

## Hungry, they wait

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Choddoroshi, have sought shelter on the 12 km long embankment stretch.

Some help has arrived for the villagers in the form of food but the lack of safe drinking water in this heat, and sanitation facilities have led to worse crises. On top of this, robbers come in boats at night to snatch away their few remaining belongings.

"We work the whole day, trying to keep up this makeshift shacks and get food and water for our families. Then at night we cannot sleep in fear of robbers, what will become of us?" asked Kalipada Mondol.

Robbers have already looted on Chittaranjan Mridha's house on Saturday night and taken away his last possessions. They also looted the houses of Bikash Chandra Mridha in Jhapa village and Nurul Islam in Patakhali a day ago.

Anju Rani Mridha, 16, said she hasn't slept in days from fear of the robbers.

"The fear sets in as soon as the sun goes down," the young girl said in quiet voice. "Where can we go?"

The men have taken to guarding the embankment in turns at night.

"We would be grateful if the law enforcing agencies patrol the river at night," they said.

Swarna Rani Mondol has little time to worry as she has young ones to feed. She showed this correspondent the rotten rice she was trying to dry on the embankment for her children.

"The rotten rice stinks. Tell me brother, can anyone eat this rotten lot? And with just salt to go with it?" she asked.

She forced her younger child to eat this rice, though he

refused because of the stench, and he ended up with severe diarrhoea.

The survivors say they urgently need drinking water and security.

Kishore Raptan, an advocate with the Khulna Bar, said the tubewells in the cyclone shelter are not working and the villagers are forced to drink dirty water.

Only one of the tubewells in the villages works but it pumps out salty water as the village is still partially under salty water. The water levels rise with the high tide and enter the villages through the five broken points in the embankment.

Prashanta Kumar, head master of Uttar Jhapa Registered Primary school, said many people took shelter at the school and cyclone shelter as they fear the damaged embankment might collapse if another storm lashes.

Many people have left the area for the same, he said.

The embankment was badly damaged at five separate points during the cyclone and now is overcrowded with hundreds of people.

Jhapa Union Parishad Member Swapan Kumar Gain said every one of the inhabitants of this union was affected by the cyclone.

He said the helpless villagers were trying to repair the smaller cracks on the embankment but repairing the larger ones was beyond them.

He said the helpless survivors have no option but to wait for the government to come to their rescue.

They just hope it will come before more parts of the embankment give away.

## Dipu Moni

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bolton in Singapore.

"Dipu Moni informed the British minister about her government's endeavour to try war criminals of Bangladesh and sought relevant old records available in the UK for transparent and fair trials," a foreign ministry release said.

The foreign minister went to Singapore on Friday to attend a security summit, Shangri-La Dialogue, and met several world leaders.

She also met US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates who assured her of providing cooperation in defence sector.

The foreign minister met her Sri Lankan counterpart Rohitha Bogollagama and sought cooperation from her in trying war criminals.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister said that Bangladesh has every right to do so.

Dipu Moni also talked to Singapore Foreign Minister George Yong-Boon Yeo. She, in the process of discourse, urged the Singaporean educational institutions to give recognition to Bangladeshi degrees so Bangladeshi students can pursue higher education in Singapore.

She also proposed her counterpart to ease the process of obtaining visa for the Bangladeshis especially for patients and students.

Prime ministers, deputy prime ministers, foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of armed forces of different countries are attending the summit.

Dipu Moni delivered the keynote paper on 'Contribution to Peace Support Operations', saying that ensuring peace and security at home and abroad is a constitutional obligation of Bangladesh and in this respect Bangladesh is an active partner of the UN.

## False case

**FROM PAGE 1**  
released here yesterday after keeping him in different jails for 14 years.

District and Sessions Judge Hrishikesh Saha ordered the authorities concern to release U Thoi Hla Marma from the district jail.

Naikhongchhari thana police on May 3, 1995 arrested U Thoi from his house at Sonaichhari and he was produced before the court on the following day showing him as a Myanmar citizen.

On July 20, 1995 Bandarban first class magistrate court sentenced him to two months RI on charge of intrusion. The court also fined him Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer one month more RI.

Later, he had to suffer imprisonment in different jails of the country.

In the meantime, he was taken to Myanmar border to hand over him to Myanmar authorities but they denied to accept him as their citizen.

When he was in Cox's Bazar jail, his relatives came to know about this plight.

On a request from U Thoi's wife, senior lawyer of Bandarban Judge's Court advocate Muhammad Jainul Abedin and advocate Ba Thoi Ching fought the legal battle for the victim on humanitarian ground.

