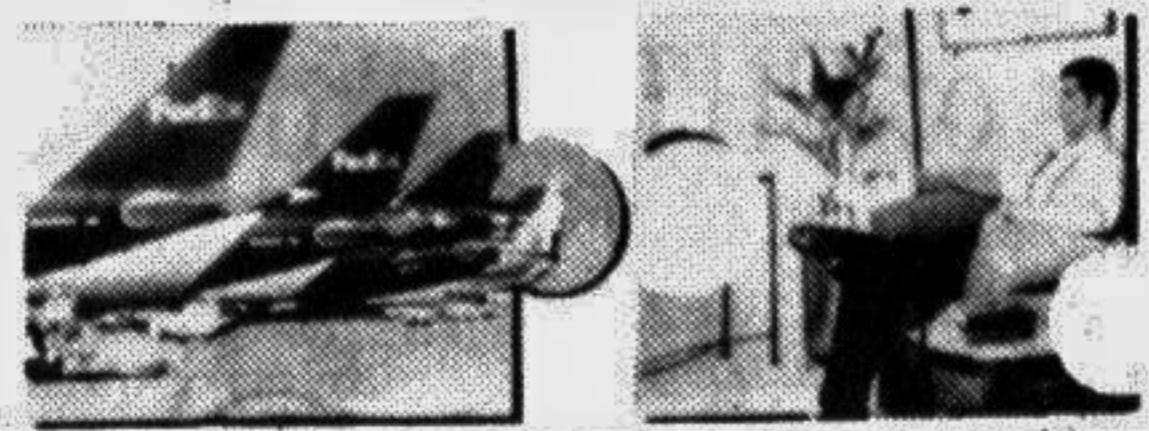


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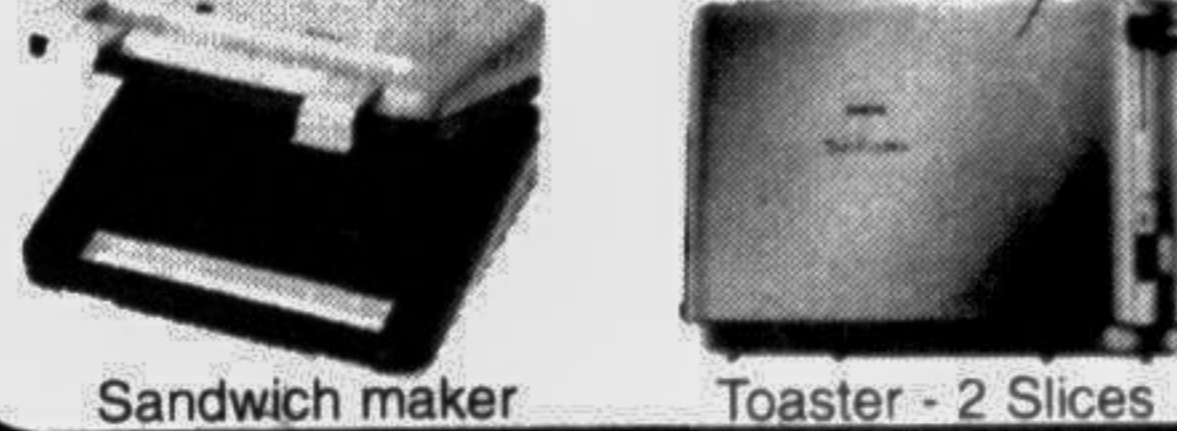


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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

**VGF card distribution
DCs under fire from
Opposition MPs**

By Nurul Kabir

The opposition members of the parliamentary body on the relief ministry accused the district level administration of being partisan in the distribution of VGF cards among the people of flood affected areas.

They also accused "many Union Parishad chairmen" of depriving the flood-hit people of a "substantive amount of relief goods" disbursed by the government.

The accusations came at a meeting of the parliamentary body held yesterday with the committee chief and ruling party MP Syed Kamal Bakht in the chair.

The state minister for disaster management and relief, Talukder Abdul Khaleque, assured the opposition MPs of looking into the allegations and promised to visit two constituencies represented by BNP and Jatiya Party MPs this week.

"I will visit two constituencies in Jalpurhat and Kurigram on 29th and 30th this month to see the situation myself," the minister told The Daily Star last night.

