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# The Daily Star



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### International



Congress (I) General Secretary Gulam Nabi Azad has accused Bharatiya Janata Party of fomenting communal violence  
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### Sport

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### National

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Special schools in Bangladesh are now bringing basic education to over 100,000 children aged 8 to 10 in rural areas  
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### Article

Half of world's most populated cities are Asian  
 By the year 2010, fully half of the world's people may live in cities  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Japan departs 5,925 Bangladeshis

TOKYO, May 18 : Japan deported a record 29,884 illegal foreign workers last year, 80 per cent up on 1989, a Justice Ministry report said today. Bangladesh topped the list with 5,925 people deported, followed by 5,534 South Koreans and 4,465 Malaysians, reports Reuter.

### Soyuz launched

MOSCOW, May 18 : A Soviet Soyuz TM-12 rocket was launched today from the Baikonur space centre, in central Asia, with a crew of three, including British Cosmonaut Helen Sharman, reports AFP.

### Female minister in Nawazi cabinet

ISLAMABAD, May 18 : Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today appointed his government's first female minister, just after the National Assembly adopted a bill to enforce Sharia (Islamic Law) reports AFP.

### Israeli jets raid Lebanon

TYRE (Lebanon), May 18 : Israeli fighter jets attacked a base of Syrian-backed guerrillas in South Lebanon today killing person and wounding eight, security sources said, reports Reuter.

# 31 shelters in Sylhet submerged : More people of Moulvibazar affected Heavy rains aggravate flood situation

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts deteriorated further due to heavy rainfall on Saturday.

Although the river Surma fell by five centimetres at Sylhet, the water level in the flood affected upazilas increased due to a 71-millimetre rainfall, the district Flood Control Room said. At Kanaighat the river rose further and was 1.07 metre above the danger level.

In Moulvibazar, the river Monu swelled by another 12 centimetres and was flowing

19 centimetres above the danger level on the day, according to reports received in Dhaka.

The Sylhet district control room told The Daily Star that 31 flood shelters were submerged forcing their inmates to vacate those. The district control room could not tell the whereabouts of those who had been staying in those shelters.

Road communications with seven out of 11 upazilas of the district remained cut off from the district headquarters. The upazilas are Balaganj, Zakirganj, Bianbazar, Companyganj,

Kanaighat, Fenchuganj and Goainghat.

The flood affected people in Sylhet are facing an acute scarcity of safe drinking water as almost all tubewells have gone under water. Outbreak of diarrhoea has been reported from different upazilas.

More than half of Sylhet town has been submerged in flood water. Army and the civil administration are carrying out relief operations by using speed boats.

The sufferings of the flood affected people of Moulvibazar

increased as the Manu there and the Dhalai at Kamalganj swelled further. Heavy down-pour added to the flood level and another 50,000 were affected by the flood, the district control room said.

The control room said they had virtually no communications with Kamalganj.

The rivers Manu, Dhalai and Juri have breached embankments at 43 points, and the onrush of flood waters has led to damage of crops and houses.

All the six upazilas in Moulvibazar are affected by the

flood.

A total of 836 tubewells have gone under water and 43 bridges and culverts have been damaged. According to the district control room, a total of 7.17 lakh people have been affected by the flood in Moulvibazar.

The flood situation in Habiganj worsened as the river Khowai started rising. Due to heavy rainfall on Saturday three municipal wards in Habiganj town have been submerged.

Over 27 thousand families

in eight upazilas of Habiganj have been worst hit by the flood which has damaged crops on 41,415 acres of land. If water does not recede in another week's time crops on another 75,000 acres of land will be damaged.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Netrakona said, four out of 10 upazilas in the district were affected due to onrush of flood waters from upper reaches in Sunamganj district and heavy rainfall.

See Page 10 Col. 1



US TASK FORCE AT WORK : Relief goods being lifted onto a helicopter at Chittagong Airport for ferrying to Sandwip  
 Saturday. —Photo : Nurul Alam

## Relief operations Bangladesh-US coordination cell set up

By Staff Correspondent

The intensified operations by the Bangladesh-US Task Force Coordination Cell has substantially improved the relief distribution in the cyclone-battered areas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and offshore-islands.

The Coordination Cell set up with Bangladesh Army, US Task Force and relief coordinator started working from Saturday.

The meeting of the Coordination Cell will be held every day at 7.30 am at the Patenga Airport.

The US Task Force airlifted relief goods to the affected areas which included 300 tons of

house building materials, agricultural pumps and power generators.

Power generators were taken to Kutubdia and Moheshkhali to restore power supply temporarily.

The Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are also continuing their relief operations and their activities are also being coordinated by the newly-established cell.

The representatives of ADAB and CARE will also sit in the coordination cell meetings.

