Newborn named after Mahasen

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A woman gave birth to a baby boy at a cyclone centre in Galachipa upazila, the worst-hit by cyclone Mahasen, yesterday morning.

The parents of the child named him Mahasen.

Josna Begum, 24, wife of Forkan Miah of Boalia village, took shelter at the cyclone centre at Galachipa Union Parishad Complex on Wednesday evening. She gave birth to the child around 6:00am. Josna's mother Raj Begum was beside her.

In the afternoon, the mother along with her newborn baby left the cyclone centre for home after the storm had passed.

Forkan Miah said, "Although my house has been damaged by the storm, we are now very happy being blessed with the baby."

WAR CRIMES '71

Ex-state minister arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested war crimes suspect Syed Mohammad Qaisar a day after a special tribunal issued warrant against him.

Qaisar was a leader of Peace Committee, an organisation of collaborators, in Habiganj during the Liberation War.

International Crimes Tribunal-2 issued the arrest warrant against Qaisar, a state minister of former military dictator Ershad's regime, in connection with crimes committed against humanity and genocide in 1971.

The court passed the order following a prosecution petition seeking his arrest for a "fair and effective investigation". Ziauzzaman, officer-in-

charge of Bhatara Police Station in the capital, said they had arrested Qaisar at the CCU of Apollo Hospitals soon after receiving a copy of the warrant by fax yesterday evening.

"But we kept him [Qaisar] at the hospital as he was undergoing treatment,'

Manmohan

FROM PAGE 20

Gouranga Das on Wednesday, the prime minister said his total annual income was Rs 4,051,964. But he has no cash in hand unlike his wife Gursharan Kaur who possesses Rs 20,000.

And while the urban India may be driving swanky cars, Singh's car has a market value of only Rs 21,033.

Singh's total movable asset is Rs 38,763,188 spread across five fixed deposits and three savings accounts. He holds one savings account in a bank branch in Guwahati and an NSS worth Rs 8,26,922 in

The least valuable of his

ing 150.8gm of gold worth

16,62,570 in a savings

The Prime Minister owns

a two-storied house in

Chandigarh and a DDA flat

in Delhi. The two resi-

dences, purchased for Rs.

24,08,000 is now worth Rs.

that he is a resident of

Guwahati's Sarumotoria

locality. Former chief minis-

ter Hiteswar Saikia had

rented the house to him in

Rajya Sabha from Assam.

Hemoprova Saikia.

The affidavit also says

New Delhi.

21,033.

account.

7,52,50,000.

movable assets is 1996 model Maruti 800 worth Rs Singh's wife, on the other hand, has movable assets worth Rs 2,031,385 includ-

Rs 3,45,332. Apart from Rs impossible". 20,000 in hand, she has Rs

> from detective sources that he sent the statement through a prison guard alluring money and the guard brought it to the border and handed it over to a smuggler.

Contacted, State Minister

agencies do such things?" he asked.

1991 to enable him to enter Singh pays Rs 700 as rent per month, to Saikia's widow and former minister about Bali's detention."

Little impact on Ctg, Cox's Bazar

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

CYCLONE MAHASEN

People living in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts have breathed a sigh of relief as the much-feared cyclone Mahasen has changed its direction, leaving no severe impact on their lives and properties. Normalcy started return-

ing to the two districts as the thousands of people, who earlier took shelter at cyclone centres or safer places after being evacuated from different coastal areas, were seen going back to their whereabouts yesterday noon. Thousands of people,

who gathered on the 21.7km-long Chittagong city protection embankment, were seen in their fearless spirit. Some shops were even found open by afternoon. Sexagenarian Hemayat

Hawlader, a shopkeeper at Khajortola on the embankment, said, "The cyclone of 1991 left a trail of destruction in the area, but nothing severe happens this time."

Cox's Bazar district administration had managed to evacuate around 1.97 lakh people from the vulnerable areas in eight upazilas and kept them at 412 cyclone shelters, said DC Ruhul Amin.

Twenty-three-year-old Mina Begum of Paschim Kutubdiapara village under Cox's Bazar Sadar along with her three kids took shelter at her sister-in-law's house at Baharchara union on Wednesday night fearing the cyclone. She came back home

yesterday morning, though it had been raining then.

