Cyclone hits Cox's Bazar

From Page

At Teknaf an estimated 30 per cent houses were destroyed while at Uria 40 per cent houses were ravaged. More reports of casualties are reaching the district headquarters.

The TNO of Teknaf said some 11,000 families were rendered homeless in the thana alone as at least 2,500 houses were battered there. About 15 villages of Teknaf thana were inundated.

He further said the S Martins island went under 3-4 feet water and the fate of the people of that area could not be known yet as it remained cut off from the mainland because of communication breakdown.

Telecommunications of the district were cut off, officials said.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: Chit tagong escaped a catastrophic disaster as the severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane wind suddenly weakened when it crossed the district late last night.

All activities at Chittagong Port were suspended till noon yesterday. Normal life was disrupted and schools postponed examinations and many were closed.

Coastal areas of Sandwip. Mirsarai, Sitakunda, Anwara and Banshkhali thanas of the district experienced a high tide and severe winds.

Huge standing crops and kutcha houses of the coastal

Bangladeshi troops

From Page 1 in the face of Serb aggression their demand. against the Bosnian Muslims. The Bangladeshi peacekeeenclave of Bihac.

areas were damaged by the cyclonic storm, according to preliminary information reaching the district administration

Under the influence of the storm most parts of the district experienced heavy squalls and showers. Local Met office recorded 59 mm rainfall during the last 24 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

River ports in the coastal districts have been advised to keep hoisted riverine warning signal number two.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been asked to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

Irish overturn ban on divorce

DUBLIN, Nov 25: The people of Ireland have voted to overturn a constitutional ban on divorce by 51.1 per cent to 48.9 per cent against state RTE radio-television reported today, says AFP.

Victoria College students enforce 4-hr rail barricade

COMILLA, Nov 25: Train services were disrupted for about four hours here today as students of the Victoria Government College barricaded the rail tracks demanding upgradation of the college into a university, reports UNB.

The students enforced the deshi soldiers worked under four-hour barricade pro-UNPROFOR for one and a half gramme from 8 am as part of years in the war-torn their week-long programme peninsula to maintain peace to press for realisation of

Five trains, including three intercity, were stranpers were camped in the ded on different routes due to the barricades.

12035 under-aged workers

From Page 1 and the UNICEF, all signatories to the MOU.

The 12,035 under-aged workers, identified in this survey would now be brought under a schooling programme, according to the MOU. The UNICEF will implement the programme with the help of the BGMEA and some NGOs.

The BGMEA on Friday arranged a dinner meeting at a city hotel for distribution of awards to three of the most successful survey teams. The awards were given by Rupali Insurance Company.

US Ambassador David N Merrill distributed the awards at the function, also attended by officials of the ILO, UNICEF, BGMEA and of the Bangladesh government.

Speaking on the occasion, **BGMEA** President Redwan Ahmed said, the implementation of the MOU regarding the child labour in the garments factories, has set an example in the world. He said that the garments factory owners had extended their total cooperation to detect the underaged work-

Mostafa Golam Quddus,

Chairman, BGMEA standing committee on child labour, said the smooth survey by teams from the BGMEA, the ILO and the UNICEF, has also disproved all previous apprehensions and misgivings about the attitude of the factory owners. Without fail, every factory owner whose premises were inspected by the survey teams, extended all out cooperation to the persons conducting the survey. This was so, simply because of the fact that every factory owner, as a member of the BGMEA, sincerely desires that the MOU be implemented in letter and spirit for the overall, longterm benefit of the garments sector and its thousands of honest, hard-working employees

Quddus reiterated the concern of the BGMEA about the activities of some NGOs which were indulging in negative or hostile activities to damage the garment industry of the country. The BGMEA would obviously like to be satisfied about the credibility of the NGOs, if any, entrusted with the school programme for the terminated child labour, he said.

