Spread

# Declare Bagerhat shrimp farm disaster zone

#### Says Shrimp Cultivators' Assoc president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bagerhat Shrimp Cultivators' Association (BSCA) has demanded that the government declare Bagerhat district high tidal surges. a disaster zone for shrimp farms as cyclone Aila had dealt a severe blow to this sector here.

BSCA President Elias Mahmud made the demand while talking to this correspondent on Thursday.

He said the tropical cyclonic storm has washed away over 50 to 55 percent of

damage to the shrimp sector, he said and estimated the loss at over Tk 150 crore.

The BSCA president noted that shrimp cultivators would have no alternative but to go into hiding or commit suicide, as they have no more means to bear the burden of loss and financial liabilities.

shrimp cultivators to pay off loans they took from banks and other sources hoping for a boost in production in both fresh water and saltwater cultivation, he added.

sources, some 18,788 shrimp enclosures of Bagerhat district have been destroyed by Aila followed by eight to 10 feet

Besides, over 8000 fish farms worth over Tk 70 crore were also washed away, the sources added.

The shrimp sector from this part of the country largely contributes to national exchequer in earning huge foreign exchanges.

Mir Shawkat Ali Badsha, member of the parliamentary shrimp enclosures in the standing committee on fisheries and livestock ministry, The 13-hour onslaught of admitted to this correspon-Aila has caused extensive dent that the devastating cyclone had caused a huge loss to the shrimp sector in this region.

> "I'd urge the government most fervently to help the shrimp cultivators recover the loss, the AL lawmaker said.

When contacted, District Fisheries Officer Mohammad Rashed said Bagerhat is It is not at all possible for responsible for producing 40 percent of the export-oriented

The district has close to 60,000 shrimp enclosures, including over 35,000 enclosures for lobster cultivation.

According to official Some two lakh people are dependent on both prawn and lobster shrimp cultivation, he

> Deputy Director of Fisheries (in-charge) of Khulna division Sirajul Karim admitted that Aila has dealt a shattering blow to shrimp producing districts of Khulna and Bagerhat districts threatening export of processed frozen foods.

Humayun Kabir, director of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association and managing director of Amam Sea Foods of Khulna, also admitted that the embattled frozen food sector had suffered a crippling blow.

The damages are bigger this time due to irresistible tidal surge than that of cyclone Sidr in 2007, he added.

Humayun further said that this is the peak season of shrimp harvesting that will continue until November this

Apart from a recent decline in export due to some reasons, including global economic recession, Aila has put more adverse impact on future of export trade of this sector, exporters said.



Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh (CLNB) forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

# Home minister vows to stamp out militancy

#### Lawmaker Latif locked in altercation with AL leaders at law & order review meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday reiterated her vow to stamp out militancy and terrorism even at the cost of her life, if necessary.

She also sought cooperation from all sections of society and all political parties in curbing crimes as well as militancy.

The minister said this at the monthly review meeting of District Law and Order Committee held at local Circuit House conference room.

Shipping Minister Afsarul Ameen and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury were special guests at the meeting while Deputy Commissioner Farid Uddin

Ahmad Chowdhury chaired it. However, Awami League lawmaker and president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) MA Latif was locked in altercation several times with other lawmakers and AL leaders over the issue of plying of truck in the day-

Although the Immediate past caretaker government imposed a ban on truck movement in the city centre in the daytime, MA Latif has been trying to withdraw the ban for

the last couple of days. At a meeting at the CCCI conference room on May 15, Latif also declared that truck movement will resume within a week. But his move was strongly opposed by city corporation Mayor ABM

Mohiuddin Chowdhury. Addressing the yesterday's review meeting, lawmaker Abul Kashem and AL South District leader Moslem Uddin urged the law enforcement agencies to take stern action against trucks parking illegally on both sides of busy roads, including Zakir Hossain Road and Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk

During his speech, MA Latif opposed the two leaders and said it is the duty of the traffic department to maintain discipline.

truck movement in the daytime, saying that it is not safe to carry valuable imported goods by truck at night, so the ban on trucks in the daytime should be withdrawn.

