



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting the cyclone-affected areas of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

— PID photo



The Kutu Palang Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar was devastated by Monday's cyclonic storm.

— Star photo

127 killed in Monday's cyclone

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all five unions were battered.

The jharna-wise break up of the death toll is as follows: Ukhia — 38 refugees, 14 villagers; Teknaf — 36 refugees, 20 villagers; Ramu — 10 refugees, six villages; and Sadar — five villages.

The worst affected refugee camps were: Deswatalong 1 and 2; Morichha 1; Jummapara-transit-camp and Shaler Daba.

There was heavy rainfall in the areas from 8 am to 10 am with the rainfall recorded at 84 mm. The main road of Cox's Bazar town was inundated due to flash floods from the hills. The power supply, snapped last night, was partly restored this evening.

The SSC examinations at eight centres in the district were suspended yesterday.

According to an official press briefing in the capital last night, 100 per cent of kutcha houses, 95 per cent of trees in Teknaf were completely damaged in Monday's cyclone.

Preliminary report of damage given at the briefing by Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud at 7:30 pm revealed that 100 per cent of JRR paddy fields, betel leaf plantations and 95 per cent of salt grounds were destroyed in Teknaf thana.

Teknaf is the worst affected out of the seven thanas of Cox's Bazar district, Nuruddin Al-Masud said.

Rao shocked

NEW DELHI, May 3: The Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao on Tuesday expressed deep shock over the cyclone which ravaged South-eastern Bangladesh, reports AFP.

The 73-year-old leader in a message to his Bangladeshi counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia said India was ready to extend all necessary assistance to the stricken country of 120 million people.

Open sky

From Page 1 Col 5 immediate needs of the people.

In Teknaf town, not a single straw-and-bamboo structure survived the fury of the cyclone. The tin-shed and semi-pucca houses also suffered extensive damage.

There was no electricity in the town and telephone links between Teknaf and Cox's Bazar had been snapped.

Md Habibullah, 35, was pushing hard to remain in a zigzagged queue that had formed instantly after a helicopter-load of relief goods arrived from Dhaka Tuesday afternoon.

A fisherman by profession, Habibullah's thatched hut on St Martin's Island had been blown away by the cyclone.

His eight-member family had taken refuge in the house of his relative, surviving on a little amount of rice they had managed to save from the wrath of the cyclone.

"We don't want relief. Give us some food so that we may survive for a few days to resume fishing," he said.

Near the confluence of the river Naaf, three fishing trawlers lay aground on the muddy beach of the bay. Several others could be seen half-sunk in the channels while their crew swam ashore.

Even the hilly forests were not spared. Ancient teak woods, known for their sturdiness, looked naked, shorn of their leaves and bark.

The 18 Rohingya refugee camps dotting the Cox's Bazar hills also suffered heavy damage.

Eighty-six Rohingya men, women and children lost their lives either by flying tin-sheets or being crushed under the debris of the damaged huts.

Squalls and dark ominous clouds above formed crests on the now peaceful waves of the Bay of Bengal. However, the Met Office still prescribed a riverine danger signal number three for the Cox's Bazar port.

Member (Finance) of the Dhaka WASA Abdur Rouf Chowdhury has been transferred to the Water Development Board (WDB) as Member (Finance).

Member of the Second Settlement Court, Mushibuddin Chowdhury has been transferred to the Bangladesh Tea Board as member.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Government College Professors Association and Lecturers Association had a meeting with the Education Minister in Dhaka yesterday.

SSC exams

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Sircar expressed his satisfaction at the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the centres and the adjoining areas.

According to the officials of the four education boards, at least 454 examinees were expelled across the country for adopting unfair means in the examination.

Of them 170 were expelled in Dhaka Board, 111 in Comilla Board, 149 in Rajshahi Board and 24 in Jharkhand Board.

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Appointment, transfer

By Staff Correspondent

Some changes have been made in the administration of the government.

Mufazzel Hossain, Zakir Ahmed Khan and Golam Rahman have been promoted to the posts of joint secretaries and appointed as the Officers on Special Duty (OSDs) in the Ministry of Establishment.

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Press Note

Allegation by a section of teachers false

An Education Ministry Press Note issued yesterday termed the statement of a particular Teachers' organisation regarding the SSC examination as misleading and not based on facts, reports BSS.

The Press Note said the attention of the government had been drawn to a news item published in a section of the press referring to a statement of a particular teachers' organisation.

In fact, the SSC examination of Monday and yesterday was held smoothly all over the country.

Therefore, the question of making the SSC examination a farce does not arise.

The teachers themselves were conducting the examination in 644 centres and they were the secondary school teachers. They were conducting it in maximum centres, the Press Note added.

As for example, out of the 94 centres of greater Dhaka city, the original centre secretaries and invigilators were conducting the examination in 91 centres. The examination in the rest three centres was also conducted by the teachers through alternative arrangements.

So the allegation of conducting the examination by the menial staff is a total lie. At the same time the allegation of creating division among the teachers centering the SSC examination is also baseless.

