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When it meets  
Again

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NEWS BRIEFS

ALWC meets  
today

The Awami League working  
committee (ALWC) will meet  
today at 9 am at 29, Minto  
Road residence of Leader of  
the Opposition and AL chief  
Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

Hasina visits Cox's  
Bazar tomorrow

Awami League chief and  
Leader of the Opposition in  
Parliament Sheikh Hasina  
will leave Dhaka for Cox's Bazar  
tomorrow to see for herself  
the condition of the cyclone  
affected people there, reports  
BSS.

Trade agreement  
with Hungary

Bangladesh and Hungary  
have signed a trade agreement  
in Budapest for two years to  
exchange goods worth about 50  
million US dollar. Commerce  
Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim  
and Deputy Secretary of State  
for International Economic  
Relation Dr Istvan Major,  
signed the agreement on  
Monday on behalf of their  
respective governments, accord-  
ing to a message received in  
the capital yesterday, reports  
UNB.

Faizul Huq  
joins AL

A K Faizul Huq, son of Sher-  
e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq, yes-  
terday joined the Awami  
League along with more than  
200 leaders and workers, re-  
ports UNB.

3 Cox's Bazar thanas, worst hit: Road, power links snapped

# 86 Rohingyas among 127 killed in cyclone

At least 127 people were killed and thousands injured in Monday night's cyclone in Cox's Bazar district. The dead included 86 Rohingya refugees who were living in camps along the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway.

The district control room in Cox's Bazar told The Daily Star last night that 106 deaths were reported from three thanas — Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu.

Star Report

The extent of damage in St Martin's and Shahpari islands could not be ascertained till writing this report last night. Official sources said that 95 per cent of the 18 camps set up in the Teknaf region to accommodate about two lakh Rohingya refugees were destroyed in the cyclone.

Our correspondent Monday reported from Cox's Bazar that at least 127 people, including 73 Rohingya refugees, were killed and over 10,000 injured in the cyclone. The figures were gathered from official and unofficial sources.



A rice mill damaged by Monday's cyclone in Teknaf.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## PM visits affected areas to see damage

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia undertook a whirlwind tour yesterday to witness firsthand the devastation wrought by the cyclone Monday in the coastal areas of Cox's Bazar district.

She was flown low over Maheshkhali and Kutubdia islands and landed at St Martin's island, Teknaf and Cox's Bazar town where she spent almost the whole day inspecting the extent of damage.

The PM went round different cyclone-struck hamlets, talked to the victims and enquired about their condition.

She also distributed some relief materials among the affected people.

Speaking at a gathering at the Teknaf Thana Parishad in the afternoon, Begum Zia assured the people of her government's untiring efforts to rehabilitate the cyclone-affected.

The people would bear with the misfortune and start life

afresh, she hoped. Begum Zia expressed her deep shock at the deaths of over 100 people in Monday's calamity and sympathised with the bereaved families.

The Prime Minister instantly released Taka seven lakh as gratuitous relief for the rehabilitation of the cyclone-victims in seven thanas of Cox's Bazar.

To the 3700 people of St Martin's island, the Prime Minister's visit came as a pleasant surprise.

Hundreds of people, forgetting their sufferings for the moment, thronged the makeshift helipad on the tiny coral island as the helicopter carrying Begum Zia touched down at 3-15 in the afternoon.

Alighting from the chopper, she freely talked with the people, listened to their vivid accounts of the cyclone and reassured of fast relief.

The islanders informed the

## SSC exams in Cox's Bazar to resume May 5

The SSC examination, on its second day yesterday, was held smoothly across the country under the four education boards barring Cox's Bazar, reports BSS.

Board officials said the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examination could not be held in Cox's Bazar due to the cyclone that hit different areas of the district Monday evening.

The examination will however be held in the district on May 5 as per schedule, the board officials added.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday visited different examination centres in the city including Moghbazar Girls' High School, Motijheel Model High School, Agrani Girls' High School and Dhanmandi Government Boys' School.

During his visit the minister saw that the teachers were conducting the examination in these centres.