According to meeting sources, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman and Jaijal Abedin Farook, two BNP MPs from Jaipurhat and Feni, and Mostafizur Rahman, a J.P. MP from a Kurigram constituency, made the allegations in the meeting.

They told the meeting that the DCs were avoiding the opposition MPs in preparing the list of flood-hit people, while many UP chairmen were involved in "the irregularities in distributing relief goods under the VGF programme".

Reacting to the opposition allegation of non-cooperation by the DCs, a ruling party MP, however, advised their opposition colleagues to keep in touch with DCs, instead of being hurt by their alleged non-cooperation.

"The MPs have no room for being sentimental about the

conduct of a bureaucrat," the ruling party member who gave the advice told The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity.

Earlier, the state minister informed the committee members that the government would go for distributing more Vulnerable Group Feeding cards among the worst hit people of the flood affected areas.

The government has allotted 1000 VGF cards in each of the "worst-hit" unions, 700 in the "worse-hit" unions, and five hundred in the "badly affected" unions. Against each card, some 16 kg of foodgrains - eight kg of rice and eight kg of wheat - are being distributed monthly.

Talking to The Daily Star, the minister said: "The government is actively considering an idea of increasing at least four lakh VGF cards, in addition to the present 40 lakh already distributed among the people. These cards would be distributed in the unions having population more than that of usual size, and those who have been worst-hit."

The government would ask the DCs very soon to send the fresh lists of the people and unions under the said categories, sources said.

Meanwhile, the government has so far allocated 50,000 tonnes of wheat under test relief programme already in operation, the minister told the parliamentary body.

Besides, some 1.20 lakh tonnes of wheat have been allocated under the Food For Work programme, which is expected to begin in December. The allotments have been made for repair and maintenance of the infrastructure in the rural areas of the flood affected districts.

Others MPs who attended the meeting included Mohammad Waziduddin Khan, Kazi Keramat Ali and Farida Razi of the ruling Awami League and Shahiduzzaman Belu of the BNP.



Indian star batsman Sachin Tendulkar (C) and vice-captain Ajay Jadeja walk into Hotel Sonargaon, their home during the Wills International Cup tournament. A 14-member Indian team, led by Mohammad Azharuddin, arrived in the city yesterday.

Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Directive to start preparatory work to hold NAM summit

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to immediately embark on preparatory work to hold the next NAM summit in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Bangladesh will host the 13th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 2001.

Presiding over a preparatory meeting of the summit at her office, the Prime Minister also gave directives for taking special efforts to ensure accommodation, communication, transportation and other facilities to be needed for successful holding of the summit.

The 12th NAM summit was held in Durban South Africa, where Bangladesh was selected the next venue of the summit.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who could not attend the 12th summit at Durban due to the devastating flood in the country, has been made the Chairperson of the next summit.

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SA beat England

From Page 1
England cross the 200 mark. England lost five top order batsmen for 95 runs.

The partnership broke in the 43rd over when Fairbrother was bowled by left-arm medium-pace Mike Rindel.

In his 78-ball innings, Fairbrother, who played for Abahani in the Dhaka league way back in 1994, hit a huge six and two fours.

However, it was Hoolioake who played the captain's knock of an undefeated 83 off 91 balls embellished with 10 boundaries and one sixer.

Apart from Hoolioake and Fairbrother, one-down Mark Ealham scored 44 while opener Nick Knight added 32 to the England account.

"We would have liked to score a few more runs. But the middle-order collapsed and we had to consolidate that. I'm satisfied with the total but South Africa batted brilliantly and you know that they are one of the best sides in the world," said

India, Windies
From Page 1
about 3.30 pm by a British Airways flight. The team includes 14 players and four officials.

The West Indies squad also arrived at the airport on board the same flight. The 17-member team, led by its master batsman Brian Lara, includes 14 players and three officials.

Monday will play another former world champions Australia in the third quarter-final on Wednesday while West Indies will meet 1992 title holder Pakistan in the fourth and last quarter-final match the next day (Oct 29).

The Indian team: Mohammad Azharuddin (Captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Ajay Jadeja, V.S. Laxman, Robin Singh, Sunil Joshi, Nayan Mongre, Suresh Kumar, Jagavallab Singh, Venkatesh Prasad, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble and Nikhil Chopra.

The West Indies team: Brian Lara (Captain), Clayton Lambert, Phil Wallace, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Phil Simmons, Keith Arthurson, Carl Hooper, Reon King, Ridley Jacobs, Stuart Williams (wicketkeeper), Mervyn Dillon, Rawl Lewis, Nixon Mclean and Neil McGarrel.