The judge took the matter into cognizance and ordered his quick release after examining documents of his citizenship.

After his release U Thoi told The Daily Star that this (judgment) is the result of an independent judiciary.

He said without hearing him, the then first class magistrate of Bandarban on July 20, 1995 gave the verdict, which has been proved false now under an independent judiciary.

U Thoi raised a question, "Who will try those for whose mistake he lost 14 valuable years of his life without committing any crime?"

Advocate Muhammad Jainul Abedin said, such inhuman incident has been taken place due to whimsical behaviour of the prosecution authority and submission of charge sheet without carrying out in-depth investigation.

## Trader shot dead

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The deceased trader was identified as Mohammad Sharif, 25, son of Mohammad Syed Islam Uddin of Zakir Hossain Road in Mohammadpur. He was a cable operator, dealing in cable TV connection rentals from an office at Block-B near Mohammadpur Boys' High School in Lalmaia.

Sub-inspector (SI) Mohammad Momenul Islam of Mohammadpur Police Station told The Daily Star that three unidentified criminals on a motorbike intercepted Sharif's rickshaw near his house and shot him at around 11:30am.

His family members said that Sharif received a phone call in the morning summoning him out. He left immediately but his family did not know who called him or where he was heading.

Police arrived at the spot and took Sharif to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on duty doctors declared him dead.

The deceased man's uncle, Siraj Uddin, said Sharif had been running his business for the past seven years. He got married only 10 months ago.

One of Sharif's friends, seeking anonymity, said that another cable operator in the area known as DB Kamal, and local criminal Pichchi Hannan's men had been trying to extort money from Sharif.

Police suspect some feud over business might be the cause behind the killing.

In the other incident, police recovered the body of an eight-year old girl from a sewerage drain in Mirpur-11.

Mim's father Mobarak Hossain, a resident of Pallabi's Block C, worked as a driver at a cosmetic company.

Her uncle told The Daily Star Mim went missing the previous evening after going out to play. Her body was found near their house. Her mouth was stuffed with waste papers at the time.

Police sent the body to DMC morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said she had been strangled to death.

The girl's gold earrings were missing, prompting the police to suspect that the muggers who had stolen her gold jewellery had killed her so she could not identify them later.

## WB unhappy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Minister AMA Muhith, Planning Minister AK Khandker and Prime Minister's Adviser for finance and planning Dr Mashur Rahman.

In the letter Zhu said, "Following our quick conversations this week on the above-mentioned topic, I would like to stress again that we are really concerned to hear that the Bangladesh Government is planning to introduce some important changes in the Public Procurement Act and related Public Procurement Rules (PPA/PPR)."

"You are aware that this matter is important for all your Development Partners," the WB country director said.

"We would suggest that you organise some consultations at your early convenience. If agreed, we would also suggest that you consider inviting some of the Development Partners to the requested discussions. This would allow us to get an understanding of the Bangladesh Government's needs as well as an opportunity to review any available documentations on the subject," he added.

After the present government came to power, an initiative was taken to amend the Public Procurement Act and Public Procurement Rules and a committee was formed with the secretary of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department of the planning ministry as its chief.

The committee after taking advice from secretaries of different ministries has prepared recommendations for the amendment. The finance minister has already held a number of meetings with other ministers on the recommendations.

The government wants to finalise the amendments before implementing the next fiscal year's budget.

Sources in the finance and planning ministries said the

government informed the donors in a number of meetings that the government was going to amend the PPA and PPR but the donors did not raise any objection.

Later, they came to know that some major articles of the PPA and PPR were going to be amended in order to award projects to people "close" to the government quarters instead of competitive bidders.

## Proshika order

**FROM PAGE 16**  
On May 27 Qazi Faruque's lawyers submitted a petition seeking a court order on the decision of the Proshika governing body that removed Faruque from the post of Proshika chief.

The same day lawyers of the defendants also submitted a prayer with the court.

Earlier on May 24, the governing body of Proshika replaced its chairman Qazi Faruque with advocate Abdul Wadud in the face of an ongoing movement by its employees against Qazi Faruque.

Challenging the legality of the governing body's decision, Qazi Faruque filed a civil suit on May 25 seeking permanent injunction.

Following the suit, the judge issued a notice asking the governing body to explain within 24 hours why their decision to remove Qazi Faruque from chairmanship of Proshika would not be declared illegal.

The defendants in a written statement replied to the show-cause notice.

