

Task Force

From Page 1 Col. 7

United Nations
The US government has so far given a huge relief materials worth 7,401,000 dollars while the US voluntary organisations have donated a total of 1,738,000 dollars, and the other foreign countries and international organisations have provided relief goods worth 173,965,649 dollars.

The following is the break up of relief assistance so far received by Bangladesh:

Summary of USG help

Ambassador's Authority	\$25,000
Initial grants to PVOs	\$100,000
Medical supplies and equipment (DOD)	\$2,000,000
Water purification tablets (USAID)	\$14,000
Mission allotment for grants	\$4,250,000
Water purification tablets (OPDA)	\$512,000
DOD airlifts of relief supplies	\$500,000
Total	\$7,401,000

US voluntary agencies

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is feeding 20,000 cyclone victims and has a medical team in Chittagong.

American Red Cross — has donated \$ 85,000 to the relief effort and has received a pledge of 500,000 from a major American foundation.

AmeriCares — airlifted 30.8 mt of relief supplies, with an estimated value of at least \$300,000.

AMURTEL — is sending a medical team.

CARE — has 320 staff people working on the relief effort, distributing 10,000 survival kits, food plastic sheeting, blankets, WPTs, and ORS to 200,000 people. CARE sent 24 medical teams to sub-offices in Chittagong, Barisal, and Comilla and is assisting the BDG in clearing relief supplies as they arrive in Dhaka. Reported expenses to date total \$ 185,000.

Church World Service (CWS) — has sent \$5,000 and has issued an appeal.

Food for the Hungry International — provided \$10,000, personnel, and vehicles.

Lutheran World Relief — has committed \$50,000 to the Lutheran World Federation for cyclone relief.

Save the Children (SCF) — with a large staff in country, is providing food, shelter, and medical assistance. Emergency funding so far totals \$93,000.

World Concern — will be providing supplementary feeding for 1,000 families and financial assistance to 200 families to build cyclone-resistant houses.

World Relief Corporation — has sent an initial \$10,000.

World Vision — has committed \$500,000 to provide food, clothing, medical supplies, tents, WPTs, and blankets.

Total — \$1,738,000.

International organisations

European Community (EC) — has pledged \$12,000,000 to be used to procure 45,000 tons of wheat, 1,500 tons of vegetable oil, tents, and blankets.

Flood situation

From Page 1 Col. 5

The Surma at Sylhet and Sunamganj, the Kushiara at Sheola, the Manu at Moulavibazar and the Khowai at Habiganj are expected to recede further during the period.

The Surma on Friday receded by four cm at Sylhet and two centimetre at Sunamganj and it was flowing seven cm above the danger level at Sylhet and 11 cm below the danger level at Sunamganj. The Kushiara at Sheola and the Manu at Moulavibazar also recorded fall by six cm and 10 cm respectively. The Kushiara at Sheola was flowing 50 cm above the danger level and the Khowai at Habiganj recorded a sharp fall by 63 cm.

Ten thousand maunds of rice were distributed in the 11 flood affected upazilas of Sylhet district. Taka 55,000 in cash, 22 tons of wheat, 32 cartons of biscuits, 25 cartons of milk powder, 1000 kg of rice were distributed among the flood-hit people of Sunamganj district.

In Habiganj, Tk. one lakh in cash, 90 tons of wheat, 300 tons of milk powder, 32 cartons of biscuits and 30 sacks of old clothes have been distributed so far.

In Comilla, no new area was flooded. Aman crops of 5,000 acres have been damaged by flood in Muradnagar. The erosion of the river Gomti has destroyed some area at Jharkandi and Phitkandi under Daudkandi upazila.

Comilla district administration has distributed 12 tons of rice and wheat among the flood victims.

In Kurigram, 145 mm rainfall was recorded. In Dinajpur, rainfall was 130.5 mm. In Sylhet 56 mm, in Kaulia 45 mm, in Sunamganj 43 mm, at Sheola 40 mm and at Dewanganj 27 mm.

League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCS) — has issued an appeal for \$8,000,000 and is carrying out a joint relief program with the BRC. LRCS has provided \$100,000 for emergency relief.

OPEC Fund/Vienna — contributed \$1000,000 through UNDR0.

UNDP — made an emergency grant of \$50,000.

UNDR0 — gave \$50,000, is sending an assessment team, and is launching an appeal.

UNICEF — contributed \$1,000,000 and \$275,000 worth of relief supplies and issued an appeal. Four million ORS packets are being purchased locally and a plane load of supplies, including WPTs, arrived in Dhaka May 5. UNICEF is assessing the rural drinking water infrastructure and plans to provide \$2,380,000 for the repair of 4,000 pumps and platforms.

