UN creates fund for Gulf War

victims

Monday voted overwhelmingly to create a compensation fund

for victims of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. The council

voted 14-0, with Cuba abstaining, to create the fund, which

will have its governing council in Geneva. Fund officials will

decide what portion of Iraq's oil profits will be set aside to

pay war damages and how often payments will be made into

Kaifu-Quayle meet

from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday that Japan

might case its ban on rice imports, officials said. Quayle also

pressed for Japan to buy more US automobiles and auto parts,

and thanked this country for its financial aid to the affices' war

against Iraq and to Nicaragua's transition to democracy, offi-

Egypt's Defence Minister dropped

CAIRO (Egypt): In surprise move Monday, President Hosni

Mubarak replaced his Defence Minister with the man who

oversaw the deployment of Egyptian troops in the Gulf War,

the government's Middle East news agency said. Mubarak also

named a replacement for former Foreign Minister Esmat

the leadership of the Arab League. reports AP.

Abdel-Meguid, who left the government last week to take up

TOKYO, May 20: US Vice President Dan Quayle heard hints

the fund, reports AP.

cials added, reports AP.

From Page 1 Col. 8

Ershad on May 12 that the

judge of the tribunal was not

impartial and the very ten-

dency of the court was to

prove that the accused was

Attorney General Aminul

Haque appearing for the state

strongly opposed the defence

lawyers' contention and pro-

duced supporting documents

before the bench to prove that

the allegations made by the ac-

Kazi Shahdat Hossain became

emotional while he was argu-

ing in favour of the petitioner

to transfer the case. On the

other day, his senior Advocate

Strajul Haque also burst into

tears saying that he never told

a lie before the court during

case resumed at 11 am Strajul

Haque opened the argument in

that defence witness Shajahan

Sheikh, who was the personal

assistant to the accused during

his tenure as Supreme

Commander, had said that he

saw the number of arms, de-

posited to the army museum,

in the personal file and also

the petition for license of the

arms, which was sent to the

Deputy Commissioner of

Mymensingh. But the judge of

the tribunal then question

whether the letter to the

deputy commissioner was

recorded in the movement

register. Sirajul Haque said,

the tendency of the tribunal

judge was thus manifested

Attorney General Aminul

Haque said the proceedings of

the tribunal were not like that

as it was stated by the defence.

He asked for reading out the

whole deposition of defence

witness Shahjahan Sheikh.

When the deposition was read

out, it was found that the de-

fence witness himself in-

formed the tribunal of the

movement register and at one

stage judge of the tribunal

asked him whether he knew

about the movement register

and whether he brought the

At this stage Justice

register with him.

Refuting the allegation

through his question.

On Monday, hearing of the

He argued on a new point

35 years of his practice.

favour of the petitioner.

At one stage defence lawyer

cused were not true.

guilty.

UNITED NATIONS, May 20: The UN Security Council on

BIDS estimate of loss

From Page 1 Col. 7

which is about 2.5 per cent of the total population in the country. If the death toll is around two lakh, then 8 per cent of the population in the area has perished, the study

According to the 1983-84 agricultural census, the directly hit upazilas had a net cropped land of 298,000 acres cultivated with an intensity of 180 per cent. The study says rice accounts for nearly 88 per cent of the cropped area. At the time of the cyclone, the boro crop was being harvested and the seeds of the aus and deep water broadcast aman had been sown.

Boro is however not an important crop except in Anwara, Chokoria and Cox's Bazar

upazilas. The total rice production for the area in 1989-90 is estimated at 307,000 tons, of which aman accounts for 63 pc, aus 13 pc and boro 24 pc.

The damage account of standing crops amounts to 115,000 tons of foodgrains.

The survey says the stocks of aman harvest kept for household consumption till the next harvest have also been washed away.

The loss to standing crops in the adjacent upazilas, hit by strong wind and tidal surge, should also be added. A generous estimate of 3,45,000 tons of the crops is valued at Tk 330 crore which is 1.8 per cent of the national produc-

The directly hit upazilas had a cattle population of 490,000, goat population of 328,000 and poultry population of 490,000. The value of the stock at current prices is estimated at Tk 204 crore.

The survey says a reconnaissance trip in parts of the affected area has indicated a damage ratio of 80 pc which mean a loss of Tk 163 crore on this account.

According to Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh has about 2.5 lakh acres of land under shrimp farming in coastal areas.