The government hopes that after the publication of the Press Note the misgivings regarding the issue will be removed. In view of the beginning of the SSC examination in a proper atmosphere throughout the country, the government expects that all the teachers concerned will take part in conducting the examination.

Communication with Teknaf, Ukhia and St Martin's Island remained disrupted.

THAI FISHERMEN

UNB reports from Teknaf: Chairman of Sabrang union Parishad Mohammad Shafique said at least seven Thai fishing trawlers that were caught in the storm were missing. Some 14 survivors of the Thai trawlers took refuge at Teknaf under police custody.

The survivors said there were 65 crew on board five Thai trawlers caught in the storm. Other survivors were believed to be wandering inside Bangladesh territory.

Calcutta trade wing

From Page 1 Col 8 decided to take some immediate measures to gear up their activities.

The meeting also decided to improve the system for monitoring the trade wing's activities. For this, all such wings will be asked to send regular monthly reports to the government according to a new format prepared by the Commerce Ministry.

The virtual non-functioning of the trade wing in Calcutta was discussed in the meeting at length. In the backdrop of increasing trade gap between Bangladesh and India, the meeting concluded that the First Secretary (Trade) at the concerned mission had failed to do the job and should be called back.

Earlier, in the first week of April, Ashraf Hasan, the Commercial Counsellor of Bangladesh in Tokyo was called back because his performance was deemed unsatisfactory.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Ministry has decided to request the missions to send confidential reports regarding the actual outcome of Bangladesh trade fairs abroad to facilitate proper evaluation and necessary follow-up actions.

Presently, Dhaka has trade wings in its missions in the USA, the UK, China, India, Malaysia, Kenya, Canada, Russia, Australia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Belgium, Japan and Kuwait.

The government plans to set up three or four more trade wings in the commercially more important countries. The opening of a trade office in South Africa is already under process.

Sources said ten officials were selected two years ago

11 Myanmar nationals rescued

From Page 1 Col 3

Prime Minister that the cyclone had left most of the straw-and-bamboo houses damaged and one person missing.

She distributed sarees and lungis among the victims.

During her visit to the coastal region, Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Relief Harun-al-Rashid, members of Parliament, high civil and military officials accompanied the Prime Minister.

Begum Zia returned to Dhaka Tuesday night.

The Midnight File

Clinton accuses Haiti of killing innocent people

WASHINGTON, May 3: President Clinton today accused Haiti's military leaders of killing innocent civilians and declare 'it's time for them to go.' Talking to reporters as he prepared to leave for Atlanta, Clinton refused to rule out any options in dealing with Haiti if stronger UN sanctions do not force Haitian rulers out, reports Reuters.

Rabin arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, May 3: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrived here today to finalise the Palestinian self-rule accord with PLO leader Yasser Arafat as officials said a last minute crisis threatening tomorrow's signing had been resolved. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said as he arrived with Rabin: "We are going to sign tomorrow, I feel great," reports AFP.

Rwandan troops surround UN convoy in Kigali

NAIROBI, May 3: Rwandan troops and pro-government militiamen surrounded a UN convoy in the Rwandan capital of Kigali today, preventing it from evacuating 300 civilians, UN officials said. "The situation is very tense, an official told Reuters by telephone from Kigali.

Mandela, de Klerk talk transfer of power

PRETORIA, May 3: President-elect Nelson Mandela and the man he will replace, Frederik de Klerk, met today to discuss the transfer of political power in South Africa to the African National Congress (ANC), a government source said. reports AFP.

There were no other details of the talks at de Klerk's office in the Union buildings that house the government offices here.

"Free at last" Mandela said Monday night as he realised his lifelong dream of creating a non-racial democracy in South Africa. Mandela is sure to be chosen the country's first black president when the new parliament meets Friday, and will be sworn in May 10.

With almost 11.7 million votes counted — 52 per cent of the estimated total — the ANC had 62.2 per cent to 22.4 per cent for de Klerk's National Party. The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party was a distant third with 8.3 per cent, followed by the pro-apartheid Freedom Front with 2.8 per cent.

The ANC was projected to win around 240 seats in the new 400-seat National Assembly and also appeared likely to win seven of the nine provincial races, in which voters in each province chose a new provincial legislature.

Ministers given extra charge

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will discharge all parliamentary responsibilities of the Information Minister Nazmul Huda, who is now on a visit to the USA, tomorrow.

In another decision, Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah will discharge all responsibilities of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications today as the concerned Minister Tariqul Islam is out of Dhaka to supervise post-cyclone relief work, reports BSS.

College closed

From Page 1 Col 8 the Chhatri Sangsads office room, VP Shah Zakir Rahman was on a visit to the cyclone-ravaged areas. Some 130 MPs were present at the meeting.

Abdus Salam Talukder reportedly ransacked the office of the Sangsads after the Chhatri League activists ransacked the office of the Principal.

"It has also inspired us to proceed along the path of democracy we had embarked upon a few years ago," she said.

She hoped that after the imminent formation of his government the relations between the two countries would be strengthened and cooperation in all fields will be developed to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

She wished him good health, long life and happiness and continued peace and prosperity of the people of South Africa.

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