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891 supervising officials for 93 thousand policemen

By Mizan Ali
 Only 891 "supervising officials" are leading the 93 thousand police force of the country and the ratio is not "balanced," according to highly placed sources in the police department.
 Officials in the ranks of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and above are supervising officials.
 The "operational budget" for the police force is declining since fiscal '92-93 with an exception has '94-95, and the allocation for training is given the lowest priority, they said.
 These supervising officials are "not adequately empowered to apply independent judgement in enforcement."
 The training system is totally "militaristic" in nature. Emphasis is given on physical fitness ignoring the importance of "mental development" during training. Besides, training is given only once or twice during service period, they added.
 Training instructors in the police training institutes are also not adequately qualified to train the new generation police force. Many of them lack professional competence, they added.
 See Page 12 Col 2



Oh Allah, give us courage: An old man contemplates the wreckage at the yard of his crumpled home at the St Martins Island yesterday, which was swept by waves and winds during Monday's cyclone. A relief vessel from the Navy reached there Tuesday evening. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the island at the tip of south-eastern Bangladesh yesterday. — Photo: Sheikh Enamul Huq.

Cyclone death toll rises to 95

By Staff Correspondent
 Monday's cyclone in the coastal districts left 95 people killed, 7,344 injured and 2.5 million affected, according to official estimate released yesterday evening.
 Besides, two other persons are reported missing, a spokesman at the Prime Minister's office said a press briefing at the PM's secretariat in the city.
 Of the deaths, 62 were reported from Chittagong, 31 from Cox's Bazar and one each from Noakhali and Bhola, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister said.
 See Page 12 Col 2

Power supply in 21 dists still snapped

From Our Correspondent
KUSHIA, May 21: Four high-tension national grid towers at Bheramara were severely damaged in a storm that lashed the areas yesterday afternoon disrupting power supply in 21 districts.
 The Chief Engineer, Khulna, and the Executive Engineer, Faridpur visited the place today and steps have been taken to restore power within the shortest possible time.
 The storm caused extensive damage to Kutcha houses trees and standing crops. Seven persons were injured.
 The areas affected are Bheramara Poura areas, Satabaria, Dharampur, Jogeswar, Parankhali, Ramkrishnapur, Junidaba, Molhaspur, Raita, Bahadurpur, Kutchimara, Gopnagar, Solodag and Chandgram.
 See Page 12 Col 2

Inside Today Article

"We are Servants and Not Masters", British PM Tells His Legislators
 Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim Page 4

Focus

No let-up in sexual assault on women; and Expecting life for mothers Page 5

International

Sonia under pressure to take charge of Cong (I)
50 NLD members held in Myanmar Page 8

Business

Indian businessmen keen to set up joint ventures in Bangladesh
Ban on new US investments in Myanmar takes effect Pages 6,7

Cry for succour to start life anew

By Reaz Ahmad, back from cyclone-hit islands
 They now need drinking water for survival and house building materials to start life again.
 With their kutcha houses washed away by a four-foot high tidal surge and arable lands inundated by saline water, some 4,000 islanders at St Martins are having a hard time in coping with the aftermath of Monday's cyclone.
 Same is the case in other islands around.
 This correspondent yesterday visited St Martins, Sandwip and Hatia islands and Teknal and Banshkhal on the mainland alongwith the Prime Minister's entourage. On her second days' programme in the cyclone affected areas, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, boarding on an Air Force helicopter, yesterday visited the islands and mainland areas.
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Power supply yet to be fully restored in Ctg

By Staff Correspondent
 The power distribution system in greater Chittagong has been seriously affected by Monday's cyclone. Half of the Chittagong city and some thirty per cent areas of Cox's Bazar remain without power since then.
 A source in the Power Development Board told The Daily Star last night that it would take a couple of days to restore power fully in Chittagong city. He further said that a week may be needed to normalise power supply in the greater Chittagong region.
 Due to extensive damage to the power distribution system, the Raosan 210 MW power unit, which resumed operation on May 6 after a year of suspension, was shut down again Monday night. Till Monday, this power station was generating a maximum of 186 MW power.
 Some 23 electric polls (33 KV line) were uprooted due to the storm in the Cox's Bazar-Dohazari region.
 There is no electricity in Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Moheshkhali since Monday, said the PDB official.
 Meanwhile, telecommunications between Cox's Bazar and rest of the country were restored on Tuesday midnight.
 At the same time, the disrupted telecom system of Kutubdia, UKhia, Teknaf, Maheshkhali, Hathazari, Raosan, Anwara, Barabkundu, was shut down again Monday night. Till Monday, this power station was generating a maximum of 186 MW power.
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The aerial picture shows Sher-e-Khwaja's Dhanmondi house (marked by a circle) clearly juts out into the lake, illegally encroaching on public property. — PROBE photo

