thanks to the President and

members of the General Assem-

ment of Bangladesh had mo-

bilised all its available re-

sources to alleviate the suffer-

ing of the affected people

through distribution of

medicine, food and relief mate-

added that disaster prepared-

ness measures and pre-disaster

programme had considerably

reduced the extent of impact of

Sweden Aslam

remanded

for 7 days

By Staff Correspondent

wanted' terrorists, arrested by

police early Tuesday has been

placed on a seven-day remand.

complices who were also ar-

rested by the Detective Branch

(DB) police following the arrest

of Aslam, were taken on a five-

Aslam and his accomplices be-

fore the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's (CMM) court yes

terday. The court granted the

remand for further interroga-

Police were interrogating

Aslam alias Sweden Aslam,

and the eight others mainly to

find out the sources of their

arms and ammunition. A se-

nior police official said, they

were also trying to identify the

gang which had patronised and

used Aslam for their own inter-

accusing Aslam in three murder

cases had already been submit-

ted to the court. These cases

were filed with Tejgaon, Kotwali

Saeed Anwar

From Page 1

an enterprising 84 with Inza-

eventually caught magnifi-

cently by Saurav Ganguly at

deep fine-leg off Sachin Ten-

dulkar. He was given a standing

ovation by the 50,000 raucous

praised peoples' courage in fac-

ing natural calamities and as-

sured that a green belt would be

raised along the coastal area

through a massive aforestation

and salt beds was seen as the he-

licopter, carrying journalists,

flew low over the affected areas

of Cox's Bazar, Chokoria and

Management and Relief

Talukder Abdul Khalek accom-

panied the Prime Minister

Hasina also visited areas of

Cox's Bazar, Moheshkhali and

Cyclone death

From Page 1

Minister Jawadul Karim told

astation caused by the cyclone,

he said 5,12,593 houses, 718 cy-

clone shelters, 608 educational

institutions, 75 bridges and

culverts, 153 km of roads and

embankments and crops in

29,951 hectres of land were

damaged while 1899 cattlehead

sanctioned 400 MT of wheat,

33.4 MT of flattened rice,

8,513.5 kg of molasses, 8,355

water cans, 8,000 metres of

cloth, 1,19,500 sarees, 2300

lungis, 12,000 pieces of chil-

dren's cloths, 39,000 pieces of

old cloth, 50,600 pieces of

plates, 400 tents, 100 bundles of

CI sheet, 2,100 tins of biscuit

and Tk 25 lakh in cash for dis-

tribution among the affected

sent 622 medical teams to the

affected areas and no report of

any outbreak of diseases has

The government has also

Policemen

From Page 1

According to them, the exist-

ing curricula for police training

is insufficient and there is no

comprehensive institutional

arrangement at the police

headquarters or police training

institutes to assess the needs for

developing a suitable curricula.

people until yesterday.

been reported, he added.

leged.

He said the government has

Giving an update on the dev-

Earlier on Tuesday, Sheikh

Deputy Minister for Disaster

Extensive damage to shrimp

programme.

Banshkhali.

during the visit.

Kutubdia.

the newsmen.

were killed.

The elegant batsman was

mamul Haq (39 not out).

Cry for succour

Meanwhile, charge sheets

est for a long time.

and Mirpur thana.

The DB police produced

Aslam, one of the 'most

Police said, eight of his ac-

the cyclone.

day remand

Ambassador Chowdhury

He mentioned that govern-



Fed显然 Federal Express

The World on Time

UNGA expresses sympathy for cyclone victims

Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khuina: (041) 725008, N. Ganj: (671) 74336

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) yesterday extended deepest sympathy to the government and the people of Bangladesh for the loss of lives and property in Monday's cy-

clone, reports UNB. President of the UNGA, Ambassador Raza'li Ismail, in a statement at yesterday's session of the Assembly, conveyed this on behalf of all the members of the Assembly, according to a message received in Dhaka yes-

terday. He also expressed the hope that international community would show its solidarity and respond promptly and gener-

ously to any request for help. On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations expressed pro-

Monowara

From Page

tagong alone. Monowara informed she along with her family members took shelter on the roof of a pucca building owned by her neighbour, where many others also made a rush to save their

"The storm not only damaged my thatched house, it also destroyed other property including trees and crops. Monowara narrated.

