

## Appeal for relief



Bangla Academy organised a campaign for relief funds on Sunday. Some celebrated artistes came down to the streets seeking assistance. —Star photo

### Tk 10 crore worth German relief to cyclone victims

Germany will donate relief materials worth 5 million Deutsche Mark (Taka 10 crore) for the cyclone-affected people of the country, reports BSS.

This was stated by German Ambassador in Bangladesh Dr Karl Heinz Schotysek when he called on Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, at his office Saturday.

The Ambassador expressed his profound sorrow at the loss of life and property in Bangladesh in the recent cyclone.

He said the relief activities will be performed in collaboration with German Red Crescent Society and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

He further informed the State Minister that a three-member team is arriving Bangladesh Sunday to assess the loss of property and how much relief materials are required.



Members of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad holds a rally in city on Sunday calling for more relief materials for the cyclone victims. —Star photo



A mobile unit of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy urging people to donate generously for the victims of cyclone.



Members of Muktahdara Shilpi Gosthi collecting money for the distressed. —Star photo

### More world leaders shocked

More world leaders and heads of state and government have sent messages of condolences to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia expressing

shock at the tragic deaths and devastations in Bangladesh due to severe cyclonic storm and tidal surge, reports BSS.

The leaders include Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, Mr Emeka Anyaoka, Commonwealth Secretary General, Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the

Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Yildirim Akbulut, Prime Minister of Turkey, Dr Hamid Algabdi, Secretary General of the OIC and Canadian Prime

Minister Mr Brian Mulroey. In separate messages, the leaders expressed their heartfelt sympathy for the bereaved and helpless people

## National

### Upazila roundup

#### RANGPUR

##### One succumbs to injuries

May 5: A middle aged man succumbed to stab injuries at the Rangpur Medical College Hospital Sunday, police here said, reports UNB.

Azhar Ali (40) of Kamarapur upazila was stabbed by unknown assailants while he was returning home from a hat at Telokpara village of the same upazila Friday night.

The miscreants after stabbing him mercilessly snatched his bicycle. The villagers rushed him to the hospital.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

#### RAJBARI

##### 2 killed in Rajbari

May 5: Two passengers were killed on a spot and four others sustained serious injuries when a bus collided head on with a taxi on Goulundo highway here Friday night, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Fazlur Rahman (5), a day labourer and Bolal (20), the bus helper.

Police said the bus rammed into the three-wheeler while overtaking a bamboo-loaded push cart at a point between Goulundo bazar and ghat.

The injured people were sent to Goulundo hospital.

Local police have seized the bus numbering Dhaka-Cha 2951 while the busman fled.

#### FENI

##### 19 die of diarrhoea

May 5: At least four children died of diarrhoea in the district on Friday raising the total to 19 since April 21, official sources said, reports UNB.

Civil Surgeon said the number of people attacked by the water borne disease was increasing and at least 25 of them reported yesterday to upazila health complexes.

He confirmed four deaths on Friday in Dagonbhutiya upazila alone. They were identified as Khaleeda (6) of Jagatpur, Md Hassan (5) of Betua, Anwara (7) and Sujeda

(5) of Mowmarispur.

The worst affected areas were Feni Sadar, Dagonbhutiya and Sonagazi upazilas where more than 300 affected people reported to health complexes.

Sixteen medical teams have been working in the district to combat the disease.

Meanwhile, prices of certain essential items recorded sharp increase following early Tuesday's devastating cyclone in the coastal belt and offshore islands of the country.

Medium variety of rice was selling yesterday at Taka 15-16, salt Taka 10 and kerosene Taka 30 per kg. Traders were speculating that the upward trend in price would continue.

#### SIRAJGANJ

##### Record arms haul in 10 yrs

May 5: Police recovered 29 arms and huge ammunition during the last 24 hours in raids conducted in the Sadar and Kazipur upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The recovered arms are: one SLR, two Cut-rifles, 10 handbombs, 90 rounds of bullet, two magazines, 4 bayonets, 12 pipeguns, 4 SLR bullet.

During the raids, five alleged dacoits including their leader surrendered to the police. They were accused in a number of dacoity, murder and arms cases.

They are: Zafar, Hashem, Mokbul, Saha and Aziz.

The arms haul was a record in the 10 years history of the district, police claimed.

#### HABIGANJ

##### One killed in clash

May 5: A man was killed in a clash between rival groups at village: Joypur under Madavpur upazila over land dispute, police said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Athar Ali (35) of the same village.