See Page 12 Col 1

# Israel will pull out troops within 21 days of accord

CAIRO, May 3: Israel will pull its troops out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho within 21 days of signing a self-rule deal with the PLO tomorrow, according to a draft of the agreement obtained by Reuters.

The agreement, to be signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo, says Israel will evacuate all military bases and hand them over to a Palestinian police force.

But Israel will retain responsibility for the Jewish set-

tlements, external security and foreign relations.

At least five major points of disagreement remain in the nearly 200-page document which details implementation of the historic agreement on principles signed in Washington last September. Rabin and Arafat hope to iron out the last-minute differences in Cairo late today.

Israel shall implement an accelerated and scheduled withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and from the Jericho area beginning immediately with the

signing of this agreement and to be completed with "three weeks from this date," the draft accord states.

The accord details the handover of civil and police powers to a 24-member Palestinian authority.

Palestinian officials said that although the accord gives them limited rule over the two million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel still retains power over security and a veto over any laws the new Palestinian council might pass.

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## Six more Indians held in Burimari

LALMONTHAT, May 3: Six Indian nationals suspected to be engaged in spying were arrested today from the Burimari border area, reports UNB.

Police said two Hindi-speaking mid-aged men were taken into custody when they were suspiciously moving around Burimari Railway Station at about 2:15 am. They identified themselves as Nityananda, 41, of Motihar village in Purulia district and Bipin Chandra, 38, of Tinamar in Shibsagar district.

Pran Gopal Banik, 23, of Khalkata Subash Colony in Jalpaiguri district and Ashutosh Banik, 25, of Jalpaiguri district were arrested by the BDR from Burirhat Bazar on Monday

## JS goes into session today sans Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

The Fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) of the country goes into its fourteenth session this afternoon with the opposition parties, barring the Jamaat and the Gano Forum, deciding not to attend the session.

The Jamaat and the Forum are scheduled to decide separately on the issue this afternoon.

The largest opposition party in parliament the Awami League (AL), the second largest Jatiya Party and other parties including the Ganatantri Party (GP) and the National Democratic Party (NDP) told news-men last night they would continue to boycott the JS session.

Maulana Obaidul Huq of the Islami Oikhya Jote (IOJ) was

out of city while the lone MP of the Workers' Party Rashed Khan Menon is abroad.

However, before announcing their decision to boycott the session, the opposition leaders, including those of the Jamaat and the Forum, had an hour-long meeting to decide their strategy on the demands for the next general elections under a care-taker government and making the government accountable to Parliament.

The leaders of the opposition parties, while briefing newsmen at the JS chamber of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, said the demand for a care-taker government had already become a national demand and

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## PM addresses JS today Offer for dialogue with Opposition likely

By Asiuzzaman

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to make a call to the opposition parties to return to Parliament and agree to a dialogue to resolve all disputed matters, party sources said yesterday.

The PM's kitchen cabinet, at a meeting late last night at her residence, reviewed the current political situation.

The Prime Minister, who is also the Leader of the House, will address 14th session of the fifth Parliament today, the source added.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Works Minister

Rafiqul Islam Miah were among eight senior ministers at the meeting.

The government's top policy-makers also discussed ways and means to make Parliament effective and workable and analyse various Opposition demands.

Meeting sources said that nothing dramatic could be expected from the BNP side during the 14th session.

The meeting continued for about two and a half hours beginning at 9:30 pm.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder said yesterday the ruling party

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## Poor performance Calcutta trade wing to be abolished

By Special Correspondent

The government is to call for explanations from the trade wings of the country's missions in Ottawa, Nairobi and Colombo 'for' their poor performance. The authorities have also decided to abolish the post of First Secretary (Trade) in the Deputy High Commission, Calcutta for similar reason.

According to a source, the decisions were taken at a high level meeting held at the Ministry of Commerce recently. Presided over by Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, the meeting reviewed the performances of the trade wings in various missions and

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## Khulna Azam Khan College closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 3: The Government Azam Khan Commerce College has been closed sine die following an hour long clash between supporters of the Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra League on the college campus this afternoon in which eight activists of both the groups were injured.

The VP of the college students' union was among those injured.

According to police the clash ensued when the Chhatra League activists tried to hang the portraits of the Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina replacing those of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia inside

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