Tk 10.60cr budget of

Islamic Foundation

approved

governors of Islamic Founda-

tion was held yesterday at its

conference room with State

Minister for Religious Affairs

Mohammad Nurul Islam in the

The meeting approved Tk 10.60 crore budget of the Foun-

dation for the current fiscal and

undertook various programmes to expand its network, said a

The meeting was attended,

among others, by Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, Sheikh Helaluddin MP, Justice Ruhul

Islam and National Prof Dr Nu-

and Religious Affairs Secretary Abdus Sakur, Chairman of

Madrassah Education Board Moulana Mohammad Yunus

Sikder and Islamic Foundation DG Mohammad Morshed Hos-

Raghunath to

succeed

Salman Haider

NEW DELHI, May 19: K Raghunath will be the new for-

eign secretary succeeding Salman Haider who retires on

June 30, an official announce-

ment said here today, reports

sain was also present.

Vice Chairman of the board

chair, reports UNB.

PID handout.

rul Islam.

A meeting of the board of



For more information call-Dhaka: 9565114, 607657, 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khuina: (041) 725008, N. Ganj: (671) 74336



The World on Time



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the SPARSO office in the city yesterday to have the latest information about the cyclone.

Hurricane: 500 feared killed

Chittagong to coordinate the government activities.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: The cyclone pounded the coastal districts of Bhola, Feni, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and off-shore islands including St Martine whipping up tidal surges upto 7 feet deluging low lying areas along the coast before petering away towards north-eastern India. It crossed the Chittagong-Feni coast through Shitakunda at about 8:30 pm, and turned into a land depression.

Before weakening, the cy-

tidal surge. Its core, packing 230 kph, struck the funnel shaped estuary of Meghna near Sitakundu at 8:30 pm. But the low tide apparently saved many as the si we was not so high. The Daily

der a heavy pounding of rains in the aftermath of the storm. that trees fell like matchsticks.

and blasting showers till midnight.

the debris.

through fallen trees, snapped wires and crumbled electric poles.

dared to drive. Tumbled cars the road alongside the debris of trees and twisted power lines.

through the districts before it moved towards north-eastern India.

Chittagong A B M Mohiuddin Choudhury at 12-30 last night that eight wards in the city suffered severe damage. These are North and South Patenga, Bandartila, South Halishahar, North and South Kattali, Laldiar Char, Char Para and Maij-

The Mayor told The Daily Star 76 relief centres have been opened in the city to provide

mobilised 72 vehicles to shift people to safety, the Mayor said. He was in touch with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, apprising her of the latest situa-

Two children, 5-year-old Nasima Begum and 1-year-old Joshim, died when a wall collapsed at Station Road in Chit-

Kadamtali area. Another perwas killed in lightning at Moheshkhali in the afternoon. His body was sent to the Cox's Bazar general hospital morgue for autopsy.

agement and Relief Ministry's control room, the cyclone hit Chittagong at around 4 pm yesterday, with winds of more than 200 kph. The storm cut the city's electric supply at 2 pm.

Anwara thana Shamsuddin said: "All the kutcha houses in front of our three-storied building have been demolished".

UNB reported that a tidal surge of 5 to 7 feet breached an under-construction cross-dam, entering five villages of Raipura union under Anwara thana and severely damaging almost

Shahpori Deep, Nila, Bahar Chara, Tambrue and Palankhali under Teknaf thana were inundated by the tidal surge which broke the coastal embankment in several places.

outposts of the Bangladesh Ri-

mote thanas of coastal districts were cut off from their district headquarters when disrupted electric supply rendered wireless communication facilities inoperative.

Officials at the control room at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said that Cox's Bazar airport was inundated by a tidal surge at 2 pm. They added that Chittagong's telecommunication

B.C. Kim

Company Secretary

at 4:35 pm and that of Teknaf at

Our Staff Corresponden from Barisal reports: Offshore islands of Monpura, Char Zahiruddin, Char Nizam, Dhal Char, Char Patila in Bhola were inundated by three to four feet

Low-lying areas of Barisal Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi Pirojpur and Barguna were submerged. Thousands of families in these southern districts shifted to safer places.

Earlier, more than one mil lion people in the coastal areas were evacuated by volunteers and local administration to different cyclone shelters.

According to official hand out, thirty three thousand volunteers worked since Thursday afternoon to evacuate the people through all modes of trans-

PM's directive

From Page 1

sarv measures. Institutions like SPARRSO can play a very significant role in helping preparations before disasters. Hasina said, adding the activities of this organisation should be geared up to match with the most modern and latest technology keeping in view the geo-physical position of the country.