"I left everything in my house. I have come back as the weather has started improving," Mina said. Mina's neighbour Sadia Begum, 35, also returned

home in the morning with her kids. Many people started moving to their houses from shelter centres in the afternoon, as the threat o

the district over the period. Meanwhile, activities in Chittagong Port resumed in the afternoon.

cyclone had faded away in

SM Abdur Rashid, general manager of Bangladesh Export Processing Zone, said that the activities of Chittagong Export Processing Zone, and Karnaphuli Export Processing Zone might start today [Friday]. Flight operations of Shah

Amanat International Airport are supposed to resume this morning.

Missing witness FROM PAGE 20

witness but later agreed to

give testimony for Sayedee, claimed Sayedee's lawyers. The defence had alleged that the law enforcers

abducted Sukhranjan from the tribunal premises, a claim the prosecution dismissed. According to the BBC report, members of India's

Border Security Guard arrested a Bangladeshi citizen from Shwarupnagar area of Uttar Chabbish Pargana while he was trespassing. Mosharaf Hossain, a

lawyer of India's Bashirhat court, analysing court documents, revealed the person's name to be Sukhranjan Bala. His father is late Lalit Ranjan Bala of Pararhati village in Gangarampur Police Station of Pirojpur district in Bangladesh.

Mosharaf assumed that since most of the BSF men were Hindi-speaking people, they might have wrongly written Sukhranjan's name after his arrest.

From court documents, it was also learnt that the BSF handed him over to Shwarupnagar police and a case was filed against him on December 25 last year.

Sukhranjan was produced before an Indian court next day and was charged for illegal trespass-

The second additional magistrate of Bashirhat court on April 3 this year pronounced his punishment. He has been in jail since his arrest. A Bangladeshi newspa-

per, which published a report on the issue yesterday, mentioned that Sukhranjan had sent a statement from jail to the newspaper with a description of his abduction and how he was pushed into India.

But Ranbir Kumar, chief of Pashchim Banga Jail authority, dismissed the claim, saying "it was almost

However, the BBC learnt

for Home Ministry Shamsul Haque Tuku said he knew nothing about the incident. "Why would government

Nazrul Islam Mollah, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (north), told The Daily Star last night that: "We did not detain Bali and we have no information

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch yesterday urged the authorities in India and Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to

Apparel factories

protect Sukhranjan.

FROM PAGE 20

"Many factory owners might reopen their factories on Saturday, as Friday is a public holiday. But all the factories will officially be open on Friday," he said. The previous decision on

'no-work no-pay' will be effective for the last three days.

There has virtually been no work in Ashulia, home to several hundred garmen factories, since the fatal collapse of Rana Plaza in Savar that highlighted appalling safety conditions in the sector.

However, workers will receive pay for those 12 days prior to the suspension as they punched in their attendance cards, he added.

Industry insiders said there were a number of factory units that did not suspend operations in the last three days, disobeying the BGMEA order.

Workers have demanded a minimum wage of Tk 8,000 with tiffin and transport allowances, when the government only announced the wage board but has not formed it yet.

Police raids Nowshera but misses Ali Gilani

DAWN ONLINE

Nowshera police, in an operation yesterday, have rescued an individual, Abdul Wahab, who claimed that the son of former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani was being held captive along with him, DawnNews reported.

Acting on information received from an intercepted satellite-phone call from Waziristan tribal region, which mentioned the name of Ali Haider Gilani, police conducted a raid in Marhati area in a compound which was reportedly owned by an Afghan national Moolah.

DPO Nowshera Waqar Ahmed was quoted as saying that based on this information, Nowshera police had started a massive operation in Misri Banda area of Akora Khattak tehsil in Nowshera district to rescue Ali Haider Gilani.

Ali Gilani's private secretary and guard were killed in the incident.

According to Dawn.com's Zahir Shah, DSP Jahanzeb also confirmed that the operation is still ongoing and that two suspects were arrested during the first raid in which Wahab was rescued.

Govt calling

FROM PAGE 1

to be named.

restoration of the caretaker government system," a minister, who attended the meeting,

told The Daily Star asking not The current situation

suggests that the holding of much-expected talks between the two sides still remains a far The prime minister is still in favour of holding the elec-

tion within the present timeframe stipulated in the constitution, said a source in According to the constitutional provision, the next

parliamentary election will be

held any time between October 25, 2013 and January 24, 2014. "She favours the holding of the election after dissolution of parliament, though it will reduce her government's tenure by three months," the source

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, who was present at the meeting, told The Daily Star yesterday, "Dialogue will be held on the formation of an interim government, and the next parliamentary election will be held under the current constitutional provision."

NO LETTERTO BNP?