Worst-hit areas yet to get relief: Khaleda

COX'S BAZAR, May 21: As opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia extensively toured the district today, people alleged to her that they were yet to get any help from the government, reports UNB.
 Giving a patient hearing to the sufferings of the people, she accused the government of limiting its activities only to a media hype and tall-talks.
 "Two days have elapsed... None from the government nor any relief has reached the worst-affected areas," Begum Zia said addressing two spontaneous gatherings at Badarkhali and Chiringa of Chokoria thana in Cox's Bazar.
 The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament charged the government once again with conspiring to sell out the interests of the country and said they were only flying over the areas for an eyewash when it is a must to stand beside the affected people.
 Demanding from the government enough relief, house-building material and cash donation for the cyclone-affected people, the BNP chairperson assured that her party would always be with them and do whatever they can.
 "We did not come to address you... We are here because the BNP is always a tested friend of the people," Khaleda Zia said. "It has been proved that the present government doesn't bother about people as they or their relief supplies are yet to be here."
 Begum Zia said she would give the real picture of loss of lives and extent of damage through a press conference after returning to the capital. She is scheduled to leave Chittagong tonight.
 The BNP chief was accompanied by Oli Ahmed MP, Salahuddin Gader Chowdhury MP, Ghiasuddin Gader Chowdhury MP, Salahuddin Ahmed MP, Advocate Khalequzzaman MP, Abdullah Al Noman, Tariqul Islam, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf MP and Farida Hasan.
 She extensively visited Sadar, Kolatoli, Charpara of Cox's Bazar Sadar, Badarkhali, Tekpur, Rumanir Char, Darbesh Kata and Kuralkhali of Chokoria and Banshkhal and Sankania of Chittagong. Begum Zia also distributed relief materials among the affected people.
 The casualty this time was far less as people were able to take refuge in the cyclone centres. Mohammad Hossain, union parishad chairman of Badarkhali in Chokoria thana, told UNB's roving correspondent.
 See Page 12 Col 8

Relief goods yet to reach 5 thanas of Cox's Bazar

From Abdul Monaem Khan
 COX'S BAZAR, May 21: Relief goods are yet to reach the five affected thanas of the district three days after Monday's cyclone that battered the coastal resort town and adjoining areas leaving trail of destruction everywhere.
 Meanwhile, the death toll in the district rose to 32, according to the officials of the district administration while the Cyclone Preparedness Programme of the Red Crescent put the figure at 37.
 Besides, 200 fishermen are missing, according to unofficial reports.
 The cyclone has destroyed shrimp beds worth Tk 70 crore in 5678 hectares of the shrimp belt, officials said.
 There is scarcity of drinking water in St Martins Island, Dhal Gatha, Mathar Bari and Kutubdia, where the tidal surge has damaged the tubewells.
 The embankments in Mathar Bari and Dhal Gatha
 See Page 12 Col 5

BNP National Council in Dec likely

Star Report
 The national council of BNP is likely to be held in early December this year, highly placed sources in the party said last night.
 The tenure of the present central executive committee, formed through the 1993 national council, ends in September.
 All district and thana committees of the party have been asked to complete their council meetings by September.

Power supply situation in the city has improved but frequent voltage fluctuation is causing damage to household electrical appliances, often beyond repair, consumers say.

Most of the consumers, this correspondent talked to, complained that the frequent voltage fluctuation damaged their air-conditioners, computers, water pumps, refrigerators, television sets, tape recorders and even bulbs.
 The situation is such that even circuit breakers can not cope with it.
 Some frustrated consumers said they feel helpless as their appliances were neither insured nor they could claim compensations from the DESA.
 Even the DESA is not immune. Frequency of transformer failures are causing irritation to DESA repair crews. "We are getting calls so often that we have to attend a transformer which we repaired the other day," a repair crew said.
 See Page 12 Col 8