The survivors in the cyclone affected areas received the US Marines engaged in relief work  
 See Page 10 Col. 5

## Aid memo to contain 'annexure' on disaster management \$2.3b to be sought at Paris meet

by Moazzem Hossain

The Government will request the donors at the Paris Consortium meeting on May 29 and 30 for fresh aid pledges at 2.3 billion US dollars for 1991-92. The amount is slightly higher than what the World Bank (WB) has recommended at 2.18 billion dollars for commitments by the Paris Aid Club.

New aid pledges by the donors at the annual Consortium meeting will be meant for normal budgetary resource management. The amount, to be sought by the government, does not include requirements of external support for recovery and, medium and long-term rehabilitation operations for the areas, struck by the recent cyclone

and tidal surge, according to official sources.

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, who will lead a six-member team to this year's Paris Aid Club meeting will apprise the donors of the colossal loss caused by the cyclone and tidal surge, and also by the floods. He is likely to call for external support for disaster management including recovery and rehabilitation programmes in the affected areas.

Sources said, the aid memorandum of the Government for the Paris Consortium meet will contain an 'annexure' on disaster management, indicating the areas for external aid and support for recovery and rehabilitation operations. For

specific donor commitments, specific projects or programmes will have to be drawn up. Preparation of detailed "bankable" projects for the same will take more time before finalisation and approval by the Government, the sources said.

What the international community has so far pledged, committed or disbursed, both in cash and kind, to meet the exigencies following the cyclone and tidal surge is not normal development aid. Most of it will go for relief and short-term operations.

External aid commitments in response to the appeal of the government informed the international community early  
 See Page 10 Col. 1

## Diarrhoea spreads in epidemic form

By Staff Correspondent

Diarrhoea has been spreading in epidemic form in the cyclone affected areas. During the 24 hours ending Saturday evening thousands were attacked with diarrhoeal diseases in the cyclone-hit districts and many died.

According to official sources, 23 people died of and 8738 were attacked with the diseases all over the country on Saturday. Among the victims, 8400 were attacked in 18 districts affected by the cyclone while 21 of them died.

Since the cyclone of April 29, a total of 1,68,369 people have been attacked with the diseases in the cyclone affected areas while 1204 of them died till Saturday evening.

## Rohingyas dying for want of food, water

Many Rohingyas in the Bay of Bengal coast of Myanmar (Burma) are dying everyday for want of food, water and medical care since the April 29 cyclone, according to a message received on Saturday, reports UNB.

The coastal areas along the Naff river across the Bangladesh border of Teknaf, inhabited by Rohingya Muslims, were also battered by the devastating cyclone that killed them in hundreds.

They are passing days in utter misery and desperation following the cyclone and tidal surge that destroyed their agricultural farms, washed away shrimp projects and salt farms.

## BNP MPs debate form of govt

Star Report

The BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) has initiated an inner debate on the form of government and administrative reforms.

The BNPPP met on Saturday at the Committee room No 1 of the Parliamentary House with the Prime Minister Khaleida Zia in the chair and opened the discussion on the government.

Briefing newsmen at one stage of the discussions, party Secretary General Barrister Salam Talukder said that the government was actively considering recasting the upazila systems.

Many MPs, he said, favoured abolition of posts of Upazila Chairman and Upazila Courts to reduce the current expenditure.

Talking to The Daily Star Salam Talukder said that under the present system the

MPs have no role in development activities in the upazilas. As a result the MPs and Upazila Chairmen are at times at loggerheads over local development issues. All these matters have come up for discussion in the BNPPP, he said.

Talukder also in charge of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, said that District Councils would be formed now on the basis of nomination, but in the long run the District Councils may be constituted through elections.

He, however said that the local government councils of the three districts in Chittagong Hill Tracts would remain as they are.

On the form of government, Barrister Salam Talukder said that three kinds of opinions have emerged during the discussion.  
 See Page 10 Col. 3

## Autocratic system still prevails: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina alleged that autocratic system prevailed even after the fall of autocratic rulers. "Our struggle for establishing people's rule will continue", she said.

Addressing a large number of Student League workers of Dhaka city at the Bangabandhu Bhawan Saturday afternoon, Sheikh Hasina said people fought for establishing a democratic government which would institutionalise democracy. "But this government  
 See Page 10 Col. 5

## 40 injured as SKOP, JCD clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 18 : At least 40 people were injured and 20 houses ransacked in street battles between the ruling party supporters and SKOP activists during an all-out blockade here today, reports UNB.

Awami League and JSD (Inu) offices were among the places ransacked in protracted clashes throughout the town between the Srani Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) and BNP supporters, police and witnesses said.

The trouble started when a huge SKOP procession picketing the blockade was attacked in the morning while passing by the district office of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, they said.

