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 At least 351 people were killed and nearly 100,000 left homeless when tropical cyclone Nargis tore through Myanmar, razing thousands of buildings and knocking out power lines, state media said Sunday.
 Residents awoke Sunday to scenes of devastation after the cyclone bore through swaths of southern Myanmar late Friday and Saturday, uprooting trees, cutting phone lines and water pipes, and clogging streets with debris.
 Myanmar's state channel MRTV said on their Sunday evening news broadcast that 109 people had been killed in Haing Gyi island, just off the coast of southwestern Ayeyawaddy division where the storm first hit.
 One person was killed in Nyaung Done, a township also in Ayeyawaddy, the channel reported.
 An information ministry official and state media had already reported that another 222 people had died in Ayeyawaddy, while 19 others were killed in the economic hub Yangon.
 The authorities have declared disaster zones in the regions of Yangon, Ayeyawaddy, Bago, Mon and Karen states.
 MRTV said that about 20,000 houses have been destroyed on Haing Gyi island, and 92,706 people there were now homeless.
 In one mainland township in Ayeyawaddy, 75 percent of all homes were believed to be destroyed, the channel said, adding that authorities had launched a rescue operation in the region.
 Nargis made landfall late Friday around the mouth of the Ayeyawaddy (Irrawaddy) river, about 220 kilometres (137 miles) southwest of Yangon, before hitting the country's economic hub.
 The cyclone brought down power and phone lines, cutting off the military-run nation one week after a general election.
Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1208

MURDERED KID
 Family members urge govt to punish killers

Family members and relatives of Biplob, one of the two schoolboys stabbed to death at Meererkek in the city's Ramna on Tuesday, requested the government yesterday to ensure exemplary punishment to the murderers.
 "I request the government to find out the murderers and ensure their exemplary punishment," Biplob's aunt Salma told The Daily Star after Biplob's qulqhwani at his grandmother's residence at Meererkek yesterday afternoon.
 "Biplob hugged me as I felt unwell four days before he was killed. He told me that he would take me to a hospital," she said.
 The Detective Branch (DB) of police, which is investigating the case, is yet to identify the killers of seven-year-old Biplob and nine-year-old Jewel.
 Investigation officer of the case Inspector Abul Kalam Azad said, "Opinions of the doctors and the inquest report suggest that the boys were molested before they were killed."
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CONSTITUENCY DEMARCATION
Parties misread EC's jurisdiction

parliamentary constituencies on Tuesday, political parties have been rejecting outright the draft list of re-demarcated constituencies, demanding withdrawal of the gazette.
 On Friday following an AL pre-sidium meeting, the party's Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said his party disapproves of the EC's move to re-demarcate the parliamentary constituencies, claiming the commission does not have the jurisdiction to do that.
 "According to the constitution, the Election Commission is entrusted with the job of holding parliamentary elections only. It can't get involved in policy matters like re-demarcation of constituencies. We totally reject the EC's move," Ashraful told journalists at a news briefing after the meeting.
 Similarly, Khandaker Delwar
SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

UN members urged to ensure indigenous people's rights

Indigenous leaders around the world urged the UN member states at the closing session of the UN Permanent Forum on May 2 to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 The declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007 and has become a milestone in the history of indigenous peoples' struggle for their rights and recognition at international level.
 It recognises a wide range of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms to indigenous peoples, including right to self-determination, collective right to ownership, use and control of land, forests and natural resources, even territories, right to maintain and develop their own political, religious, cultural and educational institutions and protection of their cultural and intellectual property.
 In a statement before the closing session, Ishrat Jahan Ahmed,
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

351 killed as Nargis batters Myanmar
 5 states declared disaster zones

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

ZIA DRUG SEIZURE
 Capsules seized contain heroin, other drugs

The 105 kilograms of capsules seized at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on April 27 contained 35 kg heroin, 47 kg methamphetamine and 23 kg methadone, according to laboratory test.
 Directorate of Narcotics Control (DNC) yesterday evening submitted the lab-test results to customs confirming that the capsules contained narcotic substances.
 Neyamul Islam, assistant commissioner of customs at ZIA, said, "This is the largest consignment of heroin, methamphetamine and methadone seized by them at ZIA."
 He said, "We have estimated that the heroin is worth Tk 35 crore, methadone Tk 25 crore and methamphetamine Tk 10 crore."
 Abu Taleb, deputy director of DNC, told The Daily Star, "Methadone is used for various purposes. It is used for rehabilitating heroin addicts and it is a pain killer as well. It is not usually used in Bangladesh [for these purposes] but some
SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

BDR seizes 7kg heroin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapai Nawabganj
 The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday seized Tk 7.5 crore worth of heroin from drug traffickers at Hakimpur village under Alatali union in Chapai Nawabganj sadar upazila.
 A BDR team from Hakimpur BOP (border observation post) acted on a tip off and challenged two individuals at around 12:30am near Hakimpur Club ghat in Dakshin Char area while the two were on their way back to the country from India, said Lt Col Mijanur Rahman, commanding officer (CO) of 39 Rifles Battalion.
 The team seized 7.5 kg of heroin and 100 grams of cocaine hidden in a bag while the traffickers managed to flee the scene, claimed the CO adding that this was one of the biggest heroin hauls in recent times.
 In a separate operation at around 8:30pm on Saturday, the BDR recovered 550 bottles of abandoned phensidyl from a rice field at Gopalpur of Singnagar village in Shibganj upazila.



The photo taken yesterday shows a large billboard that collapsed on shops at Merul Badda in the capital during Saturday night's nor'wester.

