

## SNAPS

## 5 trawlers sink, 2 fishermen missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least two fishermen are feared drowned as five fishing trawlers with 74 on board sank in the turbulent Bay on Friday and Sunday due to rough weather. The two are Nurul Islam, 38, of Barguna and Rashid Mridha, 34, of Rampal in Bagerhat, sources in the Patharghat. Trawler Owner's Association said when contacted from here yesterday, they were on board FB Shahriar which sank in the sea 30 kilometers south of Patharghat. Seventy-two fishermen were rescued by other fishing trawlers, the sources said.

## Tiger kills fisherman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A fisherman was killed by tiger in the Sundarbans on Sunday. The dead victim is Abdur Rouf, 25, son of Mahmud Sardar of Patakhali in Shyamnagar upazila. He came under attack of the tiger while fishing in Gabkhali canal of the mangrove forest. Later, local people recovered the body.

## Rice bowl to remain empty?

Little hope of Aman sowing in Moulvibazar due to seed crisis

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

districts. The average yield per acre is also higher than in other areas.

Early floods this year damaged IRRI-Boro crops in low-lying areas and the recent deluge inundated 1191 square kilometre area, damaging Aus paddy on 63892 acres and affecting about nine lakh 71 thousand people.

The floodwater is yet to recede from low lying haor areas including Kawadighi Haor, Hail Haor and Hakaluki haor. Many people of these villages are yet to return home from flood shelters, not to speak of starting Aman sowing. Some areas are still under five to six feet water. There is no hope of Aman cultivation there this year.

Like many others, Abdullah is moving heaven and earth for seed or seedlings. But neither is available. Even the government-assured seed for marginal farmers is yet to teach them. The condition in almost the whole of Moulvibazar district is precarious as it was ravaged by flood twice this year. The district is considered as a rice bowl. Rice produced in its vast fertile haor lands are supplied to other

districts. Amtail union said the flood damaged crops on his 150 bighas and washed away fishes from six ponds. He is in deep crisis because he can not transplant Aman seedlings.

Dibakar Das of the same village said he went to the agricultural office at Moulvibazar for Aman seed but was frustrated. "The officer told me they are trying to collect seed for farmers", he said.

Abdul Hamid Mollah, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension, told this correspondent that his department was trying to arrange seed and seedlings. He said he hopes to distribute seeds among farmers.

But farmers say the government seed will be of little use as the sowing time will be over when those will be available.

Most of the affected people face another major problem-- how to

rebuild their damaged houses. They said they need financial assistance. But government relief allocation is too poor to solve their problem. There is also no coordination between government departments and non-government organisations in relief distribution.

People of Munshibazar union in Rajnagar upazila alleged that the Union Parishad chairman and members are not giving relief to those who did not vote for them in the last election.

But chairmen of Munshibazar and Uttarbagh unions said they did not get sufficient relief for distribution.

Monsurnagar UP chairman Md Sadiqur Rahman and Tengra UP Chairman Abdul Kadir Mutualib in Rajnagar upazila alleged that government relief was not allocated there as they belonging to opposition Awami League.

## Girl missing after handover to Barisal police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Suborna Mustafa Sadia, 14, a student of class eight at Oxford School at Jatrabari in Dhaka, is missing since Friday night after she was handed over to police after recovery from the house of a JCD leader.

Sadia came to visit her maternal uncle Wahid Talukder at Seral village in Nalchity upazila in Jhalakati district.

But the two took her to a house in Vatarkhal slum. Seeing them, the slum people became suspicious. They rescued her and handed her over to Sub-inspector Faruk Mridha of a patrol team.

The teenage girl is missing since then.

Meanwhile, some relatives of the girl who came to Barisal launch termi-

nal but the launch from Dhaka had left before she arrived.

S I Faruk Mridha could not be contacted as he was on patrol duty for the Prime Minister's recent visit to Barisal.

When contacted, Barisal Kotwali thana Officer-in-Charge Sahrum Khan said he does not know anything about the matter.

