By Sabir Mustafa

According to him, salt

many have had to hire half the

number of pans this year as

no shortage of funds for this.

the tide mark, the sand is be-

ing cleared to build what is of

ficially labelled as a cyclone

shelter, with a capacity to hold

contract labourers from out-

side Maheshkhali, said another

three were also being built

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

shelters planned for the is-

land, funding for which had al-

ready been committed, mainly

The good news was fol-

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

by contractors of the

Bangladesh Dredging and

Construction Company (BDCC)

according to Red Crescent

The CCDB on the other

hand, in addition to being the

supervisory authority, also

plans to arrange special train-

ing programmes for 280 fami-

lies per shelter and adult and

children's education pro-

grammes. These cannot be un-

The shelters are being built

begun

These four were part of 45

Four shelters for an island

elsewhere on the Island.

(CCDB) had better news.

from the United States.

lowed by even worse news.

Workmen at the site, all

2.500 people.

Few hundred yards from

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda 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

In a message recalling the loss of life and property in the century's severest cyclone and tidal surge of April 29 last year, the Prime Minister said natural calamity is a regular phenomenon in this country and the people have to survive through struggling against the fury of nature. She said accepting this hard reality the nation has to work for progress and prosperity.

The Prime Minister expressed her deep sympathy to the families of the April 29 vic-

Begum Zia congratulated those who had faced such a great disaster with courage. patience and fortitude.

She said since natural disasters have become a regular affair her government has identified the permanent solution to fight against natural disaster, alleviation of poverty and education as the priority

The Prime Minister recalled that only after 40 days of the present government taking power, the natural calamity had struck the country on April 29 last year causing loss of property worth Taka 9000

The Prime Minister also recalled the contribution of international community. including friendly countries, local and foreign voluntary organisations for rendering help and assistance to the affected people and thanked them for showing such a gesture.

Mojaddedi

From Page 1 Col 7 Soon after assuming power. the tall and wiry Mojadeddi. 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.

"We have granted a general amnesty," he said. We hope our brothers will use this and not engage in activities which are against humanity."

He hinted the general amnesty did not apply to ousted Soviet- installed President Najibullah.

"Why are you so concerned about Najibullah?" he asked reporters at the end of the 90minute ceremony.

He said the people of Afghanistan would decide what to do with Najibullah, who has been in hiding at a UN compound here since he was stripped of his power following an abortive attempt to flee Kabul earlier this month.

Motadeddi, 70, who arrived in Kabul today to a hero's welcome, said the assumption of office by his Islamic transitional council signalled victory of the 14- year- old Jihad (holy war) to topple the communist Kabul regime.

Pakistan, which offered itself as abase for the rebels during their years of struggle, became today the first country to recognise the new state.

Remnants of the Soviet-installed government formally handed over power to Mojadeddi at a ceremony in the Foreign Ministry punctuated by full-throated cries of 'Allahu Akbar' (God is great) my Mujahedeen warriors.

Hekmatyar to persuade his followers to lay down their weapons and leave the city.

Mojadeddi.

The Hezb-I-Islami, party of radical guerilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar meanwhile said Ustad Farid, a 38-year-old guerilla commander from northern Afghanistan, was its nominee for the premiership, according to Reuter.

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 Haq, Chicf Controller of Equipment of Railway MS Zaman, Controller of Equipment of Project Division Nazrul Islam, Chief Training Officer of Railway Training Academy M. Aslatun, Senior Budget Officer of East Zone Railway K M Biswas and Deputy Finance Advisor Mohiuddin Ahmed.

A year after the storm: Different kinds of survival

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 staring at a pond still filled with saline wa-

When the water came on the night of April 29, 1991. Nurul Alam's family of nine was washed miles with the tide. Two days later he found his

mother and wife, both dead. He never found his four children, aged between nine and one and a half.

A year later. Alam is rebuilding his home and life at the same spot, at Monarkirchar three kilometres from upazila headquarters at Jaldi Union. Instead of hope. he sees a life of struggle ahead.

Alam is now back to his old business of weaving baskets and working as day labourer digging earth whenever the opportunity comes.

To recover from the devastation of the storm, that took a toll of 1,40,000 human lives.

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 sentle father and new wife. to build the house and feed the new-born children", he says.