Sheikh Hasina was advised

yesterday not to send any letter to the BNP for dialogue over the polls-time government. At a 14-party meeting at Gono Bhaban, Workers Party

President Rashed Khan Menon made the advice and spoke against the restoration of caretaker government system, meeting sources said. In response, the prime minister said there was no

discussion in any forum regarding sending an invitation letter to the BNP for talks, added the The 14-party leaders strongly denounced BNP's demand for restoration of the

caretaker government and

maintained the next election

must be held under an interim government in line with the constitution. Echoing these views, Hasina hinted that the government would go tough on BNP's movement for restora-

tion of caretaker government,

said the sources. No interim govt

FROM PAGE 1

been able to face the manmade disaster [the ultimatum]," she said at a meeting of the Awami League-14party combine at her Gono Bhaban residence last night.

Hasina, president of the AL, alleged that the main opposition BNP wanted to overthrow the elected government through using Hefajat-e-Islam in a bid to hinder the war crimes trial.

"I must say that whatever obstacles come the trial of war criminals will be held to free the country of the

stigma," she said. Hasina said conspiracies were being hatched one after another against her government. She vowed to deal with any plot in order for democracy to flourish in

the country. The premier ruled out a restoration of a caretaker government with unelected people and said that the ruling party did not want to go back to a 2007-08 like situation in the country

again. Earlier, at a viewexchange meeting with Netrakona district AL leaders, the AL chief alleged that Khaleda Zia had tried to hang on to power by killing her through the August 21

grenade attack in 2004. "This time Khaleda Zia wanted to go to power by using Hefajat-e Islam," she added.

About the restoration of a caretaker government, she said if the caretaker government came this time it would complete the unfinished job of the previous army-backed caretaker government.

Hasina said a section of people had a strong desire to be there in power, but they did not have the courage to go to the people and seek their mandate.

"This section always waits for getting something from illegal power grabbers," she added. About her dialogue offer,

Hasina said the opposition leader had responded to her call for a dialogue by hurling a 48-hour ultimatum at the government. "She [Khaleda] had said

we wouldn't find an escape route... now where has that path gone," she questioned. About nominating AL

candidates at the next elections, Hasina said AL leaders and activists would have to abide by the decisions of the party central committee.

Three youths beaten

FROM PAGE 20 and Minhazul Islam. The duo were accused in a robbery case," said Badrul Alam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station. A gang of robbers, includ-

ing the duo, looted the passengers of a vehicle on their way to Parbatipur in Dinajpur, carrying the body of Khadiza, a victim of the Rana Plaza collapse in Savar, he added. On April 4, a case was filed with Badarganj Police

Station in Rangpur in this connection. Contacted, Badarganj police could not confirm whether Hafizul and

Minhazul were the accused

in the case. "We have arrested one Rabiul, who during preliminary interrogation mentioned the names of Hafizul and Minhajul as being involved in the robbery. But until it is verified, we can't say that the dead are the accused persons," said

appropriate for such a devil

[Mojaheed]," Prosecutor

Tureen Afroz told the

International Crimes

Tribunal-2 at the end of the

The three-member tribu-

nal led by Justice Obaidul

Hassan with members

Justice Md Mozibur

Rahman Miah and Judge

Md Shahinur Islam fixed

May 22 for hearing the

defence's closing argu-

The prosecution would

get their chance to reply if

they feel it necessary after

the defence's closing argu-

The tribunal, as per rele-

vant laws, would set a date

for delivering a verdict in the

case after hearing closing

arguments by both the

prosecution and the

technocrat minister of the

last BNP-led four-party

alliance government, was

indicted on seven charges,

which include murders,

genocide and conspiracy to

kill intellectuals during the

On the fourth day's argu-

ments by the prosecution,

Tureen Afroz yesterday

focused on law points, espe-

cially on how Mojaheed

held "superior responsibil-

ity" on the infamous Al-

tion, Al-Badr was formed

with only the members of

Islami Chhatra Sangha, the

then student wing of

Jamaat. Mojaheed as the

president of the student

wing was also made chief of

Al-Badr, which was specially

responsible for the killings

of intellectuals during the

"superior responsibility"

there should be a superior-

subordinate relationship

and the superior should

have "effective control" over

Besides, a superior might

incur responsibility only

after having failed to take

"necessary and reasonable

measures" to prevent or

punish a crime committed

by subordinates, she said,

claiming Mojaheed had

"effective control" over Al-

Badr men and failed to

prevent and punish his

To substantiate her claim,

Tureen read out a report of

the Daily Bhorer Kagoj,

which quoted a report of the

Daily Sangram published

on April 24, 1971. The

Sangram report says the Al-

Badr force was formed in

greater Mymensingh on

Mojaheed addressed a meet-

ing of Jamaat and Chhatra

Sangha men in

Mymensingh on April 22,

1971 where he said, "Al-

Badr is a name, a surprise.

