



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 173

DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 12, 2003

www.thedailystar.net

ASHAR 28, 1410 BS

ZAMADUI- AWAL 11, 1424 HJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

## Left alone, without sunshine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rina dreamt of a rare moment of happiness. There will be friends, relatives and a lot of fun, she thought. "It's long I haven't visited my uncle's house," she muttered.

Rina along with her three-year-old daughter Habiba and 24 relatives boarded the MV Nasrin-1 at Sadarghat in Dhaka, with a spring in her step.

The invitation to attend her uncle MA Matin's wedding at Parashganj in Lalmonohar brought sunshine to her 'virtually caged-life' in Dhaka city.

When she came out of her residence near the Chan Mia

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Hoping against hope

61 more bodies retrieved, scores floating, launch still untraced

STAR REPORT

Over 72 hours after the deadliest ever launch disaster in Bangladesh, 61 more bodies were retrieved and scores of bloated others were floating down the Meghna yesterday, with relatives of the victims hoping against hope.

Although the hopes of finding any more passengers alive have died down, hundreds of grieving friends and relatives lined the Meghna banks only to take the bodies of their loved ones back home for burial. "I want him back, no matter he is alive or dead," 45-year-old Mariam Begum sobbed out the loss of her husband.

Mariam is among hundred other women, bleak-eyed and tired from

agonising wait -- part of a train of images unfolded by the sinking of the MV Nasrin-1 Tuesday in the latest in a series of such disasters.

The 61 bodies were retrieved from the offshore regions of Chandpur, Mehendiganj, Bhola, Borhanuddin, Tazuddin, Lalmonohar, Char Fashion, Ilisha, Doulatkhan, Tamujuddin and Andharmanik, taking the body count to 79 until last night.

Confirming the recovery, officials said they were trying to send the bodies in special arrangements to Lalmonohar for identification by relatives. Lalmonohar was the last stop of the craft that sank at about 10:45pm Tuesday in the confluence of three mighty rivers at Chandpur with about 750 passengers aboard,

two times in excess of its listed capacity.

With officials and people in the neighbouring villages estimating that over 200 passengers swam to the shore and were rescued, the rest are feared to have met watery grave.

Quoting the chairman of Andharmanik Union Parishad, Abdur Rahman, our Barisal correspondent reported that scores of bodies were found floating in strong currents in different channels of the Meghna.

Nine bodies were recovered from Hizla in Barisal, five from Borhanuddin in Bhola, seven from Ilisha, seven from Char Fashion, six from Tamujuddin, two each from Doulatkhan and Lalmonohar and the rest from other offshore areas and

tributaries.

Among the dead were Abul Bashar, upazila education officer of Lalmonohar, Khokon of Char Sakina, Hazara Begum of west Char Umed, Abul Khair of Peshkar Hari and Lal Mia of Char Vuta. The rest could not be identified.

Our staff correspondent adds from Chandpur: The recovery of two more bodies brought to four the number of bodies retrieved from the choppy waters of Meghna at Chandpur.

Rescue operators of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, navy, fire brigade and police recovered the bodies three kilometres off Chandpur town. One bloated body was recovered from Harisabha area

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

An Ugandan airlines cargo lies in a marsh after skidding off the runway during takeoff at Zia International Airport yesterday. The chartered aircraft suffered serious damage.

## Ugandan cargo plane skids off ZIA, crew safe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Ugandan airlines cargo plane skidded off the runway just before take-off at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday morning, causing no casualties but serious damage to the aircraft.

The incident suspended air traffic at the airport for 50 minutes, delaying the landing of two airliners of the Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways.

"Four crew and the pilot of the chartered Boeing 707 escaped unhurt," an airport security officer said.

The plane, which arrived from Dubai five days ago, was leaving for Amman after offloading the cargo at the airport.

Just before take off at 6:38am, the plane experienced trouble in one of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Pallabi AL leader gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified young men gunned down a local Awami League (AL) leader at Pallabi in the city yesterday.

Abdus Samad Khan, 50, a member of Pallabi thana AL, was shot in the head and chest. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Witnesses said Khan was supervising construction of sewerage lines at his house at Section-6 of Pallabi at about 11:00am. The killers appeared there in a rickshaw, carrying a packet of saree. One of them pulled out a pistol from the packet, shot him and ran away.

The victim had a dispute with a neighbour over sewerage lines, locals said.



Abdus Samad Khan

Pallabi police could not give any reason behind the killing of Khan, also a former central leader of Jubo League. They picked six construction workers from the spot for interrogation.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Rescuers carry the body of a launch disaster victim to Chandpur terminal, left, and a policeman stands guard as villagers wait on the riverbank in Chandpur yesterday. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain visited the area and asked the local administration to send grieving relatives and friends to Hizla in Bhola, where he said many bodies were recovered.



PHOTO: STAR/APP

## Outlaws threaten 7 newsmen with death in Pirojpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unknown outlaws have threatened seven journalists of Pirojpur district with death for hindering their activities, police said.

The journalists received similar handwritten letters along with small pieces of white cloth, posted from Pirojpur Head Post Office on July 9.

The letters, received by the journalists the next day, read: "You will have to pay very dearly for causing obstruction to our activities and forcing us to go into hiding."

"You have no right to live for causing damage to the class struggle," the letters proclaimed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Flood situation takes alarming turn in N-region Rail track, bridge washed away, road link snapped

STAR REPORT

Flood situation in the northern region took an alarming turn yesterday as gushing waters from the swollen Brahmaputra-Jamuna, Teesta and their tributaries submerged vast areas and damaged roads, rail tracks and bridges.