Some leaders tried to stop Latif, but to no avail.

Latif was also locked in altercation with the shipping minister when he requested Latif not to discuss the issue elaborately.

Later, the home minister intervened and brought the situation under control.

AL lawmakers Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury, ABM Abul Kashem and defencemen.

Shamsul Haque, BNP lawmaker Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Shamsul Islam and Deputy Commissioner (North) Banaj Kumar He also made his point on Mazumder also spoke at the

Home Minister Sahara Khatun said the government would soon take initiatives to increase manpower and logistic support for police to help the law enforcement agencies combat crime.

In this regard, she said the government has already decided to recruit 500 subinspectors and 2000 constables to strengthen the force.

She also referred to the government's recent introduction of 100 percent ration for police and risk allowance for the fire service and civil



#### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places in all the six divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Chandpur and the lowest of 23.8 degree at Sylhet.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.4	28.2	75	88
Chittagong	33.4	27.7	83	72
Rajshahi	33.0	27.0	75	73
Khulna	35.0	27.5	77	76
Barisal	35.3	27.5	77	80
Sylhet	33.0	23.8	96	70
Cox's Bazar	34.2	27.0	73	73

## Fake stamps worth Tk 2cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police seized a huge quantity of fake stamps worth over Tk two crore, certificates and licences from the city's Narinda area and also arrested two people in this connection yesterday.

Meanwhile, in separate drives on Thursday night Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested five members of a fake note making ring with currencies worth over Tk 60 lakh of eight countries and unearthed a fake note making factory.

Kotwali police said they made the seizure from a factory where these forged items are being prepared for a long time illegally and arrested Md Faruq and Ishtiak Hossain.

They raided Amin Printers at Sharat Gupta Road in Narinda and seized the fake stamps along with a huge amount of fake certificates of National University and trade licences of Dhaka City Corporation.

Meanwhile, Rab-10 officials said they arrested Md Robin, 22, Shahid, 21, Aminur Mollah, 18, Sagir, 30, and Abdus Salam, 60, from different parts of the city and seized fake currencies of Bangladesh, the US, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, India, Bhutan, Kuwait and Myanmar.

The fake note making factory was found on the 5th floor of a building on Nawabpur Road in the old part of the city.

Rab said ringleader Robin admitted that they had been making fake notes since the last one-year-and-a-half.

#### China Red Cross donation for Aila victims

UNB, Dhaka

China has expressed deep shock at the loss of lives and properties caused by cyclone Aila that left a trail of devastation in the southern coastal districts of the country.

In a message to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, her Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi expressed profound shock and sincere sympathy for bereaved families and affected people.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross Society of China donated Tk 20,50,000 as emergency aid to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society for the disaster affected people.

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi has handed over the money to Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Prof MS Akbar, said a press release on Thursday.

# DHAKA

ODAY

Dialogue

International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh organises a dialogue on 'Rethinking trade finance 2009: An ICC global survey'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre Time: 11:30am.

#### Workshop

MRDI organises a workshop or 'Ensuring implementation of Right to Information Act in a pro-poor approach: Role and potentials of media'. Venue: Brac Centre. Time: 10:00am.

#### Seminar

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organises a seminar on 'CSR - A profitable way of doing business ethically' Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time 11:30am.

