

## World and Nation

# Flooding continues in Bangladesh

From Associated Press reports

**BAILTALI, Bangladesh** — Bare-foot women, among the millions of homeless in flooded Bangladesh, clambered from boats Monday onto the only strip of this village still above water and surrounded army officers who doled out food.

They pushed each other in the light rain to get at the giant cooking pots. They stuffed fistfuls of cooked rice and lentils into their own pots and bowls, or into the folds of their mud-stained saris.

Floods have submerged three-fourths of the nation and claimed at least 406 lives this summer, according to official figures. Daily tallies in Dhaka newspapers put the death toll at 1,015.

More than 92,000 people are known to suffer from diarrhea and 5,715 more from dysentery, the

Health Ministry said.

Taslimur Rahman, joint secretary of the ministry, told reporters in the capital of Dhaka that people get the diseases by drinking impure water, often the very flood water that maroons them.

Officials say water purification tablets are being distributed, but residents of Baitali, a village of 2,000 people 55 miles southwest of Dhaka, said they had not seen any.

"The water that is available to drink is the flood water. We have no option but to drink it," Injul Haq Majumder, a 37-year-old teacher, told reporters who arrived by helicopter.

He translated his reply from English to Bengali for villagers who crowded around. A dozen men nodded vigorously in agreement.

Only two short strips of road,

totaling about 500 yards, remained above water in Baitali.

One was covered with makeshift shelters of bamboo poles and palm thatch, and the other was bare except for the food kettles as two air force helicopters descended through the rain.

More than 100 small fishing boats, carrying two to 10 people each, bobbed beside the road in flood waters that had engulfed power lines and left only the tips of poles and a few loops of wire visible.

People throughout Bangladesh are huddled on tiny outcroppings of muddy earth like those at Baitali.

"Almost all the districts are like this. Don't think this is the worst," Information Minister Mahbubur Rahman told a dozen foreign journalists who accompanied him on the flight.

Rahman said 50 of the country's 64 districts and 25 million of its 110 million people have been directly affected by floods that began in June with the annual monsoon, then eased, but worsened again last week.

By his definition, "directly affected" included anyone who had lost relatives, a home or business, crops or other property.

Rahman said it was too early to put a cost on the damage and reconstruction, but called the loss "colossal: homes, agriculture, communications, bridges, culverts, educational institutions — all damaged or washed away."

Floods are an annual monsoon event in Bangladesh, a disaster that accompanies the blessing of rain for the crops, but Rahman and other officials said those of 1988 are the worst in memory.

# Texas, Illinois front-runners in race for supercollider site

From Associated Press reports

**DALLAS** — Texas and Illinois are the top contenders for the site of the federal government's \$4.4 billion super-conducting supercollider and the thousands of jobs the atom-smasher would create, U.S. News and World Report said Monday.

The magazine quoted unidentified sources whom it characterized only as "savvy bettors" as saying Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina and Tennessee trail in the race for the project. The supercollider laboratory would be a scientific research park with office space and support buildings for an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people.

Physicists hope to use the proposed 53-mile-round underground particle accelerator to study subatomic particles — nature's fundamental building blocks.

The tunnel would be 10 feet to 12 feet in diameter and would contain two pipes through which beams of subatomic particles would circle and then collide at enormous speeds achieved by the use of electricity and 10,000 superconducting magnets.

Texas has promised the Department of Energy \$1 billion to help pay for construction and the laboratory's electricity bills. Illinois has offered the use of the Fermilab atom smasher in Batavia as its bid booster, which would save the Department of Energy \$500 million, the magazine said.

**Dukakis, Bush stump for votes**

Labor Day's last holiday blast sent thousands of Americans to parades, food festivals and political rallies where the presidential campaign lit up with sharp salvos from both sides.

Democrat Michael Dukakis addressed a rally in Michigan that

## News in Brief

followed Detroit's three-hour Labor Day parade, and Republican Dan Quayle planned to ride in the Polish Day parade at Hamtramck, a Polish Detroit enclave.

George Bush stumped in vote-rich southern California, including stops in San Diego, at Disneyland as part of a parade honoring Olympic athletes, and at a traditional Labor Day picnic with Los Angeles police officers and their families.

Dukakis also appeared in Philadelphia and headed for St. Louis, while fellow Democrat Jesse Jackson derided Bush and Quayle as "rich young rulers" in a New York City speech.

**Weekend highway deaths down**

Sunny skies returned to western and central North Carolina Monday afternoon, but thundershowers in the eastern area kept roads slippery as vacationers returned from Labor Day revelry, the state Highway Patrol said.