Poor project implementation

Analysing the sectoral implementation of the current fiscal's ADB-financed annual development programme (ADP), the bank notes that for the first three months of 1995-96, the total utilisation was 20.7 per cent as against an elapsed time of 25 per cent. The performance of all sectors, barring transport and education, have been lagging behind, it adds.

Noting that the shortfall in disbursement is 'relatively more serious', the report says that the net YTD disbursement has been caused mainly by the shortfalls in social infrastructure sector (31.2 million dollars) and energy sector (18.6 million dollars).

In energy sector, as the ADB says, "This extremely poor performance (a shortfall of 16.1 million dollars for contract awards) is mainly due to substantially delayed procurement actions under the Eighth Power Project (shortfall 8.0 million dollars) and the Third Natural Gas Development Project."

In case of disbursement, the shortfall of 18.6 million dollars which is mainly on account of the delay in contract awards under Eight Power Projects (shortfall 10.8 million dollars) and the delayed settlement of arbitration cases concerning Brahmaputra Basin Gas Transmission and Distribution Project.

In social infrastructure

sector, ADB says, for ensuring improved performance during the remaining period of the calendar year, particular attention is needed to reduce the substantial disbursement shortfal in five projects. These are: Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (shortfall - 3.3 million dollars), Secondary Education Development Project (4.6 million), Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection Project (4.5 million) and Second Health and Family

programme loan - Railway Recovery Programme — the ADB says "There were two outstanding conditions to be fulfilled before the second tranche can be released." These include: (a) to reduce public service obligation through closure of at least two uneconomic branch-lines by the end of fiscal 1995-96 and (b) issuance of government notification to confirm the matrix outlining delegation of authority to Bangladesh Railway.

Urs at Ajmer

AJMER, Nov 25: The annual urs of sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti began here last night with the sighting of moon, reports

The jannati darwaza in dargah was opened late last

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



People from different walks of life and organisations felicitated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for continuation of democracy and constitutional process at her Hare Road — PID photo office yesterday.

6 killed, 30 hurt in bus mishap

PABNA, Nov 25: Six people were killed and 30 wounded when a Sirajganjbound minibus fell into a wayside ditch today at Amtoli in Bera thana, 55 kilometres from here, reports UNB.

Police said the overloaded minibus coming from the district headquarters tumbled into the ditch as its driver tried to avoid a headon collision with a truck on Bogra-Nagarbari highway at about 11 am.

Four passengers of the minibus — Goutam, 32, of Bera, Nazrul, 30, of Bogra, Abdul Awal, 30, and Chand Ali. 18 of Manikganj - died on the spot. Two other passengers - Uttam, 32, of Bera and Asad Uddin, 30 of Sirajganj - succumbed to their injuries on way to Bera Health Complex.

Rail link

From Page 1 tween the two ghats were being hampered since November 23 when two ferries carrying the passengers of Ekata inter-city train and eight down mail were stranded at Kalasonar char

The Western Division of Railway at Lalmanirhat suspended bookings of passengers and goods from today.

7 injured in

city clash

By DMCH Correspondent

were injured in a clash be-

tween two groups of youths at

Shantibagh area in the city

shawpuller, Abdul Matin, 25,

sustained bullet injuries. He

was admitted to the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) in critical condition,

erupted when the youths of

Shantibagh area tried to pre-

vent an armed group from at-

tacking a department store at

cocktails exploded during

persons were identified as

Sohel, 25, Ribu, 20, Rahmat

Ali, 25, and Shafaetullah, 30.

They were also admitted to

14 get life-term

From Page 1

Judge Sirajuddin Ahmed de-

livered the verdict Monday

last after examining 13 wit-

nesses and other records.

The convicted will have to

pay a fine of Tk 2000 each, in

default, to suffer another two

Gunshots were fired and

The four other injured

Witnesses said, the clash

Of the injured, a rick-

vesterday afternoon.

medical sources said.

about 3 pm.

the clash.

the DMCH.

months' jail.