She assured the SPARRSO officials of every help from the government to modernise the institution.

Earlier, the Prime Minister visited the Relief and Disaster Management Ministry at the Secretariat to have an idea about the preparations for relief

She also visited the Disaster Control Coordination and Relief Activities Monitoring Cell

at her office. The Prime Minister was informed that allout measures had been taken in the disasterprone areas. Ten medical teams in Chittagong, five in Jessore, eight in Comilla were kept ready to immediately move on

She was also informed about the back-up support. The government has adequate supplies of relief in ready stock to face the eventualities of the cyclone, officials said.

warrant of the situation.

India to buy

in northeastern India had the potential to generate about 30,000 megawatts of power, part of which India was considering selling to Bangladesh.

He said the Asia Development Bank had already started a feasibility study for building transmission lines between eastern Indian states and Bangladesh.

Venugopalachari said the World Bank had asked Pakistan to share its surplus power generated from the Indus river basin with neighbours such as

He also said a regional power grid would be set up for the distribution of additional electricity among the seven South Asian countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Repolling

From Page 1 As per the election results, Saidee got 649 votes in the Charboleswar Government Primary School and 896 votes in the Bhairampur centres. After enquiry, the court found that there were no official seals on 18 and eight ballots in the two centres respectively.

Halder filed the case complaining that the polling at Gharghata centre was conducted by a fake assistant polling officer and there were no official seals on 320 ballot papers in Bhairampur centre. He also claimed that there

had been violent incidents at Gabgachia, Tarabunia and Balipara centres and demanded fresh polls for the constituency. BSS adds: The number of voters in Gharghata centre in

1950.

The present government has made all arrangements to sell out the country, the BNP chair-

Bandh observed to protest Gujral's

Assam visit GUWAHATI, May 19: The ULFA-sponsored dawn-to-dusk Assam bandh, called to protest against the Prime Minister I K Gujral's visit to the state, disrupted normal life in the state

today, reports PTI. No untoward incident has been reported. Stating that the bandh had no impact in the Barak valley, official reports, received here, said that shops. markets, business establishments, banks, private offices and educational institutions were closed.

Movement of ferries, launches in 3 ghats suspended

MANIKGANJ, May 19: Movement of ferries and launch services at Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari ghats have been suspended from 4 pm today due to bad weather, BI-WTC officials at Aricha said, reports BSS.

Gabtoli terminal sources said the inter-district bus services from Gabtoli terminal of Dhaka to 37 destinations in southern and northern districts of the country have already been suspended from this evening.

Pirate attack From Page 1

the passengers They decamped with the booties at Patty near Gosairhat Bandar taking Saha Alam Sikder, a launch staff with

The launch was later taken to Muladi Bandar of Barisal. Muladi Thana police detained the five Ansars from the launch. Rifles and bullets are vet to be recovered.

Police also arrested two alleged dacoits Mohasin and Faruk from Sariatpur today. Two cases were filed.

Fuel shortage

From Page 1

ble the original price. Reports received here from Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Naogaon say that petrol, octane and diesel are being sold at Taka 7 to Taka 20 higher than the original rate.

this correspondent in Natore today that he bought 3 litres of petrol for his motor-bike at a rate of Taka 20 per litre. A businessmen said he

A government official told

bought octane for his car at a rate of Taka 30 per litre. When contacted, some filling

station owners of Natore, Rashahi, Bogra and Naogaon said they had no fuel at their stations since last Saturday.

Sonia Gandhi From Page 1

Randhawa alleged that ongoing state-level party elections to pick new leaders in the Punjab

were being ignored by the Congress top brass and were not in accordance with norms and | system in the country. Randhawa's attack came as senior Congress leader A R An-

tulay, an aide of Indira Gandhi, accused Kesri of jeopardising the party's standing for personal gain "That he has been aspiring to become prime minister is a well

known fact," he said, recalling

Kesri's sudden withdrawal of support or the fragile ruling coalition on March 30. The move sparked political turmoil and dented the

Congress image. It was finally resolved on April 21 after the Congress backtracked from its claim to power and backed a new prime minister from the 13-party alliance. "His ambition has failed.

Certain decisions that he took ended in a fiasco. He should quit. He must face the gallows the political gallows," Antulay told the Hindustan Times newspaper in an interview. The Congress has said Sonia

Gandhi's entry into active politics would "enthuse, galvanise and electrify" the party.

Gandhi had repeatedly refused to be drawn into the party since her husband, Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989, was killed on May 21, 1991 by a suicide bomber while campaigning in Southern India.

She distanced herself from the Congress when it suffered a string of electoral defeats in provincial balloting under Rao in 1994 and its worst drubbing in 112 years in last year's general elections.

