Curious children gather at the offload of building materials from air-cushioned landing craft (LCAC) on the beaches of

90 minutes before his death

that he had rightly predicted a

lot of violence in the current

plenty of violence during these

elections. Already the number

of persons killed is high", he

"I told you there will be

Indfan Prime Minister

Chandra Shekhar air-dashed to

Delhi at mid-night tonight on

receipt of the news about the

tragic death of Congress (I)

president and former prime

Chandra Shekhar was stay

ing overnight at Raj Bhavan

here tonight after a day-long

election campaign for his party

The special IAF plane carry

ing the Prime Minister left

Bus skids off

road: 2 killed,

20 injured

By DMCH Correspondent

killed and more than 20 in-

jured when a Dhaka-bound bus

from Bogra skidded off the

road after hitting a truck near

helper of the bus Belal (20)

while the other youngman

taken to Manikgani hospital

from where seven critically

injured persons were shifted

to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital. They are: Ashraf Ali

(40), Gazi Abdul Karim (35)

Shahidullah (45), Abdul Baten

(45), Mina (20), Yousuf (18),

The accident took place at

pm when the bus of Hasna

Enterprise coming Bogra tried

to give way to a BADC truck

coming from the opposite di-

rection. As the road was slip-

pery after the rain, the two ve-

spinned off the road. Belal died

on the spot while the other

person died at Manikgani

the truck, but the drivers

managed to escape.

Police seized both bus and

Osman Gani (60).

The injured were first

could not be identified.

One of the dead is the

Minikganj Bazar on Tuesday.

At least two persons were

minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

in Orissa today.

here at mid-night.

poll campaign.

Aid withdrawn

From Page 1 Col. 4

the WB mission chief

Replying to a question on increased commodity and food aid, Willoughby agreed that there was a necessary for higher amount of fast-disbursing commodity and food aid. But he declined to comment on any specific position of the Bank on the requirements at this stage.

He stressed that the government should reorder the priorities of its investment and overall expenditure programmes in-view of the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the cyclone-hit ar-

He said rehabilitation of Chittagong Port to restore its normal operations should get top priority to be followed by restoration of telecommunication facilities. With rehabilitation and reconstruction operations, normal development activities should continue, he stressed.

Willoughby said that there is a good scope for reallocation of external aid in the pipeline to meet the priorities in changed context.

The Bank is flexible on this issue and other donors will the pressing needs within the the government, he observed.

existing aid envelope, he ob-

Asked about the aid conditionalities of the Bank, he maintained that enforcement of economic discipline and improvement of overall economic management would require adherence to 'sound principles'. The conditionalities of aid are aimed at restoring economie discipline, he maintained.

Replying to a question on second tranche (instalment) disbursement of credits under the Bank's financial sector loans, the WB mission chief said that the Bank withheld the disbursements which was due in January last because the conditions under the same were not met.

There are two or three difficult areas still to be resolved and the failures of the banking sector to recover their overdue loans particularly from the 100 big defaulters are a major cause for concern, he added.

Christopher Willoughby said that the project aid disbursements in energy sector are also frozen because of a staggering systems loss, amounting to 100 million US dollars every

There are a number of other issues which will need also be willing to accommodate effective remedial measures by Chittagong. —

From Page 1 Col. 6

accompanied the late former

Prime Minister on most of his

tours, did not travel with her

husband on his tour of Tamil

nied his father on an earlier

Profile

as prime minister of India in

1984 at the age of 40, was one

of the youngest elected heads

seventh prime minister, hours

after the assassination of Mrs

Indira Gandhi by her body-

guards on October 31, that

Air Lines, Rajiv Gandhi, 47,

was a late and reluctant politi-

eal entrant. He was forced to

join politics by Mrs Indira

Gandhi, his mother and the

then prime minister, after the

death of her younger son and

political heir, Sanjay Gandhi,

This led to Rajiv's first ever

electoral battle from Emethi in

a bye-election held in 1981

and subsequent appointment

The sympathy wave gener-

During his tenure, he

signed the historic Puniab and

Assam accords in 1985, the

Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord in

1987 and sent emergency aid

He also formalised bilateral

trade treaties with Pakistan

and China and thawed the ice

in the Sino-Indian relations

Back home, Gandhi intro-

with his Beijing visit in 1988.

duced the Jawahar Rozgar

Yojna and Panchayati Raj insti-

tution bill for the uplift of the

poor in 1989.

to the Maldives in 1988.

ated for the Congress after Mrs

Gandhi's assassination helped

as AICC-I general secretary.

in an air crash in June 1980.

