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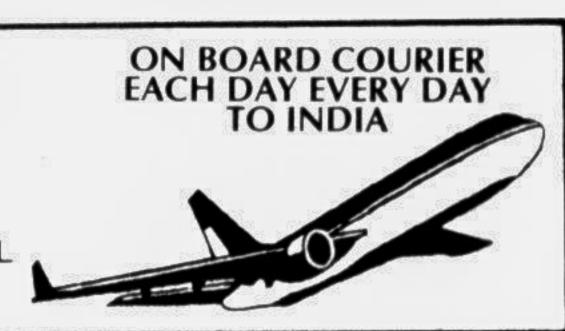
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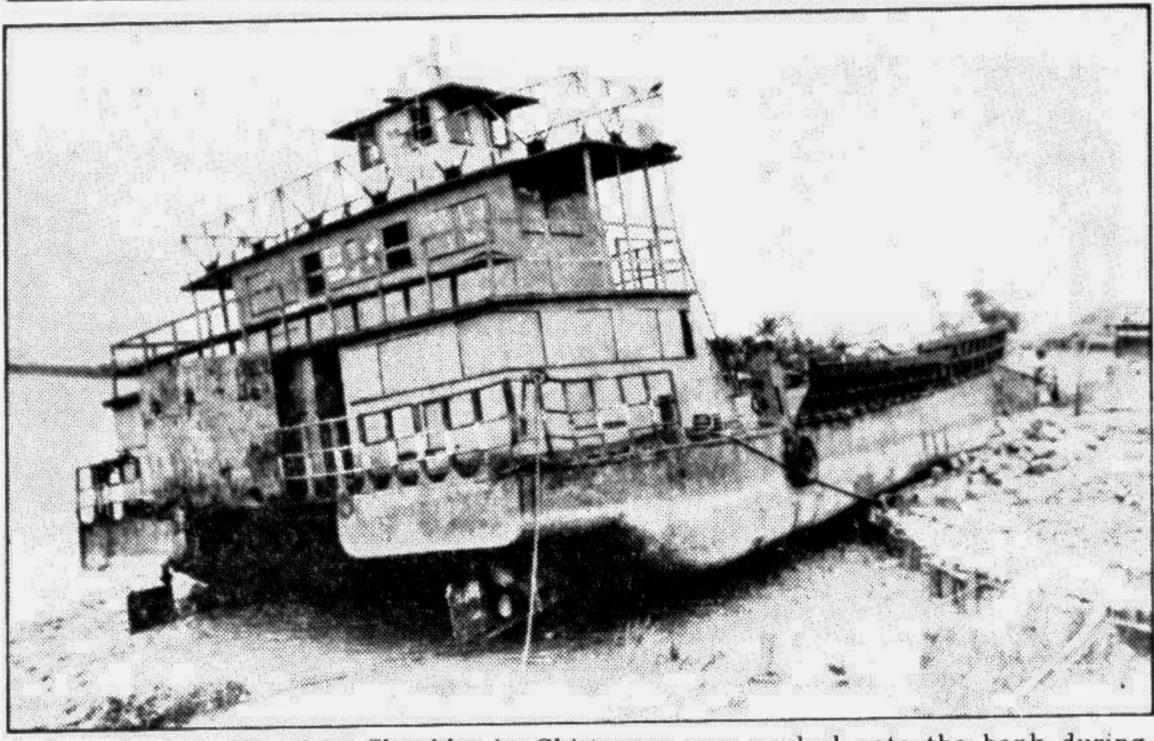
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A ferry boat in the river Shankha in Chittagong was pushed onto the bank during Star photo Monday's cyclone. -

From Page 1

that out of 38,000 telephone

connections 9,000 were out of

order and repair works were on.

and Manpower M A Mannan,

looking after the disaster man-

agement told The Daily Star at

Chittagong Circuit House yes-

terday morning that an esti-

mated 2.5 million people in

Chittagong were affected by the

Army along with ten medical

teams had been deployed in the

morning in the affected areas

while another 34 platoons of

soldiers remained stand-by.