Amini threatens to paralyse nation if women policy executed

Leaders of Islamic Law Implementation Committee (ILIC) yesterday threatened to paralyse the country if the government does not scrap what they termed as 'anti Islamic provisions' in the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2008.
 Led by Islami Oikya Jote's Fazlul Huq Amini, ILIC leaders declared a three-point programme including a rally at city's Paltan maidan on July 18 to press for their demand.
 "The caretaker government won't survive if they implement this anti-Islamic law," Fazlul Huq Amini told the ILIC representatives from across the country who attended the conference at the Engineers Institute in the city.
 He called on the armed forces to withdraw its support from the government, saying that the present government couldn't last if the armed forces withdraw their support.
 The radical leader at one stage of his speech termed those who support NGO's as non-Muslims (kafer). He sought pledges from his followers to be ready to sacrifice their lives to 'save' the holy Quran.
 Others termed the advisers non-Muslims for having formulated NWDP.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Islam recognises women's rights
 Speakers tell roundtable

Women's rights is recognised in Islam and we should study the religion in depth to sincerely understand such issues as women's rights, Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said yesterday while speaking about the National Women's Development Policy (NWDP) 2008.
 Addressing a roundtable discussion at the National Press Club organised by CAMPE and Women for Women, Prof Muzaffer also said that the present government remains in a fix on the issue of NWDP and a vested quarter is making use of this confusion.
 Other speakers at the discussion said a certain religious fundamentalist group has been trying to foil the policy using religion as an excuse. But there is nothing in the policy that goes against Islam or our constitution, they pointed out.
 Speakers said that if the government accepts the recommendations made by the review body, then the nation would suffer a great setback.
 Other speakers said that a certain quarter of the government is trying to divert the people's atten-
SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Rajib secures final GM norm

Enamul Hossain Rajib will be the fifth chess Grand Master in Bangladesh after ensuring the third and final norm yesterday during the 32nd National Chess Championship.
 Rajib collected the vital point when he defeated his predecessor Reefat Bin Sattar at the Chess Federation hall-room in the final round.
 When the title would be handed over to the 27-year-old International Master by the FIDE (world chess federation) following
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BCL leader Roton freed, arrested again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
 Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was arrested again yesterday at around 4:15pm -- immediately after he was released from Mymensingh Central jail.
 Roton was taken to Kotwali Police Station after the arrest and later admitted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) with complaints of severe chest pain.
 According to sources, the Mymensingh Jail authorities completed necessary formalities to release him in the afternoon after receiving the order for his release.
 Army personnel picked up Roton, a student of Institute of
SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Fresh Lankan battles kill 43 combatants

AP, AFP, Colombo
 Heavy weekend fighting between government troops and Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka's war-ravaged northern region left 35 rebels and eight soldiers dead, the military said yesterday.
 The latest battles erupted Saturday along the front lines in the Mannar and Welioya regions, the military said.
 In the worst fighting, soldiers killed 13 Tamil rebels in Janakapura in Welioya, said a defence ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Four soldiers were killed and six soldiers and 26 rebels were wounded, he said.
 Sporadic fighting in the northern Mannar district killed 18 rebels and one soldier, the official said, adding that six soldiers and six rebels were wounded in that fighting.
 Separate fighting in Welioya left four rebels and three soldiers dead, he said.
 Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan was not immediately available for comment Saturday.
 It was not possible to independently verify the military's claims because the media are banned from the northern jungles where much of the fighting takes place. Both sides commonly exaggerate their enemy's casualties while underplaying their own.
 The government has pledged to capture the rebels' de facto state in the north and crush them by the end of the year. But diplomats and other observers say the army is facing more resistance than expected.
 Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's military Sunday denied a report saying more than nine times as many of its soldiers have been killed in clashes with Tamil rebels in 2007 than officially stated.
 The English-language Sunday Times said Sri Lanka's top army general Sarath Fonseka told a briefing of military commanders last week that 2,000 troops were killed and 4,000 injured during in 2007, compared to an official tally of 213 dead and 829 injured.
 "I myself was not present at that meeting. But we did not have so many casualty figures last year," army spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told AFP in refuting the newspaper story.
 Fonseka, who was severely injured by a Tamil rebel suicide
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Storm kills 2

UNB, Dhaka
 Two persons including an elderly woman were killed and 10 others injured as nor'wester swept through Barisal and Magura Saturday night.
 The deceased are Shamsul Huq, 55, an employee of Lakutia Agriculture Firm in Barisal and Zarina Begum, 70, of Chhandara village in Magura.
 Shamsul Huq was seriously injured when a tree fell on him during the storm that lashed Barisal at about 9:30pm.
 He was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Drivers of black taxis show their driving licences during a sit-in in front of the BRTA head office at Elenbari, Tejgaon, protesting increase of the amount they have to pay the taxi owners daily.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing
 May 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন
 নীটওয়্যার শিল্পের সেরা ১০টি 'শ্রম বান্ধব' কারখানাকে শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক চিহ্নিতকরণ করেন এবং ২০০৮-০৯ সালের মে দিবস উপলক্ষে স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয় এবং শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় এর মাননীয় উপদেষ্টা জনাব আনোয়ারুল ইকবাল ক্রেস্ট ও সম্মাননা সনাদ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে পুরস্কৃত করেন। মিডল্যান্ড নীটওয়্যার লিমিটেড (মাইক্রো ফাইবার গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠান) এর মাননীয় ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব এম. শামসুজ্জামান মাননীয় উপদেষ্টার নিকট হতে ক্রেস্ট গ্রহণ করেন।
 এ প্রাপ্তিতে আমরা মাননীয় ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালককে আমাদের ধানঢালা অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি।
 অভিনন্দনে
মাইক্রো ফাইবার গ্রুপের সকল কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারী ও শ্রমিকবৃন্দ
 রামারবাগ, ফতুল্লা, নারায়নগঞ্জ।