Al-Badr is a promise.

The report further says

subordinates.

April 22, 1971.

their subordinates.

Tureen said to show one's

According to the prosecu-

Badr force.

Liberation War in 1971.

Mojaheed, a former

ments.

ments.

defence.

prosecution arguments.

Nuruzzaman Chowdhury,

OC of Badarganj Police

Station.

FROM PAGE 20

Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur district, Sumon along with his wife had been residing at a rented tiny room at East Nishchintapur of Ashulia. His wife is an employee at New Age Garments at Ashulia.

dent, Sumon's landlord Hasan Ali Mollah said his tenant had no criminal record. "Sumon had come to my house recently, but he had been living in the area for

the last few years along with

his wife. His mother and

two younger brothers are

Talking to this correspon-

also local residents," he mentioned. Hasan saw around 10 to 12 people running after the duo, who tried to hide in a room of his house. The attackers brought the two out of the room and beat them up brutally.

yesterday afternoon, this correspondent found Sumon's room under lock and key. The three bodies were kept at Dhaka Medical

Hailing from College morgue last night.

Wherever the so-called

freedom fighters are, Al-

Badr will be there. Al-Badr

will work as Azrail [angel of

death] for the freedom-

fighters-slash-Indian-

account, which was incor-

porated in the book

"Ekattarer Ghatak O Dalalra

Ke Kothai", also a prosecu-

tion document, Tureen gave

a heart-wrenching descrip-

tion of a killing field where

the bodies of intellectuals

killed by Al-Badr men had

by Mojaheed had "played

the role of Azrail" during the

nine-month-long war and

the killing of the intellectu-

als was a part of the atroci-

ments, the prosecution

showed a photo published

by the daily Azad on

December 11, 1971 with the

caption "Al-Badr chief

Mojahidi [Mojaheed]

addresses a street rally

organised by Al-Badr [on

Baitul Mukarram mosque

premises] yesterday where

he uttered caution against

nightly Secret Report on the

Situation in East Pakistan",

the prosecution said

Mojaheed travelled across

the country and delivered

speeches to instigate his

followers to kill pro-

liberation people and loot

a speech of Mojaheed from

the book titled "Al-Badr"

written by Pakistani

national Salim Mansur

Khalid in 1985. The book is

written in Urdu and the

prosecution have submitted

its Bangla translation as

of East Pakistani Islami

Chhatra Sangha at the time,

addressed Al-Badr men at

their headquarters

(Mohammadpur Physical

Training Centre) even two

hours before the surrender

of the Pakistan army on

Tureen said after his speech,

when Mojaheed's accompli-

ces had asked him to leave

the camp first, Mojaheed

rejected the idea saying he

would be the last man at the

on (Mojaheed's) departure,

Nazem [president] said,

'Friends, being compelled, I

am ordering [you] to leave

for Hijrat' and all mujahids

set out for unknown paths,"

When the tribunal asked

about the sources of the

book, Tureen from the book

said, "The memorable

speech was described by Al-

Badr soldiers present [at the

meeting] there. The speaker

has endorsed the words and

From Mojaheed's speech

sentences."

Tureen quoted the book.

"When everyone insisted

Quoting from the book,

December 16, 1971.

Mojaheed, also president

their document.

Tureen yesterday quoted

their establishments.

Citing from the "Fort-

people spreading rumours".

On their first day's argu-

ties committed by them.

Tureen said Al-Badr led

been dumped.

Citing from a witness'

Death penalty sought

agents."

Intelligence FROM PAGE 20

motive behind the attacks.

Contacted yesterday, he said he would not comment on the new report since he was yet to get a copy of it. HC sources said the pre-

vious probe report had named 205 people as responsible for the attacks. Most of them have been included in the new report. The Ramu violence was

provoked through using a fake Facebook profile of a Buddhist youth named Uttam Kumar Barua. The profile carried a picture demeaning of the Holy Quran. Weeks later, an investiga-

tion by The Daily Star exposed the forged Facebook profile that was used to instigate the hate attacks, as well as the inaction of the local administration and intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The judicial probe com-

mittee is comprised of Md Abdul Quddus Miah; district Visiting Hasan's house and sessions judge of Chittagong, Sharif Mostafa Karim, judge of Tribunal-3 for Women and Children Repression Prevention in Chittagong; and Mohammad Zahurul Islam Rohel, deputy home secretary.

speech it was very much

evident that he had effective

control over the Al-Badr

Terming Mojaheed as a

"villain of history", Tureen

said, "Nothing but the death

Motijheel area during the

Police had sought 26

with Motijheel Police

investigation officers said

remanded in order to find

out vital clues about the

to topple a democratic gov-

Earlier on May 7,

Babunagari had been

remanded for nine days in

the killing case. He was

yesterday produced before

the court on completion of

Defence lawyers submit-

ted three petitions for his

bail and the cancellation of

not implicated in the cases.

four days in the murder case

and 18 days in the other two

that remand period.