Eight of the nine members of the governing body, the highest policy-making body of Proshika, at a meeting on May 24 made the decision to remove Qazi Faruque and held a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity the same day.

## 2 Shibir men

**FROM PAGE 1**  
used to eavesdrop information about law enforcement agencies and administration, sources said.

The arrestees are Jahidul Islam, 24, Shibir town unit secretary and son of Nurul Islam of Etagachha village in Sadar upazila, and Kamrul Hasan Suman, 21, son of MA Sabur of Kulia village in Debhata upazila. Both the arrested persons are the students of Sarkhira Government College.

Superintendent of Police (SP) SM Moniruzzaman said police got important information from them. Making such device without the permission of the government is an anti-state activity as it is not possible to make such device, he added.

Sources said Kamrul contrived the FM device to make contacts with their leaders and activists and also to gather secret information of the law enforcement agencies and civil administration within a range of 2-3 kilometres.

The SP also said they are investigating whether the arrestees have any link with militancy.

While talking to The Daily Star, Kamrul said, "I have succeeded in my research and I can hear anything within two kilometres through the device." He also acknowledged that he is an activist of Shibir.

He, however, remained silent when asked whether eavesdropping information through such device was a crime or not.

The Daily Star correspondent found that the hostel is controlled by Shibir. Posters, leaflets and festoons published by Jamaat and Shibir were inscribed in the walls and doors of Alam Hostel.

The hostel is located in front of the Sarkhira Government College. Not only this hostel, there are six to seven more hostels in the area that are run by Shibir in front of the college.

Preparation is on to file a seditious case against them with Sadar police station, the SP confirmed.

## Death ends

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Water distributed by the government and many non-government organisations is not enough to meet the demand of the affected people since all the drinking water sources were inundated in the storm surge.

District Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Ebadullah said around 600-700 people are attacked with diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases.

He added 37 medical teams are working in the areas to combat diarrhoea outbreak.

## Aila ravages

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"I have been farming shrimp and other fish worth around Tk 1 crore in my enclosures since January. But all were washed away by tidal surge," he said.

"Now nothing is left except my house in Satkhira," he claimed.

Nurul Alam said he sold shrimp and other fish worth around Tk 10-12 crore last year.

"I don't know how long it will take to recover the loss," he added.

Nurul Alam said tidal surge washed away his shrimp enclosures on around 250 bighas of land at Kalyanpur village under Pratnagar union.

He said he took a loan of Tk 8 crore from Assasuni branch of Janata Bank for shrimp cultivation.

"I have paid Tk 18 lakh for leasing land and spent Tk 13 lakh on shrimp farming," said the shrimp cultivator adding that had Aila not hit the district, he would have done a business of Tk 60-65 lakh.

Md Aktaruzzaman Mukul, a shareholder of several shrimp enclosures, said the cyclone damaged their shrimp enclosures on 180 bighas of land at Chakla village under Assasuni upazila.

He said they paid Tk 9 lakh for leasing lands and had been cultivating shrimp and freshwater fish by investing about Tk 5-7 lakh since January.

"Had Aila not ravaged the enclosures, we could have made a profit of Tk 5-6 lakh", Mukul said.

"Natural disasters wreak havoc in the district almost every year but the damaged embankments need to be repaired immediately to protect it from widespread destruction," he added.

## JS body chiefs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition Khalea Zia, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafigue Ahmed are the other members.

The parliament secretariat has requested them to attend the meeting or send representatives.

Among other issues, the JS secretariat's budget for the upcoming fiscal year will come up for discussion.

The commission has already proposed a Tk 60.15 crore budget, which is 31.45 percent higher than the current one.

About facilities for the standing committee chairman, Speaker Hamid yesterday said the commission will soon finalise the proposal.

At present, the committee chiefs are not entitled to any vehicles from the parliament secretariat. If they are allotted cars, they will get fuel allowance from the secretariat, said the sources.

About the proposal for a special television channel, the commission says people cannot watch the House

proceedings live in the absence of a dedicated channel.

"If parliament can televise its proceedings live on its own, it will burnish the Jatiya Sangsad's image at home and abroad."

Once the proposal is approved, a project to that end will be undertaken. The commission hopes donor agencies will give necessary financial support.

## SECURITY MEASURES

The commission has also readied proposals for some fresh measures to ensure security at the parliament building.

Those include setting up vehicle screening apparatus on either side of the JS tunnel so no vehicles carrying arms and explosives could get through.

Besides, a punch card system would be in force to make sure outsiders gain no entry to parliament in session. The system will digitally record the lawmakers' presence.