Another woman Rahima Aktar said that her house was also destroyed and she lost her cattleheads.

"Even my husband's rickshaw, which was the only means of his earning, was swept away by the tidal surge, Rahima said adding "now we have nothing for financial sup-

Saifuddin Khaled, a local businessman said people in the area are mentally strong despite the destruction of their property.

Another villager of Boalia, Abdus Sattar, 60, was found rebuilding his rice mills that was damaged by Monday's cyclone.

On way to interior villages of Anwara thana hardly any kutcha house was found standing. Debris of trees and kutcha houses littered the entire coastal area of Anwara.

Chairman of Raipur union Abu Sayeed felt that to protect the people of Anwara from the wrath of the sea a permanent embankment was needed in addition to construction of more cyclone shelters.

also gave Tk 2.5 lakh to the Di-

visional Commissioner of

Chittagong as relief for the af-

Sheikh Hasina enquired about

peoples' sufferings, walking

miles after miles down to the

doors of damaged houses at St

Martins, and also inspected

damaged cross-dams at places

stretch of the cyclone protec-

tion cross-dam has been dam-

aged, lands and 158 tube-wells

rendered useless by saline wa-

ter. Eighty houses have been

damaged completely and 180

others partially in the eighty sq

mile island, an abode of 570

families with a population of

4,000. Seventy acres of land

have been devoured by the sea

newsmen that a naval ship car-

ried dry foods and drinking

water for them on Tuesday but

that was not enough to meet

dam has breached at 28 points.

While taking part in a briefing

at the Thana Parishad Bhavan

local MP, Fazlul Azim, drew the

Prime Minister's attention to

the damaged cross-dam and

urged for providing the island's

one million people with a sea-

truck for communication with

peasant of Hatia, told The Daily

Star that since the 1991 cy-

clone, the dam has never been

Aiyub Ali and Md Shamim -

told reporters that the cross-

dam in the island which was

damaged in the 1991 cyclone

has not yet been repaired. They

also complained that till yes-

tel-leaf cultivator, at Teknaf

told The Daily Star that salin-

ity caused by tidal surge was the

main problem in the area.

Shafiq Ahmed, a salt and be-

The Prime Minister dis-

tributed some relief among the

affected people at Banshkhali,

as she did at some other places.

Addressing a gathering at

Shekher Khil, Sheikh Hasina

terday noon they got no relief.

At Sandwip two students —

Haji Shahe Alam, an elderly

In Hatia, the 15 km cross-

their requirements.

the mainland.

repaired properly.

The affected islanders told

At St Martins, an 6,720 feet

in Hatia and Sandwip.

During the day-long visit,

fected people.

US offers help for cyclone victims found gratitude and sincere

WASHINGTON, May 21: The United States offered help Tuesday to Bangladesh, where a devastating cyclone has killed at least 95 people, injured thou-sands, and left many more homeless, reports AFP.

"The United States would like to offer its condolences to the families of those who have been killed or who are missing, who have been made homeless, and our condolences for all the destruction caused by this terrible cyclone," State Department spokesman Nicholas

Burns said. "We obviously will do whatever we can to assist the Bangladeshi government in trying to recover from this catas-

trophe", he said. Meanwhile, charitable or ganisations in the Netherlands and France on Tuesday agreed to send aid to Bangladesh.

The Dutch aid group Novib said it will send aid worth 600,000 guilder (315,800 dollars) to Bangladesh. Its first aid consignment, mainly shelters and water purification equipment, would go to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, it said.

The French Roman Catholic aid organisation Secours Cathllique sent 200,000 francs (35,000 dollars) worth of equipment, mainly anti-cyclone shelters, to a sister organ isation, Caritas Bangladesh the group said in Paris.

