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The Daily Star

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 239145, 239217
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 BANGLADESH EXPRESS CO. LTD.
 35, MOTUHEEL CA, DHAKA

VOL. II NO. 118 REGD. NO. DA 784

JAISTHA 4, 1399 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 18, 1992

ZILQAD 14, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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Tomorrow

Starting with the issue tomorrow, A K N Ahmed, a former Governor of Bangladesh Bank, writes a three-part series on the economic scene in Bangladesh, exclusively for The Daily Star. You cannot miss it

REGRET

Owing to mechanical fault the printing of *The Daily Star* was disrupted yesterday. As a result, the distribution of the paper in city was hampered. We regret the inconvenience caused to the readers and patrons.
 — Management

NEWS BRIEFS

BNP emergency meeting today

An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at 6 pm today at the party's central office, BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar will preside over the meeting. Presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka City BNP and its front organisations have been requested to attend the meeting in time, reports BSS.

RU to reopen in July

RAJSHAHI, May 17: Rajshahi University will reopen in the first week of July after nearly four months of forced closure. Varsity officials said the decision was taken today in a general meeting of teachers of the university with Vice-Chancellor Prof Amanullah Ahmed in the chair, reports UNB.

Myanmar 'ready' but refugees reluctant : No UNHCR involvement

Rohingya repatriation yet uncertain

By Staff Correspondent

Myanmar has told Bangladesh that it is ready to start the repatriation of Rohingya refugees from today (Monday).
 Despite this readiness the repatriation is unlikely to begin immediately as Bangladesh needs some more days for preparations.
 This was the outcome of the second round of official-level Bangladesh-Myanmar repatriation talks held in the frontier town of Teknaf Sunday.
 The repatriation of more than 255,000 refugees planned for last Friday was put off until Sunday because of a lack

of adequate preparations by both sides.
 Moreover, the refugees were protesting the planned repatriation saying, they will not return until the UNHCR is involved in the process to monitor their resettlement at home.
 Though the Myanmar officials attending Sunday's meeting said they were eager to take back their refugees, the issue of the UNHCR's involvement remained unresolved.
 According to Bangladesh officials reached by telephone at Cox's Bazar, the Myanmar side

told them that they had no mandate from the higher authorities to talk about the UNHCR involvement.
 Describing the meeting as positive and encouraging the Bangladesh officials said Myanmar had given repatriation signal for 6,400 of a first list of 9,880 refugees Bangladesh submitted to them during last Friday's meeting. In addition, Myanmar on its own has given a list of another 5,478 refugees who, the officials said, were residents of Myanmar's Maungwe region and free to return any time

they wanted.
 A Bangladesh official at the talks told *The Daily Star* by phone that the Dhaka authorities would now contact the listed refugees and tell them that Myanmar was ready to take them back with dignity and honour.
 "We had to wait for the Myanmar government to scrutinise the list of refugees that we submitted to it on May 15. Now that they have given the green signal, we will start our preparations, the official said, speaking on condition of
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Jahanara Imam leading a torch procession in the city yesterday evening in support of today's hartal. — Star photo

Nirmul body calls 8-hr hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

An eight-hour hartal has been called in the capital today (Monday) to press the government to accept a four-point demand including execution of the 'Gana Adalat' (people's court) verdict on controversial Jamaat chief Golam Azam.
 The National Coordination Committee for Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 called the 6 am-2 pm hartal on expiry of its April 26 deadline to the government for implementing the verdict.
 A public court set up at the Suhrawardy Udyan March 26 charged Golam Azam with war crimes including genocide, rape and arson and pronounced that he be punished
 See Page 12 Col 6

Anti-Suchinda protests on

Emergency in Bangkok

BANGKOK, May 17: Thailand's government has declared a state of emergency in Bangkok and its surrounding provinces, an official spokesman announced tonight, reports AFP.
 The announcement came hours after violence broke out in the Thai capital between police and demonstrators demanding the ousting of Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon.
 Reuter says, police fired water cannon and attacked with truncheons tonight when hundreds of thousands of demonstrators tried to march on government house to demand the immediate resignation of Suchinda.
 Witnesses said dozens of

people were injured when club wielding police surged into the huge crowd to drive protesters back from police barricades.
 Several policemen were injured by missiles hurled from the crowd, state television said.
 Organisers said the crowd, estimated at 200,000 people, would stay on the streets until Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon, a General who did not stand in march elections, stepped down.
 Security forces quickly blocked the route of the march in the Thai Capital with barricades, which were attacked by the young men in the vanguard of the crowd.

