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# The Daily Star

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## Diarrhoea breaks out in cyclone affected areas

By Staff Correspondent  
Two more people died of diarrhoea in cyclone-affected Noakhali district, raising the total to six so far.  
Giving the figure at his regular press briefing yesterday, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Jawadul Karim said that diarrhoea did not spread in epidemic form.  
Till yesterday, relief worth Tk 34,52,73,000 in cash and kind was distributed or sanctioned among the people affected by last Monday's cyclone that hit vast areas of 10 coastal districts, he said at the briefing held at the PM's office.  
Of the total, Tk 16,30,07,000 was given or sanctioned for various relief goods, Tk 10,51,56,000 for CI sheets, Tk 6,47,15,000 for VGF (vulnerable group feeding) and Tk 1,23,95,000 in cash, Karim said.  
Besides, various political parties, organisations, Red Crescent Society and NGOs had also distributed relief, he said and gave some statistics.  
The press secretary said that till yesterday Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received Tk. 47  
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## Effective links with emerging nations of Asia needed: Fujimori

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has emphasised the importance of a "realistic outlook" for the future to forge effective links with emerging nations of Asia, reports UNB.  
"The reorientation of the world economy, the logic that now push us seek national development, also needs a new concept of diplomacy and bilateral links," he said.  
Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban last night, Fujimori further said that "today, we do not wait for current foreign trade to come to us; we plan for a new relationship to face the challenges of the twenty-first century."  
He said Bangladesh has been successful in forging a programme of small-scale credits, an interesting solution to financial problems.  
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## One found dead in wheel carriage of Biman aircraft

By Staff Correspondent  
A young man was found dead reportedly stuck in the wheel carriage of an aircraft of Bangladesh Biman at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia in the early hours of yesterday.  
A message in this respect from Saudi Arabia reached Dhaka yesterday. The man was identified as Mehboob, 22, a garments worker, according to official sources at Zia International Airport.  
However, details about the incident could not be known immediately. Biman officials could not be contacted for confirmation of the report till the filing of this report late last night.  
Airport sources said the Biman aircraft from which the body was found took off for Saudi Arabia at about 9 pm Friday.  
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President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receiving Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and his daughter Miss Keiko Sofia Fujimori at Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo

## Fujimori given warm reception Formal talks today, two accords to be signed

President Alberto Fujimori of Peru was given a red-carpet reception when he arrived here yesterday on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.  
President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the distinguished guest on his arrival at the Zia International Airport at about 1 pm.  
The Peruvian President is accompanied by his daughter, Miss Keiko Sofia Fujimori, and an entourage of 34 members.  
A 21-gun salute boomed in the air as soon as he alighted from a Thai Airways aircraft. Two tiny tots presented the Peruvian President with bouquet.  
Ministers including Zillur Rahman, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed and A S H K Sadique, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, City Mayor Mohammad Hanif and chiefs of three services were also present at the airport.  
Dean of the diplomatic corps and Palestinian Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab was also present.  
Airport formalities over, President Fujimori drove in a ceremonial motorcade to Dhaka Sheraton Hotel where he will stay.  
The thoroughfares were decorated with portraits of Fujimori and the national flags of Bangladesh and Peru.  
He will hold official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the International Conference Centre today.  
During his visit, two accords on bilateral scientific cooperation and expansion of trade will be signed between the governments and chambers of the two countries.  
President Fujimori will visit Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi and Gramen Bank project in Narayanganj.  
The Peruvian President will also place wreath at the National Mausoleum at Savar and join a tea party to be hosted by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

## Unfair means in mufassil HSC centres 'Teachers are helpless in acting as invigilators'

By Mizan Ali  
Leaders of two major college teachers' associations as well as a number of other teachers have expressed their 'helplessness' in carrying out their duties as invigilators at the mufassil centres in the on going Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations.  
According to them, vandalism is going on inside examination centres in mufassil areas, despite sincere efforts and intention of the government to ensure fair examinations. This was happening as the authorities could not pin point the crux of the problem, they said.  
Quazi Faruque Ahmed, Secretary General of Bangladesh College Teachers Association and the Federation of Teachers Associations, and Shariful Islam, Principal of Mohamudpur Central College and Secretary General of Bangladesh College Teacher's Society were contacted by The Daily Star for their comments on HSC examinations.  
Quazi Faruque told this Correspondent, "Teachers engaged in invigilation duties in the on going HSC examinations are found to be helpless because of circumstantial difficulties."  
According to him, the invigilators were helpless in the examination centres despite all the good intentions of the government to ensure fair examinations.  
Shariful Islam said "vandalism is going on in the examination centres of mufassil areas." Meanwhile, the Directorate of Education has issued a circular for all the HSC examination centres for strict invigilation during the examinations.  
Director General of the Directorate of Education Dr Stalemate at RU continues  
From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, May 24: The situation in Rajshahi University remains unchanged with no initiative from any quarter after to resolve the crisis.  
Today was the 28th day of continued strike enforced by the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) protesting the new admission system and alleged police harassment.  
Classes and examinations have remained suspended and almost all offices closed during the last four weeks.  
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## BOC to stop medical gas supply to govt hospitals from June 10