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. it's been four months since

he completed building the mud and bamboo walls of his house, after spending twice as many months virtually under the open sky. Memories of the wind and

water that took his children away still haunt him, but again. he sees no alternative to returning to the accused spot. "Whenever there is strong

wind, I get seared and wonder if there is going to be another storm". Nurul Alam says with the tone of a man helplessly waiting for nature to come and do its worst again. "but I have

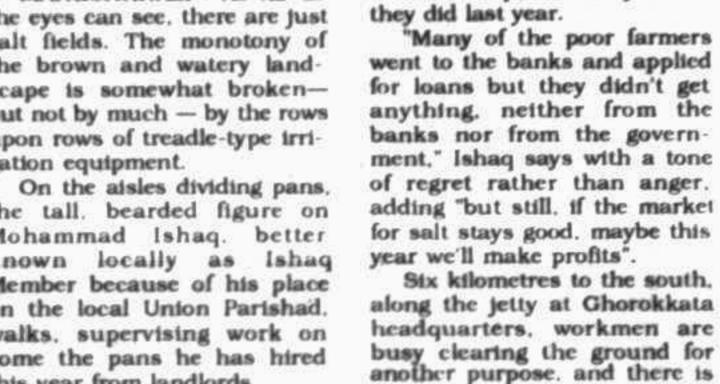
to build my home here, be rause there is nowhere I can go. I have no shelter in the town, and I don't have the money to set up any business".

MAHESHKHALI: As far as the eyes can see, there are just salt fields. The monotony of the brown and watery landscape is somewhat brokenbut not by much - by the rows upon rows of treadle-type irrigation equipment.

the tall, bearded figure on Mohammad Ishaq, better known locally as Ishaq Member because of his place on the local Union Parishad. walks, supervising work on some the pans he has hired this year from landlords.

He think salt farmers of dug-outs.

"We don't own the salt pans. we have to hire them and pay the landlords in advance" Ishaq explains, "but they didn't give any money back to the farmers after the flood. And the farmers didn't receive any help from the government ei-



Ghorokkata Union lost between 60 to 80 per cent of the salt they had ready in their



A battered area in coastal belt.

- PID photo

built, of course. farmers are still far from recovering from the losses in-The site for the shelters. curred in the cyclone, and

chosen by the upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Union Parishad members, has be come a hot topic for local poli tics as accusations fly about favouritism.

dertaken until the shelters are

"All these houses were destroyed by the flood last year but they are not building a shelter here". Mohammad Zahir, 35. or Dailadia village complains. "One was supposed 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

(See Feature Page for more) Editorial on page 4

rebuilding their houses.



Survivors waiting for succour.

- Star photo

Times-Bangla Trust formed

The government has constitoted a trust named The Times-Bangla Trust" for improving the management of the state-owned Bangladesh Times, the Dainik Bangla the weekly Bichitra and the Ananda Bichitra, reports BSS.

The formation of the new trust followed the dissolution of The Bangladesh Times trust and the Dainik Bangla trust which previously used to manage these datites and weeklies, an official handout said here Tucsday.

The defunct two trust recrived substantial loan from the government and other sources but could not improve the overall management of the newspapers including their financial position.

The salary of journalists and others staff of the newspapers still remains unpaid for several

months the handout said. The managements of the newspapers gradually deteriorated which required a move by the government to ensure their continued publication. The new "Times-Bangla Trust" has been constituted to put a thrust on the managements of the concerned newspapers.

The new "Times-Bangla Trust" has a seven-member rustee board, three from the government and four from out-

The trustees of the "Times-Bangla Trust" from outside are L. K Siddigi MP, S M Al-Hossain, Ex Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission, Morshed Khan, President of the Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and Salman F. Rahman, ex-Chairman of The Morning Sun and President of Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity. The trustees from the gov-

ernment side are Joint Secretary (Press) of the Ministry of Information, M ! Chowdhury, Joint Secretary (Banking) of the Ministry of Finance, Dr. A K Abdul Mobin, and Principal information Officer of the Press Information Department M. Abdur Rahim.

Mcanwhile, Salman F Rahman has been appointed Chairman of the new trust by the government in its capacity as the author of the trust.

The government, as the owner of the trust, can revoke the trust any time.

Dhaka-Yangon accord

From Page 1 Col 4 refugees would at all agree to

Dhaka officials seem ready to take steps for building confidence among 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

"We've just signed the agreement and we believe things will change in a few days", the official who asked not to be named told this correspondent.

Whether they'll be coming back is their own determination' said Ohn Gyaw who insisted 'there is no persecution' in Myanmar. "It is all misinformation and misconception.'