Troops from the Army and BDR

joined other government per-

sonnel, carrying out relief and

Chittagong Sakhawat Hossain

said an initial requirement of

tonne of wheat, Tk 50 lakhs for

rebuilding homes and 25,000

sarees was already communi-

and sea surges in past 36 years,

the worst was in 1970, when

half-a-million perished. The

last devastating cyclone in 1991

In the wake of the cyclone, a

freak tornado hit the coastal is-

land of Moheskhali, killing six

people and wounding 25 others

Tuesday morning, bringing

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina, who cancelled a trip to

Spain, flew to the affected areas

in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar

carrying four helicopterloads of

1 killed, 25 hurt

in Sylhet

road accident

man was killed and 25 others

were injured, 11 seriously, in a

road accident at Joykalas on

the Sylhet-Sunamganj road to-

Abdul Mannan, 70, of Shahpur

village in Jagannathpur thana.

The body was sent to Sylhet

Osmani Medical College Hospi-

curred when a Sunamganj-

bound minibus from the village

in Jagannathpur overturned

Eleven of the injured were

and fell into a roadside ditch at

rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medi-

cal College Hospital in critical

Nor westers

lands in the area were also

damaged. The storm began at

5:30 pm and lasted half an

administration could not con-

mitted to Atgharia Health

18 others injured as nor'wester

hit eight thanas of Naogaon

district on Monday, local peo-

Of the injured, five were ad-

mitted to the Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital. The identities

of the deceased, could not be

shops and electric poles were

Our Staff Correspondent

With a wind velocity of 42

kilometers an hour nor'wester

was followed by heavy rain, the

Kutcha houses, tin-shed

known immediately.

Met officials added.

When contacted, the district

Five of the injured were ad-

Five people were killed and

From Page 1

Police said the accident oc-

tal morgue for autopsy.

The dead was identified as

day, reports UNB.

about 9:30 am.

firm the deaths.

Complex.

ple said.

Met office.

condition.

SUNAMGANJ, May 20: A

miseries to the islanders who

braved the cyclone Monday.

Bangladesh had 34 cyclones

relief including one lakh metric

treatment to the wounded.

cated to the government.

killed 1,38,000 people.

rescue operations and provide

Divisional Commissioner of

Officials said 23 platoons of

cyclone.

State Minister for Labour

81 deaths confirmed

relief. Troops and policemen

were deployed along with me-

dics to help the people and

UNB adds: Rescuers contin-

Relief workers and indepen-

ued search for missing coast

dwellers as officials so far con-

dent sources feared that the fig-

ure could be higher when grim

picture from the remote and in-

accessible islands would be

land and other off-shore is-

lands in the Bay were yet to be

death toll: Chittagong 63, Cox's

Bazar 28, Barisal 1, Bhola 1

Noakhali 1 and Khagrachhari

received till 6 pm, put the total

number of injured to 7,074 and

damage of houses more than 2

Innumerable trees were up-

Crop damage and cattle

rooted, shrimp 'gers' washed

away, salt beds inundated and

crops destroyed by the cyclone.