At least 15 people, including a bicyclist, died in holiday weekend traffic wrecks on North Carolina roads, the patrol said.

"Our advice is to slow down and be patient," said Trooper M.D. Walker.

The National Weather Service predicted that skies over eastern areas would not begin clearing until Monday night as a cold front moved out to sea.

The patrol's official Labor Day fatality count began at 6 p.m. Friday and ended at midnight Monday.

Last Labor Day in North Carolina, 36 people died and 1,675 were injured, making it the worst since 1971.

# Refurbished rocket launched into space

From Associated Press reports

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** — A Titan 2 rocket that once sat in a silo armed with a nuclear warhead was launched into space Monday, carrying a secret Air Force payload believed to be four spy satellites designed to eavesdrop on Soviet ships.

The launch marked the first time one of the refurbished missiles has been used as a space booster, and apparently was the second time U.S. spy satellites have been sent into orbit in less than a week.

"It was a spectacular launch with all systems operating as expected," said Air Force Capt. Norma Payne.

But the spokeswoman added that officials would not know for two to three days whether the classified payload achieved its intended polar orbit circling the Earth from North to South poles.

The rocket almost certainly carried a four-satellite addition to the Navy's White Cloud Navy Ocean Surveillance System, an electronic eavesdropping system that locates and identifies Soviet and other ships by detecting radio and radar transmissions, space policy analyst John Pike said before the launch.

"The Navy really likes them," said Pike, of the Washington-based Fed-

eration of American Scientists. "They are very important for being able to keep track of the Soviet fleet."

Pike said a White Cloud launch "consists of one mother satellite and three sub-satellites," and that when orbit is reached, the mother satellite deploys the other three spacecraft so all four are strung out a few hundred miles from each other in polar orbit.

The \$37.5 million Titan 2 roared off Space Launch Complex 4 West and into fog-shrouded skies at 2:25 a.m. PDT, Payne said at this sprawling military base 140 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

The liquid-fueled, two-stage rocket is 103 feet high and capable of lifting 4,200 pounds into a 100-nautical-mile circular orbit.

Starting in the 1960s, Titan 2 rockets were kept in silos in Arkansas, Kansas and Arizona, where they served as intercontinental ballistic missiles, each carrying a nine-

megaton hydrogen warhead.

But the missiles were removed from service "because the propellants were corroding the innards of the missile and they had a tendency to blow up," Pike said.

The Air Force then ordered 13 Titan 2s reconditioned as space boosters under a \$528.9 million contract with Martin Marietta Corp. Air Force officials have said more are likely to be refurbished because recycling the old ICBMs is cheaper than building new rockets.

On Friday, a satellite said to be designed for intercepting Soviet communications was launched by a \$65 million Titan 34D rocket from Cape Canaveral, Fla. But a source close to the project, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the spacecraft failed to achieve its desired stationary orbit 22,300 miles high when the upper stage of the rocket failed to re-ignite. He said there was little hope of salvaging that mission.