Replying to a question. Ohn Gyaw made it a point to say There will be no ceiling in taking back the refugees. Refugees will be repatri-

ated in batches but they will have to prove their residency in Myanmar. "....there would be no restriction on the number of persons, so long as they could establish bonafide evidence of their residence in Myanmar." said the joint On the rehabilitation of the

Sec 144 clamped

on Shahjadpur

College premises

rities clamped Section 144 on

the Shahjadpur College

premises as two rival groups-

one demanding punishment of

Golam Azam and another op-

posing it - prepared for hold-

ing rallies there this afternoon,

Dalal Nirmul Committee and

the Islami Chhatra Shibir con-

vened their meetings at the

same venue at 3 pm, causing

demand for execution of the

"people's court" verdict on

Golar Azam and the latter for

release of the controversial

The former is pressing the

Local units of the Ghatak-

reports UNB.

fears of clash.

Jamaat leader.

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 28: Autho-

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. The minister denied that

Myanmar had amassed troops along its border with Bangladesh and said the number was not 'unreasonable.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister hoped that after the refugees' return the two countries would concentrate on maintaining a peaceful border because 'we're permanent neighbours.

Rahman also spoke of developing bilateral economic cooperation, looking for prospects of joint venture industries and other areas of cooperation once the refugee crisis was over.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury. State Minister for Relief Lutfor Rahman Khan and Myanmar Information Minister Brig Gen Myo Thant were present when the two Foreign Ministers spoke to newsmen.

The Myanmar delegation after a five-night stay left Dhaka for home in the after-

Engineers express solidarity with

By Staff Correspondent

forces

ing of several hundred engineers who expressed their solidarity with the committee's movement at the Engineers

This is the second phase of our independence war and we will root out the collaborators from the country, she said, adding that 'we will not retreat and no power can resist us."

political movement and the intention was to help the gov ernment to take action against the killers and collaborators of

The engineers in the meeting decided to ban Jamaat, Shibir and its associates from holding any meeting or function at the Engineers Institute.

ALWC meet

From Page 1 Col 7 elections to be held on June 4. sources added.

Government has mean while, 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

Although the ALWC would discuss shifting of the date of the council it would not fix the new date, said an influential non-MP party leader adding that a regular meeting of the Working Committee would fix up a new date few days later.

Today's meeting, however, would authorise the Party chief Sheikh Hasina to form the council preparatory committee on her own choice, the leader

On the question of adopting party strategy for political movement in the coming days. the ALWC was likely to resolve that it would not go for launching a movement aimed at ousting the incumbent government from power right at the moment, sources said. It would just put pressure on the government to pass the Indemnity (repeal) Bill.

According to a senior AL leader who heads a front organisation of the party. ALWC would not resolve to launch a movement right at the moment for overthrowing the incumbent government.

The AL leader, while talking to this correspondent, said. "rather, we would opt for providing active support to the coordination committee for its movement on the Golam Azam issue on the one hand and indirect support to the different trade union bodies of the country preparing for launching economic movement against the government, on the other."

According to the AL leader, Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), 17 peasant organisations. Diploma Engi neers Association, Bangladesh Medical Association(BMA) etc. were preparing for movement against the government for pressing their respective de-

According to sources close to the AL policy makers, the party top brass believe that AL would be enormously benefitted from nurturing the forthcoming trade union movements.

An all pervasive economic movement in the country would virtually pave the way for AL to launch a political move ment against BNP to overthrow it from the state power. sources added.

Refugees scared

From Page 1 Col 5 back until Arakan is free, a bitter Syed Alam says.

His 20-year old son Syed Salimullah docs not think there is any scope of him or his family going back unless "Arakan became independent."

No, no, we won't go back, even if Burma says everything will be fine. We'll live here and die here but we won't go back", he says to a general murmur of agreement from several dozen other refugees gathered near a Bangladesh Red Crescent Society food store at Gundum, a newlycommissioned camp which is expected to house 50,000

The camps themselves are taking on a semi-permanent look, with more new bamboo and thatch or corrugated tin huts being put up all the time. Still, over the half the refugees are spending days huddles under twigs and leaves, waiting for the monsoon to come and

sweep everything away. According to Forestry Commission figures, the refugees now occupy some seven square-kilometeres of land, giving the camps a population density of over 32,000 per square kilometre.

There is little doubt that the refugee influx is turning out to be an unmitigated disaster for the region's ecology.