World Council of Churches (WCC) — sent a relief team and supplies by chartered ship at a cost of \$650,000.

World Food Program (WFP) — conducted a food assessment and has allocated 7,000 tons of wheat and vegetable oil, valued at \$1,500,000.

WHO — has sent an assessment team and provided cash and health kits worth \$200,000.

Governments

Australia — donated \$2,216,000.

Austria — is providing \$164,000.

Bhutan — donated \$112,000.

Canada — is giving \$2,522,000 to the BRC, UNDR0, and Oxfam.

China, People's Rep — is sending tents, and medical and food supplies.

Denmark — is providing \$50,000.

France — provided \$86,000, 20,000 tons of wheat and powdered milk, and the further donation of \$520,000 for the local purchase of rice and plastic sheeting. France is also assessing the electricity system in Barisal.

Germany — has provided a total of \$3,081,000 to the relief effort.

India — provided \$700,000 and the loan of 6 helicopters and has announced the release of an additional \$5,000,000 for relief in kind. India also sent 10 mt of relief items, 100,000 WPTs, and 300 kg of bleaching powder and 5,000 mt of rice.

Iran — sent 90 mt of supplies.

Ireland — is donating \$198,000 through UNDR0 and Irish Concern.

Japan — is donating \$2,000,000 and has dispatched \$500,000 worth of relief goods, including tents and blankets. Japan is also sending 2 helicopters and a 50-person relief team.

Korea, Rep — has contributed \$100,000.

Nepal — has provided \$100,000.

Netherlands — is donating \$3,200,000 through LRCS and local NGOs and is sending a team to assess damage to Karnaphuli bridge.

New Zealand — donated \$5,120,000 through EC and NGOs.

Norway — is giving \$335,300 through the Red Cross and \$32,000 through CARE.

Pakistan — is sending 2 helicopters and relief supplies, and is donating \$4,515,000 to the Relief Fund.

Philippines — is sending medicine.

Saudi Arabia — airlifted tents, blankets, and medicines and is donating \$100,000,000 to the relief effort. In addition, Saudi Arabia has made 3 C-130 planes available to assist the relief effort.

Sweden — approved a donation of \$3,461,000.

Switzerland — dispatched 5 delegates, including a communications expert, as well as 36 tons of high protein food and tarpaulins. The Swiss contribution is partially valued at \$482,759.

Thailand — contributed \$75,000 and 5 mt of rice.

United Kingdom — is donating \$11,000,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and to NGOs and the EC. The UK is also providing 2 helicopters and a naval supply ship equipped with medical facilities.

Non-governmental organisations

Caritas International — donated \$422,300.

Corps Mondial Secours — dispatched a medical team and relief items.

Oxfam/UK — distributed WPT, food, candles, and matches from stocks already in country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have contributed a reported total of \$1,402,800.

Secours Catholique — donated relief goods worth \$265,490.

Total — \$173,965,649.



Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administering the oath to Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP as minister of state and Mirza Abbas, Sheikh Taibur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu as Mayors of Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations respectively. —PID photo

People of Kutubdia start life afresh, says Rafiq

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said the affected people of Kutubdia were regaining their hopes to start life afresh. It was due to satisfactory relief operation being conducted by the government and Non-Governmental organisations, he added, reports BSS.

Barrister Rafiq, who stayed in Kutubdia from May 10 to May 15 to supervise relief operation was describing his experience in a press briefing in Secretariat on Friday.

About the damages of the embankment at Kutubdia, the Minister said though the embankment was washed away by the tidal surge a fresh start had been made from May 13 and now hundreds of people are engaged in reconstruction work of the embankment.

He said approximately Taka 26 crore would be required to complete the reconstruction work of the embankment.

He said arrangement had been made to provide farmers with seeds and other necessities of farming.

The minister mentioned that remarkable coordination and cooperation exists among different agencies. Both the government and non-governmental organisations and as well as leaders and workers of various political parties, are now engaged in relief and rehabilitation activities in Kutubdia, he said.

Nepal Congress heading for absolute majority

The Nepali Congress Party was in sight of an absolute majority in the 205 seat house of Representatives today, with 100 seats secured and leading in the counting for three more, reports AFP.

The Congress, the largest democratic party in Nepal, had outstripped its nearest rival, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist), official figures showed.

"By late afternoon our position will be clear," a Congress spokesman said.

Party position

Party	Seats	Total
Total	205	
Results declared	191	
Nepali Congress	100	
United Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist and Leninist)	66	
United People's Front Nepal Sadbhavana Party	9	
National Democratic Party (Chand)	3	
Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party	2	
Communist Party of Nepal (Democratic)	2	
National Democratic Party (Thapa)	1	
Independents	2	

Counting in five constituencies showed the Nepali Congress ahead in three and the NCP (UML) leading in two.