Barisal Police Superintendent Mainur Rahman Chowdhury said the SI should have taken the girl to the thana and record a case. He failed in his duty. Departmental action will be taken against the SI for this, the SP said.

## 121 km dams damaged in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has incurred a loss of Tk 19 cr and 60 lakh due to damage in its embankment and water outlet regulators by flood here.

Flood has damaged about 121-kilometre embankment and 16 water outlet regulators along the rivers Ghagor, Teesta, Brahmaputra and Karotia. The damage has been made out of the BWDB constructed 265.60-kilometre embankment and 51 outlet regulators along the four rivers.

According to a statistical report, there are 98.50-kilometre embankment along the Teesta and Brahmaputra

while the number of regulators at different points is 18.

Flood damaged 40-kilometre embankment and seven regulators. The loss has been estimated at Tk 6 cr and 20 lakh.

The BRDB constructed 25.20-kilometre embankment with two regulators along the Ghagor. Out of it, 15 kilometre embankment and two regulators have been badly affected. The cost of loss has been estimated at Tk 80 lakh.

There is another embankment along the rivers of Alai and Manash. Its length is 6.50-kilometre, out of which three-kilometre area has been affected. Its loss has been estimated at Tk 80 lakh.

About 10-kilometre area of 12-kilometre long Kamornai Sub-embankment project has been damaged. The loss has been estimated at Tk 60 lakh.

The Sat Damuya Katler Beel sub-embankment project is 34-kilometre long where there are 11 regulators. About 16-kilometre area of the embankment with its two regulators have been damaged. The loss has been estimated at Tk One cr.

The length of Sonai embankment is 19.40-kilometre. It has six outlet regulators along the Ghagor. Flood has affected its 10-kilometre area while the loss has been estimated at Tk 80 lakh.

Some of them said Asaduzzaman left

They appointed 18 jobless youths as 'field officers', promising them good salaries and took Tk 10,000 from each as security money. The youths drew deposits from local people.

This correspondent also talked to some of the 'cheated' youths including Amzad Sheikh, Nahida Akhtar, Josna, Sawkat Ali, Rokeya Khatun, Reshma Khatun and Rohmat Ali. They said they collected Tk 2,350 each from about 400 depositors and deposited those to the NGO.

Some of them said Asaduzzaman left

## Fake NGO 'director' flees with Tk 3 lakh depositors' money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The 'director' of a fake NGO -- Baitul Mal Islami Society -- has allegedly fled away with Tk 3 lakh depositors' money.

The depositors, numbering about 400, are crowding the office of the NGO at Patkelghata in Tala upazila every day but the office is under lock and key.

Talking to this correspondent, some of the depositors said Asaduzzaman, son of Kawas Ali of Khalshi village in Dumuria upazila in Khulna, opened the NGO at Patkelghata last year. He was the 'director' and his wife Fazila Khatun was its 'branch manager'.

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Some of them said Asaduzzaman left

for Dhaka on July 14 on the plea of some official and can not be traced since then.

Some depositors alleged that the NGO collected deposits from them promising attractive benefits.

They fulfilled all terms but the NGO is neither giving them any benefit nor returning their money.

Source said, the NGO was operating without any approval from any government agency.

Abu Musa, who was appointed 'record keeper cum cashier' at the NGO office, has filed a case with a Magistrate court at Sathkhira against Asaduzzaman and his wife Fazila Khatun.

On the other hand, Fazila Khatun has filed a case against two NGO 'field officers', one 'accountant' and 'peon' with Tala thana for abducting her husband.

Police arrested 'field officer' Nazrul Islam and 'peon' Azizur Rahman.

## Convict hanged at Rangpur jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Condemned convict Golam Mortuz was hanged Monday night at Rangpur Central Jail.

Judge of the Women and Children Repression Court sentenced Golam Mortuz to death for killing his wife.