A former pilot in the Indian

He became the country's

Rajiv Gandhi, who took over

tour of Uttar Pradesh.

of the state worldwide.

Rahul Gandhi had accompa-

Sonia Gandhi, who normally

Early warning system

From Page 1 Col. 7

Begum Zia also mentioned the response of the world community in providing assistance and help in the reconstruction efforts of Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister, A. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman, State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan, US Ambassador to Bangladesh William B. Milam and Task Force Chief Major General Henry C. Stackpole were present.

Mrs. Quayle calling on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said she had come to Bangladesh to assess the possibility of permanent preventive measures against tidal surge in the coastal ar-

The Acting President thanked Mrs. Quayle for her coming all the way from Tokyo to see the enormous damage caused by the severest-ever cyclone and tidal surge in this

Justice Shahabuddin said

the devastating natural disaster had struck immediately after the restoration of democracy in the country.

He told Mrs. Quayle the US Task Force had been of immense help in reaching relief materials in the devastated areas rendered inaccessible by the sudden natural disaster.

The visiting US dignitary congratulated the Acting President for having successfully ushered in democracy by holding free, fair and neutral elections in the country and expressed the hope that democracy would continue to flourish in Bangladesh.

The Acting President praised the US democratic institutions, the rule of law and the independence of judiciary as enshrined in the US constitution.

He thanked US President George Bush for sending the Task force of Marines and engineers promptly to help the affected people of the coastal areas.

Indian copter

From Page 1 Col. 5 airport at Teigaon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Coordinator of Prime Minister's Relief Cell Brig A. S. M. Bhuiyan thanked the Indain pilots and crew. He expressed gratitude to the government and people of India for standing beside Bangladesh in tackling the situation created by the devastation of cyclone and tidal surge.

"You have done a great job by carrying relief materials to the remote coastal areas and offshore islands when both sea and weather were rough," he told the Indian crew and mentioned that India always stood beside Bangladesh whenever this country faced problems due to natural calamities.

He expressed the hope that the friendship between the two countries would be cemented further.

Indian High Commissioner K. Srinivasan said that the Indian help was an expression of sympathy for

From Page 1 Col. 7

Satchari tea garden under

Chunarughat has been washed

away by flood water on Monday

night", an official of Sylhet

flood control room told The

Four more unidentified

Two of the four died in a

Diarrhoea and dysentery

were spreading fast in the

flood affected areas, sources

firmed the diseases only in

by diarrhoea and five by dysen-

tery in the upazila on Tuesday,

sources said. The local people

said that the diseases were

spreading in an epidemic

reports that the overall flood

situation in the district re-

mained unchanged due to in-

Our Sylhet correspondent

The official source con-

Seven people were affected

people died on Tuesday raising

boat capsize in Companigani

upazila and the other two died

Daily Star by telephone.

"A bailey bridge near

sources said.

the toll to 45.

in Sadar upazila.

. Joyantapur upazila.

the people of Bangladesh during a critical situation caused by the natural calamity. He appreciated the people

the Congress-I to a thumping victory bagging 415 of the 452 of Bangladesh for overcoming seats in eighth Lok Sabha in such a serious crisis with the December '84 elections courage. under Rajiv Gandhi's steward-Wing Commander K. P.

Singh, the leader of the crew of the three MI-8 helicopters also spoke on the occasion and thanked the government and people of Bangladesh for their cooperation and hospitality. Earlier, talking to newsmen

at the old airport, Wing Commander Singh informed that the three helicopters had operated 150 flying hours in Bangladesh till Monday and lifted a total of 220 metric tons of emergency relief goods.

The helicopters flew to all the off-shore islands including Sandwip, Hatiya, Bhola and

Nijhum Deep. He mentioned that they faced no problem while in Bangladesh and that the coordination in relief activities was

Khaleda, Fahd

From Page 1 Col. 8 visit, vesterday said that the visit was earlier postponed because of the catastrophic cyclone.

During her three-day visit to Saudi Arabia the Prime Minister will also perform Umrah and meet the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the chief of the Islamic

The Prime Minister's entourage includes Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, Labour and Manpower State Minister, Barrister Rafigul Islam Miah, Four members of Parliament, the Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan and members of the

On her way back from

Moulvibazar

The flood situation in Maulvibazar district remained unchanged though the river Manu receded slightly but was still flowing 26 cm above the danger level.

