

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 Patharghata 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 Patharghata. 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 Gabra khali 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

Md Abdullah of Kashempur village in Rajnagar upazila is a rich farmer. But he is bewildered now.

Flood took away the paddy crop on fields and damaged another about 400 maunds kept in the house for use as food and seed.

He has barely fifteen days to transplant Aman seedlings. But seed and seedlings are scarce in the district, where 60 out of 69 unions were under water for over two months.

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

Early floods this year damaged IRR1-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.

This correspondent visited villages in Amtail and Nazirabad unions in the Sadar upazila and Fatehpur and Munshibazar unions in Rajnagar upazila recently.

Ramkrishna Das of Basuria village

in 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 Uttarbhag unions said they did not get sufficient relief for distribution.

Monsurnagar UP chairman Md Sadiqur Rahman and Tengra UP Chairman Abdul Kadir Mutalib 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 Nalchhity upazila in Jhalakati district.

After an urgent phone call from her father Kashem about illness of her uncle Jahid Hossain, Sadia left for Dhaka on Friday evening.

She reached Barisal Rupatali bus stand at night but failed to avail any bus. Then she came to Barisal launch termi-

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

Seeing her weeping, local JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) leader Rafiq along with party activist Iqbal took her to his house promising safe shelter for the night and help to avail a Dhaka-bound bus next morning.

But the two took her to a house in Vatakhali 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 Wahid Talukder's house on

Monday from Dhaka said she did not reach Dhaka.

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 Ghagot, Teesta, Brahmaputra and Karotoa. 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 Ghagot. 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 18 lakh.

About 10-kilometre area of 12-kilometre long Kamornai Sub-embankment project has been damaged. The loss has been estimated at Tk 66 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 Sonail embankment is 19.40-kilometre. It has six outlet regulators along the Ghagot. Flood has affected its 10-kilometre area while the loss has been estimated at Tk 80 lakh.

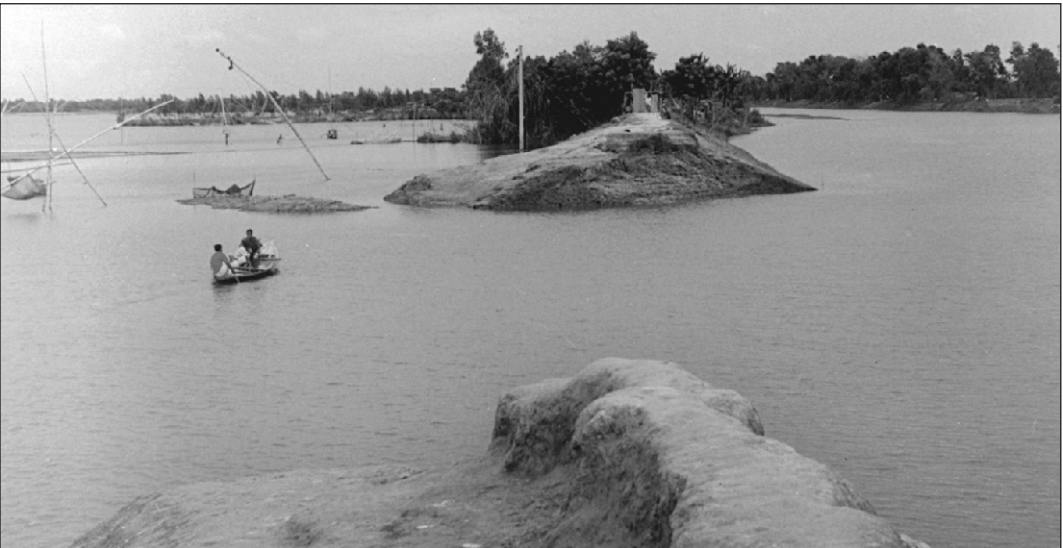


PHOTO: STAR

Floods washed away over 300 feet of the Ghagot river embankment, one of many in Gaibandha.

Poura polls: Candidates in Nilphamari, Satkhira

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six candidates on Monday submitted nomination papers to contest for the post of chairman of Nilphamari Poursabha, Our Correspondent Reported. The polls will be held on September 8.

The candidates are Alamgir Sarker (BNP), Dewan Kamal Ahmed (Awami League), Moniruzzaman Montu (Jamaat), Ahsan Ahmed (Jatiya Party-Ershad), Shawkat Ali Tultul and Mohammad Zakaria (independents).

Fifty-four persons submitted nomination papers to vie for the posts of nine ward commissioners and 14 women for three seats reserved for them.

Meanwhile, a rift has been widened in the 4-Party Alliance here over filing of nomination papers by both the BNP and the Jamaat leaders.

Our Satkhira Correspondent Reports:

Three candidates have filed nomination papers to contest for the post of Satkhira Poursava chairman.

The polls will be held on September 8.

The candidates are incumbent chairman and Awami League leader Sheikh Ashrafal Haq and BNP leaders Abdul Jalil and Syed Ektiar Ali Titu.

Fifty-four candidates have filed nomination papers for nine posts of ward commissioners and 17 women for three seats reserved for them, according to election commission sources here yesterday.

Pneumonia kills 7 in two districts in a week

STAR NATIONAL DESK

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

BSS reports from Barisal: An unidentified child died of the disease in Borhunuddin upazila and another person named Monir died in Tazumuddin upazila, Bhola 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 Kushebpur 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.

BNP leader expelled from Barisal Ainjibi Samity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Advocate Majibur Rahman Nantu, former vice-president of Barisal district BNP, has been expelled from Barisal Ainjibi Samity (lawyers association) for his alleged corruption in conducting cases and misbehaviour with fellow lawyers and clients.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Samity on Monday with advocate Khan Mofazzal Hossain in the chair, sources in the organisation said.

The Samity also demanded his removal from the post of Special Public Prosecutor of Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal.

In this connection, a memorandum was also given to advocate Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor and BNP president.

When contacted, Nantu said, the present committee of the Samity is illegal and it has no right to expel him from without issuing any showcause notice.

He also refuted then allegation of misbehaviour, saying these are "false", raised against him after his recent brawl in a court with advocate Shakhawat Hossain Jummon, president of Barisal Bar Association and an influential leader of the Samity.

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 Jubaer Hossen 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 Hossen and Rangpur Civil Surgeon Joinal Abedeen did autopsies of the body.

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

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



PHOTO: STAR

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.