Gunbattle on DU campus

Two factions of the student wing of ruling BNP reportedly fought a gunbattle in Dhaka University Sunday, hurting nine, reports UNB.
 Witnesses said a group of the Jattayatabadi Chhatra Dal activists led by Mohsin Hall Union GS Sayeed Sohrab stormed his own dormitory which is the strong hold of the Ilyas group and chased out their rivals at about 2.30 p.m.
 The attackers marched towards the Mohsin Hall firing guns. The rival group also responded.
 The campus rocked as both the groups allegedly triggered cut-rifle, stengun and pistol.
 About 50 shots were heard during the clash.
 Police lobbed a barrage of tear gas shells to quell the skirmish that created panic among the inmates.

Storm death toll in Pabna rises to 15

From Our Correspondent
 PABNA, May 17: Death toll in the severe nor'wester that lashed six upazilas of the district Saturday night rose to 15 today, according to reports from the affected areas.
 Several hundred people were also injured in the storm which swept over Pabna Sadar, Ishurdi, Bera, Sujanager, Algoria and Chatmohar upazilas with a velocity of 70 to 80 kilometers an hour, the report said.
 According to a report immediately after the storm Saturday, one Abul Khair (38), was electrocuted and another 40 were injured.
 The 14 dead were identified as Ibrahim (48), Fazlur Rahman (41), Khairullah (50),
 See Page 12 Col 6

Saifur for expanding tax base 'Only 2 out of 100 big cos paid taxes'

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Sunday sought cooperation of the members of the parliament in mobilising domestic resources to finance a larger development budget in the next fiscal, reports BSS.
 He said to meet the objectives of more than five per cent GDP growth, better living standard and a great leap forward to self-reliance it was necessary to increase as well as mobilise the domestic resources through expanding the tax base.
 The Finance Minister was exchanging views with a group of MPs on the national economic issues and prevailing situation at the NEC Committee room. Whip Mahabubul Alam Tara, Nurul Islam Mont MP, Sardar Sakawat Hossain Bakul MP, Ansar Ali MP took part in the discussions.
 Stressing the need for a higher development outlay in the forthcoming national budget to attain an export-led growth, the Finance Minister said we have to take hard decisions to raise the living standard of the people of the country. We have to encourage foreign investment and savings and create congenial market environment for a quicker growth, employment, human resource development and poverty alleviation, he said.
 Rahman said the foreign aid climate has become gloomy in
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 See Page 12 Col 1

PM opens Education Week '92

Govt to encourage private educational institutions

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for devoting all energies to achieve progress in the fields of education, science and technology to attain self-reliance by the coming century, reports BSS.
 She said her government had attached top priority to education, one of the basic rights recognised in the constitution, keeping in mind the hopes and aspirations of the people.
 Inaugurating the Education Week 1992 in the Shilpakala Academy premises Begum Zia said 'we want to bring momentum in the development activi-

ties and build up a skilled manpower. Alleviation of poverty is our immediate target and we need necessary technology for development. Education is the base of all these targets'.
 The function was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Education Mohammad Yunus Khan and Education Secretary Shaful Alam.
 The Prime Minister gave a clarification call to all irrespective of any party affiliation or opinion to help maintain congenial academic atmosphere in the educational arena for the greater interest of the nation.

She said the prevailing problems in the education sector could not be solved only through taking up programmes, making policy allocating increased budget or establishing new educational institutions. 'What we need most today is the proper atmosphere conducive to the educational institutions,' she said.
 Begum Zia said education and terrorism could not go in parallel. The nation is incurring irreparable losses because of continuous terrorism in the campuses, she said, adding 'the students are our future. We cannot keep our future
 See Page 12 Col 8

Velayeti assures help in finding solution to Rohingya issue

The visiting Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr Ali Akbar Velayeti, said here yesterday that his country would support Bangladesh in sorting out the Rohingya refugee problems with Myanmar, reports BSS.
 The assurance came when the Iranian Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office.
 During the meeting the Prime Minister said a new horizon had been ushered in the relationship between Iran and Bangladesh with the establishment of democratic government in the country.
 She said we are committed to foster development in the country and want to expand
 See Page 12 Col 5

JS gherao June 24 Jute, textile workers blast denationalisation bid

By Staff Correspondent

Jute and textile workers will gherao Parliament June 24 and barricade roads and rail tracks July 24 to protest the government's denationalisation policy and demand implementation of previously signed agreements.
 Convenor of the Jute and Textile Workers Action Council Abul Bashar announced the programmes at a huge rally near Purana Paltan Square Sunday.
 "The government violated the agreement signed with the action council in December ahead of the 72-hour barricade and has decided to sell 14 jute mills and 16 textile mills,"