Some 5,000 workers and  
 See Page 10 Col. 1.

## APSU leaders pledge arms-free campus

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University authorities leaders of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) and the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) reiterated their commitment Saturday to keep the university campus free from arms.

In a joint meeting of the Hall Provosts and the leaders of APSU and DUCSU, the student leaders also decided not to give shelter to any armed activist in their respective student organisations.

The meeting opined that education and arms cannot stay together and hoped that the law enforcing agencies would play an effective role in recovering illegal arms.

Meanwhile, an uneasy calm was still prevailing on the university campus as the armed

hooligans were allegedly found to be moving about in the campus and residential halls, though large numbers of police were posted at all strategic points of the campus.

The supporters of the two feuding student organisations, who left their respective halls didn't return till yesterday.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) held a rally Saturday in front of the Jatiya Press Club to protest the recent terrorist activities on the Dhaka University campus.

The rally was addressed by Shahe Alam, Ashim Kumar Ukil, Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruzzaman Ansari.

Speakers at the rally accused Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for the recent incidents  
 See Page 10 Col. 2

## 2 candidates killed as campaigning in India ends

NEW DELHI, May 18 : At least nine people, including two candidates, were killed as campaigning ended for the first stage of India's general election today, reports Reuter.

Under Indian law, campaigning stops two days before the start of voting. The deaths were recorded in violence over the last 24 hours of the electoral battle.

Election Commission officials said they spent 75 million dollars organising the world's biggest election and would use elephants, camels and heli-

copters to ferry ballot boxes for 514 million voters throughout the country.

The election follows the resignation in March of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, the third man to quit the leadership of the most populous democracy in 16 months.

In Punjab, Sikh separatists killed a former state government minister on Friday night in a renewed attack on candidates, senior police superintendent Sanjiv Gupta said.

Gupta said six militants pulled state assembly candi-

date Harbhajan Singh Sandhu out of a car and shot him dead near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

He was the ninth Punjab candidate killed by militants who oppose the election for parliament and the state assembly on June 22. Under Indian law, polls are cancelled in a constituency in which a candidate is killed.

The polls are being held in Punjab after the rest of India votes on May 20, 23 and 26 to allow security forces on election duty elsewhere to be de-

ployed in a state where separatist violence has killed more than 2,100 people this year.

Independent candidate Pratap Singh was shot dead by unidentified gunmen who burst into his home on Saturday, the United News of India news agency reported.

Singh was a candidate for the Khekra assembly district in the electorally-crucial Uttar Pradesh state in the north.

In Farrukhabad, another area in Uttar Pradesh, three people died when firecrackers exploded in a house where

they were stored. Firecrackers are often used in campaigning to create terror.

Gunmen in the Indian capital killed two people and injured 13 at a public meeting addressed by a candidate from former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party on Friday night, police said.

In the south, two people were killed on Friday night when police opened fire to control an angry crowd that rampaged in Karnataka state after a clash between two unidentified political groups.

## US Harrier not yet salvaged

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 18 : The US Harrier aircraft which crashed in the Bay 30 miles off Chittagong Port on May 15 is yet to be salvaged.

US Marine sources said here today that the Harrier combat aircraft fell into the sea when it took off for the second time and rose to about 15 feet above the USS Vancouver. It appears that the crash occurred due to malfunctioning of the aircraft's engine, said Marine spokesman Christopher Gillette adding that the actual cause of the crash would come out after an investigation  
 See Page 10 Col. 7

## We are here for a noble cause, says US Task Force officer

COX'S BAZAR, May 18 : "The situation in the cyclone-hit areas is very bad but we have resources and expertise to help the distressed people under such situation," said Lt Col Salvage, Commanding Officer of the landing team of the US Task Force on Saturday.

The team, a part of the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), will carry out relief and rehabilitation in the affected areas of Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Chokoria and Cox's Bazar.

See Page 10 Col. 4

## Defence advisers of foreign missions briefed

Defence advisers of different countries based in Dhaka were briefed on the relief activities at the Prime Minister's Relief Co-ordination Monitoring Cell Saturday, reports BSS.

According to an ISPR press release, Brigadier Shafiq Ahmed gave a thorough briefing to the Defence advisers of Myanmar, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey and the USSR.

After the briefing, the Defence advisers were taken to Chittagong, Sandwip, Hatiya and Bhola by helicopter to show them the extent of damage caused by the cyclone and tidal surge.

## International telegram, telex service restored

International telex and telegram service has been completely restored through the Tallabadi earth satellite station, a T & T Board press release said Saturday night, reports BSS.

With the restoration of service, a total of 38 international telephone circuits are now working in place of 28 circuits of pre-cyclone days.

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