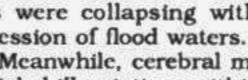
Widespread diarrhoea and dysentery have been reported in the affected areas.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: The overall situation in Barhatta, Kalmakanda, Durgapur and Mohanganj upazilas remained unchanged.

Editor : S. M. Ali

Flood situation

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river waters started receding. Kutcha houses in many arcas were collapsing with the recession of flood waters. Meanwhile, cerebral malaria

termittent rainfall though the

which kills victims within five to six hours was spreading in Lamagram, Bonpur, Kamalbosti, Utma, Turang and north Jangal under bordering Ronikhai union.

People of these areas were reportedly leaving their houses in panic. At least 300 people have so far been killed by the

From Page 1 Col. 8 defence

complete. The defence brought allegation of being biased against the judge of the tribunal.

The Special Tribunal has

The High Court is likely to deliver the judgement on the petition for transfer of the case

Gandhi was the eldest son of Mrs Indira Gandhi and Feroz Gandhi. His grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru was India's first Gandhi, went to Doon School and Trinity College, England and did a course in

Rajiv assassinated

He, however, lost power in

united opposition led by the

National Front which pro-

jected the Bofors and other

corruption-related charges as a

major campaign plank against

Born on August 20, 1944,

elections fighting a

mechanical engineering. As a young man, he was not interested in politics as a career. His bookshelves were stacked with volumes on science and engineering and not politics. He liked Western, Hind-

ustani classical as well as modern music and was keenly interested in photography and amateur radio. His greatest passion how-

ever was flying, soon after his return from England, he obtained a commercial pilot's licence and joined the Indian Airlines. In 1968, he married Sonia

Maino, the Italian student he had met at Cambridge, in Delhi, they had two children, son Rahul and daughter Priyanka. But younger brother Sanjay's death in an air crash in

Rajiv's life. He was persuaded to enter politics by a lonely Mrs Gandhi. He won the Lok Sabha byelection from Emethi constituency caused by his

1980 was a turning point in

brother's death in 1980. The constituency has returned him to parliament ever since. He was fighting for the same seat in the current elec-

Premonition !

Did Rajiv Gandhi have a premonition about an imminent death just as his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi had before her assassination in 1984? Gandhi told reporters about

make a brief stopover in the United Arab Emirates. But the

important position in our for-

eign policy because of manifold

that at present a total of about

four lakh Bangladeshis are

working there and the coun-

try was very much involved in

cent cyclone Saudi Arabia has

given a total of US dollar 106

million as relief assistance.

Besides the governors of dif-

ferent provinces in that coun-

try have set up separate relief

The Government of Madina

He said that the relations

funds for helping cyclone-rav-

who is the son of King Faisal

has so far raised 10 million

Riyal from his province, the

between Bangladesh and the

Gulf countries had been very

good from the very beginning.

"But now we have the best of

relations with the Gulf coun-

Begum Zia will also hold talks

with the Amir of Kuwait and

felicitate him on the liberation

of Kuwait from the illegal oc-

strong stand on this issue

which had enhanced the

Bangladesh's image in the Arab

Bangladesh had taken a

During her visit to Kuwait

Foreign Secretary said.

aged Bangladesh.

tries", he added.

cupation of Iraq.

He said that after the re-

our development efforts.

The Foreign Secretary said

reasons.

Development Bank.

Kuwait on May 28 she will

Ershad's trial

to transfer the case from the Special Tribunal when the depositions of prosecution and witnesses were

shifted the date of hearing of the arms case to May 26. The other case against Ershad for his allegedly illegal accumulation of wealth, which was also scheduled to begin on Tuesday has also been deferred to June

One arrested programme of her visit to the in connection UAE has not yet been finalised. Describing the official visit with Shaheed of the Prime Minister as an important one, the spokesman murder said that Saudi Arabia has an

Hospital

By Staff Correspondent

Ramna police on Tuesday arrested one Amir Hussain (31) from a house in Maniknagar under Demra thana for his involvement in the murder of Shaheed on Sunday in Osmani Uddyan.

Amir in his confession said he himself chopped off both the arms of Shaheed with a ram dao. His other accomplices stabbed in the belly and hit the head.

Fahd

From Page 1 Col. 8 for helping the cyclone-affected people.

King Fahd prayed for the peace of the departed souls and quick recovery of those who were injured in the calamity.

He also sought the blessings of Almighty Allah to save all brotherly Muslim countries from all calamities and natural disasters.

Crown Prince

Another report says: Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia has again expressed his sympathy and sorrow for the loss of lives and damage to property in the recent cyclonic storm and tidal surge in Bangladesh.