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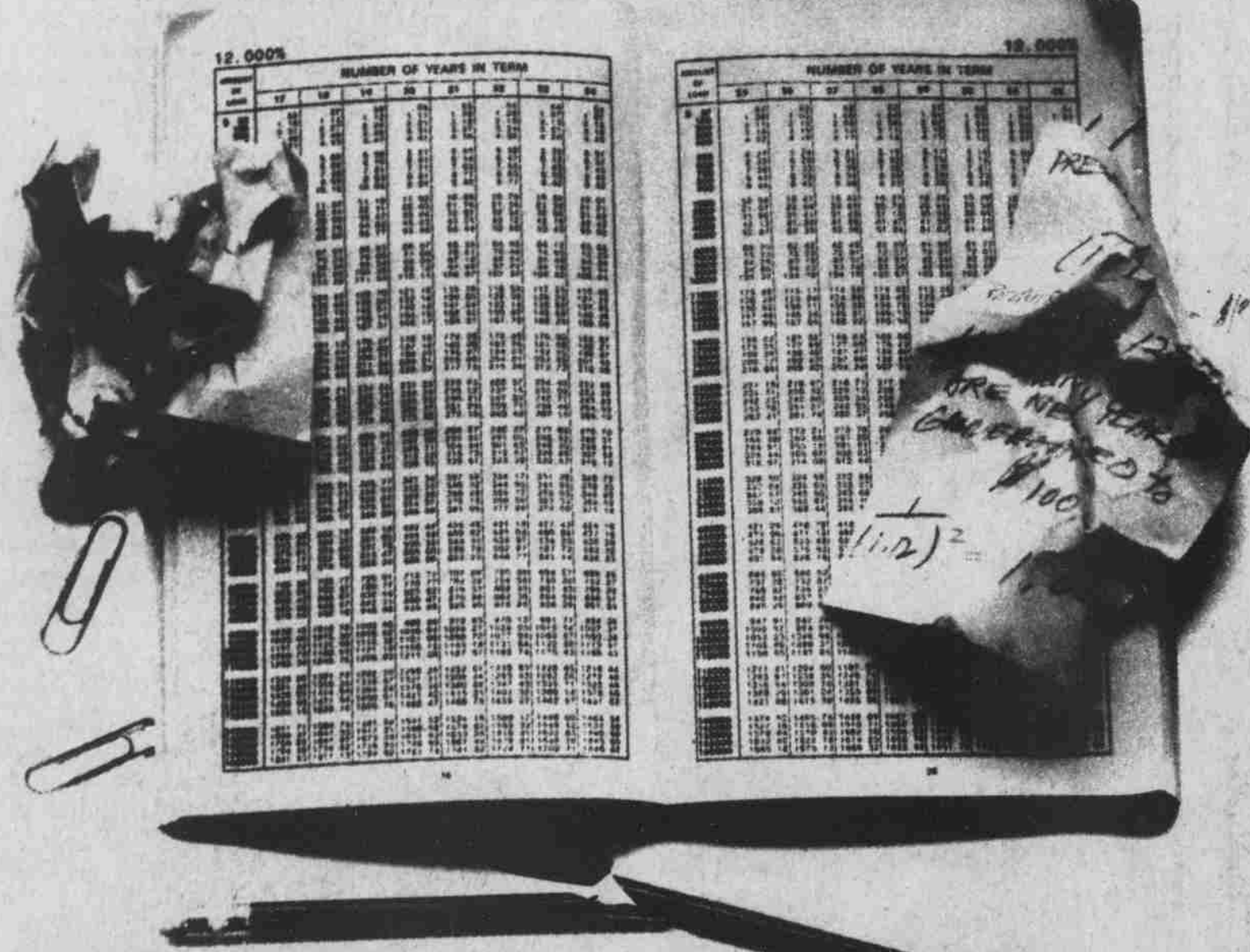
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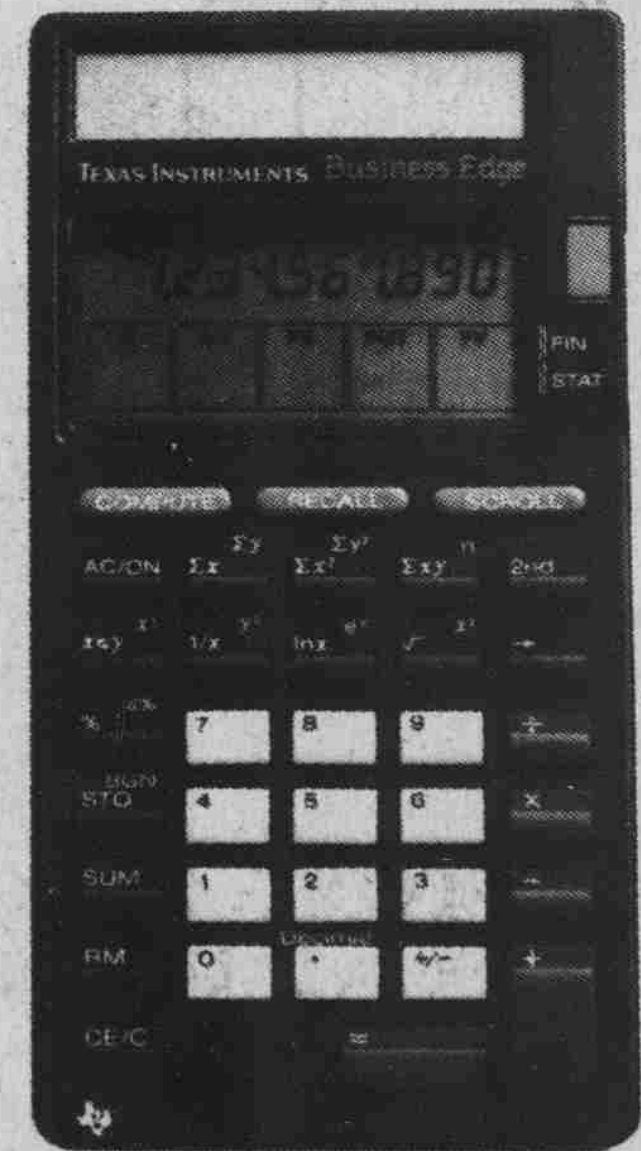
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