The supply of medical gases to government hospitals will be cut off from June 10 for non-payment of huge outstanding bills, the suppliers threatened, reports UNB.  
Gas bills amounting to about Tk 4 crore has been outstanding with the hospitals, including Tk 1.71 crore overdue up to April 30 from 18 major hospitals.  
BOC Bangladesh Limited announced the action plan at a press conference in the city yesterday.  
BOC-BD Limited, the Bangladesh chapter of UK-based multinational company British Oxygen Limited, is the sole supplier of medical gas to country's all hospitals, both government and private.  
"BOC has resorted to this decision because of the impossibility of obtaining payment from them," said the company's Managing Director, A Hasanat Khan.  
Three hospitals — National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) are the leading and oldest defaulters.  
The overdue bills of NICVD is Tk 48,99,737, SSMCH Tk 30,58,532 and RMCH Tk 11,09,387.  
"After repeated visits and verbal and written requests, outstanding up to April 30 from these three hospitals have not yet been received," said the BOC official.  
Other major defaulters include Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research and Chittagong Medical College Hospital.  
The BOC Managing Director told newsmen that after suspension of gas supply on credit to those hospitals from June 10 next, the company may continue supply on cash.  
In order to mitigate its effect on patients in these hospitals, he said, BOC will make special arrangements to supply emergency gas like oxygen to individuals from its factory on payment and, if necessary, locate a source near hospital.  
"As a business organisation, we cannot wait indefinitely as this causes corresponding losses to the BOC-BD shareholders, 40 per cent of which are ICB and the public," Khan said.  
He said the huge outstanding and overdue bills also cause indirect losses to the government as it reduces corporate taxes and increases borrowing from banks which affects the company's ability to pay its suppliers and creditors.  
The BOC makes regular annual contracts with the Central Medical Stores Depot of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for supply of emergency  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Khatami elected Iranian president

TEHRAN, May 24: Iran's moderate former culture minister Mohammad Khatami was elected president today in a stunning upset victory over the Islamic Republic's conservative establishment, reports Reuter.  
His main rival, conservative parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, conceded defeat after more than 17 million votes had been counted showing a landslide victory for Khatami.  
Tehran Radio said he sent a letter of congratulations to Khatami and told him: "I will do my best to cooperate with you."  
Khatami will take over in August from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who must step down after completing the maximum two four-year terms permitted by law.  
The result was a major shock to the religious establishment which has ruled Iran since fundamentalist mullahs toppled the pro-American Shah in 1979.  
On partial returns from the 17 million votes counted so far, Khatami won two out of every three votes cast in Friday's nationwide ballot, seen by many as a referendum on 18 years of revolution.  
Nateq-Nouri had been widely predicted to take the presidency despite what many Iranian analysts and western diplomats had forecast would be a close contest.  
Both Khatami and Nateq-Nouri are 54-year-old middle-ranking Shi'ite Muslim religious leaders.  
But Khatami is considered a moderate compared with most of the conservative religious leaders who run the country. Nateq-Nouri is a traditionalist who enjoys the support of influential groups of conservative mullahs and merchants.  
Some 33 million people aged 15 and over were eligible to vote. Interior ministry officials said turnout was high.  
During the 12-day election campaign Khatami attracted a broad coalition of centrists close to Rafsanjani, pro-Islamic left-wingers and women, youths and intellectuals seeking a more relaxed application of Islamic mores.  
The coalition was formed to  
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## PM's speech read out at SID confce Globalisation needed to promote interest of all