At least seven persons

Cross-section of people greet Khaleda

Cross-section of people yesterday hailed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her latest move for continuing democratic and constitutional process in the country.

reports UNB. Leaders, workers, supporters of different political and socio-cultural organisations, professional groups and individuals came to the 30. Hare Road office of the PM in the evening to congratulate her on the completion of full term of parliament

that was dissolved Friday. They offered bouquets to the Prime Minister and requested her to maintain the hard-earned democratic process in the greater interest of the country and the nation.

While greeting her, they said it is for the first time in the country's parliamentary history that the Sangsad was dissolved through constitutional means.

It's a noble venture towards bright future of democracy as the legacy of violation of the Constitution and extra-constitutional intervention is over, they observed.

They said it gave them immense pleasure and deep satisfaction to watch on the

TV screen the Prime Minister suggesting the President to dissolve the fifth parliament.

Responding. Begum Zia said only a democratic government can ensure overall development of the country and welfare of commonman.

She expressed her confidence that people from all walks of life would extend support for maintaining the democratic process.

Those who came to meet BNP Chairperson Begum Zia include leaders and workers of the BNP, Juba Dal, Chhatra Dal, Sramik Dal, Krishak Dal, DUCSU, Mohila Dal, Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha, Eden College Chhatra Dal, Ulema Dal, Zia Smriti Sangsad, Madaripur district BNP, Daudkandhi Thana BNP and Satkhira district BNP.

Besides, a group of teachers from different universities, senior journalists, physicians, agriculturists, lawvers and Satkhira Janakalyan Samity leaders also presented the Prime Minister with bouquets.

Earlier, the cabinet members and MPs of the just-dissolved Parliament gave her floral ovation.

Hasina discusses JS dissolution with party colleagues

By Staff Correspondent Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina vesterday discussed with her party colleagues the latest political situation following the dissolution of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad, according to party sources.

The draft of Hasina's statement on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's address to the nation was also discussed at the meeting, party sources said

The draft statement will be released at a press conference, likely to be held in a couple of days, a senior AL leader told The Daily Star last night

Hasina will also announce her party's next course of action to realise the demand for holding general election under a neutral caretaker government at the press conference.

Hasina

From Page

their year-long programme to celebrate the silver jubilee of Liberation War and said it was easier to project the history through drama, songs, recitation and paintings than in any other way.

The convenor of the committee Aminul Haq Mantu presented her a bouquet, an invitation letter and some posters printed for the festival. They also placed their 7-point demand and sought her cooperation in making the celebration programme a success.

Fire at city garments factory By Staff Correspondent

A fire broke out at a garments factory in the city's Mirpur area yesterday after-

The blaze partially damaged packaging section of the Pacific Knitting Garments factory, in the third floor of a building at Road No 7 at Mirpur Section-7, sources said.

Fire fighters from different city stations rushed to the spot and took about an hour to extinguish the flames, fire service sources

The Midnight Rile

Separatist Serbs protest against Bosnian rule

SARAJEVO, Nov 25: Separatist Serbs in Sarajevo demonstrated against Bosnian rule today in a growing revolt over the Ohio summit peace deal, fanned by hardline political and military leaders, reports Reuter

Absolute uncertainty

From Page 1

criticised by the ruling party for favouring the Opposition. The Opposition charged me only after they resigned from Parliament

He also said that he still stood by his ruling regarding the Opposition's en masse resignation which was acclaimed by the Commonwealth Press Association. "I tried my best to keep democracy alive", said a confident Razzak Ali.

The Speaker viewed that the December 28 move to settle the political impasse failed because "some forces acted against the solution" The Opposition MPs resigned on that day after failure of the talks

"All the factors for a negotiated settlement existed on that day, but, I believe, there were forces who were keen to see that no solution took place", he said. "I still believe those forces are active against the consolidation of democracy."