Officials: Clive Llyod (manager), Malcolm Marshall (coach), D. Waight (physio). Two members of the Australian squad also arrived in the city yesterday noon by a Thai international flight while four other members of the team are expected to be here by today.

The rest of the Australian team, now touring Pakistan, will arrive here on October 27 along with the Pakistan team.

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Border talks with India begin today

A four-day border coordination conference between Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Security Force (BSF) begins at the BDR Headquarters in the city today, reports UNB.

An 11-member BSF delegation, led by its Director General EN Ram Mohan, arrived here yesterday to attend the conference.

Other members of the Indian delegation include frontier IGS, staff officers of the BSF headquarters and officials of Survey Department, Home and Foreign Ministries.

BDR Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Azizur Rahman will lead the Bangladesh side at the conference.

Members of the BDR delegation include deputy Director General, sector commanders, directors and staff officers, representatives from the concerned ministries, Bangladesh Land Record and Survey and Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission.

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PM orders quick implementation of WB, IDA aided projects

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to take appropriate steps for quick implementation of the World Bank and IDA aided projects, reports BSS.

The directives came at a high level meeting with Prime Minister in the chair at her office to review the progress of the implementation of the World Bank and IDA aided projects.

The Prime Minister told the meeting to take appropriate steps to remove bottleneck, if any, and simplify procedural matters of different ministries responsible for implementing such projects.

The Prime Minister stressed the urgency of implementing infrastructural projects particularly after the devastating floods.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and secretaries concerned also attended the meeting.

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**Killers still at large after 56 days
Widow of Runner editor seeks PM's intervention**

By Staff Correspondent

Hafiza Akhter Shirin, widow of the slain editor of Jessore-based Daily Runner yesterday urged the prime minister and the home minister to take personal initiatives for the arrest of the killers of her husband and security of her family.

"The killers have been threatening us with 'fire consequences' if we do not withdraw the case," she said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. "They are roaming in Jessore town freely," she said.

Saiful Alam Mukul, Editor of The Daily Runner was killed by a gang of armed terrorists near his house at Jessore on August 30.

Some quarters in Jessore are giving protection to the killers, she alleged. Peace-loving people of the town have now become suspicious whether the killers will be arrested at all because no action has been taken even after 56 days of the incident, she said.

Shirin alleged that some local journalists working for some national newspapers might have been involved in the plan to kill Mukul as he waged a war against a section of "corrupt" people who masquerading as journalists. "The killers of one Liton also joined hands with them when Mukul took a stand against the killing of a couple months back," she said.

The killers and conspirators are now distributing unsigned leaflets and handbills in Jessore to tarnish the image of my late husband," she said.

"It is a matter of great regret that the national newspapers have failed to follow up the murder of the editor of a newspaper which was the first to protest against military rule in 1982 and waged a brave struggle against corruption, autocracy and all kinds of social ills," she said.

Among others, Monjurul Alam Tutul, editor-in-charge of The Daily Runner and brother of Mukul, Jessore Press Club President Zamir Ahmed Tun, editor of The Daily Desh Hitotishi Nurul Alam, editor of The Daily Telegram Binoy Krishna Mallick, President of Jessore Journalists' Union Mahidul Islam Mantu, leader of the Jessore unit of BFUJ Kabir Shaokat and relatives of late Mukul were present at the press conference.

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A view from the gully

From Page 1
cricket, although cricket at times was pretty drab when England were batting in the afternoon.

Almost all the four innings have similar characteristics except that South Africans lost three quick wickets after they passed the hundred mark. England, New Zealand and Zimbabwe lost early wickets.

The Proteas, depleted by the absence of star batsman Gary Kirsten and the deadly duo of Donald and Pollock thrilled the local crowd to some exhilarating fielding in the afternoon and then came in difficult circumstances to wrest the initiative from the Englishmen.

Darryl Cullinan in particular was in a devastating mood and secured his 50 (in fact 52) with as many as 12 fours. The rest four came from singles. He set the field afire with his powerful strokes around the wicket. Along with southpaw Mike Rindel, he put on 113 for the first wicket after posting 70 in only 10 overs. A battery of seven bowlers including Brown, did have no effect on the gritty South Africans.

