more help

Kuwait yesterday offered more assistance as the people of

the Middle Eastern country

floated a voluntary fund for re-habilitation activities after the

century's worst flood in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The visiting Kuwaiti par-liamentary delegation chief and chairman of the Kuwait-

Bangladesh Parliamentary
Group Sami Ahmed-Al Monayes said this while meeting
with Foreign Minister Abdus
Samad Azad here.

Kuwait has already donated

wo million US dollars for the

flood-affected people of

Bangladesh and two Kuwaiti

voluntary organisations are

working in the flood-hit areas

£80,000 collected

in Scotland for

flood victims

ladesh Flood Victims Appeal

in donation for the flood vic-

peal Fund Wali Tasaruddin said

there was good response to the

appeal since the campaign was

launched through the Asianet

pounds and said he would leave

for Dhaka on October 15 with

the money. The fund will be

utilised for rehabilitation of

the flood victims who were ren-

tuted with leading Bangladeshi

expatriates in Scotland in sup-

port and patronisation of local

leaders. Patrons of the Fund in-

clude Donald Gorey. Lord Wat-

son. David Martin and Bang-

ladeshi industrialist Raghib

restaurants will hold a charity

event on October 12 in aid of the

flood victims. Half of the sale

proceeds of the event will be

initiatives had raised about 1.5

lakh pounds after the 1991 cy-

clone which was used for con-

struction of cyclone and relief

Hartal observed

in two areas

of Comilla

hartal was observed in Chhati

Patti and Chalkbazar areas of

the town today protesting arrest

of two gold traders, reports

Federation, the hartal was ob-

served peacefully from 10 am to

4 pm. All shops of the areas

The arrested traders were

Police arrested Alam (35) of

Jony Jewellers and Abdur Rouf

of Haji Safar Ali Jewellers on

Friday night in connection

with their alleged involvement

in acts of terrorism on Septem-

1 killed, 1 commits

suicide in

Noakhali

man was beaten to death by a

Baishakhi in sadar thana Fri-

was allegedly killed by his ri-

vals when he was returning

was a sequel of past enmity. A

case was filed in this connec-

man committed suicide by tak-

ing poison in Char Pagla village

of Ramgati thana yesterday

son of Keramatuliah, was

beaten up mercilessly by his

brothers-in-law when he de-

manded money from his father-

in-law which he had given as a

loan. At this, Anwar felt in-

sulted and committed suicide by

Police said Anwarullah, 30,

day night, reports UNB.

home late at night.

tion.

morning.

group of people at Char

NOAKHALI, Oct 3: A young

Belal, 28, son of Abul Kalam,

Police suspect the killing

In another incident a young

were closed.

ber 10.

released on bail.

Enforced by Shop Owners'

COMILLA, Oct 3: A 6-hour

Wali Tasaruddin by his own

given to the Appeal Fund.

centres in Banshkhali.

Bangladeshi and other

The Appeal Fund was consti-

He hoped to raise 2.5 million

Chief Coordinator of the Ap-

tims, reports UNB.

TV on September 24.

dered homeless.

LONDON, Oct 3: The Bang-

of the country.



Heaps of garbage piling up near Baridhara Biswa Road. This picture was taken yesterday.

-Star photo

UN urged to

condemn genocide

against Tutsis

in DRC

gali on Friday called on the

United Nations to "condemn the

genocide" it says took place

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 3: Ki-

# No threat to coalition govt's stability: BJP

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: India's coalition government today dismissed fears that it could collapse as it appealed for peace with a warring partner which is threatening to withdraw parliamentary support, reports

"All the issues can be sorted out through dialogue ... there is no threat to the government's stability," KL Sharma, spokesman for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) said.

The Sikh-based Akali Dal, which has eight MPs supporting Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's coalition, said it would pull out if the government failed to heed its protests over the formation of a new state.

The party opposes Vajpayee's plan to carve out a hilly region. which includes a Sikh enclave, from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh to create a new state called Uttaranchal.

"A meeting of the coalition's coordination committee will be convened soon and we will also talk to the Akali Dal leaders

separately." Sharma said. "We welcome the fact that the Akali Dal has raised these issues. They have their regional compulsions. But we also realise that the issues should be solved through consensus.

"It will not have an effect on the government as these are inherent in a coalition.