Elaborating, he said the move to have an understanding on that day was about to succeed after the Prime Minister agreed to resign 30 days before the next general elections. But it did not happen as some opposed the conditions by the ruling party, he said adding everybody understood that the conditions were nothing serious and were "only for public consumption".

tify the forces foiling the

Ali, however, did not iden-

Asked if he would take any fresh move for an understanding between the conflicting political camps ahead of the elections, a visibly frustrated Speaker said, "I don't feel encouraged ... ! don't find reason to do something spontaneously. Yet I'm ready (to move) if any of

the quarters find me useful for the purpose"

In this context, he recalled all the previous abortive bids, including one by himself, to resolve the long-persisting political stalemate.

Replying on how the coming polls could be held peacefully keeping the political crisis unresolved, he said, "After dissolution of the Parliament, elections must take place by February 22 ... as Ramadan begins in the third week of January, the polls may be held before that. Anyway, the matter is up to the political parties in consulting with whom the Election Commission would announce the schedule"

On the Opposition's demand for a neutral caretaker government to hold polls, he categorically said. "In my view, there is no neutral person in the country nor was Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed But all his acts were neutral".

About the consequence of holding a 1988-style polls by the BNP if the major opposition parties boycott the coming elections, the Speaker said, "There is no guarantee that a 1988-style polls would follow the consequence of 1990 or not. All depends on the people".

He declined to comment if any fair polls under a party government was possible in the country. Reacting on the dissolu-

tion of the fifth parliament, he said. "As Speaker I feel a deep sense of regret".

The people established this Parliament with much hopes and aspirations, he noted and said that the fifth Parliament did its best to establish transparency and accountability of the government and "we could do much more if the Opposition was with us."

British trade team

From Page 1

Peter Lee said, "We were given positive impression of the policy changes. British entrepreneurs could bring know-how in the private sector-financed projects."

During the question-answer session, members of his team enquired about various facilities available for business and investment, including banking.

They also showed interest in investing in small services, tourism, leather, textile and machinery sectors.

Referring to the country's comparative advantage in ready-made garments, leather and leather goods and ceramic sectors, the MCCI president said "Last 3/4 years have shown the immense possibilities of collaboration in footwear and leather prod-

One killed, 50 hurt as villagers

trict on Friday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Belayet Hossain alias Baki Munshi, 50.

seven were admitted to Lohagora health complex and another, Benazir, was admit-

Mahbub camp, which created

Villagers

From Page 1 croplands, adversely affected fisheries and threatened navigation in the locality.

The rally was addressed by Malati Prova Dey, President of Gram Unnayan Parishad (GUP), Ali Hossain, leader of Landless Society, Shamsul Huq. Kohinoor, Abu Sayeed. Nazimuddin, Jamila Begum, Anwara Begum.

he said.

Investment opportunities

ucts sectors."

Prospects for investing in engineering industries, jute, cotton, textile, handtools, disposable needles. LPG cylinders, surgical instruments and office equipment sectors are very bright and profitable.

clash in Narail

NARAIL, Nov 25: One person was killed and about 50 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Shorshuna in Lohagora thana of the dis-

Of the seriously injured, ted to Narail Sadar Hospital.

Villagers said two groups led by Mahbub Munshi and Kausar Mia had enmity for a long time. Recently, some of the supporters of Kausar group crossed floor into the tension.

Leaders at the protest

rally reiterated their pledge said election under any party to continue their crusade government can never be against the FAP-20 project.

in chemical industries sector

 cement, soda ash. polyester staple fibre, caustic soda, sheet and plate glass are also bright. Besides, there are prospective sectors like processing and canning of food and allied products. shrimp hatcheries and fish meal, he added

BSS adds: The British trade mission and the members of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday exchanged ideas to explore the potentials for investment in Bangladesh and boost bilateral trade.

Leader of the mission Peter Lee said that the members of his team were exploring business and investment possibilities.

At the discussion over lunch at a city hotel, FBCCl President Salman F Rahman said that the British mission chose the correct time to visit Bangladesh when the bilateral trade was witnessing a

He said that economic liberalisation, though small, had already created much opportunity for investment in

Bangladesh. Salman Rahman expressed his optimism that political instability which was hurting Bangladesh would go.