Three people drowned in swirling floodwaters in Kaziupur upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

The worst affected districts are Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj.

In the capital, more low-lying

areas went under water as the Buriganga, Shitalakhya and Balu rivers continued to rise.

Rushing water from the Teesta washed away a railway bridge near Lalmonirhat station and about 100 feet of rail track near Ruhia station in Thakurgaon, snapping rail communication.

The authorities have suspended train service in Santahar and Lalmonirhat section via Gaibandha.

Moreover, several hundred kilometres of roads have been submerged with stretches of them and a number of bridges damaged in eight northern districts.

Our correspondents reported that standing crops including aus and aman paddy, jute and vegetables on thousands of acres of land in the districts have been damaged by floodwaters.

The flood-hit people in the region are facing crisis of drinking water and food and many of them are suffering from water-borne diseases.

Our roving correspondent reported that in Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts, around one lakh marooned people are in extreme miseries.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Floodwaters rush through a large swathe at Bera upazila in Pabna, left, and houses stand empty in floodwaters in the same district as villagers take shelter on higher ground leaving them behind.

## AL likely to purge Hazari of guilt

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

The Awami League (AL) is likely to take disciplinary action against Joyal Hazari, who frequently hogged news headlines for 'criminal activities' in Feni during the AL rule.

In a cleansing drive within, the AL formed a three-member committee last month to probe the activities by its former lawmaker

from Feni who has gone into hiding since the last general elections. Over a dozen and a half criminal cases are pending against him.

The investigation report is expected to be submitted next week after the team winds up its visit to Feni, said a committee member. The investigators set out for Feni in a day or two.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Foreign troops for Iraq Powell sees no certainty

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of States Colin Powell admitted late Thursday there was no certainty how many foreign troops were going to Iraq to help US and British forces, in an indication that US efforts to enlist international assistance in pacifying the country may have hit a snag.

"I can't give you the exact number of nations or how many troops are

going to be committed," Powell said, appearing on CNN's "Larry King Live" program.

The statement starkly contrasted with recent upbeat assessments by top Defense Department officials, who have insisted that foreign aid to battle-weary American soldiers was well on the way.

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Douglas Feith told a think tank here Monday that more than 45

nations have made offers of military support "for security and stability operations" in Iraq.

He said 18 countries currently have military capabilities on the ground in the occupied nation, ranging from full combat divisions to field hospitals.

Britain and Poland have formally agreed to lead multinational divisions that will help the United States

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Dy speaker, AL both seem losing heart

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui will not answer Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid's June 29 letter but may invite the Awami League by phone to a dialogue to resolve parliamentary stand-off.

Siddiqui's apparent loss of interest in formal letter exchanges came, as the main opposition party accused him of not running the parliament session in line with the Rules of Procedure.

"Rather than writing a letter, I will try to talk to the deputy leader of the opposition by phone tomorrow (Saturday)," Siddiqui told The Daily Star yesterday. "What's the use writing a letter again?"

The deputy speaker found inappropriate the way the opposition was making comments against his performance in running the House.

"Abdul Hamid will feel ashamed, if he recounts how he had run parliament earlier."

The stalemate that stemmed from AL's indefinite boycott of the House over a state minister's derogatory remarks against AL President Sheikh Hasina got a new edge with the AL lawmakers' claim that the Chair was allowing treasury benches to launch invective against the opposition.

The AL has little confidence in the deputy speaker's initiative to ease the stand-off. "The deputy speaker is still provoking the ruling party lawmakers to make derogatory remarks

against the AL and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina," said Hamid. "He (Siddiqui) did not expunge the invective either. So how can we trust him?"

As part of his efforts to defuse the crisis, the deputy speaker sent Hamid a letter on June 28, inviting him to a dialogue with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain.

Hamid wrote back on June 29, asking the deputy speaker to take effective steps to resolve the crisis.

Hamid said in his letter that State Minister for Housing Alamgir Kabir's invective against Hasina led the AL to boycott the House.

On July 2, Siddiqui told The Daily Star that he would respond to Hamid's letter and invite the AL to a dialogue. On July 6, he also told newsmen that he would send the letter in a couple of days. But no

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



**Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited**  
**SHARE DEPARTMENT, HEAD OFFICE**  
**40, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA.**

## RIGHTS SHARE ISSUE 2003

It is for kind information of the Honourable Shareholders of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited that the Securities and Exchange Commission has kindly consented to raise the Paid-up Capital of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from Tk. 64.00 crore to Tk. 192.00 crore by issuing Rights Share @ 1:2 ratio at par (i.e. two Rights Shares for one existing Share).

Rights Share of Tk. 1,000/- each is being offered at par for subscription in full to the shareholders of the company whose names appear in the Shareholders Register as at the close of business on 14.04.2003.

It may be noted that the subscription money of Rights Share may be deposited from 27th July, 2003 to 25th August, 2003 at any Branch of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited.

The offer of issuing Rights Share is being sent by post to the Registered Address of the Shareholders. The Shareholders who will not receive the offer, are requested to contact the Share Department of the Bank at Islami Bank Tower (9th Floor), 40, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka or nearest Branch of the Bank during office hours on all working day.

Date : 12.07.2003

By Order  
Md. Shouquat Ali  
Secretary