Heads of foreign missions, UN agencies visit cyclone-hit areas

A number of foreign heads of missions and UN agencies in Dhaka visited different cyclone-affected areas in the coastal belt yesterday, reports

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad took them to tour the affected areas by helicopter, providing a firsthand information on the loss and damage caused by the cyclone on Mon-

The group visited Kutubdia, Maheskhali and Cox's Bazar. In addition, they also had an aerial view of a vast area affected by the cyclone storm.

The heads of foreign missions and the UN representatives included ambassadors of Palestine, the Netherlands, Japan and EU, and country representatives of USAID, UNDP and ICRC.

The diplomats and UN representatives praised the advance preparedness, early warning and evacuation of more than one million people ahead of the disaster that minimised loss of lives and damage

to property. They also commended the immediate undertaking of relief operation under direct supervision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Bus strike in Sherpur

SHERPUR, May 21: Bus services to and from the district remained suspended for the second day today as the district Bus Sramik Union called a non-stop strike yesterday, reports UNB. The union called the strike

protesting the attack on a bus worker, Shahid, 17, at the district bus terminal on Monday night.

Leaders of the union alleged that a group of miscreants of 'Mirganj area attacked Shahid and tortured him with burning

cigarettes. They demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the attack. A case was filed with

Sadar police.

Young man shot Mannan Bhuiyan condemns filing of cases against

The Baily Star_

Rafiq, Abbas By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, yesterday condemned the filing of cases against two top leaders of the party - Rafiqui Islam Mia. a standing committee member and Mirza Abbas, party's joint secretary general — and demanded immediate withdrawal

of the cases.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau filed Corruption cases on Saturday against Rafiq and Abbas on charges of misappropriating public fund while holding public office.

In a statement last night, Mannan Bhuiyan alleged the 'false' cases were filed with the ulterior motive of harming

BNP's image. He also alleged of ruling party repression and police ha-rassment on his party leaders at Laximpur and Narayanganj and asked the government to stop all those acts.

One burnt alive, shops gutted in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, May 21: A youngman was roasted alive and several shops were gutted in a fire at Godnile Bazar in Siddirganj thana of the district today, fire brigade sources said, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Khairul Islam, 24, a trader of the bazar. The fire originated from a short circuit in one of the four shops at 12:30 am, was brought under control by Siddirganj fire fighters.

Teacher representatives

White Panel to take part in DU Senate polls

By Staff Correspondent The "White Panel" has announced the names of its candi dates for the election of 35 teacher representatives to the Dhaka University Senate.

The election will be held on May 29. The White Panel, however, said it would have been better if the Senate election had been deferred as, with the academic year coming to a close the university teachers were very busy taking examinations and completing other academic

Besides, the first year honours admission tests are being held during this month, the statement said

"Though the university authorities were apprised about our position regarding the Senate election, the Vice Chancellor did not accept our views, the statement said.

The White Panel observed that by announcing the Senate election date in this month, the university authorities gave importance to the election than to the academic activities of the university.

The press release was signed by Prof Wakil Ahmed, advisor White Panel, Prof Mohammad Shafi Chowdhury, convenor and Prof Saidur Rahman and Prof Khalilur Rahman, joint

3 children electrocuted in

gal), May 21: Three children were electrocuted at a tea garden of Hasimara in Kalchini block, near here yesterday, reports

Relief goods

unions of Maheshkhali thana

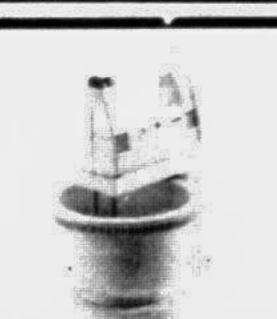
have caved in flooding the area with saline water and forcing people to take refuge in cyclone shelters. Fifty four out of 64 unions of

the district are affected by the cyclone, officials added.



Deputies of the ruling and opposition parties of Turkey slug it out as a brawl breaks out during a speech by opposition leader and former prime minister Mesut Yilmaz who accused the government of being unable to rule the country in a parliamentary debate Tuesday.

Hand Mixer



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Let's make things better. PHILIPS

Tripura state

officials, refugee

leaders to visit

Khagrachhari

14-member joint team of Indian

Tripura state officials and

tribal refugee leaders will visit here from May 29 to observe re-habilitation of the repatriated

refugees, reports UNB.