Admission test

From Page 1

lar students. No number will be deducted in case of such irregular students. According to the previous rule, students can appear in the admission test for three times. There are a total of 1450

seats in the 13 government medical colleges. The old eight medical colleges have 1200 seats while the new five have 250 seats. The old med ical colleges are: Dhaka Med ical College, Sir Salimullah Medical College, Chittagong Medical College, Mymensingh Medical College Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal, Rajshahi Medical College and Rangpur Medical College.

The five new medical colleges are: Comilla Medical College, Faridpur Medical College, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, Bogra Dinajpur Medical College and the Khulna Medical College. Prof Anwar informed that

the admission test may be held in January next

Planning Services Project (10.4 million dollars). Commenting on its only

begins

After the murder, a case night for devotees. was filed with Terokhada The urs will conclude on thana. November 30. The District and Sessions

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Police chasing pickets at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city during the Jatiya Party-called hartal yesterday. - Star photo Peaceful hartal in city

From Page 1 Shops and markets in the commercial areas remained closed during hartal hours. Attendance in the government offices were seen to be relatively thin, while in some areas private business houses

operated as usual. All modes of vehicles, excepting rickshaws, remained off the road during the hartal period. However, railway service, air flights and river transport maintained their

routine schedule. In the Kawran Bazar area, some pickets hurled cocktails at three double decker buses that were plying under police escort at around 10:30 am. However, none was inured. The passengers got down from the buses when the vehicles reached the

Ramna Park star gate. Zahir Mia, driver of one bus which was hit by a cocktail, said all on a sudden the bus came under attack of homemade bombs, but none was injured. The panicked passengers said that the bomb exploded with a tremendous noise but they escaped unhurt.

At Bangabandhu Avenue. police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the JP activists who exploded crackers while heading towards Topkhana Road where the JCD activists were holding an anti-hartal rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Meanwhile, Moinuddin, a police man, received blast injuries near the Baitul Mokarram mosque in an encounter with the JP activists. A pedestrian was also injured in a cocktail blast in the Farmgate area.

Throughout the hartal hours, the JP and its front organisations brought out processions that paraded different city streets despite a light drizzle. Moudud Ahmad and Kazi Zafar Ahmed led a procession in the Mahakhali area at noon.

Arichaghat

From Page 1

with their full loading capacity due to less water in the river, resulting in serious traffic congestion at the terminal area. The channels are gradually

becoming narrower and

silted up causing disruption

in ferry services. Two ferries

cannot pass through these channels at a time. The BIWTA authorities began dredging near Daulatdia Ghat since September last, but due to its slow progress. the river is loosing navigabil-

The problem is deteriorating as numerous shoals have been emerging in both the Jamuna and Padma. Concerned sources said, the main reason behind the problem is the unilateral withdrawal of water at Farakka Barrage.

JP rally

From Page 1 nounced JP's agitation programme, identical to those of Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islam, announced Friday. The JP had observed an 8-hour hartal in the city yesterday to press shifting of jailed party chief Ershad to hospital for

treatment of jaundice. The JP programme include an indefinite barricade of rail-road-waterway and air traffic from December 7 and a march towards the Prime Minister's secretariat on December 9 to press holding of the next general election un-

der a caretaker government.

blasted the Prime Minister

for what he called resorting

Mizan Chowdhury also

to falsehood while addressing the nation Friday. JP presidium member Barrister Moudud Ahmed termed the dissolution of parliament a "partial victory

of the people.

presidium member of the party vowed that the opposition parties would resist any polls held without their participation. Secretary general of the party Anwar Hussain Monju

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, another

free and fair. JP leaders Shah Moazzem Hussain, Abul Hasnat, Abdus Salam, Golam Sarwar Milon and Yusuf Hussain Humayun also addressed the rally presided over by Col (rtd) M A Malek.