Bush

photo: JTF/ USIS

From Page 1 Col. 8 wife of US Vice President Dan Quayle, when she called on her at the Prime Minister's residence Tuesday evening.

President Bush said the people of the United States had been deeply moved by the extent of the destruction and suffering caused by the cyclone in Bangladesh and also by the great courage and determination of the government and non-government organisations in Bangladesh to bring relief to the disaster victims.

President Bush said "I believe that one of the greatest strengths of democracy is its power to pull citizens together in time of crisis."

Referring to the visit of Mrs Quayle to Bangladesh, President Bush said she was visiting Bangladesh to review the relief efforts and report back to him (Bush) on their progress.

He said that as the Chairman of the United States Agency for International Development's International Disaster Advisory Committee, she has had extensive experience in disaster preparation and relief efforts worldwide.

She led a US delegation to the Soviet Union to discuss US-Soviet disaster preparedness and responses and was very active in our domestic and international relief efforts following hurricane Hugo, he

George Bush said he was pleased to have been able to play a part in the international relief effort through official contribution of funds and materials, private US donations through private voluntary organisations and the assistance provided by US Marine Task Force.

President Bush mentioned that Mrs Quayle would be assessing the effectiveness of the efforts of the Americans and what more they might able to do to contribute to reconstruction of Bangladesh and to develop early warning and disaster programmes.

hicles collided and the bus He said "Please know that Barbara's and my prayers, and those to the American people, are with you and the people of Bangladesh during this difficult time".

'BCS (Admn) Assoc's statement threat to democratic Govt

By Staff Correspondent

The BCS Coordination Committee has termed the statement of General Secretary, BCS (Administration) Association, as contrary to the norms of discipline of government servants and called for punitive action.

The statement of the General Secretary of BCS (Administration) Association published in a section of the press on Tuesday called for stopping punishment transfer of members of the service. Otherwise the statement warned members of the service would be forced to noncooperate with those involved in such activities.

Abu Hena, convenor of the BCS Coordination Committee. in a statement on Tuesday said, the statement of the BCS (Administration) Association amounted to a threat to the democratically elected government. Members of all BCS cadres associated with the coordination committee will support the government if it takes punitive measures, he

All Bangladeshi troops back from Saudi Arabia

All members of the Bangladesh military contingent have returned home from Saudi Arabia, an ISPR release said Tuesday, reports BSS.

Mengistu arrives Kenya

NAIROBI, May 21: Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile Mariam, who stepped down today after 14 years in power. arrived in neighbouring Kenya, apparently before flying on to an unknown destination, Kenyan airport officials said, reports Reuter.

The Midnight File

US space shuttle launching postponed

FLORIDA, May 21: Computer and other problems early today postponed for at least a day a US space shuttle launch involving seven astronauts 30 rats and 2,400 tiny jellyfish. Engineers were trying to resolve the problems that forced the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) to delay the Columbia's scheduled 8 am (1200 GMT) launch on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Albanian workers reject wage hike

VIENNA, May 21: Representatives of hundreds of thousands of Albanian workers rejected wage increases offered by the Communist government and remained on strike Tuesday. A journalist at a state-run newspaper said Independent Trade Union Federation statements posted around the capital, Tiranal rejected the offer because it was linked to higher prices for many consumer goods, reports AP.

Foreign missions

eration

From Page 1 Col. 4

The 23,384-ton RFA Fort Grange arrived off the coast of Bangladesh on Monday with a ship complement of 270 men. including 45 Royal Navy personnel and an 18-member team of Royal Marines Special Boat Squadron (SBS).

The SBS, the navy's equivalent to the much-publicised (and admired) Special Air Service (SAS) regiment of the British Army, is a highly-specialised assault unit. In Bangladesh, however, its role will be to help save lives.

The ship, under Captain Barrie Dickinson is carrying four Sea King SH-3 helicopters, which swung into action Tuesday, and six fast shallow draft "Rigid Raider" boats capable of delivering one ton of supplies each, up silted rivers as well as to low-lying islands with no jetfy facilities.

A Royal Navy Sea King with British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Colin Imray on board along with several journalists, flew to Cox's Bazar and on to the Fort-Grange Tuesday. Within five minutes of taking off, the chopper nearly did a somersault, sideways Mercifully, it swung back on course half-way through the

unscheduled routine. Commander M. F. Norman, the man-in-charge of the British operation, said his men would coordinate with US Task Force personnel operating out of Cox's Bazar and the

local district administration. Talking to reporters in the impressively-decorated lounge the ship Commander Norman said he thought the district administrators seemed quite well-organised. He also had no idea of the magnitude of the disaster until he visited the country.