Other results were being held up by the need to vote again today in five polling stations where factional brawling had disrupted the process last Sunday.

Of the 44 different political parties officially recognised by the Election Commission, only 20 put up candidates. Of those, 12 have so far been unable to win a single seat, and only two of the 219 independents have been elected.

The results have also shattered the hopes of supporters of the partyless Panchayat system of government, which collapsed last year amid popular discontent.

The pro-Panchayat NDP (Thapa) and NDP (Chand), which had predicted they would win 80 per cent of the seats between them, have ended up with only four in total so far.

Defeated candidates include three former Panchayat prime ministers and a number of former ministers.

The General Secretary of the Nepali Congress and prospective prime minister of Nepal, Girija Prasad Koirala, has blamed the Home Ministry for his party's debacle in the three-district Kathmandu valley, reports PTI.

Koirala told a group of foreign correspondents, according to English daily 'The Motherland' that the utter negligence of the Home Ministry had helped create unrest and a sense of insecurity in the country ever since the interim government was installed in April last year.

"The major reason for the party's defeat in the capital was the negligence of the ministry," he said.

Koirala, who is known for his organisational ability, said he had several times demanded the resignation of Home Minister, Yog Prasad

Upadhyaya, who was also the Assistant General Secretary of the Nepali Congress, at the appropriate time, well before the elections.

It was political blunder on the part of his party to let Upadhyaya to continue on the post.

To a question as to what his attitude would be towards the communists, which had emerged as the second largest political party in Nepal when he headed the government as the country's next prime minister, Koirala, known for his aversion to the communists, made it clear that as long as the communists works within the framework of the Constitution, he would co-operate with them.

But, he made it clear, however, that if the communists challenged the Constitution itself, his party would, adopt the necessary stand required to save democracy from subversion.

Jamaat MP demands four cyclone shelters in each union

By Staff Correspondent

Enamul Huq Manju, Jamaat MP from Chakaria, on Friday urged the government to distribute relief goods among cyclone affected families by using cards, and coordinate government and NGO activities.

Addressing a news conference at Jatya Press Club he also demanded emergency steps to pump out saline water from ponds and crop fields, reconstruct coastal embankments and provide interest-free loan to salt growers and farmers to resume production.

For long term safety he demanded construction of four cyclone shelters in each union in a such a way that the shelters could be used as school, madrasahs and community centres.

Enamul Huq said people living in newly-formed raised islets should be rehabilitated in the mainland. Coastal people who want to construct pucca houses should be given loans on soft terms, he said.

The Jamaat MP also demanded the framing of a plan under which army could be deployed to evacuate people from cyclone-prone areas to safety well in time.

He said people of the coastal areas were alerted by red crescent volunteers about the April 29 cyclone, but no team or craft was sent to evacuate people. He alleged the Cox's Bazar district administration did not cooperate with Red Crescent volunteers to spread warning messages before the cyclone struck.

Three members of Parliament, Dipankar Talukder, Kalporanj Chakma and Bir Bahadur elected from Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarbanj respectively, also called on Sheikh Hasina Friday afternoon at Bangabandhu Bhaban. The MPs drew her attention to the sufferings of the people of their districts, who were badly affected by the recent cyclone. Sheikh Hasina assured them all help from the central relief funds of Awami League and demanded adequate relief from the concerned authorities for those areas.

Uneasy calm

From Page 1 Col. 8

Leaders of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) were continuing their efforts to settle the issue through negotiations and restore congenial academic atmosphere in the campus.

The condition of the injured persons, who received bullet injuries on the first day of armed clash, was improving gradually.

Police contingents took position at all the strategic points in the campus.

The clash between the two student groups ensued on Wednesday following a brawl between two activists of the rival student organisations.

It may be recalled that similar incidents took place on the campus between the two groups in March.

The Midnight File

Queen to knight Schwarzkopf
LONDON, May 17: Queen Elizabeth will confer an honorary Knighthood on General Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of U.S. forces during the Gulf war, the Foreign Office said today. It said, the queen, currently visiting the United States, would knight the outspoken "Stormin' Norman" at Florida's MacDill Air Force base on Monday, reports Reuter.

Hydrogen leak blows off roof
TOKYO, May 17: An explosion Thursday believed to be caused by a leak of liquid hydrogen blew off the roof of a rocket testing facility, the National Space Development Agency of Japan said Friday. No one was injured in the 5 p.m. (0800 GMT) explosion in Kakuda, Miyagi (state), 300 kilometers (180 miles), northeast of Tokyo, said agency spokesman Hideo Kasahara, reports AP.