death were minimal, the offi-

cials said adding that some

1,048 cattle perished in the

property was less than previous

natural calamities due to

timely steps, awareness of peo-

ple and absence of big tidal

chinery have been working

round the clock to provide relief

16 electrocuted

in India

rated stand used in a Muslim

procession came in contact

with an overhead electric wire,

electrocuting at least 16 people

and injuring 40 others in a

western state, a local news

agency reported today, reports

talised in critical condition af-

ter Monday's accident in Dag

town in Rajasthan state, Press

Trust of India news agency re-

the spot when the decoration

hit a high-tension electric wire

stretching across the road. They

were all taking part in the festi-

Action plan

From Page 1

called for upgrading the infras-

tructure facilities and efficient

leader and FBCCI President

Yussuf Abdullah Harun and In-

dian delegation chief Mumtaz

Ahmad signed the statement

following a day-long session at

related to improvement in

banking facilities and expedi-

tious follow-up of export pro-

ceeds, encouraging joint ven-

ture and Indian investment in

Bangladesh and strengthening

cooperation under the SAARC

It called for further trade

liberalisation while adopting

fast track approach for tariff

concessions to rectify trade im-

balance and curb unofficial

nalised for submitting to the

SAARC Chamber within July

next before the third round of

SAPTA negotiations. The rules

of origin could be further liber-

alised to facilitate the access of

Bangladeshi goods to the Indian

ting up of growth hubs, espe-

cially with eastern states of In-

dia and Bangladesh, further

easing of visa restriction and

between Bangladesh and India.

promoting tourism and travel

It identified some potential

sectors for investment such as

computers and electronics, cot-

ton textiles, educational insti-

tutes, fisheries, information

exchange, leather, light engi-

neering products, medical fa-

cilities, natural gas, energy, tea,

telecommunications and

The meeting suggested set-

A "wish list" would be fi-

trade.

market.

tourism.

The meeting discussed issues

the FBCCI conference room.

Bangladesh delegation

communication links.

val of Muharram.

PTI said all 16 people died on

Three persons were hospi-

NEW DELHI, May 20: A deco-

and succour to the victims.

The entire government ma-

This time, loss of life and

Officials, based on reports

Reports from St Martins is-

Districtwise breakup of the

provide relief.

firmed 96 deaths.

available.

received.

catastrophe.

#### Yeltsin fires Dy Defence Minister

MOSCOW, May 20: President Boris Yeltsin sacked Deputy Defence Minister Konstantin Kobets today after he was charged with bribe taking, the Kremlin spokesman said, reports AFP.

#### Trade barriers

From Page 1

proposed in the 1997-98 Finance Bill, might encourage export of Bangladeshi goods to In

Mumtaz Ahmed referred to the huge illegal border trade that deprives the two governments of valuable revenue and said. "Strengthening and smoothening of legal border trade is extremely important for the mutual benefit of India and Bangladesh.'

Yusuf Abdullah Harun said Bangladesh had experienced a mounting trade imbalance with India, which stood at around one billion US dollars in 1995-

The FBCCI President pointed out that the India's tariff reduction on the import of 572 items was being "held up" by the Indian bureaucracy

"We need the cooperation and support of our business friends in India to remove all the impediments and barriers which discourage export from

Bangladesh to India," he said. On the transit issue, Harun said. "There are direct gains, as well as positive externalities, to be accrued by both our countries through the transit and corri-

dor arrangements. Alamgir Faruk Chowdhury, urged business leaders to meet frequently with the aim of identifying impediments in bilat-

#### eral trade. Buddha Purnima

From Page ation will organise a discussion at the International Buddha Bihar at Merul Badda today.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana M Nurul Islam will attend the function as chief guest while national Professor Dr Nurul Islam and Bangla Academy Director General Syed Anwar Hossain will be the special guests.

Buddhanada Bhikkhu and Bangladesh National Buddhist Youth Federation will hold separate programmes to mark the

#### Terrorist held

From Page 1

Gulshan, Tejgaon, Mohammadpur and Mirpur areas. A couple of weeks ago, the Home Ministry announced a reward of Tk 50,000 for information leading to the arrest of Aslam.

The eight others arrested during yesterday's drive were identified as: Razib, Taru, Babu, Babul, Sagar, Sentu, Ripon and Rubel. Police said, they were trying to arrest the other members of the gang.

"It was a commando-style raid on the house on Road No 4, in Old DOHS," said a DB official adding Aslam fired a shot when the plainclothes policemen

climbed by using ropes Aslam's second floor rented flat. However, Aslam could not escape this time as the DB team.

led by Akram Hossain, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, cordoned off the house acting on a tip-off. Aslam and his wife came to

the flat last Friday, said an ofdamaged in the storm. ficial adding "we collected some 152 addresses of Aslam" in the adds: The capital city was hit by Dhaka Metropolitan area. a nor'wester for about three After the confession of minutes from 7:30 pm yesterday, according to sources at the

Aslam, police raided Tejgaon and Uttara areas and arrested the eight others. They also picked up 10 others on suspi-

Three cases have been filed.