Khagrachhari Deputy Com-

missioner Mohammad Ismail

told local newsmen at his office

today that next phase of repa-triation of the tribal refugees

from Tripura is expected to be-

gin soon after the visit of the

vice-president Ranjit Narayan

Tripura will lead the 11-mem-

ber refugee delegation while

South Tripura district magis-

Refugee Welfare Association

KHAGRACHHARI, May 21: A

Backed by Guarantee

DHAKA THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1997



Members of the Buddhist community praying at Bashabo Bouddha Bihar in the city on the occasion of Bouddha Purnima yesterday. — Star photo

Sher-e-Khwaja

per, Sher-e-Khwaja has video

recordings of high-placed per-

sons and business personalities

paying obeisance to him. His

walls are covered with pictures

of everyone from Sheikh

force draws these big names to

this strange house? "No enig-

matic force," says a well-known

politician, "If someone calls

you up ten times and asks you

over, how can you refuse? You

are bound to visit him at least

once." And the Khwaja spares

no pains to capitalise on these

ited Sher-e-Khwaja recently,

the latter made a phone call and

in a few minutes a bureaucrat

turned last minute politician,

turned minister quickly came

to the place. The diplomat was

impressed. He is the man to get

himself placing a turban on the

head of former Indian Prime

Minister Deve Gowda, with the

India President and Narasimha

Rao. Indian politicians are used

to giving such 'spiritual' persons

a few minutes of their time.

Sher-e-Khwaja does have

contact with politician Chan-

dra Shekhar in India. Chandra

Shekhar is known for his con-

e-Khwaja to seal business con-

tacts and deals. "I do try to help

everyone," he says magnani-

mously, "But I take nothing in

He has a long standing ri-

valry with another prominent

pir of the country, Mujibur

Rahman Chisti. When Pak-

istan's Benazir Bhutto called

upon Chisti personally during

her visit to Bangladesh, it was a

bit too much for Sher-e-Khwaja

Mujibur Rahman Chisti was

aspiring to build a large or-

phanage in Bogra, with as many

rooms as there are chapters in

the Holy Quran. Sher-e-Khwaja

sent a message to Chisti that he

would get a businessman to do-

nate for the orphanage if Chisti

would come to his Dhanmondi

and Sher-e-Khwja filmed the

entire visit. He relishes the part

of the film which shows Chisti

bending down to touch his feet.

"I was merely picking up the

tasbih I dropped," protests an

a wide network of contact, and

has his links in the present

government. His visitors in-

clude minister, political lead-

ers, bureaucrats, businessmen,

tried in vain to get BNP leader

Khaleda Zia to visit his house

when she had been in power.

However, his visitors did in-

Anwarul Haq is vague when

specifically questioned and

even evades questions like how

many houses there are in his

house. He does not talk about

the nature of his businesses. He

does not make mention about

his departmental store in Lon-

don, run by his wife's brother.

He prefers to be known for his

spiritual power and his popu-

larity among those who count.

Many people compare him to

Chandra Swami of India who

used political links to seal big

money deals under the guise of

He had made several predic-

tions about political develop-

ments and otherwise. While his

followers like to say these are

accurate to a point, cynics say

anyone with a little political

know-how and analytical abil-

ity could make such predic-

that Sher-e-Khwaja predicted

that Ershad would grow greatly

in power. The rest is history.

tions. It was in October of 1990

spiritual leader.

clude several BNP leaders.

It is said that Sher-e-Khwja

Sher-e-Khwja has developed

Chisti arrived in due time

Anwarul Haq was aware that

People are said to visit Sher-

tacts with 'holy' men.

return.

to swallow.

house.

angry Chisti.

Anwarul Haq has pictures of

When a British diplomat vis-

visits.

hings done.

Why do they visit him? What

Hasina to Phoolan Devi.

ceive any formal training as a freedom fighter. He says he carried out operations in Dhaka during the war. His family was not financially well-off.