May 5 rally of Hefajat.

the other two cases.

Station on May 6.

the rally.

ernment.

militias, she added.

for such a devil."

FROM PAGE 20

Babunagarı

approaching Bangladesh coastline within around 600km.

6:00pm: Centred about 700km south southwest of Chittagong Port, 640km southwest of Cox's Bazar Port and 575km south and his activities after the southwest of Mongla Port.

Of 7 day

of Chittagong Port, 1,610km

south-southwest of Cox's

Bazar Port and 1,705km

south-southeast of Mongla

Mahasen in the Bay of

Bengal is moving north-

westwards, prompting the

country's three maritime

ports -- Chittagong, Cox's

Bazar and Mongla -- to hoist

local cautionary signal 3, on

Mahasen moves slowly

towards the Chennai coast

of India with possibility of

shifting its course towards

At 1:00am, its eye is around

1,425km south-southwest

of Chittagong Port,

1,345km south-southwest

of Cox's Bazar coast and

1,350km south of Mongla

At midnight, Mahasen's eye

was about 1,235km south-

southwest of Chittagong

Port, 1,160km south-

southwest of Cox's Bazar

Port and 1,145km south-

Afternoon: Moves slightly

north-northeastwards after

southwest of Mongla Port.

FROM PAGE 1

a scale of 1-11.

Bangladesh.

May 13

Port.

May 14

May 15

May 12

Port.

10:00pm: It is centred about 635km south southwest of Chittagong Port, 580km southwest of Cox's Bazar Port and 515km south-southwest of Mongla Port. May 16

penalty will be appropriate Zero hours: Mahasen set to

cross between Patuakhali (Khepupara) and Teknaf coast near Chittagong by noon. Moving slightly in the capital's Motijheel on north-northeastwards, it is centred about 555km The other two cases were southwest of Chittagong Port, 500km southwest of filed on charges of attacking Cox's Bazar Port and 445km police and obstructing their south-southwest of Mongla work, torching vehicles and blasting cocktails in

Maximum wind speed within 54km of the storm centre is about 62kmph, rising to 90kmph in gusts or squalls.

days' remand for Babunagari -- 20 days in the 6:00am: Moves slightly murder case and six days in north-northeastwards, setting its course towards The three cases were filed Chittagong-Cox's Bazar

9:00am: Hits Kuakata of In the murder case, the Patuakhali. Crossing over Barguna, it lashes investigation officer said he Charfassion and Char obtained important infor-Kukrimukri upazilas of mation from Babunagari Bhola before crossing over about the Islamist group Noakhali. and its motives. Therefore, Noon: It reaches he needed to be remanded

Sitakunda on way to the to gather more information Noakhali-Chittagong coast. about the incidents centring 4:00pm: After crossing In the other two cases, the

the Noakhali-Chittagong coast, Mahasen turns into a land depression and lies over Sitakunda, Feni, Babunagari needed to be Khagrachhari and the adjoining Indian state of financiers of Hefajat's plans

'Women can't be president in Iran'

AP, Tehran

A member of Iran's constitutional watchdog says women cannot be presidential candidates, effectively killing the longshot bids by about 30 women seeking to

impossible.

news agency quotes Yazdi as saying the "law does not approve" of a woman in Iran's highest elected office and that this is ``not allowed.'

Today's Reader Tomorrow's Leader

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Police arrested Iran's constitution uses a Babunagari near the Dhakeshwari Temple on president. May 6 after thousands of Hefajat activists resorted to

the two remand prayers, saying that their client was After hearing both the run in the June 14 election. sides, the magistrate rejected Even before yesterday's comments by Ayatollah the bail petitions and placed Mohammad Yazdi, chances Babunagari on remand -- for

for a woman candidate in Iran's presidential election were considered nearly

word denoting only a male The semiofficial Mehr

violence in downtown Dhaka during and after the rally, causing widespread damage.