The farms have been badly damaged. The total fish production for the affected area is estimated at 43,000 tons and the loss is estimated at Tk 106

The survey says the 1981 housing census gives a figure of 216,000 kutcha and 2 lakh semi-pucca houses in the directly hit areas. The estimates for the adjacent upazilas are 420 and 220 thousand respec-

On the assumption of 100 pc damage to kutcha and 80 pc to semi-pucca houses Tk 174 crore losses were estimated in the directly hit upazi-

A damage ratio of 50 pc for kutcha and 20 pc for semipucca houses in adjacent upazilas gives an estimate of loss of Tk 82 crore, the survey

Dr Mahbub Hossain, citing the 1986 economic census of the industrial units and employments in the affected districts, said that applying a growth rate of 6 per cent per

year for the small scale and 4 pe for large scale units, an estimated 19,900 factories are located in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts providing employment to 2.7 lakh workers.

On the basis of parameters obtained from the census of manufacturing, value added estimate per worker was made at Tk 25,000 per year for small scale units and Tk 64,000 for large scale units.

This gives an estimate of industrial value added at Tk1428 crore in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts.

The survey says, on the assumption of a capital-output ratio of 2.5 for small scale units and 5.0 for large units. the capital stock is estimated at Tk 6660 crore.

A preliminary assessment by Chambers of Commerce and Industry of damage to industrial assets and stocks of raw materials and finished goods put the loss at Tk 1581 crore.

This includes Tk 500 crore for garments, Tk 400 crore for frozen food and Tk 210 crore for public sector industries. The estimate of loss to frozen food includes income from shrimp culture.

The survey says, if the damage to structures in shrimp farms, hatcheries, nurseries, stocks of processed shrimps for exports, and trawlers and boats for marine fisheries are taken into consideration, the estimate comes down to Tk 275 crore. Adjusting to this difference, the loss to industries comes down to Tk 1456

MOU signed

From Page 1 Col. 8 staff of the United States embassy under the Vienna Convention of 1961.

The MOU, stipulates that the Task Force men and women would have freedom of movement in the areas where the reliefs are required for mitigating the sufferings of the cyclone affected people

They would enjoy immunity while performing their official acts in connection with the relief operations.

The United States embassy in Dhaka would notify the Foreign Ministry about the number of the Task Force personnel with their identity and would also keep Bangladesh government informed of the departure of the Task Force

Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan told newsmen after the signing of the accord that it would take effect from the time of arrival of the Task Force In Bangladesh.

Asked about the duration of the stay of the Task Force in Bangladesh, he said the United States force came here at the request of Bangladesh government and would leave when ever the government desires

Mrs Quayle From Page 1 Col. 8

Tokyo in an American Air Force plane after visiting Japan with her husband.

Forcign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman will receive her at the airport.

Growth rate

From Page 1 Col. 7

ficial figures showed a worsening of the price situation in current month. If such trends continue, the inflation rate as calculated by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will be over 10 per cent in 1990-91. Re-rate of inflation on a year-to-year basis stood at 8.5 per cent in March.

Meanwhile, the tax revenue collections by National Board of Revenue (NBR) showed a shortfall of Taka 301 crore in first nine months of current fiscal year till March. Total collections of taxes by NBR stood at Taka 4060.24 crore against the proportionate target of Taka 4361.84 crore for July-March in 1990-91. The shortfall was more pronounced in case of excise duty and stood at 29.25 per cent less than the proportionate target. For income tax and sales tax, receipts were 14.58 per cent and 9.01 per cent respectively higher than the proportionate targets. In case of customs duty, collections were however 3.78 per cent lower than the proportionate target.

UNB reports: The late April cyclone will entail on the nation a budgetary loss of Tk 1700 crore in the current and the next fiscal, according to

official estimates. Of the amount, the budget of the current fiscal (1990-91) will have to bear nearly Tk 500 crore, 0.6 per cent of GDP, in

enue shortfall. Official sources, quoting joint estimates of the Finance Ministry and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said the additional budgetary pressure

additional expenses and rev-

in the current fiscal would be as a result of Tk 180 crore in revenue loss and government relief and rehabilitation expenditure of Tk 300 crore.

An IMF mission, which had recently been in the capital to finalise second year's ESAF (Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility) programme which would be the framework of the coming fiscal's budgetary targets, assessed the budgetary impact of the devastating cyclone.