Witnesses said Athar was struck by stick by opponent group at one stage of the feud causing him grievous injury. Later he died on way to hospital.

## Cyclone turns Cox's Bazar into a ghost city

COX'S BAZAR, May 5: The tourist town of Cox's Bazar, normally buzzing with visitors from home and abroad, has got the appearance of a ghost city without electricity and water following the catastrophic cyclone of Monday night, reports BSS correspondent Ihsanul Karim.

Devastation in the areas around the town was of high magnitude with tree uprooted, electric poles twisted and houses collapsed or damaged.

The storm and tidal surge badly damaged some of the Parjatan motels along the sea shore. There is no trace of sea beach police outpost and none could now locate the exact place where it was built.

The sea has advanced by nearly 200 yards. The Bay of Bengal continued to remain rough affecting the movement of relief teams.

Meantime, thousands of survivors have rushed to in and around the town passing their days in agonising suspense. Survivors in the upazilas of the district are looking forward for supply of food, water, clothes and medicines.

BSS correspondent Ihsanul Karim during his visit to several areas of this worst-hit district was told that the intensity of both the storm and tidal surge was so strong that several villages were affected in some parts of Kutubdia, Maheshkhali, Chakoria and Sadar upazilas.

In many places there is no sign of human habitation and the areas which once presented an idyllic sea shore scene now gives a desolate look.

This correspondent visiting remote areas of the district met Sultan Ahmed (40) of village Charpara who has survived miraculously floating three days on the sea. But he lost his wife, three sons and mother-in-law to become the lone survivor of his family.

Talking to this correspondent, Sultan was in tears saying that all the members of his family were staying together under an improvised shelter when the cyclone swept the area accompanied by tidal surge.

"I tried to save my children but suddenly a mighty wave swept all of us and I found only a piece of wood before me which I caught. I kept on floating for three days from Cox's Bazar to Dulshazeri, Sultan said sobbing. The inmates of two shelter camps at Cox's Bazar had a series of pathetic stories to tell.

An eyewitness said Sultan Majhi of Naniachar village along with all the nine members of his family perished during the tidal surge. Nurul Huq alias Nuru Saadagor, Chairman of Pubkhali union, in spite of his desperate attempt to survive was lost in the violent waves. Later his body was found hanging upside down on a tree which was submerged by sea water.

Wherever one goes in the affected islands of Kutubdia, Maheshkhali Chakoria and Sadar upazilas, one will hear the same tale. The casualty figure rose high as many people ignored the repeated warnings given by the electronic media and local administration. On several occasions in the past cyclone did not hit the areas even after the hoisting of danger signal number 10, local BNP leader Khaliquzzaman said.

While visiting village Kalathi in Cox's Bazar, the BSS correspondent found 12 bodies on the sea shore. The authorities on getting information however, buried the bodies quickly.

Corpses and carcasses were found scattered in different parts of the affected areas where putrid smell covered the area.

In one place some people covering their noses were seen buying unidentified bodies.

The authorities as well as various organisations have stated relief operations but

these appear inadequate compared to the magnitude of the crisis. Incessant rains and gusty wind have also seriously affected relief operation in the affected islands where people have taken shelter under temporary camps.

Authorities fear outbreak of epidemic because of the sanitation problem but they have been taking steps to check it.

#### Banskhali

Another message from Banskhali adds: Rushing pure water, food and life saving drugs to the fast areas of coastal belt in Banskhali upazila ravaged by Monday's cyclone and tidal surge is the crying need of the hour to save the thousands of survivors.

A BSS correspondent who toured the affected areas found hundreds of carcasses in the western area of the upazila.

Bad smell comes out from the decomposed bodies, as burial is not possible due to stagnant water. Diarrhoea has claimed two lives of two children.

Mr Sultanul Kabir Chowdhury, MP of the upazila told newsmen that in nine unions of Banskhali the death toll is as follows:

32,000 in Khankhanabad, 7,000 in Baharachara, 5,000 in Sorol, 5,000 Gandamara, 10,000 in Chanowa 2,000 in Punichari, 1,000 in Shekerkhal, 1,000 in Chambal 500, in Khataria.

Abdul Kader, a SSC candi-

date bursting into tears, said he lost all relatives. Villageman Rohul Amin (30) said no one is alive in his family except he and his only cousin. "Would you give me two Taka, I am thirsty, I will drink water, water," he screamed.