#### **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. Email: dstar@bangla.net

### UNLF calls 30-hour bandh in Manipur from today

IMPHAL, May 20: Two underground organisations have called a 'Manipur Bandh' to protest against Prime Minister IK Gujral's visit to the state on

Thursday, reports PTI. The banned United National Liberation Front (UNLF), fighting for an 'independent Manipur,' in a statement circulated here yesterday has called for a 30-hour bandh beginning at 0600 hours tomorrow.

It urged the people to boycott Gujral's visit, stating the authorities were indulging in

"state terrorism." The imposition of black laws (such as Armed Forces Special Powers Act), security excesses and killing of innocent civilians were being done under what it termed "colonial administration" in Manipur, the statement said and warned that anyone violating the underground order would be responsible for any consequences.

However, it exempted fire services, media, emergency hospital services and other religious functions from the purview of the bandh.

Another well-known underground set up Revolutionary

#### Transport strike in N-dists withdrawn

RAJSHAHI, May 20: The indefinite transport strike in the northern region called by Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation was withdrawn today, reports BSS.

The strike was called off following "fruitful discussions" at a joint meeting held here Monday with high officials and leaders of the Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, an official source said.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Md Rezwanul Huq. Additional Divisional Commissioner Md Delwar Hossain, DIG Police, Rajshahi Range Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioners, Police Superintendents of the Division, high level officials, Joint Director, labour and leaders of the Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation were present in the meeting

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation sources said that transport services in the northern region resumed this morning after "fruitful discussions" with the government officials and leaders of the Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation.

### Ctg: Cyclone

From Page 1

team visited the area. The villagers claimed that they needed more cyclone shelters there.

At Toilar Deep Ferryghat in the river Shankha under Banskhali thana, two ferries were seen rushed up the shore by the wave. The Banshkhali-Cox's Bazar road was blocked by fallen trees.

No report of casualty was received when the team visited the area. But some people were seen with minor injuries.

The ferry service is expected to be restored later today while people were seen crossing the river with motorised boats. In Patenga, roofs of some

brick-built houses were also seen blown away. In Shitakund thana about 26

kilometres south east of the port city, at last 70 per cent houses were damaged. People at Jahanarabad village said they took shelter in factories and other pucca constructions as there was no cyclone shelter there.

#### People's Front (RPF), political wing of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), has called the

Manipur bandh on the day of the visit of the Prime Minister in protest against forcible merger of Manipur with the In-

the next morning.

here tonight, reports PTI. Brief score: Sri Lanka 214 all out in 48.3 overs 41. Atapattu 41) . New Zealand

# Mongla port

KHULNA, May 20: Usual activities of the Mongla Port began here today after the withdrawal of cyclone warning sig-

nal, reports BSS. The loading and unloading of import and export cargo at the port was suspended due to

At present, eleven ships are waiting at the port for discharge of import cargo and loading of

#### Top 20 defaulters: BB claim denied

By Staff Correspondent Soiltech International Ltd

in a statement yesterday claimed it was not a loan defaulter as stated by Bangladesh Bank.

is a subject of reconciliation to determine the period of liabil ity and fix responsibility as the company after its incorporation in 1970 was taken over by the Beximco group in 1985 and operated as a construction division of the Beximco group till October 1990 when the Group decided to separate to fall under the present management.

has denied being a director of Orion Laboratories and Orion Infusion Ltd, the names of which have come up in the top 20 defaulters list

Khulna Fisheries Ltd Satkhira Fisheries Ltd and Pharmatek Chemicals Ltd in separate statements also said their subject loans with AB Bank is 'absolutely regular and repayment is continuing as per the repayment schedule' and the next payment is due on June 30

statement as of December 31 1996 shows that these three companies were defaulters.