The Akali Dal, led by the Chief Minister of the northern state of Punjab, Prakash Singh Badal, said it was also talking to other members of the multiparty coalition to gain support over the dispute. Badal said he would not "tol-

erate" the inclusion of the Sikh district, called Udhamsingh Nagar, in the proposed new hill "My party cannot remain

silent on the issue and will take all possible steps to protect the interest of the people of Udhamsingh Nagar," Badal said. Another Sikh leader, Gur-

charan Singh Tohra, said: "The days of extending unconditional support to the BJP are over. I am not issuing a threat

Tehran fail.

statement

"Once again Iran has found a

"On October 2, 1998, Iranian

"But the armed forces of the

new form of interference in the

internal affairs of Afghanis-

tan," the ministry said in a

jets and helicopters intruded

three times into Afghanistan's

Islamic Emirate of Afghanis-

tan, as advised by the know-

ledgeable ulema (clerics) of the

strict code of religious conduct

on Afghanistan and sought ad-

vice from Islamic leaders in re-

gards to potential conflict with

that should Iran invade then it

is to all Afghans to fight and

not just the military wing of the

The ulema issued a directive

The Taliban have imposed a

country, did not react," it said.

to the Vajpayee government aimed at extracting some concessions from it ... instead it is the articulation of a principled

The Akali Dal on Friday also told the government to pay about 235 million dollars as compensation for the damage caused to the holy shrine of the Sikhs, the Golden Temple, after a raid by Indian troops in 1984 to ferret out Sikh militants.

The militants, who espoused a separate Sikh state called Khalistan, were killed. The incident fanned that fires of a Sikh militant drive in Punjab and led to the murder of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, who was killed by two Sikh

bodyguards in 1984. Some 5.000 Sikhs were murdered around the country in rioting which followed Indira Gandhi's assassination. Five people have so far been sentenced to death for the killings.

The Akali Dal said it wanted the government to "fix responsibility for the 1984 Anti-Sikh riots and award compensation.

refuse to go along with his macabre project. Iranian jets enter Afghan air space

> He said Rwanda is involved because "the inter-Angolan con-

The rebellion, launched in early August in eastern DRC by soldiers who are mainly Banyamulenge (Congolese Tut sis of Rwandan origin), draws

Four African armies — those of Angola, Chad, Namibia and

## Angola reaffirms decision to sever contact with

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 3 Angola reaffirmed its decision to sever contact with the head of the former rebel movement UNITA and urged international recognition for officials who split with him as the valid

Angola's vice-minister for foreign relations, Joao Bernardo Miranda, told the General Assembly on Friday that it was dangerous to continue negotiating the completion of the 1994 peace accord with UNITA leader Jonas Sav-

"This would only lead to more false expectations and we would be wasting much needed time to take appropriate measures in this respect," he said.
Instead, he said, the world should recognise a group called

Savimbi, claiming he didn't want peace. "This renovation movement supports the peace accords, national reconciliation, effective

for the conclusion of the peace process," Miranda said. The Security Council has rejected the government's recognition of the group as the legitimate partners in negotiating the 1994 UN-brokered peace ac-

cord that ended nearly two decades of civil war.