"I was staggered to see the devastation," he said, "What we see now even after three weeks is really terrible.

Commander Norman said the British High Commission in Dhaka was talking to the Foreign Ministry about the possibility of singing Memorandum of Understanding with the Bangladesh government, on the same line as the Bangladesh-US MOU covering the status and role of the US Joint Task Force in the

country. "But that's really not my business," he said, "my job is to get the relief out to the people as fast as possible".

Earlier at Cox's Bazar airport, High Commissioner lmray was greeted by Brigadier-General Pete Row, Commander of the US Marines in Bangladesh and Rear-Admiral Clarey, Commander of the US Navy Flottila cruising some 35km off the coast.

The tiny airport had probably never seen so much activity, with dozens of burly American Marines sporting outlandish haircuts and striking sunglasses, working flatout to get the relief out.

Whether US Navy double top-rotary bladed Chinooks or British Sea Kings, the Americans were loading them with sacks of rice, wheat, cheera etc as fast as they would have done had this been a war situation.

Some of the Marines said they hardly got any sleep, but nobody was complaining.

This is sure different from the Gulf," Licutenant Thomas Loughron from the state of Connecticut said, "here we are saving lives".

Omar Farouk, a Joint Secretary of the government who is in charge of the district's relief operation, heaped tons of praise on the effort being made by the Americans, and thanked the British for coming. Farouk gave Imray and others a through briefing of the damage and relief efforts in his area.

"We need a jetty and an embankment at Kutubdia island". he told the visitors in and out of uniform, "people are telling us, we don't need relief, please put back the embankment".

People on the islands are scared of another tidal wave, Farouk told them, and Commander Norman promised to look into the matter. UNB adds: Commander Norman, in charge of the op-

"Operation Manna", said the ship's 200 men, mostly merchant marines, would be matuly based on the vessel during its two-week cyclonerelief mussion here. The Fort Grange, diverted from the Gulf area to the humanitarian mission in Bangladesh, would remain an-

code-named

of Cox's Bazar, the heart of one of the areas worst hit by the cyclone and tidal surge. Commander Norman who arrived three days in advance to sort out coordination and other official formalities with the authorities has already vis-

chored five miles off the coast

ited some of the worst-hit ar-The British relief efforts, Norman said, would be mostly concentrated in the Cox's Bazar area, including the islands of Kutubdia and Maheshkhali, which took most of the brunt of last month's

deadly cyclone. On the first day of the British relief efforts Tuesday, the Sea King choppers and landing boats were used to ferry supplies and medical

teams to the islands and villages around Cox's Bazar. Fort Grange's Captain Barrie Dickinson, an officer of the RFA, said that the task of delivering supplies to distress pockets has to be completed quickly before monsoon sets in

with full fury. He said the men of the Royal Navy, the RFA and Royal Marines were aware of the fact that they have to work against time and in conditions of sweltering heat, humidity and drenching rains.

Fort Grange's operational costs are being covered by Britain's cyclone relief aid which amounted to a total of 6.5 million pound sterling. Britain also announced fresh aid to the tune of 30 million pound sterling in assistance for Africa and Bangladesh.

Besides the choppers and boats, the ship is carrying stores that include emergency relief packs, fortuitously loaded in Britain last August when the ship sailed for the Gulf War. These packs contain tents, cooking equipment, paraffin, battery lighting, disinfectants and blankets.

Sub-Zonal Relief Coordinator for the Cox's Bazar district, Omar Faruque said the Cox's Bazar area alone would need nearly 60 million US dollars in assistance for immediate relief and rehabilitation. He said shrimp and salt industries, the area's economic mainstay, had been totally washed away and nearly 12 million US dollars would be required for rehabilitation of these two industries.

Faruque said nearly 90 per cent of the tubewells damaged by tidal surges had already been repaired and restored, and there were very few reports of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases from the cyclone affected areas.

From Page 1 Col. 7

where he sent his family several months ago. Gen. Tesfaye was charged in April with a nationwide cam-

paign to mobilise political support for the regime in order to counter a formidable combined offensive launched in February by Tigre and Eritrean rebels. The campaign followed a decision by the Shengo

ing to a multi-party system. Lieutenant-Colonel

(parliament) in favour of mov-

Mengistu, 50 seized power under the banner of Marxism in 1977, three years after the overthrow of Emperor Haile Sclassic