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for restructuring of the global governance and finding ways and means to promote the fundamental interest of all, reports UNB.  
"I believe, the world community can and will work together. Globalisation will work for everybody, everywhere," she said in a written speech which was read out in the conference of Society for International Development (SID) at Madrid on Thursday.  
The Prime Minister was scheduled to attend the conference, but cancelled her trip to Spain at the last moment, ahead of the devastating cyclone which hit the country's coast on Monday.  
Hasina mentioned that now there is a near universal acceptance of the twin forces of globalisation and liberalisation. In general, the developing countries are more or less the believers of this principle, she said.  
Universal unification in production and international trade liberalisation have given the developing countries an opportunity to play a more active role in world economy, the Prime Minister observed.  
For a market economy to perform efficiently and profitably for all participants, there needs to be adequate regulatory and legal systems in place, as well as adequate information, she said. "And for productivity and growth to increase, investment, both domestic and foreign, must increase."  
She said, "Each one of these conditions are adequately satisfied in most developing countries, including Bangladesh."  
"We, in Bangladesh face seri-  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Next budget to focus on higher growth, low inflation: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday claimed the economy is doing better now than any previous year and said the next budget would be geared to a higher growth keeping the inflation under control, reports UNB.  
"We will follow the strategy of attaining a higher growth ensuring macroeconomic stability," he said while exchanging views on the next year's budget with the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) in the city.  
The budget for 1997-98 fiscal is likely to be placed in Parliament on June 12.  
The minister said the actual growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) would exceed 5.5 per cent — the target for the current fiscal.  
Presenting detailed statistics on the performance of the economy, Kibria said the performance is much better compared to any previous year.  
He said the foreign exchange reserve stood at 1831 million US dollars on May 8. "It's by and large satisfactory, but it should be increased by 400-500 million dollars," he said, adding that a downturn in the forex reserve has been stopped.  
The minister said the level of imports is satisfactory and exports picked up after a slow start. Remittances increased 24 per cent during the July-February period of the current fiscal while the overall foreign aid disbursement has marked a decrease because of low disbursement of food and commodity aid.  
Inflation was rated 3.17 per cent in March this year. It was 4.07 per cent in June last year and 5.81 per cent in December 1995, he said. "Presently, it may increase, but I think it will not be over 4 per cent."  
About revenue collection, Kibria said government's tax revenue earnings was Tk 9862.18 crore in July-April, up from last year's corresponding period, but down from the target  
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## Donation to PM's relief fund tax free

Any amount of donation to Prime Minister's relief fund by any taxpayer will be tax-free, the National Board of Revenue announced yesterday, reports UNB.  
Such amount of money will not be included in the total income of the taxpayer, it said.  
The NBR statement was to clear any confusion in public mind as to whether donation to PM's relief fund for the cyclone-affected people is free from tax assessment.  
See Page 12 Col 7

## WHAT COASTAL AREAS NEED MOST

For countless men, women and children living in the coastal areas, foreshore lands are of vital importance. These lands need special attention.  
Foreshore lands are ideal for mangroves. Mangroves are the only forests capable of establishing, growing, flowering and regenerating in salt water.  
Mangroves grow on the sea front. When there is a big storm, mangroves bear the brunt of natural onslaught and can weaken the intensity of storm surges by reducing their velocity.  
Rich mangrove plantation will provide excellent fodder for marine fish and nutrition to coastal people. This green cover of nature will also act as effective barrier to fishing and farming communities.  
A mangrove covered foreshore is what the coastal areas need most. Come forward to help Forest Department officials in protecting the mangroves — the wonderful national wealth of Bangladesh.  
**FORESHORE LANDS NEED MANGROVES MOST**  
**COASTAL GREENBELT PROJECT**  
Banabhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.  
DFP-12008-19/5  
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## Anniversary of Nazrul's birth today

The 98th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated in the country today, reports UNB.  
A day-long state programme on 'Nazrul Joyanti' has been arranged across the country.  
The programme will be observed at Trishal in Mymensingh, Comilla, Doulatpur in Khulna and in the capital.  
President Shahabuddin  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Low over Bay weakens

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, May 24: Thousands of survivors of last Monday's cyclone heaved a sigh of relief as a menacing low, brewing over the North Bay, dissipated early today.  
The Meteorological Department which issued danger signal number three yesterday amidst strong winds and heavy rains, along the coast, today advised the maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla to lower the warning flags. The ports lowered warning flags at 12 noon today.  
However, fishing boats and trawlers over the North Bay have been advised to keep close to the coast and proceed with caution till 6 pm today. "Thanks God it's over," a resident said.  
The warning signal had evoked memories of the killer cyclone last week when warning signal number three on Friday turned into great danger signal number ten on Saturday.  
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## France goes to polls today

PARIS, May 24: French parliamentary candidates entered the last hours of campaigning today, trying to win over millions of undecided voters in what could be a tight election finish, reports AP.  
The campaign's final polls predicted an electorate that would narrowly back the governing conservative majority in tomorrow's voting. But with polls indicating up to a third of France's 39 million voters undecided, French media judge the contest up for grabs.  
"Anything is possible," ran the banner headline on the daily Le Parisien.  
"The surprise vote," echoed the left-leaning Liberation, with the right-leaning Le Figaro predicting a "tough right-left battle for the 577 seats" in the National Assembly.  
While unlikely to unseat the ruling conservatives, the elec-  
See Page 12 Col 2

## Hearing of Yasmin murder case resumes today

From Our Correspondent  
RANGPUR, May 24: Hearing of the Yasmin rape and murder case will resume tomorrow in the District and Session Judge's Court, Rangpur.  
The nine accused in the case are facing trial under Section 201 (34) of Penal Code. The accused include the former police superintendent of Dinajpur, seven police officials and one civilian doctor.  
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