#### Roundtable

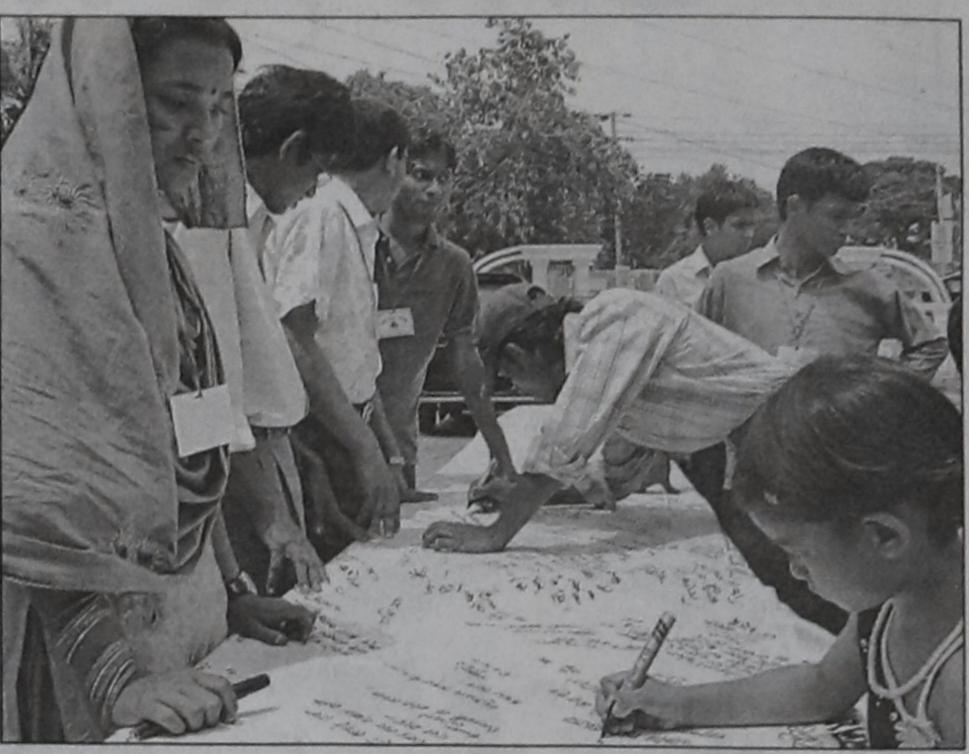
Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance organises a roundtable on 'Tobacco control in Bangladesh: Expectation to the government'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:45am.

#### Book launching

The launching ceremony of the book 'All Those Yesterdays 1954-1964, Youth in Pakistan, America Europe' by Hasnat Abdul Hye will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time 5:30pm.

#### Roundtable on domestic violence

Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh with support from American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative will organises a roundtable on 'Address domestic violence in Bangladesh through community involvement'. Venue: Hotel Lakeshore. Time: 9:00am.



A five-year-old girl writes her pledge on a banner on Nilphamari Shishu Academy premises yesterday as part of the 'Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao' (Change yourself, change others) campaign of the daily Prothom Alo.

### 'CHANGE YOURSELF, CHANGE OTHERS' Campaign buzzing with

# pledges to change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Prothom Alo Bandhusabha yesterday formed a human chain on the bank of the Bakkhali river in Cox's Bazar demanding immediate steps for excavation to save it which is about to die.

In separate programmes in Kushtia and Rangpur, people from all walks of life yesterday pledged to bring about positive changes in society. They also vowed to resist all evils and odds to establish durable peace.

Nurul Aziz, a schoolteacher and a resident of Kasturaghat, said the river had a relation with their hearts.

the river bank, was once the main commercial hub of the to save the lifeline of the town. city, but the place has now become insipid, lifeless and filthy, he said.

Bazar regional chief of the

ships and launches transported through the river regularly, but it has now become a narrower lifeless ghat. A large shoal had emerged after the river bed was dried

sand fishing trawlers, passenger

shoal is being encroached by the land grabbers bit by bit. As the river had filled up with mud and debris, the city dwellers have to face waterlogging even in light

ting, he said, adding that the

shower, Rana added. Chief of Cox's Bazar Paribesh Bachao Andolon, Principal Sharmin Reshmin, and Cox's Bazar Municipality Mayor Sarwar Kamal and Kasturaghat, which is on Saiful Islam expressed their solidarity with the movement

Due to filling up the river, the income of the municipal. ity has been reduced and at a Abdul Kuddus Rana, Cox's time at least seven lakh people | educationists and civil society have been facing suffering in Prothom Alo, said several thou- transportation, said Sarwar.

reports: Cross section of people gathered at a programme launched by the Prothom Alo on the Bijoy Ullash premises of Kushtia Municipality. The vernacular daily started

Our Kushtia correspondent

up with the earth of hill cuta countrywide forth-nightly campaign to encourage individuals to take a pledge to change the society since May 21 with the slogan 'Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao' (Change yourself, change others).