Unarmed United Nations ob-

dian army says it has thwarted

300 infiltration attempts,

killing 1,000 rebels and arrest-

state's summer capital, six peo-

ple were injured Wednesday

when armed pro-government

activists, often referred to as

renegades by their critics,

tried to commandeer a taxi in

the downtown Lal Chowk

neighbourhood. When other

drivers protested, the rebels

fired at them. The drivers then

blocked the roads for two hours.

Police fired tear gas shells to

Young men clash

with Ansars

By Staff Correspondent

rounds of shots in the air as a

group of young men started

clashed with them at the Bal-

aka cinema hall near New

Market in the city yesterday af-

youths and the Ansars on duty

at the main gate of the cinema

hall ensued as a group of about

30 men, reportedly led by some

students of Dhaka College,

stormed the hall ticket counter

Dhanmondi police said

The clash between the

Ansars fired at least eight

Witnesses said the renegades

clashed with taxi drivers.

disperse them.

ternoon.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, the

In the last six years, the In-

servers monitor the line.

ing an equal number.

## India to fence border with Pakistan in Kashmir

JAMMU, India, May 20: India plans to erect barbed wire fences along the border with Pakistan in the disputed state of Kashmir, a government minister said today, reports AP. Earlier attempts to fence the

Line of Control were disrupted by gunfire from the Pakistan army, but this time the fence would be built 600 feet (200 meters) inside Indian territory, said Mohammad Maqbool Dar, the junior interior minister.

India says pro-separatist guerillas infiltrate the border with help from the Pakistani army. Pakistan, which denies giving active assistance to the rebels, opposes the fencing because the region is disputed.

Work could begin any time on fencing the entire 800-kilometer (500-mile) line, Dar told a news conference in Jammu, the state's winter capital.

The Line of Control was drawn after the 1971 war, one of the three Indo-Pakistan wars.

#### Ershad visits cyclone-hit areas

CHITTAGONG, May 20: Jatiya Party Chairman and former President HM Ershad today visited different cyclonehit areas of the district, reports The JP Chief from the air-

port drove straight to different places of south and north Potenga, including Lalear Char, Natir Para, Steel Mills Bazar, Fulchhari Bazar, Nazir Para, Chharihalda, Nizam Market and Katch Ghar. He talked to the cyclone-af-

distributed relief materials

among the affected people.

of all possible help.

none was injured in the clash that lasted about 20 minutes. fected people and assured them

at about 3:15 pm.

However, police could not give the identities of the attackers.

The group attacked the guards at the entry gate as two young men were refused entry into the hall without ticket. Local unit of Jatiya Party Ansars filed a case with

Dhanmondi thana. None was

arrested till last night.

dian union. Official sources said the Prime Minister was scheduled to arrive here in the afternoon of May 22. During his stay, Gujral would address a public meeting and leave for Kohima

### Lanka in Pepsi Cup finals

HYDERABAD, May 20: Sri Lanka entered the Pepsi Independence Cup Tournament finals defeating New Zealand by 52 runs with 5.1 overs to spare at the Lal Bahadur Stadium

(Kaluwitharana 44, Mahanama 162 all out in 44.4 overs (M Horne 41, Chris Harris 26 no).

# Activities at

the depression formed in the Bay of Bengal on May 18.

export cargo.

It said the loan in question

Meanwhile, another person

Ahmed Rafique in a state-

ment yesterday said he had resigned from both the companies long ago and his resignation had been accepted by the companies on December 1, 1994. It has also been endorsed by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, he said.

However, the Bangladesh Bank list of the defaulters still shows Soiltech as a defaulter and Ahmed Rafique as director of Orion Laboratories and Orion Infusion.