St Kitts Forgery Case

Rao acted at the instance of Rajiv, court told
 NEW DELHI, May 21: The St Kitts Forgery Case took a sensational turn today with the Counsel for the then external affairs minister PV Narasimha Rao, asserting that whatever his client had done in the matter, was done at the instance of late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, reports PTI.
 Rao's counsel RK Anand told special judge Ajit Bharihoke that instruction regarding the inquiry into a bank account allegedly held by the son of former prime minister VP Singh at St Kitts island, had been issued by the prime minister's office (PMO) under Rajiv Gandhi.
 Anand submitted that Rao had only instructed the Indian consulate general at New York to attest signature of the managing director of First Trust Corporation Ltd (FTCL) in St Kitts island where VP Singh's son Ajeya Singh had allegedly opened an account in 1986.
 Anand said the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had in its chargesheet tried to put the entire blame on Rao as if he had done everything in the matter.
 Anand said that Rao was instructed by the then officer of special duty in PMO, RK Dhawan, to help in attesting certain documents brought by
 See Page 12 Col 8

Saeed Anwar sets record: Pakistan in final

Sports Reporter
 Opener Saeed Anwar with an epoch-making 194 set a new world record in one-day cricket as Pakistan amassed a mammoth total of 327 against arch-rivals India in the virtual second semifinal of the Independence Cup at the Chinnawami Stadium in Madras yesterday.
 Pakistan beat India by 35 runs. India scored 292 in 49.2 overs. Rahul Dravid hit 107.
 Pakistan will now meet Sri Lanka in the finals.
 The 28-year-old Pakistan left-hander batted magnificently to surpass the previous record of 189 not out set by the great West Indian batsman Vivian Richards in 1984 against England at Manchester. Anwar who was in such a marauding mood that he clouted 22 fours and five sixes in his flawless 147-ball vigil at the crease. The southpaw, who worked the ball all around the wicket with great aplomb, plundered 26 runs from one prodigal over of Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble, which included three consecutive sixes.
 He shared three solid partnerships, 89 runs for the second wicket with skipper Rameez Raja (22), 126 runs for the third wicket with Ijaz Ahmed (39) and
 See Page 12 Col 2

Monowara lost everything but courage

From Nurul Alam
BOALIA (Chittagong), May 21: "We still have courage to face natural disasters, but what we need now is construction of cyclone shelters and help to start life anew," Monowara Begum, 70, said when this correspondent visited this village in Anwara thana today.
 Monowara is among the residents of cyclone affected Boalia, lapping the Bay of Bengal, who survived amidst the rubble of their homes and property, wondering how to reorganise their lives again.
 According to official reports, three persons were killed in Anwara during Monday's cyclone, out of 62 totalled in Chittagong.
 See Page 12 Col 1

Sher-e-Khwaja: Power broker in religious guise?

Every now and then the name of Sher-e-Khwaja pops up in the press. There are pictures of him with Indian politicians, articles describing his palatial abode on Dhanmondi Lake and there is always an aura of mystery concerning him. Who is he? Irtiza Nassim Ali, Chief Editor of PROBE News Agency, investigates to find out more than meets the eye.
 The June 12 elections over, political negotiations were at a peak. It was in a certain house of Dhanmondi that leaders of two major political parties met to forge an agreement regarding the formation of government. To attend this vital meeting, three top leaders of Awami League arrived at the house to be joined by two top rankers of Jatiya Party. The owner of the house still proudly displays on his walls pictures of the present Prime Minister with his family members, taken during that visit, her only visit to his house till date.
 Who is this man? This is the man who likes to be known as Sher-e-Khwaja. He claims to be a spiritual leader, a man with powers of prediction.
 It was the media that brought Sher-e-Khwaja to the limelight. Sher-e-Khwaja has spared no effort to use his contacts in the press to highlight himself and his activities.
 His real name is Anwarul Haq Chowdhury. Son of a police inspector, Chowdhury was born in Dhaka in 1952. He attended West End High School and Nabakumar School. People claim he is not even a matriculate, but he says he was a student of Commerce with a BA degree. "I'm so proficient in maths," he says, "Even my daughter is amazed when I help her with her algebra."
 Anwarul Haq Chowdhury also claims to have been a freedom fighter during the 1971 Liberation War. He, however, did not cross over the border to India at the time nor did he re-
 See Page 12 Col 6

Rising Stars Hits Today

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Star Weekend Magazine

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Star Weekend Magazine, we will bring out a special issue titled "Humour in Our Lives", tomorrow.
 This 48-page issue has been devoted to the lighter side of life such as the quirks of bureaucrats, journalists, developmental project workers, politicians etc. Other subjects of leg-pulling include: Our notions of what constitutes the ideal man or ideal woman, what it means to be a jama (bride groom), the pains of parenthood, our obsession with staying young and of course our dearly beloved BTV.
 Please do not miss this humour-filled issue. Book your copy with the hawkers NOW!