#### taking poison. A case was filed with the police in this connection. Bhuiyan condemns 12 students arrest of Pradhan

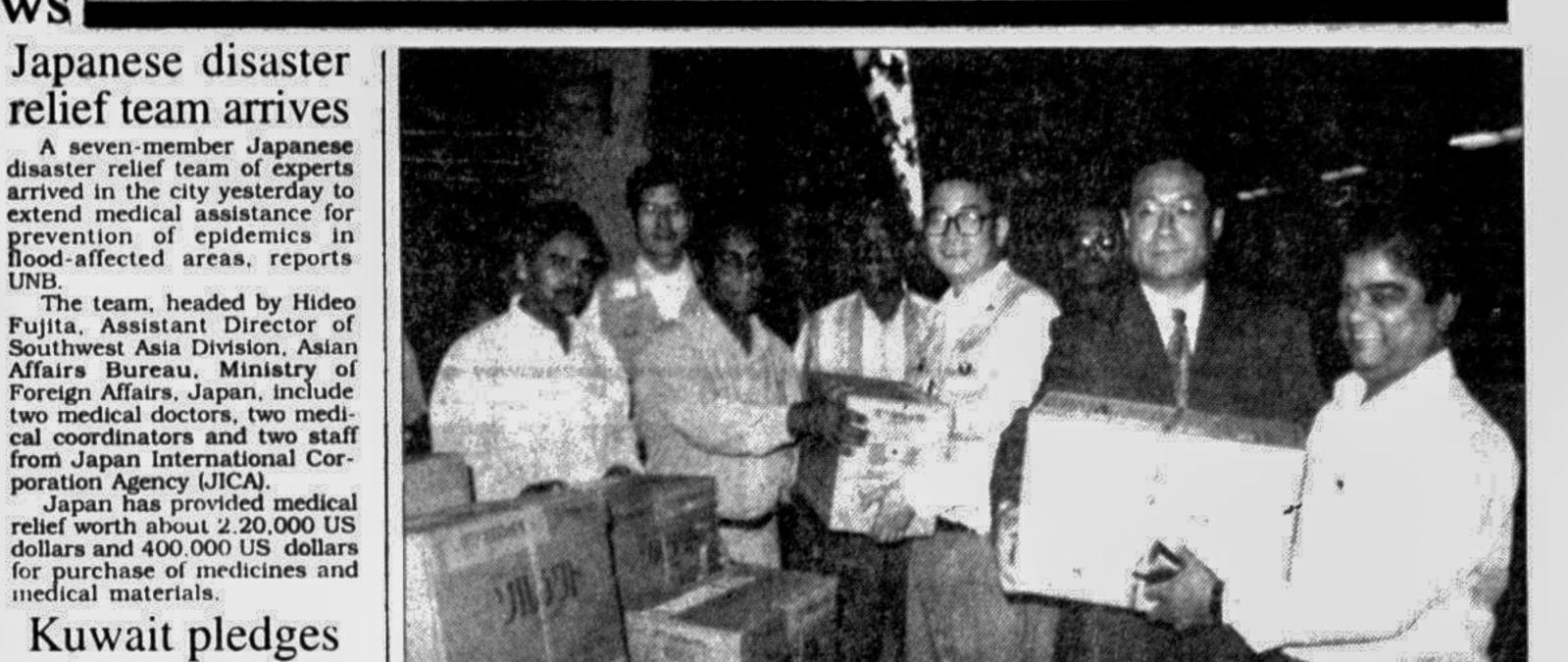
BNP Secretary General Ab-

dul Mannan Bhuiyan has protested the arrest of Jagpa president Shafiul Alam Pradhan and his supporters from a procession at Paltan crossing yesterday, reports UNB.

In a statement, Bhuiyan said police arrested them when they brought out a procession demanding release of the three leaders arrested in connection with the jail killings of 1975. Bhuiyan said, through these

arrests, the government has exposed its fascist character. Demanding their immediate release. BNP secretary general said the government itself is creating unrest and will have to

bear all the consequences.



A 7-member Japanese disaster relief team arrived in the city yesterday with medical goods. Officials of the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation received the team at the airport.

## Lend a helping hand, please



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader receiving 10 tons of relief goods carried by British Airways



Poet Shamsur Rahman and members of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee distributed relief materials among flood victims of villages Suchipara under Beraid Union and Bhatara under Satarkul union Friday.



Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka distributed relief goods among flood victims at Damla village of Srinagar, Munshiganj, recently.

# HERE and THERE

#### Lions Club State Minister for Youth,

Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday called for setting examples of good social work through commitment, reports APB. He was speaking as chief

guest at a seminar on flood relief programmes in the city. The seminar was organised by Lions Club International, District 315 A1. Bangladesh. Without commitment there

is no service, he said and urged the Lions Club members to dedicate themselves to the service of the distressed.

The seminar was addressed. among others, by District Governor of Lions Club International District 315 A1, MA Hadi, vice district governor Sultana Shaheda Islam and veteran politician Pankaj Bhattacharya. Ratna Rahmatullah presided.

Past district Governor of Rotary International, District 3280 Bangladesh, M Mosharraf Hossain presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

By Staff Correspondent

quzzaman in the chair, also demanded distribution of interest-free loans and free seedlings among the farmers, and waiving of agricultural loans. The meeting also expressed

office with its convener Khale-

concern over the alleged corruption in distributing food through VGF and VGD cards.

### Schoolboy killed in Chittagong road accident

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: A schoolboy was killed and 10 others were injured in a collision between an autorickshaw and a tempo at Mirerhat in Sitakundu here this morning, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when the tempo suddenly collided head on with the autorickshaw

at Mirerhat Sea Road coming from opposite direction. One Abdul Halim, a student

of class seven died on the spot and 10 others sustained injuries. A minor girl Nargis Akhter

was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with critical condition, the sources

> The body was taken for au-Sitakundu thana.

carried on with distribution of relief materials across the country to try and mitigate the suffering of the flood affected

Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka distributed relief materials among the floodaffected people in Srinagar thana of Munshiganj district on Thursday, reports UNB.

The relief goods included rice, lentils and saline packets, said a press release.

Medicines worth Tk 10,000 were also distributed among flood-hit people on Friday. Rotarians AFM Toaha and Mir Mokshed Ali were present.

Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) continued to carry out relief operations among the flood affected people, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports

The Chief of Air Staff Air-Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed distributed relief materials among the flood victims.

The relief goods included 2.5 tons of rice, lentils, bread, sugar, and salt which were donated by BAF personnel, the press release added ent officials and chairman of the union parishad were present, the

release added Ganotantrik Karmi Shibir (GKS) distributed relief materials at Islampur vesterday,

reports UNB. Comrade Nurul Huq Mehedi, President of GKS demanded punishment of those who are

involved in plundering relief Newspapers are publishing news items of plundering relief

materials everyday, but any news of giving punishment in this connection is yet to receive," said the elderly Communist politician while distributing the relief materials. Mehedi called upon the

government to enact necessary laws by summoning urgent parliament session if there is no law in this regard. Secretary of city unit of the

Shibir Golam Mostafa, Harunor-Rashid, Kazi Shamsuddin Lablu and Abdul Mannan were present, said a press release.

## Govt starts disbursement of Tk 3,270cr

agri loan GOPALGANJ, Oct 3: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque has said the government has started disbursement of Taka 3,270 crore agricultural loan for rehabilitation of the flood affected agricultural sector, reports BSS.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed Krishi Bank to disburse agricultural loan within 48 hours from the time of receiving applica-

Khaleque said this while distributing relief materials - rice, lentils, biscuits and powdered milk - among the flood affected people in Borni and Gopalpur unions under Tongipara thana and Kabji, Pinjuri and Kushley unions under Kotalipara thana of Gopalganj district yesterday.

He said the government has undertaken a massive programme for rehabilitation and development of the flood affected roads, religious and educational institutions.

The deputy commissioner of Gopalganj and other senior officials, district Awami League leaders and Thana Nirbahi Officers accompanied the state minister.

He attended the district disaster management and postflood rehabilitation meeting held at the conference room of

the Circuit House.

#### Bahauddin's death condoled Chief Whip Abul Hasanat

Abdullah and State Minister for Textiles A K M Zahangir Hussain yesterday condoled the death of Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed, one of the pioneer sports organisers of the country, reports BSS. Bahauddin, who died in the

early hours of Friday, served as the treasurer of the National Sports Council for more than a decade and was also the founding director general of the passport and immigration office. In two separate condolence

messages, they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed their deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## 7 sentenced to death for killing 2 Iranians in Pakistan :

KARACHI, Oct 3: A special anti-terrorist court on Saturday sentenced seven militant Sunni Muslim activists to death for killing two Iranian engineers in the southern port city of Karachi earlier this year, reports AP.

Only two convicts were present in court. The other five still were at large.

The militants belonged to the Sunni Muslim group, Sipah-e-Sahaba, or the Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet. The group is locked in a bloody feud with extremist Shi'ite Muslim organisations.

In February, the men shot and killed two Iranian engineers working on a bridge in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city of 14 million people.

Unidentified gunmen, also believed to be members of the Sipah-e-Sahaba, shot and killed the state prosecutor in the case, Sardar Khan.

Sunni militants blame Iran for supporting extremist Shi'ite organisations, while Shi'ite Muslim activists accuse Saudi Arabia for helping Sunni groups. Both the countries deny the charge.

## Pak judge escapes assassination attempt

LAHORE, Oct 3: A Shi'ite Muslim judge escaped an assassination attempt today in eastern Punjab province, reports

The authorities said four other people were wounded when a bomb planted in Judge Zawar Hussain's car exploded just moments after he left the

Police said two policemen

were among the injured in the explosion in Bahwalpur city some 280 kilometers (168 miles) south of Lahore. Police suspects Sunni Mus-

lim extremists were responsible for the attack, although no one claimed responsibility.

## Clash over land in Demra: 5 injured

By Staff Correspondent At least five persons were injured in a clash between two groups of local people over a piece of land at Kutubkhali under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

Of the injured, two were identified as Sirazul Islam, 50. and Salahuddin 22. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said.

Police said the clash was a sequel to a dispute over a piece of land. None, however, has been ar-

rested in connection with the incident till filing of this report last night

Two separate cases were filed by the feuding groups with Demra thana yesterday.