The budgetary cost of the cyclone in the coming fiscal (1991-92) has been estimated at Tk 1200 crore, 1.3 per cent of GDP. It will include continued relief operation cost of Tk 400 crore and the proposed rehabilitation project of Tk 800 crore.

The extra cost in 1991-92 will be financed, as projected by the IMF, with Tk 660 crore from local resources and Tk

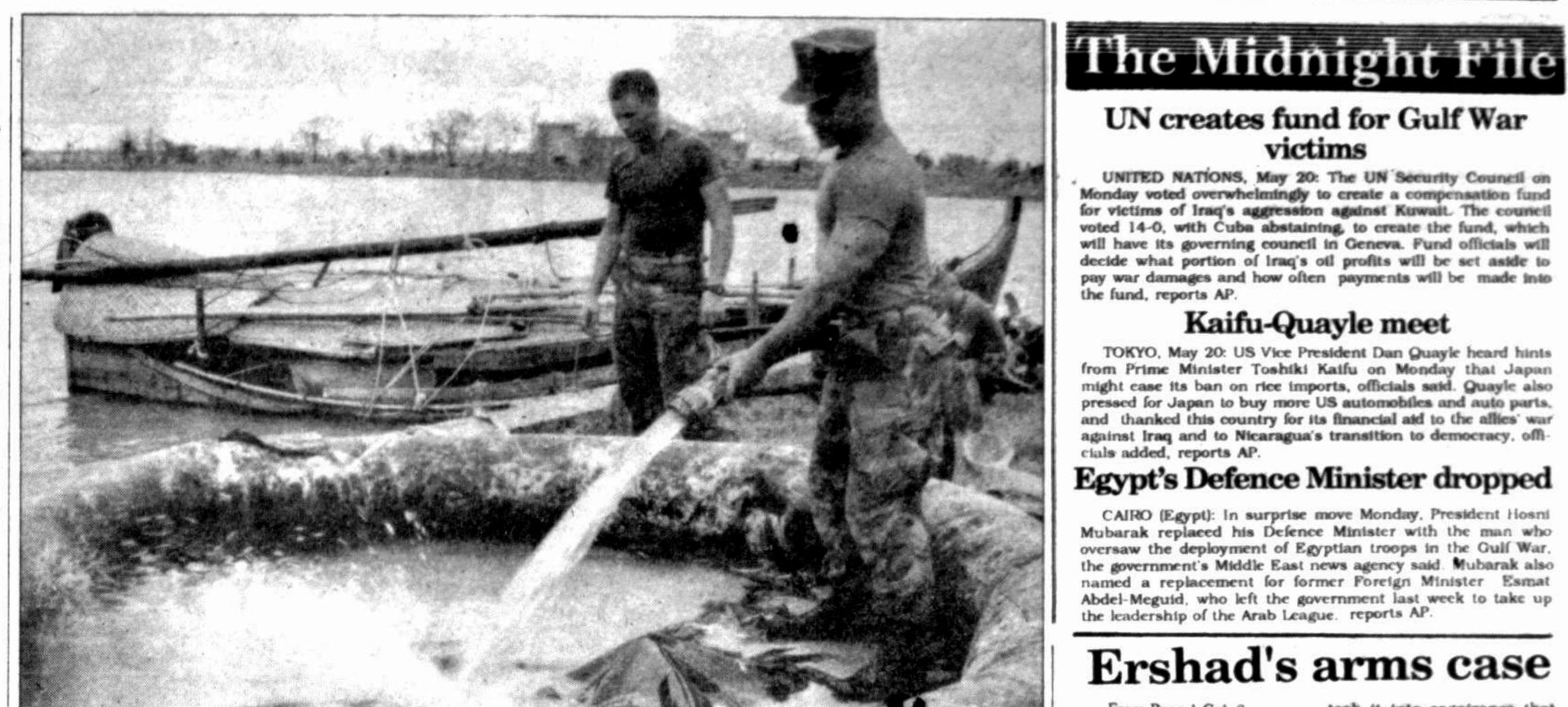
540 crore from foreign aid. In view of heavy strain on the budgets put by the cyclone, sources said, some minor modification might be brought in the 1991-92 budget targets. specified in the original ESAF

programme. Revenue earning target might be scaled down to 10 per cent of GDP from the 10.2 per cent originally envisaged in ESAF programme, in light of the revenue shortfall, they

The IMF mission, however, reportedly asked the authorities to stick to structural adjustments, being pursued by the government as per ESAF agreement with the Fund despite difficulties posed by the

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US Marines set up desalination equipment near Chittagong. Fresh water was scarce for the people in the area since the cyclone ravaged the coast. - Photo JTF USIS

US Task Force

From Page 1 Col. 5

People were still languishing in shelters and highways. More kutcha houses gave in as water was receding. Loss to standing crops and other property is put at Tk 100 erore in Sylhet district alone, according to preliminary reports. Relief was being distributed from upazila sadar after being transported by he lisorties totalling 11 till writing of this report. The union chairmen are facing great difficulties in reaching them to villages.