Begum Zia: Cyclone

From Page 1

multi-purpose cyclone shelters. She said these cyclone shelters, being used as school, mosque and community centres, were constructed in a planned way to accommodate large number of people in case of calamity. Before the joining pro-

gramme began, a special prayer was offered seeking divine help to save the people from the cyclonic disaster.

Two important leaders of Jatiya Party — Sirajul Hossain Khan and Khaledur Rahman Tito - alongwith several thousand leaders and workers of the party from Sylhet, Habiganj, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Narsingdi, Jessore, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah and Kushtia formally joined the BNP.

Addressing the newcomers, Begum Zia said no patriotic people can coexist with those conspiring to sell out the independence and sovereignty of the

person alleged, saying that the so-called 30-year water sharing treaty is the first step towards implementing the conspiracy.

Begum Zia said that during her recent visit to Rajshahi she went to the bank of river Padma (Ganges) and learned from the local people that the flow of water was much less than the

After signing the "treaty of hoax" in the name of water sharing, she said that in exchange, the present government is now planning to give corridor to India, allow it the use of Chittagong port, form sub-regional grouping and hand over the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

ation, the BNP Chairperson said the residential halls of the universities across the country have become the "dwellings of and safe haven for the terror-

The armed terrorists are moving freely under the "very nose of police" while the head of the government is publicly calling upon the police to nab the terrorists, she said.



The new Philishave For a closer shave

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things better. **PHILIPS**

Dandamanium

Pandemonium

From Page 1

attorney general from making

his statement, members present

at the meeting sprang to feet to

lawyers damaged the micro-

phone and threw chairs, which

ultimately forced the meeting

Barrister Nazmul Huda MP

and Secretary of the bar Joynal

Abedin and other lawyers who

are supporters of the requisi-

tion meeting immediately left

bers present in the hall held a

protests meeting with senior

vice-president of the bar SA

Adv A N M Gaziul Huq, Barris-

ter Amirul Islam, Barrister

Shafiq Ahmed, four former sec-

retaries of the bar and Vice-

The lawyers protesting the

President M M Haider Ali ad-

requisition meeting argued

since the proceedings of Par-

liament and comments of the

members of parliament on the

floor are protected by Article 78

of the Constitution, the requi-

sition meeting is unconstitu-

Condemning "unconstitu-

Barrister Showkat Ali Khan,

However, most of the mem-

At one stage, some unruly

protest the act of the chair.

postponed

the hall.

tional.

Rahim presiding.

dressed the meeting.



Jatiya Party leaders Khaledur Rahman Tito and Sirajul Hossain Khan presenting a bouquet to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at the Engineers Institution yesterday -Star photo on their joining the BNP.

Huda urges losers in polls to resign from BNP standing body

i proposed from the proposed community of the community o

BNP leader Barrister Nazmul Huda MP yesterday urged the party's Standing Committee members who lost the June 12 parliamentary elections to resign from the Committee, re-

ports UNB. In a statement, Huda, one of the Vice-Chairman of BNP, said those who were unable to earn people's confidence should not cling to the membership of the party's highest decision-making body.

BNP Standing Committee members Dr RA Gani, Abdus Salam Talukdar, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui Rafigul Islam Mia and Abdul Matin Chowdhury lost the elec-

Four new leaders were also inducted into the 15-member Standing Committee. They are Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, Moudud Ahmed, KM Obaidur Rahman MP and Khandaker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed. Nazmul Huda said the people

want to see their elected representatives in the BNP standing committee and establish democracy and rule of law through a mass movement under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia.

The culture of voluntary resignation as an acceptance of one's failure is yet to be built up in this country, he said, adding this is a "shameless" culture of clinging to party posts and has been hindering the process of establishing an accountable

Gas export

From Page 1

three "high-potential" coal mines in Bangladesh and the hydrocarbon is being extracted from the Barapukuria coal mine project in Dinajpur where the reserve is 300 million tons. The next priority will be

given to mining out coal from the Khalashpir mine having a reserve of 450 million tons and from the Jamalganj field where the reserve is estimated at one billion tons, he informed the meeting. The minister sought finan-

cial and technical support from the donors in the coal mine projects. He also sought assistance for laying more gas pipelines after the completion of the A-B Pipeline. Referring to some on-going

projects in the power sector which could not be completed on time, he requested the donors to extend the schedule so that those can be finished. Representatives of the World

Bank and ADB also spoke on the occasion. The donors will meet the of-

ficials of the Energy Ministry and the Petrobangla and hold parleys among themselves, review the performances of the on-going projects and frame a strategy for future lending. Today, there will be a pre-

sentation by the private-sector oil and gas companies while the donors will hold internal meeting tomorrow and meet the senior officials of the government on Thursday. BSS adds: Donors said that

Bangladesh would need to efficiently handle tariff collection and successfully accomplish establishment and maintenance of planned infrastructure in energy sector to smoothly carry out the actions, undertaken by the present government for the development of the sector. The donors told the ministry

that the country in the future should find out ways to utilise hydro-power instead of over depending on natural gas for power generation.

