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### Foreign Secy briefs diplomats

## Local resources enough for cyclone victims

Bangladesh will not seek any external assistance for emergency relief for the cyclone-affected people as the country "is in a position to meet the immediate needs from her own resources," Foreign Secretary M R Osmany said yesterday, reports UNB.

He was briefing heads of the diplomatic missions on the extensive damages caused by the recent cyclone to life and property in the districts of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

The cyclone storm, with a wind velocity of 250 km per hour, which ravaged the southeastern region of the country on May 2, left a trail of devastation.

Osmany said external support might be required in reconstruction work and rehabilitation of forests, agriculture, power lines, telephone system and the cyclone centres which had been badly damaged by the calamity.

The Foreign Secretary also briefed them about the disaster preparedness programme of the government, saying: "It has been proved very successful in saving many lives."

## Indian mission denies UNB report

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has denied a UNB report saying that the High Commission had received a protest note from the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry about the alleged airspace violation by Indian aircraft on May 9.

"Till the time of the issue of this press release, 1400 hours, May 12, it has not received any communication on alleged airspace violation from the Bangladesh Foreign Office," the High Commission said in a press yesterday.

It further said it is highly unlikely that villagers and local officials of Burimari, who are not trained spotters, would have been able to spot Indian Air Force planes on the night of May 9.

The High Commission said the report on airspace violation by Indian aircraft is a fabricated account "which has been deliberately circulated to create ill-feelings about India in this country."

It, however, admitted that it had received a protest note from the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry on April 30, this year regarding the alleged violation of Bangladesh airspace at Burimari by Indian Air Force planes on April 27.

"The matter had been duly investigated by the Indian authorities and it has been clarified to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry that no Indian aircraft was in the area concerned on this date," the press release said.

## 'Lord Desai's comment surprising'

BNP Secretary General Abus Salam Talukder yesterday expressed his surprise at the comment of reputed economist British citizen Lord Meghnath Jagadish Chandra Desai that Bangladesh was committing excesses over the Farakka Barrage, reports BSS.

In a statement on the comment of Lord Desai that appeared in a section of the press, Talukder said it evokes surprise in the mind of all when the wisdom of a man of the stature of Lord Desai is influenced by sympathy toward ancestral home. It is our firm belief that had Lord Desai made his comment after his visit to the north western districts of Bangladesh, this would have reflected the reality of the situation, he added.

In fact the Farakka Barrage is the single biggest factor for causing the greatest harm to the people of this country and also to its climate, weather and ecological balance, he said.

Abdus Salam Talukder pointed out that the Farakka Barrage was now a life and death problem for the entire population of Bangladesh. If anybody tried to minimise its problem it would not be acceptable.



Dhaka University students staged a strike yesterday protesting the alleged rape of a girl student recently at the Zahurul Huq Hall of the university. — Star photo

## Strike at DU

**From Page 1 Col 7**

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Syndicate at a meeting yesterday evening reviewed the report on the incident submitted by the four-member probe body.

The meeting presided over by the Vice Chancellor found that the newspaper reports on the incident were factually different from the probe body report.

For further enquiry into the incident, the Syndicate, formed another six-member probe body with Prof Anwaraullah Chowdhury as Convenor. The other members are Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Dr Aminul Islam, Dr Jinnatunnesa Tahmid Begum, Dr Anwar Hossain and the Registrar of Dhaka University.

The Syndicate, urged the probe body to submit its report as soon as possible.



John Smith dead

**By Staff Correspondent**

Police arrested a Pakistani national, Abdul Waheed, for carrying gold bars worth about Tk. 10.5 lakh illegally at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday.

## Hasina

**From Page 1 Col 8**

sadors at large, Hasina said they are toiling hard and sending remittances to enrich the country.

About the politico-economic scenario in Bangladesh, the opposition leader said that ruling BNP had miserably failed to deliver goods to the people and steer clear the nation.

