

Death ends his wait for relief

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sathkira

Cyclone Aila victim 65-year old Omar Ali's wait for fresh clothing ended in vain as he died of diarrhoea in Chandnimukho village in Shyamnagar in the early hours yesterday.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on Saturday enlisted his name and gave him a non-food item relief card.

"He was very happy to get the card as he was wearing a lungi for the last three days," wailed his daughter Halima Khatun.

"My father died within one hour of being attacked by diarrhoea," she said.

Diarrhoea is spreading fast in the cyclone-hit areas due to lack of safe drinking water. Every day a few hundred people are being affected in the cyclone-hit areas and three have died so far in Shyamnagar.

The residents of Gabura, Padmapukur, Burigowalini and Munshiganj are suffering from acute crisis of drinking water.

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An elderly woman waiting in line for relief materials at Sripur of Pratapnagar in Assasuni upazila of Sathkira yesterday tries to have a better look at how long the queue is.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hungry, they wait for help

Jhapa village still under water; survivors' sufferings know no bound

WASIM BIN HABIB, from Sathkira

"My time has come, perhaps I will die this time round."

Sixty-five-year-old Santosh Mondol let out a sigh as he spoke the words.

In the tiny makeshift shack he has managed to put up on the damaged embankment in Jhapa village, his future didn't look good.

Like other Aila affected people in the village, Santosh too has lost his house and entire life's belongings. With the few kilograms of rice he could salvage, a few utensils and his cattle, he has followed the other survivors to shelter on the embankment - the only place not submerged under water.

Staring blankly at the Kholpetua river - once the lifeline of the village - and now the reason behind their fate, Santosh doesn't know if he can start all over again.

The old man is not alone in his miseries. But that is no consolation for him, or any other survivor of Cyclone Aila. They barely have anything to eat and almost nothing to look forward to.

A small village with around 2,675 people, Jhapa under Shyamnagar upazila, stands on the banks of river Kholpetua. The villagers are poor people who earned a living working as labourers at the shrimp enclosures in the area.

The entire village is now under waist deep water, survivors from Jhapa, as well as villages as far as Pakhimara to

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CHILDREN'S DEATH Test results show pesticide poisoning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After testing biological and environmental samples taken from two villages of Dhamrai, Atlanta Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention of the US confirmed that pesticides caused the deaths of four children there in April and May.

The CDC in their report said they found organophosphate, one of the main poisonous raw materials widely used in pesticides, in

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JS body chiefs to get vehicles, gunmen

Proposal to raise their entertainment allowance

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Parliament Secretariat Commission has drafted a set of proposals including one for specifying privileges and increasing benefits for the House standing committee chairmen.

According to the proposals, the committee chiefs will get a flag-bearing vehicle, a gunman to ensure security, a monthly entertainment allowance between Tk 5,000 and Tk 2,976, furniture and electrical appliances for use in office.

Besides, they will have two staff including a personal assistant to help them discharge

duties, said sources in the parliament secretariat.

Of the proposals, one is for launching a television channel to broadcast live the parliamentary proceedings.

Another says the opposition chief whip too will have privileges specified and facilities increased. He might also be given a deputy minister's status, said a senior official requesting anonymity.

The commission has drawn up the proposals on instructions from its chair Speaker Abdul Hamid. It will meet on June 3 to firm those up.

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2 Shibir men held; radio frequency device seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sathkira

Two cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested with radio frequency devices from a hostel at Puratan Sathkira in the district town early yesterday.

On information, police raided Alam hostel and recovered FM band radio, computer, compact disks (CD), jihadi books, wires and frequency devices from their possession. The radio device is

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Make action plan to fulfil poll pledges

JS body asks ministries; unhappy over performances of many

RASHIDUL HASAN and SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary standing committee on establishment ministry yesterday asked all ministries to prepare 'immediate action plan' to ensure implementation of the ruling party's electoral pledges.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the performance of many ministries, the House body at a meeting directed the secretaries to form 'core teams' immediately to conduct business of the ministries more efficiently and smoothly.

It also asked the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to set up a 'strategic cell' to oversee and coordinate the activities of all ministries.

The government will evaluate the performance of the ministries in line with action plan citing development projects of the ministries and the government's sector priorities.