Shoes symbol of thrift: Imelda
MANILA, May 17: Former First Lady Imelda Marcos said Friday the thousands of shoes she left in the Philippines while escaping with her husband during a revolt in 1986 was a symbol of thrift, not extravagance. She said the shoes piled up because she was thrifty. Most were gifts from shoe fairs she attended as governor of metropolitan Manila, she said, reports AP.

Arab stabs three Jews
JERUSALEM, May 17: An Arab stabbed and wounded at least three Jews in the centre of West Jerusalem today, Israel radio said. A police spokeswoman confirmed there was a stabbing incident but gave no further details, reports Reuter.

Curfews to continue in Papua
SYDNEY, May 17: Papua New Guinea police have extended night-time curfews imposed on the South Pacific nation's capital and provincial towns for another two months to curb escalating crime. The curfews, imposed on March 20, were due to be lifted from May 20, but will continue until July 31, a spokesman for the Papua New Guinea Police Commissioner said from Port Moresby, reports Reuter.

Farmers' strike in Romania
BUCHAREST, May 17: About 800,000 farmers in Romania held a two-hour warning strike yesterday, demanding necessary government subsidies to basic economic sectors, and economic and social insurances to farmers. The Romanian news agency Rompres reported yesterday that many trade unions in food industry and soil improvement department also took part in the strike to support the farmers, reports Xinhua.

Thai journalist killed
BANGKOK, May 17: A journalist working for the Thai-language Thai Rath mass-circulation newspaper has been killed by two men in a suburb of the Thai capital, police said here today. The journalist, Viton Kaway, who was a provincial News Editor, was killed instantly late Thursday after he was shot in the face at point blank range by an unidentified gunman, who then fled the scene on a motorcycle ridden by another man, police in the district of Lard Prao said, reports AFP.

Four armed insurgents surrender
CHITTAGONG, May 17: Four armed insurgents surrendered to Bangladesh security forces with some arms and ammunition here today, official sources said here, reports BSS.

The security forces also arrested one insurgent at Dighnala of the Hill Tracts in a raid at their secret hideout.

The four insurgents who surrendered were Animesh Dewan alias Capt. Nandit, Tapar Kishore Chakma alias Capt. Kripagna, Diptimoy Chakma alias Lieutenant Sanchoy and Nilprodit Chakma alias Corporal Mitra.

The arms and ammunition surrendered were one SMC, one automatic rifle, four SMC Magazines, six ammunition chargers, 2 SMC and 65 rifle ammunition.

The arms recovered from the possession of the arrested insurgents were two single barrel guns, three SMG magazines, some ammunition and important documents.

The four insurgents while surrendering said they were disillusioned with the activities of the so called Shanti Bahini and that leadership, land, financial crises and uncertainty had surfaced among the insurgent of Chittagong Hill Tract.

High heat near DPRK nuclear facility
SEOUL, May 17: Unusually high ground temperatures at a North Korean nuclear facility alarmed South Korean and US officials this week and heightened concern about the North's refusal to allow international nuclear inspections, reports AP.

The Ministry of Science and Technology said Friday it is investigating why ground temperatures at the nuclear facility at Yongbyon reportedly shot up early Tuesday morning.

Cyclone
From Page 1 Col. 4

They said they do not want relief materials, they want jobs. They can resume their day-to-day work if the damaged coastal embankments are repaired and saline water pumped at from ponds and paddy fields. The cyclone affected people also need house building materials like CI sheets, bamboo to erect their houses.

For a long-term solution of their problems the people of the areas have urged the government to construct more cyclone shelters.

In Magnama area in Chokoria upazila, the number of deaths due to the cyclone was lights as there was no shelter in nearby villages.

The government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are carrying out relief operations in all the affected areas. The people are generally not happy with the services rendered by the local authorities.

Some NGOs including Ganashasthya Kendra have started distributing rice mixed with grains of pulse and pieces of onion, garlic and ginger so that people can easily cook 'khichuri'. The measure is also intended to guard against sale of relief materials in the open market.

Stolen
My briefcase containing, among other things, the following documents from Hotel Mitai, Wari, Dhaka on 16-05-91 for which a case (No. 42) was lodged with Sutrapur PS, Dhaka.
(1) International Passport No. G-715915 issued from Sylhet on 15-08-90 with student Visa No. 747583 granted by British High Commission on 13-05-91
(2) Certificates of SSC, HSC and English Language Course (British Council, Dhaka) in original.
(3) Schiller International University Acceptance letter BBA course.
N.B: Handsome reward, if recovered, Md Abdul Ahad, S/O Md. Tuta Miah, Popular Library, Zinda Bazar, Sylhet.

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