Bank directors

From Page 1

chairman and vice-chairman of IFIC bank. According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Beximco Group

had defaulted loans of Tk 57.30

crore on December 21,1996. Earlier, the Bank had issued notices on 26 bank directors for having defaulted loans. Of them, 10 directors had repaid their liabilities, two have rescheduled their loans and requests from four for rescheduling are pending with the Bank BB ten directors are yet to adjust their loans.

3 killed in city

Three persons, including a police constable, were killed in road accidents in different parts of the city during the last

was hit by a running train at the Khikhet level crossing Saturday afternoon. Police said Akram Ali, 45, a constable of Badda police out-

post, was killed as a speeding minibus hit him near the Rampura bridge early Sunday. A 70-year-old man identified as Sunamuddin was knocked down by a truck when he was crossing the Mirpur road

(DMCH) said. Delwar Hossain, 40, was killed when a microbus ran over his motor bike at Bijoy

Meanwhile, traffic constable Azibur Rahman of the Dhaka Sarani level crossing at Khilkhet under Cantonmen

thang outuredy afternoon,

BNP reception postponed

the country's coastal districts yesterday, a party press release

N'ganj guntire

From Page 1

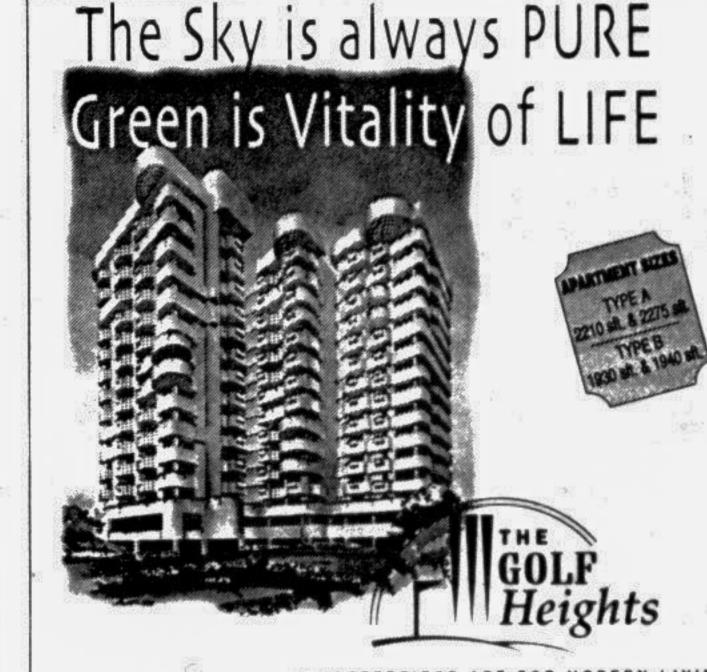
When contacted, the acting police super of Narayanganj declined to comment in this re-

Police later arrested Abul Kashem 38, and Fazlu 20 from

Mohammad Ali was buried after autopsy at the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital. His son filed a case accusing

10 persons.

Pradesh government. harati. Sambhu Mitra was also



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Zoha

OPPOSITE TO KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB)

ister for Labour Manpower, MA Mannan, who is staying in

clone battened the coastal areas of Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Noakhali and Laxmipur whipping up two to three feet

Starts' Chittagong correspondent Nurul Alam reported. The Daily Star Chief Photographer AKM Mohsin and Correspondent Mizan Ali reported at 11:40 pm from a dark and dank port city, reeling un-

littering the streets of the city. People were still wandering in search of a shelter when their straw huts and tin sheds collapsed under heavy winds

Firemen were seen clearing Mohsin reported that he, along with other newsmen negotiated the howling winds when the eye of the storm swept the Highway to Chittagong as their vehicle zigzagged its way

This was the scene all the way down Comilla when they and trucks and buses littered

Preliminary reports said that five people were killed and over a hundred wounded in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar as their homes collapsed. Roof of a police barrack in Chittagong city was blown away when the core of the hurricane, packing upto 230 kph speed, tore

Besides, the corporation

Abdullah, 50, died in hospital after a tree fell on him in

T&T operator at Chittagong's

40,000 houses.