Abul Bashar who presided over the rally said adding that "The government has also planned to retrench 150,000 workers under a World Bank prescription."
 He said that according to the December-agreement the government was not to privatise any public sector jute or textile mill and supposed to announce wage commission in four months that have already passed.
 There are 33 public sector jute mills and 42 textile mills in the country.
 He alleged that the WB was favouring India and had asked
 See Page 12 Col 7

Make hartal a success: Hasina

Awami League President and Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Sunday urged the people to make today's hartal a success and force the government to execute the 'people's court' verdict against Golam Azam, reports UNB.
 In a statement, she accused the government of directly patronising killer Golam Azam and his accomplices, completely ignoring the March 26 verdict.
 The government arrested Golam Azam but has not yet filed any case against him, Hasina said. Instead, they lodged cases against 24 distinguished personalities for demanding trial of the killer and collaborator of the Pakistani occupation force, she added.
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Plan to fight natural disasters finalised

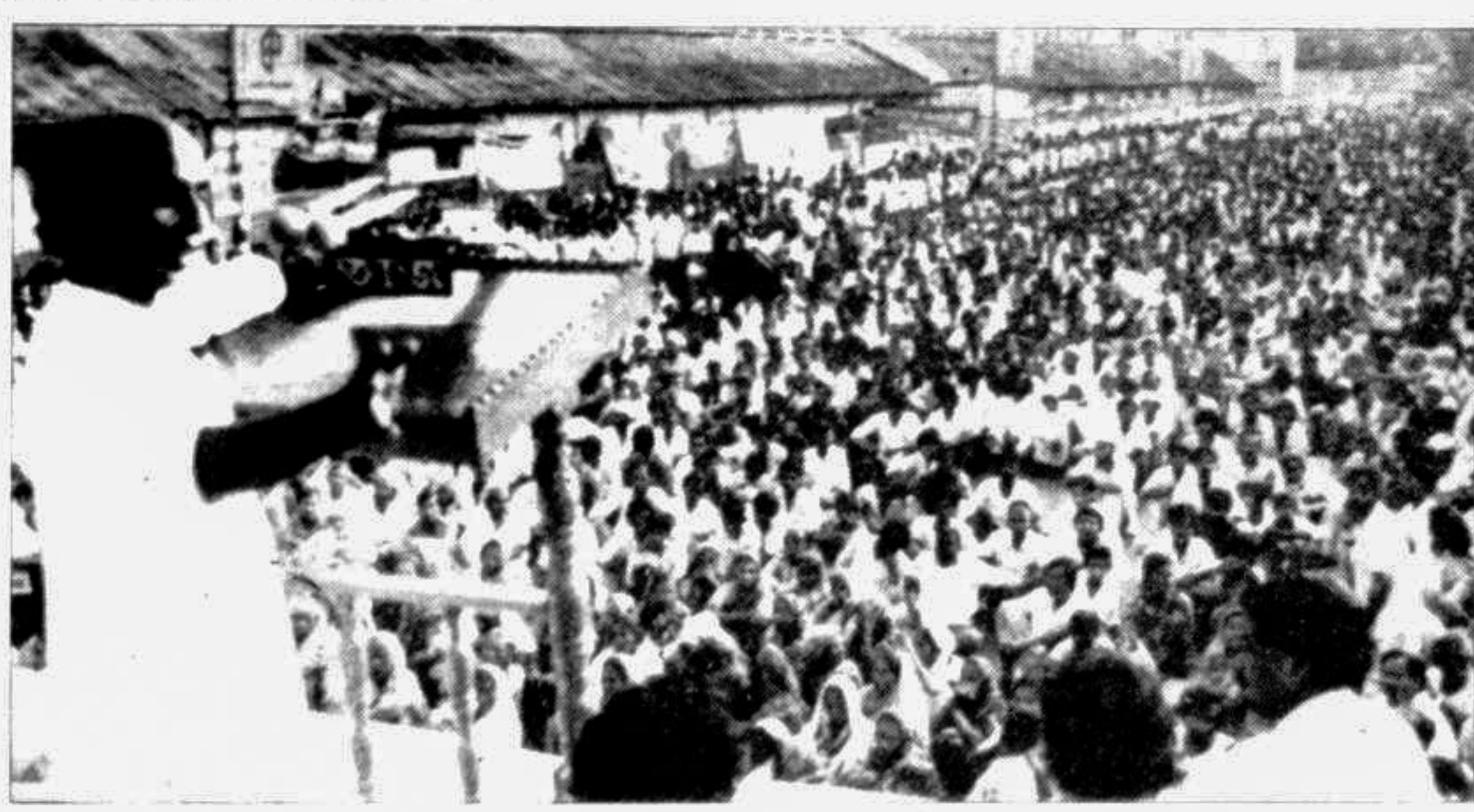
By Sohel Manzur

The government has finalised a draft of a set of actions for the ministries and concerned agencies to take in coping with natural disasters.
 The draft was prepared by the Joint Government-UNICEF Advisory Group (JGUAG) in the form of standing orders.
 The main objective of the actions is to ensure rapid, timely and systematic mobilization of all available resources and facilities in order to deal successfully with a disaster situation.
 According to the draft, the actions in this regard are divided into three phases: pre-

