

PM for united move to face disasters

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia yesterday expressed the hope that the nation would march forward to achieve progress and prosperity by facing natural disasters through combined efforts and cooperation from all reports BSS.

A year after the storm: Different kinds of survival

By Sabir Mustafa

BANSHKHALI: Nurul Alam had no idea what fiery shape the storm would really take. "Such water, such wind... nobody told us water was going to come, people were going to die. I didn't know such a storm was coming", the 35-year old landless Artisan says while starting at a pond still filled with saline water.

Alam has had next to no help, not from the government nor from relief agencies. "The government gave this tin roof to my elder brother to put on our house, but nothing else. I've had to struggle with my sister and her new wife. Alam is the only earner in the family and he manages to bring between 30 to 40 Takas per day. With that, he has to feed the children and buy the bamboo and straw for the house. It is difficult, he says, but he sees no hope.

According to him, salt farmers are still far from recovering from the losses incurred in the cyclone, and many have had to hire half the number of pans this year as they did last year. "Many of the poor farmers went to the banks and applied for loans but they didn't get anything, neither from the banks nor from the government," Ishaq says with a tone of regret rather than anger.

Workmen at the site, all contract labourers from outside Maheshkhali, said another three were also being built elsewhere on the island. Four shelters for an island with a 3,00,000 to 4,00,000 population did not sound very reassuring, but the office of the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) had better news.

These four were part of 45 shelters planned for the island, funding for which had already been committed, mainly from the United States. The good news was followed by even worse news. Of the 30 shelters that CCDB was supposed to build, no less than 15 were supposed to have been completed by the end of next month. None has so far been completed and work on the fourth has barely begun.

to be built here, but some influential people conspired to have it built over there at Kutubzam where there has never been a flood. All the villagers gathered there agreed with Zahir, and informed The Daily Star that only 20 out of the 477 families badly affected by the flood last year received any help with rebuilding their houses.



A battered area in coastal belt.



Survivors waiting for succour.

Mojaddedi

From Page 1 Col 7. Soon after assuming power, the tall and wiry Mojaddedi, dressed in a closed-collar suit and sporting a white turban, declared a general amnesty for members of the outgoing regime and urged Hekmatyar to sue for peace.

Dhaka-Yangon accord

From Page 1 Col 4. Dhaka officials seem ready to take steps for building confidence among the refugees who have narrated horrifying tales of persecution by the authorities in their homeland. "If necessary, we'll go and try to convince them", said a senior Foreign Ministry official.

returnees, Ohn Gyaw said "The question of rehabilitation does not arise as the refugees will go back to their homes where they had been living." The Myanmar Foreign Minister told the press conference that he did not feel the necessity of any assistance from any quarter.

ALWC meet

From Page 1 Col 7. Government has meanwhile, announced the Paura sava elections in 89 out of a total of 104 constituencies of the country. Considering all these facts AL policy makers are thinking to defer the central council of the party to the first week of August.

Refugees scared

From Page 1 Col 5. Like Syed Hussain, most refugees carry bitter memories which make them extremely distrustful of the Myanmar military. Take Johora Begum, for instance. A 20-year old mother of four, she was taken away to Buisidong army garrison three months ago.

The Midnight File

US won't recognise new Afghan govt now

WASHINGTON, Apr 28: The United States is not at the point of considering recognition of a new government, the State Department said Tuesday. In Washington, State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States welcomed the arrival of the council and hope it "would help stabilize the situation, lead to a lasting cease-fire and a political settlement."

Ties with Pakistan have worsened: India

NEW DELHI, Apr 28: India said today its relations with Pakistan had worsened in the past year because of what it called Islamabad's undiminished support for separatist rebellions in two northern Indian states. The Foreign Ministry's annual report for the year ending in March said the two nations had held talks to normalise ties but Pakistan had not matched its stated desire to bring about an improvement in bilateral relations.

Indian training ship in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: INS 'Tir', a training ship of the Indian Navy arrived in Chittagong this morning on a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, according to an ISPR press release, reports BSS.

Manna joins AL

Fifteen leaders and workers of Janata Mukti Party and Bangladesh Chhatra Mukti led by Mahmudur Rahman Manna former Vice President of Dhaka University Central Students Union, (DUCSU), Tuesday announced their joining the Awami League, reports BSS.

Hasina

Ranjan Chakma, MP, Dipanker Talukder, MP, and Abdul Mannan were among others present. Earlier, Sheikh Hasina was invited to visit Khagrachari Zonal headquarters of army where Zonal Commander Brigadier Sharif Aziz briefed her on the prevailing problems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Sec 144 clamped on Shahjadpur College premises

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 28: Authorities clamped Section 144 on the Shahjadpur College premises as two rival groups demanding punishment of Golam Azam and another opposing it - prepared for holding rallies there this afternoon, reports UNB.

Engineers express solidarity with Nirmul body

By Staff Correspondent. Convenor of Ekattor Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Samanyee Committee, Jahanara Imam said Tuesday that the ruling party joined hands with 'fundamentalist' Jamaat in harassing the pro-liberation forces.

7 senior Railway officers retired

The government has retired seven senior officers of Bangladesh Railway, according to an official handout in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS. They are: General Manager of Railway Project Division Lutfar Rahman, Additional General Manager of East Zone Railway D P Hlaq, Chief Controller of Equipment of Railway MS Zaman, Controller of Equipment of Project Division Nazrul Islam, Chief Training Officer of Railway Training Academy M. Afiatun, Senior Budget Officer of East Zone Railway K M Biswas and Deputy Finance Advisor Mohiuddin Ahmed.

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