A UNB report said some re-

cooked food to the affected.

son, 32-year-old Ullah Ahsan,

According to Disaster Man-

The low-lying areas of

Sources said four border fles had been withdrawn from the cyclone-affected areas.

Mohsin quoted the Mayor of

IDLC INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LEASING
COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LEASING Hadi Mansion, 2 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, Tel: 9560111-3

Dividend Warrants and Bonus Shares of the company for the FY 1996 are ready for distribution from the Company's Registered Office. Shareholders are requested to collect either personally or through their duly authorised representative on working days from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday through Wednesday and

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Only the uncollected Dividend Warrants will be despatched by special courier after reasonable time at the risk of the shareholders.

from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday

commencing from May 24, 1997.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Raghunath, Secretary (East) had earlier been India's high commissioner to Bangladesh and ambassador to the Philip-

Water management From Page 1 and the US had earlier submitted proposals on behalf of various consortiums for preparing the NWMP, the sources pointed

> A total of 20 consortiums had expressed their interest in doing the job, of which six were shortlisted in February last. After that, an independent consultant was appointed and the expert committee was formed to evaluate the proposals.

to any consortium, it will have to be validated by the independent consultant for the transparency of the selection process. The five-member committee headed by the Director General of Water Resource Planning Organisation (WARPO) comprises two others from the same organisation and one each from

the Ministry of Water Resources

Before awarding the contract

and the Water Development Board The major portion of the eight million dollar funds for the project would come as loan from the development partners and the rest as grant, officials

Rice export From Page 1

Statistics showed that pri-

vate import of foodgrain was

also declining over the years. A

total of 850 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were imported in 1995-96 financial year compared to 1,013 lakh tonnes in fiscal 1994-95. This year, only one lakh tonnes of wheat has been im-

ported. But the FAO is importing 4,486 tonnes of non-boiled (atap) rice this year, for the repatriated Chakma refugees. The government fixed this season's foodgrains procurement target at 3.20 lakh tonnes. Of this quantity, 133,984 tonnes of Aman paddy and

more than 75,000 tonnes of wheat have already been procured. The procurement price for paddy is Tk 700 per quintal and

Against its required ready-

stock, the government has built

for rice Tk 1,100.

a stock of 965,799 tonnes of foodgrains in its 5 silos, 13 central storage depots and 623 local storage depots. Another DF official said Bangladesh could also export fine and aromatic rice vari-

eties, especially to countries

with Bangladeshi ethnic communities. He said some exporters were already selling aromatic rice in the international market. But he said, "We can do it in a more organised way." The official emphasised developing linkages before beginning the regular export of rice. "Linkages between farmers and exporters and exporters and importers are essential to sustain such a venture in the international

market," he pointed out.

previous year.

Turning to the campus situ-

road mishaps By DMC Correspondent

two days. Besides, a police man sustained serious injuries as he

near Sangsad Bhaban Sunday morning, sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Sarani yesterday afternoon. Metropolitan Police was seriously injured as he was hit by a running train at the Progoti

The reception to four BNP leaders scheduled for today in the city has been postponed due to the cyclonic storm that hit

said, reports UNB.

over the area was the main cause of the clash, according to local people. The local people said police mercilessly beat Abdus Sattar when they went to arrest his

son, Abul Kashem, who allegedly participated in the gun

the area.

tional" attempt to hold the meeting, the speakers said it was pomicany motivated to create an embarrassing situation between bench and bar. Meanwhile, Barrister Nazmul Huda and Joynul Abedin in a press release condemned the activities of some lawyers

whom they termed supporters of the ruling political party. Sambhu Mitra

From Page 1 Magsaysay Award in 1976 for his outstanding contribution to drama and literature, was honoured with "Padmabhusan" the same year.

Joined by his illustrious

wife late Tripti Mitra, the octo-

genarian theatre personality

found a theatre group "Bahurupi" in 1948 eight years after he joined the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). The couple's popularity soared, particularly with the staging of "Nabanna" and the group had to move about in dif-

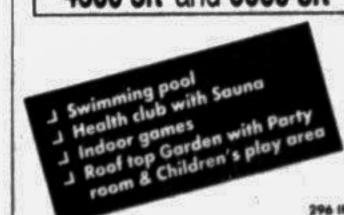
play of Bengal famine. He was also honoured with the famous "Kalidas Award," instituted by the Madhya The recipient of the "Deshikottam" from Vishvab-

honoured with D Litt (honoris

causa) by the Rabindrabharati

and Jadavpur University.

ferent districts to reenact the



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