Crammed inside a narrow strip of land from Dhua Palong 25 km south of Cors Bazar down to Teknal, the refugees' need for shelter and fuel is depleting the area of even newly-planted trees. Some 36,000 trees with an

average height of 15 feet have gone, forestry officials said, while 2.3 million cubic feet of firewood and 23,000 cu. ft. of timber have been destroyed. With 1,500 refugees

streaming across the Naf into Teknal everyday, the destruction of forests and levelling of hillocks are likely to continue. Flat, suitable land is scarce

in the area, and officials cannot contemplate moving the refugees out into the interior further north because of the unpredictable socio-political impact that might have. The soldiers forced me to

work on the roads and clear

jungles day and night. They beat me with sticks if I sat down even for a second. They take away our women if they can't find the men. It is torture and repression all the time. How can I think of going back ?" asks Syed Hussain, 32, of Siddhirpara village of Maungdaw, as he helps his wife and four children walk the half kilometre from the riverside to the refugee registration centre on the main

road at Teknal. Like Syed Hussain, most refugees carry bitter memories which make them extremely distrustful of the Myanmar military. Take Johora Begum, for

A 20-year old mother of four, she was taken away to Busidong army garrison three months ago. Her husband, who foolishly tried to intervene, was left nailed to two trees, with his penis, nose and ears cut-off. He bled to death. That was the beginning of

her ordeal. Inside the cantonment, Johora was raped and tortured in other ways for five days before being thrown into a roadside drain in Busidong Her brother found her and

smuggled her across the border to Dechua Palong-2, where she is still trying hard to forget what happened.

Johora Begum is one of 597 women identified Bangladesh authorities to have been victims of rape.

ADB report

From Page 1 Col 7 expected expand in both scale and depth as a result of the restructuring and reform policies currently being pursued.

Discussing about poverty the report observed that poverty was directly linked to family size and inversely with the number of income earners in a family.

In Bangladesh, the report commented, extremely poor households are slightly smaller in size but have a larger share of children under the age of 10, fewer males above the age of 16, and a higher childwoman ratio.

In Pakistan, households with a relatively large number of dependents are headed by individuals above the age of 75 and are more likely to be poor. In the Philippines, rural poor households have a rela-

report added. The report further said that poor farmers tend to be slower than non-poor farmers in adopting modern agricultural

techniques.

tively larger family size and

more younger members, the

added, the poor farmers plant modern rice varieties on less than the non-poor. The association between

In Bangladesh, the report

poverty and slowness to adopt modern techniques was the result of a number of constraining factors, such as institutional barriers that limited access to new technology, lack of information about new technology and lack of access to the credit often needed to employ new technology, the report added.

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

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

political settlement."

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

The ship has a complement of 82 officers, 280 cadets, 250 satlors and 38 other employ-

Modalities

From Page 1 Col 5 will be signed by the respective ambassadors in a few days, said a Foreign Ministry official vesterday.

The UNHCR will also be involved with the process of repatriation, according to the agreed minutes initialled by Chittagong Divisional Com missioner Omar Farooq and Director General of Myanmar's Immigration Department Maung Aung, a senior Foreign Ministry official told The Daily

According to the agreed minutes. Bangladesh will open 10 transit camps for exit of the refugees and Myanmar will set up five reception centres 'corresponding to Bangladesh transit camps' to receive the refugees.

A total of 5,000 refugees will be repatriated every alternate day - 500 from each

"Both sides will designate officials who will have mandates of their respective governments to resolve any problem that may arise in the repatriation process through mutual discussions", said the offi-

Manna joins AL

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

In a statement, they said they were joining the party under leadership of Sheikh Hasina with a view to building "an exploitation-free, noncommunal and democratic" Bangladesh.

Those who joined the party are: Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Nazrul Islam Khan, Bidhu Bhusan Sarker. Atiqur Rahman, Afzal Hussain Babu, Mostafa Banerjee. Prof. Sirajul Islam. Shamim Ahmed Siddique. Ibrahim Chowdhury Khokon. Sohag Chowdhury. Rezaul Karim, Musharraf Hussain, Anwar Hussain Mukul, Ramzan Ali and Abdul Khaleque.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7 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.

Hasina also visited Khagrachari Zila Parishad office where its Chairman Shamiran Dewan apprised her of the problems in the CHT. On her way back to

Chittagong from Khagrachari, she also visited the office of Guimara Military Zone in Matiranga upazila. Lt Col Ziaur Rahman re-

ccived her and apprised her of different activities in the

DHAKA.

Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,

52 Motificeel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR,

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Nirmul body

Convenor of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Samannye Committee. Jahanara Imam said Tuesday that the ruling party joined hands with 'fundamentalist' Jamaat in harassing the pro-liberation

She was addressing a meet-

Imam said that it is a non-