Paying glowing tributes to late Hayakawa, Hasina said he had played an instrumental role in cementing the relations between Bangladesh and Japan. She mentioned that it was through Hayakawa that Bangladesh had given the proposal for assistance in constructing the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge.

She praised the Tokyo branch of the Awami League, Jubo League and Chhaira League and asked them to work for bolstering the image of the country.

In her presidential speech, Mrs Hayakawa recalled her husband's role during the Bangladesh's Liberation War. She said Hayakawa mobilised Japanese public support in favour of Bangladesh. After the independence of Bangladesh he took personal initiative for Japanese assistance for the war ravaged country.

She said like her husband she also sincerely desires to see a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

The reception was conducted by President of Japan unit of the Awami League Mahfuzul Haque.

## Tk 2.3cr EU cyclone assistance

**By Staff Correspondent**

The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has approved a commitment of 500,000 ECU (about Tk 2.3 crore) to provide emergency assistance to those affected by the cyclone of May 2, says a press release.

These fund will be channelled through the European NGOs, Concern and Oxfam.

## Myanmar team arrives

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, May 12: The five-member trade delegation from Yangon headed by its Minister of Trade Lt. Gen. Tun Kyi arrived here this evening on a week-long visit to Bangladesh.

The team was received at Chittagong airport by high ranking officials. The team was later taken to the BJMC Rest House.

The Myanmar team during their stay in Chittagong will visit the Export Processing Zone, Buddhist temple and hold a discussion with the members of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Besides, the delegation will pay a visit to Bandarban hill district tomorrow. The team will leave Chittagong for Dhaka on May 14.

The delegation is expected to sign a border trade agreement on May 18.

## Bill rejected

**From Page 1 Col 4**

passing of the bill in the absence of the Opposition was 'an anti-climax.' He said the Opposition had struggled for the bill but it was passed in its absence, he said.

"The Opposition parties will launch a mass agitation if our demands are not met," the JP leader said.

Tofael Ahmed said that a difference of opinion was visible within the ruling party over the bill. "The Speaker was absent when the bill was placed for passage. Another treasury bench member, who brought some pragmatic amendments, did not withdraw his proposals. Yet another told the House that he had withdrawn his amendment proposals 'as ordered'," Tofael said.

He said that the ruling party had changed the basic character of the bill which was finalised by the Privileges committee after 10 months of efforts.

Suranjit Sengupta said there was a 'revolt' inside the ruling party protesting the bill.

"It is a violation of Article 79 of the Constitution which ensures sovereignty of Parliament with an independent secretariat," he said.

The Ganatantri Party leader said, "If the government forces us to go to the streets, the Opposition is ready for that."

## French ship looted at Mongla port

**BAGERHAT, May 12:** A group of miscreants today snatched goods worth about Tk 3 lakh from a French ship anchored at Mongla port, reports UNB.

## Rly containers

**From Page 1 Col 5**

Minister Moshed Khan, President of MCCI Latifur Rahman and Railway Secretary Dr A K M Moshirur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Latifur Rahman urged the government to announce a long-term policy for the Railway sector which would encompass issues like expansion of carrying capability, basis of freight structure, development of inland container depots (ICDs) and areas of co-operation between the public and private sector. He also said the banking hours at the ICDs should be extended upto 7 pm as at the Chittagong port.

He also urged the minister to ensure that container freight station (CFS) sheds are built at the ICD, Kamalapur, on a priority basis so that the garments industry can use the container service.

The MCCI chief said that inland haulage charge in the country is about 20 per cent higher than in other countries and this must be restructured before the next budget.

The minister called upon the industrialists, specially the garments manufacturers, to utilise the container service of the Railway which, he said, offers competitive rate for carrying goods.

Oli Ahmed pointed out that the Railway had taken up a long-term plan to invest Taka 7,410 crore by 2010 under a massive rehabilitation, replacement and renovation programme.

