. He said it was true Mir Shawkat Ali fought in the liberation war like many others.

He said President Ziaur Rahman most tactfully took over power from the then President Justice A. M. Sayem. He said President Zia also installed as the country's Prime Minister a collaborator who spoke against the independence at the United Nations during the liberation war.

Next participant, Shahjahan (BNP-Nawabganj) called for keeping national unity intact in the greater interest of the overall development. The treasury bench member then switched over to the problems of northern Bangladesh. He called upon the authorities to. take up the Jamuna Bridge project on a priority basis and release development funds for the northern districts.

Rashed Khan Menon

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon described the address of acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in Parliament as the speech of an honest person. He said, despite the Acting President's definite indication, we have not yet been able to clean the society of the garbages accumulated over the years.

He said that despite the opposition's repeated demand

for a decision on the form of the government to be adopted. the ruling party till now had not come out with anything specific in this regard. At times, the ruling party members seemed to express their dislike to discuss the issue and sometimes it appeared that they were treating the Acting President as an opponent.

Menon said it was the expectation of the nation to see the joint declaration of the three alliances implemented.

Giving a brief account how the movement against autocracy was intiated and under what circumstances and un derstanding it reached a climax, leading to the overthrow of Ershad regime Menon also mentioned the lapses and failures of the movement at different phases.

The Workers' Party member said the unity of the three alliances which was forged in 1990 under the initiative of the students had modified certain basic things which were later incorporated into the joint declaration. He said none would accept that the BNP leaders, especially these who were Barristers had signed the joint declaration without understanding what it means by an accountable parliament.

Dispelling the claims of the ruling party members that the present Parliament was a sovereign one, Menon narrating his own experience said even a bill for discussing the form of government was rejected because it involved the President's consent. He said under the present system it was the President who was all powerful, who can even commute death sentence of a murderer as was done by Ershad releasing Azam Khan, the confirmed killer of Maizuddin Ahmed. He said in this Parliament, Minister answered questions on the functioning of the Ministers, but they were not answerable for their conduct. He said even if the President likes, he might not allow discussion on an agreements with any other country. Menon wanted to know what type of sovereignty this Parliament enjoys. Practically this Parliament has no power and authority, he said.

Menon said the opposition would be ready to accept the US type of Presidential system where each and every major issue was scrutinised by the Congress. But he said we were not used to the political culture of the United States and mostly accustomed to the British system as a Comm-

onweal country. He said very often the Treasury Bench members mention the failure of the Parliamentary system. but what about the two

Presidents who were killed. Khondkar Delwar Hossain

As the House reassembled after a break for Asr prayer at 5.38 pm, the Deputy Speaker invited Chief Whip Khondkar Delwar Hossain Khan to partieipate in the discussion on the vote of thanks to the Acting President.

initiating his speech.

Khondkar Delwar Hossain paid

tributes to those valiant sons of

the soil who had sacrificed their lives in the nine-year anti-autocracy movement. He said the country was plunged into darkness on March 24, 1982 when

democratic and elected government of Justice Sattar was overthrown at gun point. The BNP Chief Whip recorded appreciation for the Acting President Justice Shahbuddin Ahmed for holding the elections in a free and fair

atmosphere fulfilling the hopes

and aspirations of the democratic aspirant people. Referring to the elections in 1986 under former President Ershad, Khondkar said those elections were held without voters. If one of the main political parties did not participate in 1986 elections, the autocratic rule of Ershad would have been ended long

before, he pointed out. Turning to the Acting President's speech, the BNP Chief Whip said the Acting President had correctly depicted the gloomy picture of all sectors and in every sphere of the national life due to the misrule by the autocratic regime. Side by side, the Acting

President had given a clear sense of direction for the development of all sectors including the agriculture and industries sectors. The Economy of the country has been severely affected by the recent devastating cy-

clone in the coastal belt and

tors and put the nation on the

path of development. But those

who did not like the develop-

offshore islands and tornadoes and floods in other parts of the its five-year full term. country. Khondkar pointed Khondokar Delwar Hossain Khan recalled the contributions of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and said President Zia wanted to achieve self-reliance in all sec-

ment of the country and welfare of the people had killed President Zia, he said.

The BNP Chief Whip was critical of the decentralisation of judiciary upto upazila level and said the autocratic government had crippled the judiciary by setting up courts at the upazila level. He strongly demanded of the government for taking immediate steps to

withdraw the upazila courts. About the debate on the forms of government. Khondkar said it was fact that the legislature could not enjoy supremacy under the presidential form of government.

Dispelling misgivings about the out-line of the joint decla ration of the three alliances. Khondkar said it was clearly stated in the joint declaration that the Acting President would hand over power to a sovereign Parliament. But what is that power, he posed a question and said by power, we mean accountability of the government which could be verifted in many ways, he

The BNP Chief Whip said the opposition had monopolised the issue of establishing a parliamentary form of government as if there was none but the opposition who were in favour of the system.

As signatories to the joint declaration,"we stand by it." Turning to the opposition. Khondkar said "how could you think that we shall detract from the joint declaration."

He said evolving a suitable form of government for the welfare of the people and development of the country was a great task, and it is not wise to make haste in performing such a great task, it is not wise to make haste in performing such a great task, he thought and laid stress on holding of discussions and negotiations in this connection. Referring to the apprehen-

sions as being expressed by some opposition members about the longevity of the current Sangsad, the BNP Chief Whip said the members of the Treasury Bench were in no way less concerned about the functioning of the current House in The BNP Chief Whip said

party had never betrayed the causes of the people in the past and now insha-Allah, we shall fulfil all our commitments, we made with the people through restoring their

"We want the end of that process so that no autocrat can stage a come back," Khondkar

put in their efforts for maintaining the democratic process in the country. Matiur Rahman Nizami

to the opposition members to

Speaking next, M Mattur Rahman Nizami (Jamaat-Pabna) said this Parliament was the result of prolonged struggle of students, workers and people of the country.

"The final victory of the movement will come, when the parliamentary democracy will be given an institutional shape," he said.

Nizami questioned, what reply we shall give to the people, if this session ends without deciding the form of government.

Painting a gloomy picture of

the economy of the country,

the Jamaat leader said the

number of landless peasants and people below poverty line were increasing rapidly. He said if the fallow lands were used and shallow and deep tubewells operated propcrly, the country would be able to attain to self-sufficiency in

Nizami pointed out that healthy politics was the precondition to socio-economic

uplift of the country. He also hoped that this Sangsad would be able to complete its five-year tenure.

Fazlul Huq

Taking the floor, A.K.M. Fazlul Huq (BNP-Mymensingh) said he would not give his main speech as many of the members were not allowed to address the Sangsad in this session. He hoped that the Speaker would allow more members to deliver their speeches in the next session.

Anwarul Hossain

Speaking next, Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury (BNP-Mymensingh) thanked the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her pragmatic leadership.

Dwelling on the roles of private and public sectors in the economy. Chowdhury said a realistic policy was need in this connection to accelerate industrialisation in the coun-

He said the country could develop with the combination of human and non-human re-

The Speaker adjourned the session at 6-40 pm for half an hour for Magreb prayer. The house resumed discus-

sions on the speech of the

Acting President when it re-

assembled after the Maghreb

ducting the business of the House. He said he could say from his experience in a parliamentary history that standard of this House was much more higher.

Biswas thanked the journalists for covering the day to day business of the House. He also thanked the staff and officials of the Sangsad for their coop-

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas read out the prorogation order of the Acting President. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at 1.09 am (Thursday).