However, the central bank's

#### people could be evacuated and sheltered in 353 cyclone shelaccompanied the premier, stayed back at Moheshkhali ters. He drew the Premier's atand Kutubdia respectively. tention on the urgency of build-Home Minister Rafiqul Islam ing more cyclone shelters. As the helicopter landed at was stationed in Cox's Bazar, Moheshkhali College ground Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury,

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributing relief and

cooked food among the cyclone victims at Laldia Char in

PM: Cyclone shelters

and later at a paddy field near Food and Agriculture Minister Kutubdia College, homeless Motiya Chowdhury and State people in flocks gathered Minister for Labour and Manaround newsmen and said that power Abdul Mannan were also till yesterday afternoon no relief reached them. stationed in Chittagong. Talking to The Daily Star The Prime Minister sanc-

tioned Tk 10 lakh in cash for Mokbul Ahmed, Principal of Moheshkhali College, and Cox's Bazar district and also distributed some relief goods Nepal Kanti Dev. Medical Technologist at the local thana among 243 cyclone affected health complex, said that relief families at Kutubdia. She also witnessed distribution of food is yet to reach the affected peoamong the affected people at ple in the area. "Priority-wise, Laldia Char, one kilometre off consider that these people should first be provided with the Chittagong International Airport. At Shikdarpara in house building materials so that they get roofs over their Moheshkhali, Hasina consoled heads," said the college princione Iman Ali, who lost his wife and four children in a wall col-

According to the DC of Cox's

Bazar, 16 MT of rice, Tk 1.5

lakh in cash and some gar-

ments were sanctioned yester-

day for distribution among the

Prior to her return to Dhaka

affected people in the district.

the Prime Minister had a brief

meeting with district adminis-

tration, military officials and

elites of the city in Chittagong

and appreciated their combined

efforts in facing the aftermath

again that they are experienced

in tackling such a situation.

Now, after the ravage of the cy-

clone, the affected people re-

quire food and pure drinking

water on a priority basis," said

on high lands in the cyclone-

prone coastal belt and called for

taking up vigorous aforestation

its to the cyclone-hit areas, the

Prime Minister is scheduled to

leave Dhaka for Hatia island

this morning. She will also

visit Sandwip, St Martin, Tek

naf, Banshkhali and Anowara,

according to officials at the

BFUJ reception

postponed

The Bangladesh Federal

Union of Journalists (BFUJ)

yesterday postponed the recep-

tion to the ICC Trophy winning

cricket heroes due to severe cy-

clone that struck coastal belts,

The reception was scheduled

Habibur Rahman Milon,

convenor of the reception

committee, has taken the deci-

sion after consultation with the

leaders of the Dhaka Union of

Journalists (DUJ) and the

The BFUJ, DUJ and recep-

tion committee observed that it

BFUJ, a press release said.

Prime Minister's Office.

On the second leg of her vis-

She urged all to build houses

"Our people have proved once

of the cyclone.

Hasina

programme.

reports BSS.

to be held on May 23.

lapse during the cyclone. Earlier, two Army helicopters on carrying the Prime Minister and the other carrying a group of newsmen, took off at 10:15 am from Dhaka for a daylong visit to the cyclone-hit ar-

Patenga yesterday.

A trail of devastation was seen as the helicopter carrying the newsmen flew low over the affected areas. Talking to newsmen at Moheshkhali and Kutubdia, affected people said that nearly 80 per cent of the kutcha houses and hundreds of shrimp and salt-beds and betel leaf plantations were damaged.

While briefing the Prime Minister, the Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar said 15 people were killed in the district while 80 to 90 per cent of the thatched houses and 70 per cent of the semi-pucca houses in the seven thanas of the district were damaged. He termed Monday's cyclone that hit Cox's Bazar with a maximum windspeed of 230 kph as the 'longest lasting storm' in recent mem-

Out of 17 lakh people in 2,500 sq kms area in the district, the DC said only 1,85,200

#### Khaleda

From Page 1 courage and keeping faith in Allah. "Don't think that you are alone. We are always with you," she said.

She asked her partymen to standby the distressed people at the time of their need and work round-the-clock extending allout support and cooperation to the affected people.

Begum Zia said the BNP is the party of the people and its objective is to serve the people. "We were with the people in the past and will remain in future, she said, recalling the cyclone that hit the coastal belt in 1991.