Our Rangpur correspondent adds: A large number of people here made a vow to build the nation a prosperous and developed one by keeping them above corruption and dishonesty. They also pledged for a knowledge-based nation. Hundreds of people took

part in the campaign for change on the local Shaheed Minar premises. Cultural activists,

members spoke at the

Bratachari movement for nat'l development' DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for spreading out the Bratachari movement to encourage people to work for individual and national devel-

opment. The discussion was organised by Bratachari Samity, Bangladesh on the campus of Dhaka University to mark the 127th birth anniversary of Gurusaday Dutt.

Gurusaday, a barrister, politician, folklorist, writer and social reformer, was born at Birasri village of Sylhet in 1882.

Addressing the programme, State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam urged all concerned to bring back songs, dances and physical exercises of Bratachari movement to schools and colleges to build young generation as real Bangalee.

"We should not forget that we are Bangalee," he added. Speakers at the discussion said society would be enriched

if the ideology of Gurusaday is preserved and followed. They said peace would be ensured in the society and the young generation would be grown up with Bangalee iden-

tity if the philosophy of

Bratachari movement is disseminated properly. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Major General (retd) Amin Ahmed Bir Bikram also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier General Secretary of Bratachari Samity, Bangladesh Shafi Ahmed delivered the welcome address. Later the children and teenagers wearing red and

white clothes performed colourful dances with the songs written by Gurusaday.

DUDS executives

DU CORRESPONDENT Al Amin Chowdhury Sumon and Rakibul Islam have been elected president and general secretary of Dhaka University

the term 2009-10. The election of the new executive body of the DUDS was held at its office yesterday.

Debating Society (DUDS) For

# Extortionists active again

FROM PAGE 1

Robiul Hasan, an executive of

a private firm in Farmgate. "My family is now in a state of insecurity. I don't know whether I should pay or seek police help," Robiul told The Daily Star.

Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) president Tanveerul Haque Probal met Home Minister Sahara Khatun with a delegation to inform her about regular threats received by Rehab members to pay up

to Tk 30 lakh. "We are very worried about the situation and urged the home minister to take effective measures to save them from the extortionists," said

Probal. Home Minister Sahara Khatun said the government is committed to dismantling these gangs and "Police are already launching drives to arrest the callers." The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has opened a cell, with the help of Detective Branch (DB),

to curb rising extortion.

threats over the phone from abroad and use their subordinates in the country to collect the money, said the police, adding that an estimated 1,200 criminals could be involved in the 300 gangs.

The police have been able to track some of the numbers, which suggested that notorious criminals such as Dakat Sahid and Shadat in India and Zisan in Dubai, are calling from these overseas locations to run their rings.

State minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj said he met Bangladesh Telephone Regulatory Commission (BTRC) officials to expedite telephone tracking.

"We have asked police to list such callers and arrest them," he told The Daily Star. "If necessary we will formulate a phone law to deal with the menace."

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Huq said they sought help of the foreign ministry

Fugitive criminals issue leaders from runing their asenior DMP official extortion operations from overseas.

another 20 to 30 gangs randomly pick numbers from the telephone guide in order to call and make threats of kidnapping. The money is later collected through mobile phone payments and courier services.

"Such criminals demand Tk 1 lakh to 2 lakh or threaten to kidnap their children", said Deputy Commissioner of the detective branch (DB-South) Monirul Islam. "It is possible to manage such criminals by paying Tk 1,000 to 10,000," he added.

Majority of the extortionists are local petty criminals who use the names of the top

criminals, said police. "If any businessman refuses to fulfil their demands, the local subordinates of the criminals first threaten to shoot him or his employees. The criminals do not hesitate

Rohingyas are not their citi-

zens, they are Bangladeshis.

"But I presented the historical

on Rohingyas and their origin

in Myanmar at the conference

community," she said.

take them back.

and Interpol to stop the ring to kill if they are not paid," said

The DMP cell has received around 250 extortion com-The police said that plaints since its formation on April 28. But police say the number of victims is much higher as many of the victims do not report the threats for fear.