#### 1000 killed in building collapse

In Khankhanabad, 1,000 people died instantaneously when the building in which they had taken shelter collapsed at impact of on rushing surge.

Ninety-five per cent of crops have been damaged. The loss to salt is 85 per cent, tubewell 40 per cent and vegetables 80 per cent while 98 per cent of roof have been swept away in the cyclone.

Till now 6,000 of carcasses have been buried according to upazila administrations.

Bodies are still hanging on the trees, and are found in hilly areas and near the embankment.

The only communication in the western Banskhali is by boat as the entire area has been turned into a vast sea. The green Banskhali has taken gray and ash colour. The water of 1487 tubewells has become salty, the survivors told their correspondent.

Upazila sources said a total of 49 metric tons of rice have been sent to the affected areas by the district administration

and 30,000 people in the makeshift said that they have not received any succor.

About 80 relief and rehabilitation centres have been opened in the upazila.

The most affected areas are Khankhanabad, Kadamrosul, Isha, Baharachara, Kataria, Gandamara Pukuria, Barumchara, Borguna, Raychar, Chapachari Khodagona, Napora, Chambol, Chonowa, Shekherkhal and Puichari.

Mr Sultanul Kabir, BNP upazila President Anwarul Azim and General Secretary Shahidul Alam, AL President Habibullah Chowdhury, General Secretary Shaiful Islam in separate Press statement urged the people to come forward to save the survivors.

#### 5 lakh affected in Barisal

A report from Barisal says: A total of five lakh people of ten upazilas of Barisal district have been badly affected by the cyclone which swept over the district on Monday night.

Standing crops on 13,000 acres and about 1,000 kuchcha houses were damaged totally and 5,000 houses partially, an official source said.

Besides, thousands of trees and electric poles fell in the district causing a complete disruption of electricity. The supply of electricity, however, was restored.

#### Donations to relief fund

RAJBARI, May 5: Rajbari District Administration decided to contribute relief materials worth of Taka 60,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone hit people of the coastal region, reports UNB.

Arrangements were also made at the DC office to receive relief materials donated by the local people.

Meanwhile, employees of the Municipal Corporation have decided to donate their one-day salary to the PM's relief fund.

The district unit of Red Crescent Society also began to collect relief goods.

A report from Rajshahi adds: Officers and employees of the western zone of Bangladesh Railway on Saturday decided to donate their one day's salary amounting about Taka 6,00,000 to Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

### Nor'wester hits Pabna: 7 killed

PABNA, May 5: Severe cyclonic storm claimed seven lives and injured at least 200 people in eight upazilas of the district on Friday night, reports UNB.

The storm with wind velocity of 60 to 70 kilometre per hour created havoc for five hours from 8 pm to 1 am and uprooted over 5,000 thatched houses and dwellings.

The victims were Kajli Begum (70), Abdul Bari (22), Anu Begum and Kiamuddin (6) in Sadar, Mojibor (15), Harun Mondol (60) in Bera and Ijbar Rahman in Santhia upazilas.

Deputy Commissioner, however admitted 4 deaths.

Among the injured 40 critically injured were rushed to Sadar hospital. The rest were admitted to different upazila health complex.

The worst affected upazila are Sadar, Atghoria, Santhia, Bera, Sujanager, Chatmohor, Faridpur and Vangura.

#### Manikganj

A report from Manikganj adds: Nor'wester that swept the district Friday evening injured eight people and damaged 350 dwelling houses.

Officials said the worst affected areas are Daulatdia and Ghior upazilas of the district where more than 300 houses were blown away by the storm. The rest 50 dwellings were damaged in Harirampur and Shibhalaya upazilas.

The injured were admitted to the local health complexes. Ferry services in Aricha and Nagarbari were suspended for two hours due to the storm.

Standing crops including onion on about 300 acres of land were damaged by the heavy downpour and hail storms.

#### Bheramara

BSS from Bheramara adds: Twenty two persons were injured in a nor'wester which swept over four upazilas of Kushtia district on Friday.

Many trees were uprooted, Kutchha houses collapsed and crops of about two thousands acres of land damaged by hail-storm.

The affected upazilas are Kushtia Sadar, Bheramara, Mirpur and Daulatpur.

Among the standing crops Irri-Boro, tobacco, betel leaf, and sugarcane are worst affected.



BARISAL: A scene of devastation of last Monday's cyclone that swept Charfasson. —Star photo by Aroop Talukder