

Cyclone hits Cox's Bazar

From Page 1

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 St 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: Chittagong 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 Banskhali 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

desi soldiers worked under UNPROFOR for one and a half years in the war-torn peninsula to maintain peace in the face of Serb aggression against the Bosnian Muslims. The Bangladeshi peacekeepers were camped in the enclave of Bihac.

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 workers.

Mostafa Golam Qudus,

Poor project implementation

From Page 1

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.'

Urs at Ajmer begins

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

The jannati darwaza in dargah was opened late last night for devotees.

The urs will conclude on November 30.

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 four-hour barricade programme from 8 am as part of their week-long programme to press for realisation of their demand.

Five trains, including three intercity, were stranded on different routes due to the barricades.

Rail link

From Page 1

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, long-term 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.

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.

Mostafa Golam Qudus,

Poor project implementation

From Page 1

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.'

Urs at Ajmer begins

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

The jannati darwaza in dargah was opened late last night for devotees.

The urs will conclude on November 30.



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 office yesterday. — PID photo

6 killed, 30 hurt in bus mishap

PABNA, Nov 25: Six people were killed and 30 wounded when a Sirajganj-bound 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 head-on 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

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, long-term 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.

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.

Mostafa Golam Qudus,

Poor project implementation

From Page 1

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.'

Urs at Ajmer begins

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

The jannati darwaza in dargah was opened late last night for devotees.

The urs will conclude on November 30.

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, Jatya-atabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha, Eden College Chhatra Dal, Ulema Dal, Zia Smriti Sangsad, Madaripur district BNP, Daudkandi Thana BNP and Sakhira district BNP.

Besides, a group of teachers from different universities, senior journalists, physicians, agriculturists, lawyers and Sakhira 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 yesterday 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 1

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 afternoon.

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 said.



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

7 injured in city clash

By DMCH Correspondent

At least seven persons were injured in a clash between two groups of youths at Shantibagh area in the city yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured, a rickshawpuller, Abdul Matin, 25, sustained bullet injuries. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition, medical sources said.

Witnesses said, the clash erupted when the youths of Shantibagh area tried to prevent an armed group from attacking a department store at about 3 pm.

Gunshots were fired and cocktails exploded during the clash.

The four other injured persons were identified as Sohel, 25, Ribu, 20, Rahmat Ali, 25, and Shafaeullah, 30. They were also admitted to the DMCH.

14 get life-term

From Page 1

After the murder, a case was filed with Terokhada thana.

The District and Sessions Judge Sirajuddin Ahmed delivered the verdict Monday last after examining 13 witnesses and other records. The convicted will have to pay a fine of Tk 2000 each, in default, to suffer another two months' jail.

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 injured. 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 Tophkhana 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 in

JP rally

From Page 1

nounced JP's agitation programme, identical to those of Awami League and Jamaat-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 under a caretaker government.

Mizan Chowdhury also blasted the Prime Minister for what he called resorting to falsehood while addressing the nation Friday.

JP presidium member Barrister Moudud Ahmed termed the dissolution of parliament a "partial victory of the people."

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, another 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 said election under any party government can never be 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.

The Midnight File

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".

All, however, did not identify the forces foiling the move.

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... I don't find reason to do something spontaneously. Yet I'm ready (to move) if any of

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 MCCCI president said "Last 3/4 years have shown the immense possibilities of collaboration in footwear and leather products 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.

One killed, 50 hurt as villagers 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 Lohagara thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

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

Of the seriously injured, seven were admitted to Lohagara health complex and another, Benazir, was admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital.

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

Villagers

From Page 1

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

Leaders at the protest rally reiterated their pledge to continue their crusade against the FAP-20 project.

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

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel 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.