disaster, disaster and post-disaster, while the disaster preparedness programme is based on four points in addition to the implementation of the standing orders.
 The four points are: training the population in appropriate responses, educating them about their duties, informing them about what government action is being taken to assist them and ensuring an effective warning system.
 There will also be a standing central coordination committee for flood emergencies which will assess flood dam-

Depression over Bay

Deep depression over south west Bay and adjoining west central Bay moved north eastwards and was centered at 6 pm Sunday about 1050 kilometres south west of Chittagong port, reports UNB.
 A Met office evening special bulletin warned that the depression is likely to intensify further and move in a northerly direction for some time.
 According to earlier Met office message, a well-marked low over south west Bay and adjoining west central Bay concentrated into a deep depression and was centered at 9 am Sunday 1260 kilometres south west of Chittagong port. Maximum sustained wind
 See Page 12 Col 4



Labour leader Abul Bashar addressing a meeting of Jute and Textile Mills workers in the city yesterday asking implementation of their different demands. — Star photo

Sarbaharamen establish 'parallel rule' in southern region

By Masud Hasan Khan back from Barisal

Several lakh people of 10 upazilas in Barisal district are living as hostage to a "parallel rule" established by the armed activists of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Sarbahara Party, informed sources say.
 Local newspapers, which carry reports, almost every day, on the atrocities of the party, say that armed partymen of different factions have been collecting tolls from the people of Banari Para, Gaurandi,

Agoljhora, Hizia, Mehendiganj, Babuganj, Muladi and other remote upazilas of the district. Apart from Barisal district, the Sarbahara Partymen are also active in Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Shariatpur, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna and in the Narshingdi districts.
 Factional rivalry, murder, rape and loot have become a daily affair in these areas in the wake of increased activities of the Sarbahara Partymen

and feeble police action against them, the newspapers say.
 Sources close to the different factions of the ultra-left party say that normal life of the people has been disrupted in the inaccessible upazilas in Barisal district as the armed groups collect tolls from the people.
 The activists, who generally move in the dark, also collect rice, jute and other crops as "tax in kind" and force rural

people to follow "their rule."
 Sarbahara Party, an extreme left organisation, believes in armed revolution to establish the rule of the proletariat.
 Founded in early '70s by Straj Sikdar, who was killed while in police custody during Sheikh Mujib's rule, the Sarbahara Party is now divided into several small factions which work "under ground" in the rural areas of the country's southern and south-western

region.
 Sources say that except one or two, all the factions have moved away from their political ideology and have merged with the different robber groups active in the areas crissed-crossed by innumerable number of rivers.
 They say that, sometimes, the activists of the party work as mercenary for the wealthy landlords during the harvesting season to snatch away agri-

cultural products from the marginal and landless peasants in the fertile shaol areas in the district.
 These elements also have good ties with the influential people of the rural areas and the law enforcing agencies so that they do not bother about the activities of the Sarbaharamen, the sources allege.
 Informed sources and the local newspapers also say that
 See Page 12 Col 7

Rima murder: Hearing of appeal begins

The hearing of appeal against Lower Court judgement in the sensational Rima (Sharmin Nizam) murder case began Sunday before a Division Bench of the High Court, reports BSS.
 The two-member bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprised Justice Mohammad Badruzzaman and Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin.
 Munir Hossain alias Suruj and his girl friend Hossne Ara Khuku, were convicted and sentenced to death by Sessions and District Judge Mohammad Serajul Haq on May 21, 1990 for their involvement in the murder of Rima. Both the convicts had made two appeals before the High Court against the Lower Court judgement on May 26, 1990.
 M A Malek, appearing on behalf of Munir in the appeal, gave a brief resume of the occurrence of April 9, 1989, the day Rima was found murdered with multiple injuries in her person at Mijmij village under Siddirganj Thana of Narayan-ganj district.
 Initiating his submission, Malek said that after the murder was played up in such a way that it became the principal topic of discussion in the country. He alleged that consistent media campaign suc-

See Page 12 Col 3