The Opposition leader distributed dry food, bottled water, clothes and other materials among the affected people. "We are not in power, but we'll continue to help you according to our ability," she told the victims.

Party leader Abdullah Al Noman, Oli Ahmed, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Sarwar Jamal Nizam MP and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury MP accompanied the BNP Chairper-

### 3 godowns, 30 shops gutted in Nilphamari

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

NILPHAMARI, May 20: Three godowns and 30 shops were gutted in a fire at Chilahati Bazar in Domar thana today, reports UNB.

Firebrigade personnel and witnesses said the fire was originated from an open oven at the house of one Shafiquddin near the bazar at about 1 pm and soon engulfed the market.

A branch of Sonali Bank at the bazar was also affected by the fire, but the officials removed its documents and papers to a nearby BDR camp.

Firefighters from Nilphamari Sadar, about 30 km from the spot, rushed to the bazar and brought the blaze under control after four hours of frantic effort.

### AL forms 8 relief teams

By Staff Correspondent

Eight relief teams were formed at a meeting of the Awami League Central Relief Committee held at the party's

The committee chairman Amir Hussain Amu, was in the

Of the eight teams the one led by Suranjit Sengupta, MP, left Dhaka yesterday evening for

The other teams will be led by Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Dr Md Selim, Md Abdul Jalil, Shamshur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Azizur Rahman, Muzaffar Hussain Paltu, and Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser.

#### Kabila arrives in Kinshasa

KINSHASA, May 20: Laurent Kabila landed in Kinshasa today, four days after his rebel army swept Zaire's president Mobutu Sese Seko from power and Kabila proclaimed himself president of the renamed Demo-

Director General of Food, Md Sirajul Islam has clarified a news item headlined "Govt planning to export rice" pub-

The DG of Food said that the news quoting him as saying that government was planning to export rice in spite of the existing food gap was not properly reported.

Replying to a question from the reporter about the existing food situation, the DG had said that at present there was no restriction on export and import of foodgrains by private traders, the clarification said.

#### Investment

From Page 1

country concerned," he said. Hashimoto, however, was optimistic about the resolution of

"The last but not the least a problem Bangladesh needs to solve for attracting more Japanese investment is the lack of development of software", Hashimoto noted.

istry spokesman said his gov-SAARC.

alised countries including Japan which are poised to shift its investment from South East Asia to South Asia, Hashimoto said. "In that case, SAARC could play a very important role, facilitating interests of both the sides - investing countries and SAARC nations," he added.

### WB suggests

From Page were making an yearly loss of Tk 2500 crore, that could be utilised in meeting the urgent needs of the people and the so-

ditions for development.

those profitable. BCI President Sharif M Afzal Hossain suggested that a

consultative committee be sector.

labour politics to ensure congenial atmosphere in the industrial arena. "Their wages should be de-

termined as per productivity and their interest may be pro-tected by ILO rules," he told the meeting attended by BCI direc-



## Keeps food warm in 3 heat resistant glass dishes Transcom Electronics Limited for lighting products, radio and TV sets

-PID photo

central office yesterday.

Chittagong, Sitakundu and Mirersharai with relief goods, said a press release.

cratic Republic of Congo. witnesses said, reports Reuter. Clarification

lished in The Daily Star yester-

the problem in the 'near future'.

Replying to another question, the Japanese Foreign Min-

ernment has "high regards for There are many industri-

Žafarullah, also a leading businessman, called upon his colleagues to reestablish their credibility. "Businessmen should not only be termed as defaulters, they are generating employment and creating con-

He also urged the businessmen to invest in the SOEs, some of which are "gold mines" having bright prospect of becoming feasible. "Come, invest and buy these enterprises and make

formed for the privatisation board with representatives from concerned ministries, MPs, labour unions and private He proposed a 5-year moratorium on CBA activities and

is an urgent duty for all journalists like others to extend all possible help to the cyclone vic-

Fresh date of reception to the cricketers will be announced later on, the press release tors and members.