The urgent task of rehabilitating the affected people in shattered houses and farms is yet to be planned. Diarrhoca and other intestinal diseases have been sporadic so far but is apprehended to take a worse turn when people return to homes in absence of tubewells and other sources of safe drinking water.

According to latest official figure, flood has left 1,33,760 people in 2,412 square kilometers of 95 unions totally bat tered. Fortynine people have been killed and over 1000 injured in the flood, lightning, house collapse, according to the control room. But unofficial sources put the figures twice as high.

Our staffer S Y Bakht, who visited Balaganj upazila of Sylhet on Monday reports: Inadequate relief operation has increased the sufferings of the flood victims of the upazila.

After nearly 20 days since the flood-hit the area, no government relief has reached the village Sherpur, 15 miles away from Balaganj upazila head quarters. The flood-hit people of the villages - Khoshrupur and Awarangapur - also alleged that they were get to be provided with any relief mate-

Almost all the houses of these two villages have been damaged by the gushing water

of the Kushiyara. Torabullah (40) of village Khoshrupur said: "I have not been given any relief by the government agencies so far". He was living with his family on a 'machan' as his house went under five to six feet wa-

Tariqui Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs, told The Daily Star in Sylhet that army would start relief operation in Balaganj upazila from Tuesday. Army personnel have al-

ready been deployed in

Kanaighat, Golapgani Fenchuganj and Jakiganj upazi

Our staffer said, two more persons died of dysentery in Fenchugani upazila raising the death toll to 41 in the district. They were identified as Elisa (2) and Godai Bibi.

The officer-in-charge of Companiganj upazila told The Daily Star that malaria had broken out in the upazila and at least 70 people had already been attacked. No confirmation by the doctors of the upazila health complex or by the flood control room was available on Monday. Reports from Moulvibazar

said, high waves and gusty winds as well as shortage of country boats were hampering the relief operations in the haor areas of Baralekha, Kulaura and parts of Rajnagar and Sadar upazilas of the dis-

The affected people were seen coming to the Moulvibazar town.

A total of 14.954 houses were damaged completely and 26,884 partially in six affected upazilas of the district. Over seven lakh people were af fected but the relief operations were reportedly insufficient.

Communist leader shot dead in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, May 20: A local leader of Biplobi Communist Party was shot dead in broad daylight today at village Sekhragopal in Shailakupa upazila, reports UNB.

Armed miscreants in the guise of police called out Bashir alias Afang (40) while taking lunch and gunned him down near his house at noon, police and villagers said.

Coming out of the house, Afang deemed the trap and tried to flee when he was shot at by the assailants, numbering

He fell dead on the spot as three bullets pierced him.

Police suspected intra-party conflict might be cause of the shooting. Biplobi Communist Party is led by underground left leader Abdul Haq.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case filed in this connection.

Stackpole From Page 1 Col. 7

rying out massive relief operation since May 15 under the codename "Operation Sea Angel" is ferrying lifesaving material food, water and medicine in the first phase while the second phase would cover "stabilisation programmes" aimed at "rebuilding and restoration, the Task Force Commander said, adding an understanding on coordination had been

reached with Bangladesh Government. Gen Stackpole also said the relationship between American and Bangladesh governments was excellent. The distribution of relief materials "is challenging job," said the Commander praising the cooperation from other non-government (NGOs) organisations.

Expressing satisfaction over the operational activities of the Task Force said "Life is now coming back to normal in the affected areas."

Japan, UK

Meanwhile a 50-member Japanese team also joined the relief operation with two helicopters Sunday. Yokota, the leader of the Japanese team told this correspondent this morning at Chittagong airport his team would stay here at least for two weeks.