After independence, along with his sister's husband Abdul Bari Lat Miah, Anwarul Haq Chowdhury took over some shops in Maulvibazar. Lat Miah is dead now. Anwarul Haq Chowdhury owns Chistia Enterprises at 78 Maulvibazar.

After 1976, Anwar launched into business as a contractor and around that time he became the local agent of the Indian chocolate drink Maltova.

At the same time he also began business with the wellknown businessman. Their ventures included ship breaking, cement and other businesses. However, things didn't work out and Anwarul Haq felt badly cheated in the deal.

But then things looked up for Anwarul Haq Chowdhury. The Chernobyl crisis occurred and Chowdhury had just imported a consignment of powdered milk. Milk powder was being subject to minute examination for radiation and it so happened that Chowdhury's consignment of milk was completely radiation free. Overnight he became rich. He visited Ajmeer Sharif for Khwaja Baba's blessings and became a devout devotee of the Khwaja Baba and a regular visi-

tor of Aimeer. Chowdhury then joined hands in business with Salman Rahman. He would look after Beximco's marketing though he was not a director. His close relation with Salman Rahman is no secret. "I was involved with Beximco but not any more, says Anwar, "I try to maintain a distance with controversial

personalities. Anwarul Haq Chowdhury's ostentatious red house in Dhanmondi has been subject of much speculation. He claims he received the design of the architectural eyesore in a 'dream'. Others say he studied several grand houses in Dhaka and then got an engineer of RAJUK to design and construct the house.

Skeptics question how a 'spiritual' personality has so much material possessions. His house itself is an epitome of luxury. He has even encroached on government-owned land, building a personal ghat on the lake.

The allotted 15.42-katha plot is in the name of his wife Rehana Chowdhury who had bought it from one Shamsul Huda in 1990. Obvious from outside that the new owner was encroaching upon government land, the Public Works Department (PWD) served a notice in 1992 to Rehana Chowdhury asking her to vacate the illegally occupied stretch of land.

In November, 1992 PWD surveyed the land and identified 1.66 kathas of government land under illegal encroachment. The owner even went ahead to construct a ghat on the lake with security fence all around it. In the same month higher PWD officials gave green signal to evict the encroacher. In May, 1993 a 'final notice' was served upon Rehana Chowdhury in this regard. Said a PWD official, "for mysterious reasons no official step has ever been initiated to recover the land."

And how did he get the title Sher-e-Khwaja? Simply by paying money. "If someone pays five lacs every year," says Latif Chisti, a Khadem in Ajmeer, "Why won't he be named Sher-e-Khwaja?" There is no authority in Ajmeer to bestow any such ti-

"He is undoubtedly a genuine devotee of Khwaja Baba and visits Aimeer thrice a year, during both the Eids and to attend the Urs," Latif says.

In his passport his name is registered as Sher-e-Khwaja Anwarul Haq Chowdhury. His profession is recorded as business and as chairman of Chis-

tia Group of Companies. An incorrigible name-drop-

trate K Rajeshwer Roy lead the three-member Indian team. They will visit different places of the hill district to see the rehabilitation activities under the 20-point agreement

signed between the government and the Refugee Welfare Asso-A total of 6,703 refugees of 1.248 families have been repa-

triated from camps in Tripura after repatriation process began last April.

Rao acted

From Page 1 enforcement directorate (ED) Deputy Director, AP Nandi, from St Kitts island in October

"Rao had issued instruction to attest the documents under the instruction from PMO in the normal course of his duty without having the knowledge that they were forge. The Indian consulate, RK Rai, in his statement to CBI has also verified this fact," Anand contended.

Ctg: Power

From Page 1

Sitakundu and Mirersarai has also been put into service, according to a BTTB press release. However, tele-link with

Sandwip could not be restored as the UHF tower on the island was damaged by the cyclonic storm. Necessary equipments could not be sent to Sandwip as the sea is still very rough.

But alternative steps have been taken to re-establish telelink with the islands. Similar steps have also been taken to restore telecommunications with Ramu and Naikhongch-

Meanwhile, some 10,000 telephone lines in the port city of Chittagong were disconnected as uprooted trees fell on the hanging cables at different

Voltage

From Page 1

bazar, the DESA has no automatic protective devices to stabilise the flow of electricity. they said. While the electricity is sup-

posed to flow at 220 volts, it hardly exceeds 200 volts at most places. At times, the voltage drops to as low as 100 volts.