He also said the authorities have already taken steps to stop activities of 'mastans' at the container depots.

## The Midnight File

### Fighting in Bosnia ahead of today's Geneva meet

**SARAJEVO, May 12:** UN officials on Thursday reported increased military activity in northern Bosnia, including a mortar attack that knocked out electricity in Serb-held Brcko. The shelling intensified as Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government hardened their positions before a crucial meeting Friday of Russian, American and West European foreign ministers hoping to push the warring sides back to the negotiating table.

### US adopts aggressive attitude: Syria

**DAMASCUS, May 12:** Syria, a key player in the US sponsored Middle East peace talks, accused Washington today of adopting a provocative and aggressive attitude towards Damascus. The Syrian reaction to a US report that named Syria as a country sponsoring terrorism came three days before Secretary of State Warren Christopher was due to arrive to continue efforts to break a deadlock in Syrian-Israeli negotiations, reports Reuter.

## Govt urged to stop fish piracy in Bay

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association yesterday alleged that foreign fishing trawlers mostly from Thailand are invading the country's shrimp and white fish grounds in the Bay and accused the government of failing to protect the marine resources.

"Such unauthorised intrusion into our traditional fishing ground during the last several months has depleted our shrimp reserve depriving the country of the catch of fish and foreign exchange earnings", chairman of the association and former naval chief Rear Admiral M H Khan said, at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon.

He urged the government to take immediate steps to stop the fish piracy. The former naval chief said, "The government's inefficiency and the navy's inaction were the main reasons for fishing by Thai and other foreign trawlers in Bangladesh's waters in the Bay of Bengal."

He said the fishermen of the country were facing a 20 per cent loss because of the intruders. Stock of shrimp dropped drastically due to unabated piracy by foreign trawlers, which also included Myanmar and Indian trawlers.

### Thai envoy

**From Page 1 Col 8**

seek cooperation from Thailand in future," she added.

Ambassador Vidhyameth emphasised on increased trade and commerce between Thailand and Bangladesh for strengthening bilateral cooperation. He said he had talks with Bangladeshi chamber leaders in this regard.

The Thai envoy said there is ample scope for joint venture projects in the fisheries and livestock sector.

Begum Zia said the two countries could exchange visits by chamber leaders to expand trade and suggested that Thailand could set up export-oriented industries in Bangladesh.

### Missile test

**From Page 1 Col 8**

minister said.

Rao is scheduled to meet Clinton on May 19 and discuss strained relations between the two countries over India's nuclear programme and its ballistic missile deployment plans.

"The effort will be to make the US understand our policy through friendly and firm dealings," Rao said.

### বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকায় সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল খোলাপী গ্রাহকের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৫ই এপ্রিল '৯৪ থেকে পুনরায় শুরু হয়েছে। ১৯৯৩-৯৪ অর্থ বৎসরের উক্ত তৃতীয় বিশেষ অভিযানে ১১-০৫-৯৪ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ঢাকা মহানগরী এলাকায় মোট ৫৭৫ টি গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হয়।


সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহককে অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থানে বকেয়া পরিশোধের রশিদ প্রদর্শন করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত গ্রাহক বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন/অফিসে পরিশোধিত বিলের রশিদ দেখাতে পারলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃসংযোগ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নতা ৩ (তিন) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃসংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্থায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণসহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বন সম্পদ রক্ষা করে পরিবেশের ভারসাম্য রক্ষায় সহায়তা করে। গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণে এগিয়ে আসুন।

গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সাশ্রয় করে অর্থনীতিতে সমৃদ্ধি আনে।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ ও সংরক্ষণকল্পে সকলের সহযোগিতা আমাদের একান্ত কাম্য।



### তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি সাবসিডিয়ারী কোম্পানী)

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"গাছ লাগান, পাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান"—প্রধানমন্ত্রী

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-১৯৪/৯৩-৯৪