Mokammel Huq, Secretary and Regional Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator said the British naval ship carrying four helicopters and troops would arrive here tomorrow. The British team will operate from Cox's Bazar, he said, adding all relief and rehabilitation work would be conducted under the Coordination

Decision for value added tax system

The Council of Ministers met Monday evening with the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in the chair, reports BSS. The Council reviewed the

flood situation and the progress of the relief operation in the cyclone and the flood affected areas of the country.

The Council of Ministers decided to enact a law in order to introduce value added tax system from July 1,1991. The council further decided to promulgate another law for amending the Excise and Salt Act of 1944.

£ 5 million more British aid

to give an additional 30 million pounds (51 million dollars) in humanitarian aid to Africa and Bandladesh, the Minister for Overseas Development said Monday, reports AP.

the House of Commons she hoped other European Community members would follow suit.

our aid program demonstrates the government's continuing commitment to providing substantial humanitarian assistance at a time of unprece dented crises," Mrs. Chalker

(34 million dollars) would go immediately to international relief organisations working for famine relief in Africa.

"I am giving 5 million pounds (8.5 million dollars) to help Bangladeshis reconstruct their lives following the appalling cyclone," Mrs. Chalker said, adding that precise de tails on where the remaining 5 million pounds (8.5 million dollars) would go had not been worked out.

Zeenat Mosharraf, wife of former Industries Secretary Mosharraf Hossain, was arrested again early Monday, police said, reports UNB.

from the Dhaka Central Jail Sunday morning, was taken into police custody at 1 am from a house at Shantinagar, about 15 hours after she was set free.

She was detained at the

The police are likely to ask for remand of Zeenat for interrogation in connection with the case.

LONDON, May 20: Britain is

Minister Lynda Chalker told

"This further increase in

Zeenat arrested on charge of attempt to murder

thana hajat during the night It was alleged in one case

that Zeenat had inhumanly tortured one of her maids, Nishat, who was in her employ during 1988-89, police said. A case regarding this was filed with Cantonment Thana.

She said 20 million pounds

Zeenat, released on bail

and expected to be produced in court on Monday, police said. Two new charges of attempt to murder were brought against her.

Information Secretary added. Meanwhile examinees of SSC and HSC in the cyclone affected areas will given Taka 200 each for buying books.

aged by the recent cyclone and tidal bore.

newsmen. The Information Secretary said that Taka 190 crore was earlier sanctioned for relief and rehabilitation programme in the cyclone-hit coastal districts. The government has decided to allocate Taka 122 erore for relief and rehabilitation work in those areas, he

would be channelised through the Bangladesh government, 8.918 million dollars through the Red Crescent Society and the rest through different NGOs in Bangladesh, the

grant for repairing SSC and HSC examination centres dam-Taka one crore has been

Ershad's arms case took it into cognizance that, when the defence witgess informed the tribunal about the movement register, the judge

asked him whether he brought

the register with him. Defence lawyer Strajul Haque at one stage of his argument said, " I am a privileged liar and an accused can say any amount of he to save

The Attorney General argued that the defence could not prove anything against the impartiality of the tribunal. He said if they could prove so he would give up the practice. He also produced paper

documents about the integrity of the tribunal and the unethical behaviour of certain person who was defending Ershad. The Attorney General also said if the learned judges of the High Court wished they

could call the journalists who had covering the trial from the beginning. He also submitted that the learned judges might go through the proceedings pub-

the defence were false. The Special Tribunal, which was adjourned on Sunday last to resume today may again be adjourned till the delivery of judgement by the High Court Division Beach on the petition.

lished in newspapers to prove

that the allegations made by

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col.

of her government.

The Prime Minister handed over a cheque for Taka 10 lakh to the local administration for relief and rehabilitation of the tornado-hit people of different upazilas of the district.

Our Barisal Correspondent adds : The death toll in Saturday's tornado rose to 17 with fresh reports of death. According to the reports,

6,000 houses were completely and 15,000 houses partially damaged. Crops in over 4,000 acres of

land were damaged. Nearly 35 villages including Tikashar, Nalchira, North Bijoypur, Chandshi, Mahilara of Gournadi and Rajihar and Gotla

of Agailjhara upazila are the worst affected areas. Ten of the 17 victims were killed in village Nalchira alone.

Anwarul Haque Chowdhury also Indian election

From Page 1 Col. 5 was killed in West Bengal.