Worst of all, sometimes the power supply totally ceases for few seconds and resumes quickly. This disruption instantly affects appliances like refrigerators which operate

continuously. The Chairman of DESA was not available for comment last night.

Khaleda From Page 1

He said 60 to 80 per cent kutcha houses of the locality and embankments in several places were damaged, affecting some five lakh people in Chokoria thana alone. Some 550 kilometre electric wires were also partially damaged, he informed.

The UP chairman alleged that he did not find any government official nor did he receive relief although two days had passed. "I had only six bags of rice which is not enough and already has been distributed

among the affected people." Hossain was echoed by M Ismail, a village of coastal Darbeskhata. Hafez Abul Kashem of Kuralkhali said he lost eight cows, six goats, 200 maunds of salt and 150 maunds of rice in the cyclone but did not get any relief or saw any gov-

ernment man. "This is Khaleda Zia whom we found first," said Ismail. Like him many others burst into tears while telling that they lost everything in Monday's cyclone. Thousands of people were found passing day and night in the open.

Member of Parliament from the constituency Salahuddin Ahmed told UNB that loss of life was less but economic loss was colossal. He informed that all the shrimp enclosures and saltbeds were washed away in the cyclone.

He demanded from the government immediate and proper relief supplies, rehabilitation programme and repairing of the embankments. If the embankments are not repaired, Shrimp, salt and crops cultivation will be seriously hampered."

Recently when a similar story was published in a vernacular daily, it was strongly denied through a rejoinder.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

dead in city

By Staff Correspondent A young man was shot dead of Kalshi Road at Pallabi in the

city yesterday afternoon. One Zakir Hossain, 25, sustained at least seven bullet injuries when a gang of five unidentified men attacked him near a slum in Block-E of Pallabi at about 5 pm.
Police said Zakir died on the

spot. Son of one Safiuddin, Zakir is a resident of Balughat area under Cantonment thana. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. However, it was alleged that Zakir was killed following a conflict between two rival

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with Pallabi thana.

Transport strike in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, May 21: The traffic movement remained suspended in Sylhet district as the transport workers began a strike for an indefinite period this morn-

They went on strike to protest what they said, 'unauthorised' collection of tolls from the trucks carrying stones from the quarries in Gowainghat thana.

According to sources, there is a dispute between the Lessee of the quarries and truckers for the last few months over the collection of tolls.

Soft-term agri

loan for cyclone affected people The government will disburse soft-term agricultural loan and distribute seeds at fair prices among the cyclone-af-

fected farmers, reports UNB. Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury and Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury assured this while visiting the cyclone-hit areas in Chandanaish and Satkania thanas.

those killed in the cyclonic storm on Monday to express sympathy for the bereaved family members. The ministers also distributed relief materials among

the affected people, said an offi-

cial handout.

They visited the houses of

Heroin worth Tk 75 lakh seized in B'baria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, May 21: Seven hundred and seventy-five grams of heroin worth about Tk 75 lakh were seized from Sezamura village of Sadar

thana on May 20, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a police team went to the village to nab the drug trafficking but sensing the police presence, the heroin traders left the spot leaving the packet of heroin beside a road. "American pure heroin-

trade mark Lion," was written on the packet, police said. A case was filed with Brah-

she was kidnapped by a gang of

brother-in-law. The next day, a case was lodged after which police arrested the main accused Helal

The others have been abscond-

ing, police said.

manbaria police station. House wife kidnapped, raped in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, May 21: Kotuali police yesterday arrested one person on charge of kidnapping and raping a young housewife. The victim would be examined in the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital to-

town Sunday night.

graped her at a house. They also kidnapped her

morrow, an official said. A mother of three children,

four persons from her residence in Mirabazar area of Sylhet The kidnappers then gan-

convenors.

West Bengal

ALIPURDUAR, (West Ben-

From Page 1

- AFP/UNB photo