"We are not happy with the performance of many ministries. The committee asked, all ministries to form 'monitoring cell or core team' that will take up action plans in line with

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14yrs behind bars in false case

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bandarban

A Bangladeshi indigenous citizen, sentenced to two months rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a false case filed against him on charge of intrusion into the country, was

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Trader shot dead in city

Body of girl recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals gunned down a local businessman in Mohammadpur yesterday while the body of the minor was recovered from city's Mirpur area.

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5 thugs beaten to death in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat five criminals to death at Dharmapur of Sathkania upazila in Chittagong early yesterday. Six people, including three community policemen, were also injured when the gang fired on them to make their escape.

The criminals were identified as Bashir, Ripon, Suman, Zobair and Syed Alam. The injured community policemen were Inu Munsu, 40, Nasir Uddin, 25, Amzad Hossain, 22, and locals Bahadur Islam, 16, Kamal Hossain, 23, and Syedul Alam, 22.

Sources said the armed gang of 10-12 men were carrying two chopped up and allegedly stolen cows through Dharmapur around 3.00am when on-duty community police and locals, jointly patrolling the area, challenged them.

The criminals made a run for it and the locals and the community police chased them. Villagers were also informed of the matter over horn speakers of a mosque.

Being pursued, the criminals started firing at the chasers and six people got injured.

Five of them were caught in front of Dharmapur Government Primary School and given a good beating which left them dead on the spot, said Officer in-charge Mohammad Aslam Hossain of Sathkania Police Station.

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A portion of the Sandhya river in Banaripara of Barisal is occupied and filled with dirt for a government housing project for the landless.

PHOTO: STAR

HC orders status quo on earth-filling in Sandhya river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the authorities concerned to maintain status quo for three months on earth-filling on the bank of river Sandhya in Barisal for the development of housing plots.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain within four weeks why the development of housing plots on the bank of this river should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench passed the order upon an application filed by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The application was filed on the basis of a newspaper

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PARLIAMENT MEMBERS' CLUB Shahid to return money, but Farroque won't

House to determine fate of Sircar, Akhtar, Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid yesterday said he would return Tk 1 lakh he had taken from the Parliament Members' Club adding that a team was constituted to audit the income and expenditure of the club in the last seven years.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque who took Tk 3 lakh from the club during the past BNP-Jamaat alliance government, however, said he would not return the money claiming that he took it as per the rules.

Talking to reporters at his office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Shahid, also the present chief of the club, said a three-member audit team led by lawmaker Abdul Kuddus would verify the matter.

He said the team was asked to come up with the audit report by June. "The audit team will examine whether the recipients took the money as per the rules or not," Shahid added.

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Over 150 Daud operatives already in Bangladesh

Their payment comes thru' a money exchange firm, Daud Merchant tells *The Daily Star*; he manages a passport in exchange for Tk 50,000

KAILASH SARKAR

Detectives suspect that more than 150 highly paid agents have been working in the country for international mafia don Daud Ibrahim and that his second-in-command "Chhota" Shakil has been dealing with their payments.

The Daily Star had an exclusive interview of Chhota Shakil's close aide, detained Abdur Rauf Daud Merchant, in the custody of Detective Branch of police. During the interview he said he managed a Bangladeshi passport with fake documents for Tk 50,000 through a broker.

Daud Merchant said Chhota Shakil, who is now staying in Dubai, sent him to Bangladesh and that Shakil sends money

to all his Bangladesh agents through a money exchange firm.

A senior DB official said, "We are confident that Daud (Ibrahim) has more than 150 agents in Bangladesh who are paid monthly by Chhota Shakil."

Earlier on May 27, DB officials arrested Chhota Shakil's close aides, Indian nationals Daud Merchant and Zahid Sheikh, along with their Bangladeshi host Kamal from Brahmanbaria.

The DB is interrogating them on an eight-day remand from Saturday.

DB sources said fugitives in India, both Merchant and Zahid managed Bangladeshi passports and fake nationality certificates. Zahid also managed a

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Abdur Rauf Daud Merchant



The programme will be launched by Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Hamid Advocate, MP, at South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban today at 5:00pm. It will be telecast live on Channel i.