Brown's departure early in the England innings could not dampen the spirit of Ealham who knocked up a breezy innings of 44. But Hick had another disappointing match going on the back foot and Lloyd came and strolled back to the pavilion. Clearly the Englishmen were not there to win.

Hoolioake along with Neil Fairbrother stemmed the rot. It was obvious that these two were

not going to give up without a fight. Cronje gambled with Symcox by opening the attack with him. It soon paid but a thrashing by Ealham send him off.

Fairbrother was on his happy hunting ground. Only a few years back he thrilled the local crowd with an entertaining innings on this wicket. He is a popular man too. These two engaged themselves in the re-pairing job and put on 112 runs before Fairbrother perished. With Jack Russell and Giles as partner Hoolioake took the scope to a defensible figure of 281 - at least it appeared so at lunch interval.

Batting second after a perspiring day on the field is always a hard task. But the South Africans had a tough job ahead of overhauling the England total. The English attack looked pretty innocuous, especially against the onslaught of Cullinan and rookie Rindel. Debutante Dawson and Benkenstein were quite impressive. Unlike his more illustrious colleagues, Donald and Pollock, Dawson was a short man and reminded one of the late Ramakant Desai of India as Boje of Nasimul Gani of Pakistan, the only difference being Gani a bit taller and quicker than Boje.

Cronje and Rhodes very efficiently pulled the runs under Hoolioake and frustration could be read on the face of the English captain.

South Africa finally won with 20 deliveries to spare. They now await the winners of today's match for the semifinal.

ULFA leader jailed

From Page 1
During the proceedings of the case in the court, Chetia confessed illegal entry and stay in Bangladesh and possession of forged passport. His associates, however, did not admit the charges brought against them.

"I entered Bangladesh for security of my life on the basis on provisions laid down in the International Human Rights Instrument," Chetia said.

"If this entry is labelled as illegal, I have done it," he said. "The Indians killed my leader in a bloody war in Assam in 1979. They also killed one of my family members. I got involved in politics only to ensure my own civil rights."

"I was compelled to enter into Bangladesh when security of my life came under threat."

"I managed the forged passport for safety of my life," he added. He denied the charges brought by the Indian government against ULFA leaders that they owned huge property in Bangladesh.

forcement of Human Rights had filed Chetia's prayer for political asylum to the government in August.

UNB adds: "I want to live. I and my family do not want to be tortured to death by the Indian butchers," Chetia told the court in an emotion choked voice.

The ULFA leader told the court that they had been fighting for independence of Assam from India. "We are an oppressed nation."

He said he had been hiding in different places from 1979 to 1995 to escape oppression and torture of the Indian army.

There was no place for me in India to live in. That is why I have come to Bangladesh. I believed that I will be granted political asylum here.

Senate body to hold hearing on CIA's role in ME peace

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: A senate committee will hold hearings on the CIA's security-monitoring role in an interim Middle East peace accord, which a key senator considers troubling, reports AP.

Under the US-brokered agreement concluded Friday between Israel and the Palestinians, the CIA would keep track of Palestinian efforts to arrest and punish terrorists as a way of assuaging Israeli security concerns.

Sen Richard Shelby, who heads the Select Committee on Intelligence, said today he is concerned about an agreement to have the CIA monitor Palestinian efforts against terrorism.

What is the role of the CIA? Is it to enforce a policy? Is it to be an arbitrator? Is it to be bodyguards? I think not," Shelby said on "Fox News Sun-

day". "I think we have to look at this, and I believe we will hold hearings on it in the Senate Intelligence Committee."

But Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said work of this kind is nothing new for the agency.

"The CIA has played roles previously in terms of monitoring and verifying other agreements previously in the region," Albright said on CBS's "Face the Nation," adding that the CIA has been fighting terrorism in the region since 1996.

Albright said the agency would work in a "role which assists, to try to deal with these issues without being personally involved. ... We're there, as we are in the peace talks, always as the honest broker as assisting in this."

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Fishing trawler

From Page 1
coming vessel carrying food-grain tried to save a lighter vessel of BSC, 'Banglar Asha' which suddenly went dead after its engine-broke down at Karnaphuli river near Chittagong Cement Clinker.

An enquiry committee was formed to look into the incident, an official source said.

The BSC lighter vessel was later brought to the jetty, sources said.

Measures for salvaging the sunken fishing trawler would be taken tomorrow, said port officials adding that it had not blocked the ship movement in the channel.