#### on 'religious grounds' to condemn the military incur-KABUL, Oct 3: Taliban authorities decided on religious

Taliban decide not to react

In New York, Taliban repregrounds not to react to last sentative Noorullah Zadran night's "incursion" of Afghan said UN Secretary General Kofi air space by Iranian fighter jets, Annan was informed that 15 the militia's foreign ministry Iranian fighter jets spent two said today, reports AFP. hours over the Afghan However, the ministry provinces of Nimruz and Farah warned of retaliation and a

in the southwest. devastating war if efforts by the A second wave of 10 war-United Nations to peacefully replanes followed while 15 comsolve the current stand-off with bat helicopters conducted ma-

noeuvers in the same area. Afghanistan and Iran are on virtual war-footing following the killing of Iranian diplomats outside Mazar-i-Sharif when the northern Afghan city fell to Taliban forces on August

Since then, about 200,000 Iranian troops have massed along the Afghan border near the provinces of Nimruz and Farah, where the alleged air in-

cursions took place. "If Iran repeats such incursion against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, we will inevitably have to retaliate," the

foreign ministry said. "The foreign ministry of the IEA once again calls upon you to use your authority and influence in peacefully resolving the dispute and not to allow the whole region be set a aflame in

a devastating war. "Its grave consequences will of course not rest with the IEA," Warnings of retaliation fol-

### lowed Taliban calls earlier today for the UN Security Council the ministry said. US asks DPRK to curtail

NEW YORK, Oct 3: The United States warned North Korea in two days of talks that ended Friday that it will face "very negative consequences" unless it broadly curtail its missile programme, a senior US offi-

cial said, reports AFP. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, refused to characterise the talks as succeeding or failing to make progress in addressing concerns about North Korea's export and development of missiles.

"I wouldn't want to try to measure this on the progress meter." the official said. "It's up to the North Korean side now to go back to Pyongyang and think about what we had to say,"

"It's hard to anticipate what progress, if any, will be possible in the next round," he said, adding that the talks would resume before the end of the year. "The choice really is up to

If North Korea engages "in certain troublesome activities, this would have very negative consequences," he said, noting that if Pyongyang halted its missile programme Washington would likely ease economic sanctions.

Sustained missile activities will destroy support in the United States and elsewhere ... for cooperative activities," he said, alluding partly to anger among US legislators at a pol-

missile programme icy they view as far too indul-

gent toward North Korea. The official ruled out North Korea's longstanding request for 500 million dollars annual compensation in exchange for which the starving Stalinist country would agree to halt its export of missile technology.

"We don't think that's appropriate," he said. The official added that Washington is particularly keen for North Korea to constrain its so-called category missiles - those capable of carrying a payload of 500 kilograms or more a distance of 300

kilometres or more. The US delegation in particular voiced deep concern about North Korea's August 31 test of an advanced Taepo-dong 1 missile that overflew Japan and attempted to launch a small satellite into orbit.

That test-firing prompted outrage in Tokyo, which postponed signing a new deal to share the cost of building Pyongyang two new nuclear reactors and was expected to sign the deal only if the missile talks made progress.

But the firing also infuriated US legislators, who view North Korea as a serious threat and dislike a 1994 US-brokered deal under which Pyongyang agreed to freeze its suspect nuclear programme in exchange for alternative fuel.

#### against Tutsis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reports AFP. Addressing the UN General Assembly, Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister Anastase Gasana also called on the

United Nations to take steps against DRC president Lauren Kabila. "The United Nations must condemn the genocide as well as human right violations that are committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo and take

ment of president Kabila, Gasana said. The Kabila regime "incites the populace to genocide, to massacres and to racial and

measures against the govern-

ethnic hatred." Rwanda's top diplomat said. He accused Kabila of wanting to "persecute and massacre the Banyamulenge, the Tutsis, the Rwandans who live in Congo as well as Congolese residents who

Gasana said that Rawanda was interested in a negotiated solution between Kinshasa and Congolese rebels.

flict has repercussions for the security of countries neighboring the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially Rwanda."

support from Uganda and

# Zimbabwe - back Kinshasa.

UNITA leader

UNITA representatives, reports

the "Renovation Committee" of UNITA members who split with

transformation of UNITA into a civilian political party and it has given a new breath of hope

## Teacher executed in China for raping

BEIJING, Oct 3: An elementary school teacher in southwestern Sichuan province has been executed for raping at least 12 female students, aged seven to 12, according to a report seen Saturday in Beijing, reports AP. Tang Jin was executed

lier for raping the girls between 1995 and May of this year, the Yangcheng Evening News reported on Friday. It said Tang, a substitute teacher at a school in Tiehu village, had openly committed the crimes against the students while in the classroom. The re-

port did not provide further de-

Thursday by order of the

Sichuan High Court following

his conviction for a month ear-

programme.

## BSD

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) has demanded immediate introduction of Food for Works programme and ration system in a bid to reinforce the post-flood rehabilitation

A meeting of BSD, held at its

topsy. A case was filed with