The fear of being shot by these gangs has worsened since the death of two men and the shooting of more than 50 people in the last two months.

Extortionists shot dead construction workers Sharif, 16, and injured his brother Abdullah, 21, on April 10 when their employer did not pay Tk 20 lakh to the gang. Similarly, another group shot dead Mobarak Hossain, father-inlaw of Toba Group Chairman Delwar Hossain, as he refused

pay money to extortionists. In both cases, the firm owners filed general diaries but the police had failed to take any steps before the

death of the two men.

# War criminals' trial won't be a victor's justice

FROM PAGE 1

she urged Islamabad to try Pakistani war criminals to meet international obligation.

"Since trial of the war criminals has now become a big issue, it is natural that there would be campaigns in favour of or against it," said Dipu Moni, adding, "We must inform the international community about what we want to do, why we want to do it and how we want to do it."

In the second week of April, the foreign minister started a series of visits to a number of countries in Asia, Europe and

talks with OIC Secretary Ihsanoglu, Commonwealth further talks on it and I told him Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma, UK Secretary of State holding talks," she added. David Miliband, foreign ministers of Norway, Syria, war criminals and manpower side the UNHCR camps. exports.

"They told me that the trial not stop unless there is qualitashould be held," she said. "We tive change in the Rakhine state want to heal the old wounds. We have to stop the culture of impunity. We want to end the

chapter," she said, adding that three million people were killed and 4,00,000 women were raped during the LiberationWar in 1971."

Referring to her talks with

Nawabzada Malik Ahmad

Khan, she said it appeared that Pakistan wants to shelve the issue, fearing it may further sour its relations with Bangladesh. "I told the Pakistani foreign visit to Myanmar, leaders of Bangladesh will be ecologi-

holding the trial of the war criminals of our country," Dipu "When I asked him to hold Dipu said recently she had the trial of their war criminals as there is an international General Dr Ekmeleddin obligation, he told me to have here.

that we have no problem with

Turning to Rohingya issue, and International Dipu Moni said the Rakhine Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, people are entering Malaysia, Sri Lanka, the Bangladesh territory through Philippines, Lebanon, Cuba, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban Zambia and Myanmar on districts and a large number of many issues including trial of the intruders are staying out-

"The influx of refugees will Northern Rakhine state of [motherland of Rohingyas] of Cox's Bazar. Myanmar," she said. Dipu said she also had talks

Referring to the Bali confer- on maritime boundary delimi-

Organisation for Migration,"

she told reporters. Although

the problem has been there for

30 years, she is hopeful about

resolving it through fruitful

discussion, she added.

ence on human trafficking, tation, facilitation of the bank-Dipu said the Myanmar dele- ing services, trade and comgation told the conference that merce, a Bangladesh-Myanmar road link to China and border fencing. She said an expert would soon visit facts and necessary evidence Myanmar to assess gas import.

About construction of the

controversial Tipaimukh Dam

by India, she said a parliamento convince the international tary team and experts would But during her May 16-17 visit the site to assess whether minister that it will not be a Myanmar acknowledged them cally affected by the proposed victor's justice while we are as Myanmarese and agreed to dam. Referring to her meetings with India's former external "There has been progress in

> this regard," Dipu said, adding affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee and external affairs that the Myanmar government has sought a list from Dhaka on secretary Shiv Shanker Menon, Dipu said India has assured the number of Rohingyas living that they would reconsider the "We will give Yangon the list project if it "adversely" affects in consultation with the UN Bangladesh. Foreign Secretary Md High Commission for Refugees Touhid Hossain, who was

present at yesterday's press briefing, said there would be no change in Rohingya crisis unless the environment Rohingyas live in is improved. He made it clear that Dhaka

Some 28,000 Rohingya must not accept any foreign refugees, Muslims from national asitscitizen. State Minister for Foreign

Myanmar, live in camps in Affairs Hasan Mahmud and other senior foreign ministry officials were also present at the briefing.