He had appealed to the High Court, but it also upheld the verdict. The President also rejected his mercy petition.

A hangman from Jessor Jail executed the death sentence at 12:01 Tuesday.

Rangpur Jail Superintendent Abdul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Helal Bhuiyan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Abu Taleb, Magistrate Jubair Hossain Bablu and Officer in-charge of Kotwali thana were present beside the scaffold as eyewitnesses to the execution.

The Deputy Jailer and two assistant hangmen were also present.

As many as 12 relatives of Mortuz were outside the jail gate during the time of execution.

Later Jail Doctor Sahadat Hossain and Rangpur Civil Surgeon Joinal Abedeen did autopsy of the body.

Golam Mortuz's elder brother received the dead body at the jail gate at 6 am yesterday.

The body was taken to his native village at Borokhata in Dimla upazila in Nilphamari district.

## Pneumonia kills 7 in two districts in a week

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Pneumonia claimed two lives in Bholia on Saturday and five lives in Patuakhali last week.

BSS reports from Barisal: An unidentified child died of the disease in Borunuddin upazila and another person named Monir died in Tazumuddin upazila, Bholia on Saturday, according to Civil Surgeon (CS) office sources.

CS office sources said at least 45 children died of pneumonia and 1,115 others attacked by the disease in three districts of the region since January this year.

CS office sources further said, one child died of pneumonia in Bakerganj upazila on July 26.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: Pneumonia claimed three lives and attacked 200 others in seven

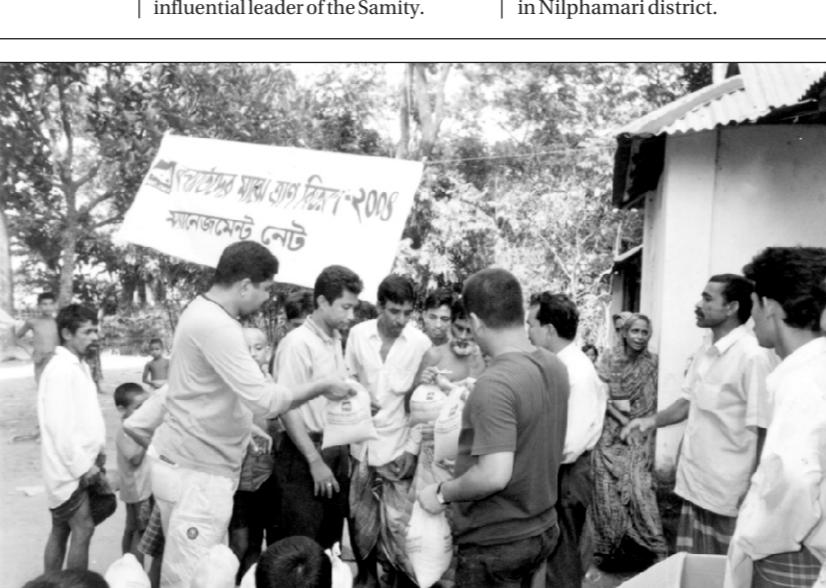
upazilas here in a week. Civil Surgeon Dr Nurun Nahar Begum told this correspondent on Saturday.

The dead victims are Shahidul, 3, son of Sanu Gazi of Bahal Gachia village in Sadar upazila, Rina, 8, daughter of Amir Hoossain of Kushepurb village in Bauphal upazila, Jesmin Akter 5, daughter of Anwar Gazi of Shrirampur village in Dunki upazila.

CS office sources told this correspondent, 42 persons were killed and 1,132 others attacked in the district from January 1 to August 14.

Among the attacked, 95 were children.

About 101 medical teams are working in seven upazilas. A control room has been opened at the CS office to collect pneumonia-related information and attacked 200 others in seven



Relief distribution by Management Net, a body of former students of Dhaka University Management Department, in Manikdi union in Kotiadi, Kishoreganj (left) and by industrialist Fazlur Rahman Bakul in Gazaria in Munshiganj district.