Elsewhere, at least 20 peo-

ple were killed in sporadic fighting between rival partisans, news agencies reported. One of the victims was a threeyear-old boy caught in cross At least 204 people died

during the month-long elec-

tion campaign, which was

dominated by contentious issues of religion and caste. The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, which most opinion polls predict will come in second place, campaigned on a platform of Hindu assertiveness. It is at the forefront of a campaign to replace a disputed mosque with a Hindu temple, which killed hundreds of peo-

ple last year. The Janata Dal party of former Prime Minister VP Singh promised to resurrect a controversial job reservation programme for lower caste Hindus, which was shelved last year after more than 150 pcople died in student riots and

protest suicides. The Congress Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, tipped to win the most seats, made more broadbased appeals and used last year's violence to illustrate what could happen if it was not in power.

Gandhi was ousted from power when the previous general elections in 1989 returned a hung parliament. Singh cobbled together a coalition with support from rightist and left wing parties but resigned less than a year

later after losing his parliamentary majority.

Chandra Shekhar, a member of Singh's Janata Dal, broke away and formed another minority government last November with Gandhi's support.

From Page 1 Col. 8 status of Deputy Ministers to supervise development activi-The ruling party MPs are learnt to have been pressing

MPs

upazila councils and for reviving the post of district coordi-The proposal is under active consideration of the gov-

for abolishing the district and

ernment, it is learnt. The Local Government and Rural Development Ministry is working on the possibility of trimming the upaztia administration including abolition of

the posts of Upazila Chairman. The current expenditure at the upazila level is growing alarmingly while the development spending is hardly 10 per cent of the revenue

spending. The BNP government is examining the whole spectrum of the upaztla administration to find out the redundant departments.

The government feels that there has been overlapping of various departments between the district and upazila administrations. The redundant and overlapping parts of the upazila administration are likely to be trimmed to bring down the revenue expenditure.

Tk 122 cr more for relief From Page 1 Col. 5 Bank. He said so far 75 million said relief activities in 4 upazi

sailed out. Meanwhile, emergency work of the repair of embankment and closing of breaches by Water Development Board has started, Mowla informed. He said World Food Programme had sanctioned 30,000 metric tons of wheat, 10,000 spades and 40,000 baskets for use in the earth work. He said 60,000 man days of labour would be needed for 11,000 cubic meters of earth work. Presently, the work is going on in 30 locations and work in other locations will start soon. 423 kilometers of embankment were fully damaged and another 800 kilometers of embankment

The Information Secretary said so far 41 countries and agencies had pledged 346.902 million US dollars for relief and rehabilitation activities. He said in Japan where cyclone situation got big coverage, a spccial account - Prime Minister Relief Fund - had been opened with Dai lehi Kanyo

were damaged partially, he

Yen (about 539,568 US Dollar) had been deposited with that account.

Detailing of relief activities, the Information Secretary said a total of 98 medical teams including 66 Army medical teams were working in the cyclone affected areas. He said so far 50,45,000 ORS, 1,13,000 IV fluid bags and about 32 lakh water purifying tablets were supplied to the affected areas. He said so far 73,000 tubewells were repaired and put to service and another, 8,000 new tubewells sunk.

since March 2,23,853 persons were attacked with the disease and 1587 died. People attacked by diarrhoea in the cyclone hit areas numbers 1,52,650 and the total death is 696, he said. In the last 24 hours, 7,745 people in cyclone hit areas were attacked with diarrhoea and 32 died. Speaking about the storm

which hit Barisal on Saturday,

the Information Secretary said

16 persons were killed and

about 50 per cent kutcha

houses where damaged. He

About diarrhoea, Mowla said

las affected by storm had already began. Mowla said flood situation in Sylhet had improved slightly

and death toll in the district in

flood rose to 39. He said flood

had damaged 350km of local

dykes and damaged large portion of embankment of Water Development Board. He said more than 1600km of road and 130 bridge were affected by flood. The Information Secretary said the government which decided to further gear up relief activities, had emphasised on reducing gratuitous relief

cies have pledged nearly 347 million US dollar so far for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone affected areas of Bangladesh. Information Secretary Kazi Manzur-i-Mowla said that some

and giving more stress on test

tries and international agen-

Meanwhile different coun-

Of the amount pledged so

41 countries and agencies have committed the relicf assis-

far, 311.740 million US dollar

The government has allocated Taka one crore 10 lakh as

sanctioned for repairing educational institutions damaged by tornadoes in Sirajganj, Comilla, Gazipur and Gournadi upazilas in Barisal, the Information Sceretary told