## Children's death

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the samples they tested, reported a private television Desh TV reports yesterday evening.

Following mysterious deaths of three children and 12 others becoming sick, an expert team of the health ministry collected biological and environmental samples from those villages and sent them to the Atlanta CDC for testing.

Organophosphate is used as the poison agent in 48 kinds of pesticides out of the registered 62 in the country. Quoting Health Minister AFM Ruhul Huq, the television reported that the government would take necessary steps to control the use of pesticides.

In April and May, four children died and 13 others survived after becoming sick in Naogakait and Malancha in Dhamrai upazila of Dhaka within 45 days, what the experts in their primary observation said due to the affect of pesticides.

All the children became sick with identical symptoms.

In a primary investigation, the government committee formed by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) under the health ministry said all the children died due to poison and it could happen because of overuse of pesticides and lack of awareness among users.

The IEDCR's primary investigation found quite a few examples of overuse of pesticides.

Earlier when The Daily Star correspondent visited Dhamrai, the agriculture officers said the farmers in Malancha and Naogakait spray pesticides in amounts way more than what is safe.

Before dying, dogs and calves were bellowing and jerking heads, the IEDCR report reads.

The IEDCR has launched an awareness campaign against pesticides overuse in those two villages.

## Pakistan eyes

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Security officials also reported that 45 militants were killed in fierce fighting in South Waziristan near the Afghan border, a bolt-hole for Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants south of the current army bombardment.

Washington, which is firmly backing the military drive, had warned that the rebels threatened Pakistan's very existence and identified the country and Afghanistan as central to its 'war on terror'.

"We are trying to target the top leadership of militants and they are constantly being followed," chief military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas said as he announced the Mingora win.

Officials said lower-ranking leaders had been killed but it was harder to get to the top leaders, who had a network of hardcore militants around them and had slipped into the rugged mountain terrain.

"They will be eliminated wherever we find them," said one military official, who did not wish to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media, adding "We believe that they are somewhere in the mountains."

Pakistan has slapped a 600,000-dollar price on the head of firebrand Swat Taliban commander Maulana Fazlullah for masterminding the nearly two-year uprising in the valley to enforce Sharia law.

Fazlullah led thousands of supporters, a mixture of hardcore ideologues and disenfranchised young men, in a brutal campaign that has beheaded opponents, burned scores of schools and fought government troops since November 2007.

The government has also offered rewards for 21 rebel chiefs -- wanted dead or alive -- from Swat.

But as the government ups

its campaign to stamp out the militants, fears are growing of a wave of revenge attacks.

The northwestern capital Peshawar and the eastern cultural centre of Lahore have both been rocked by deadly explosions in the last five days, killing a total of 39 people and wounding hundreds more.

A spokesman for Pakistan Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud -- who has a five-million-dollar bounty on his head posted by the United States -- has claimed Wednesday's suicide bombing on a police building in Lahore.

Hakimullah Mehsud also warned of more "massive attacks" to revenge the Swat military operation and in protest at Islamabad's ties with Washington.

In South Waziristan on Sunday, police official Syed Ahmad said that 45 militants and two soldiers were killed as security forces repulsed an attack on army posts.

Fears that the current army offensive could expand into Waziristan have already sent thousands of people there fleeing their homes, although the military have denied any movements in the tribal belt are imminent.

Nearly 2.4 million people have already fled the current offensive.

The military said it had relaxed its strict curfew Sunday in most parts of the northwest including Mingora to allow people trapped on the roads to return home or leave the region.

Also Sunday, Taliban militants attacked a school in Hangu town south of Peshawar, killing one administrator and kidnapping three other people, local policeman Shoukat Hussain said.

In North Waziristan, meanwhile, a former government doctor and an Afghan national were killed by suspected militants, officials said.

## SQ Chy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
their educational qualification to the Election Commission (EC) yesterday, the last day for the submission.

The EC on April 13 wrote to the lawmakers, asking them to submit the documents on or before May 31 and warning that necessary actions would be taken in case of failure.

"We will decide in a week whether their membership in parliament can be cancelled or recommended for cancellation, for violating electoral laws," Election Commissioner M Sakawat Hossain told reporters yesterday at EC Secretariat.

Both Salahuddin and Ruhul had provided incomplete information about their educational qualification in the affidavits while applying for the candidacy for the ninth parliamentary elections.

As per the Representation of the People Order they were supposed to be disqualified for contesting the polls on this ground.

Their rival candidates also filed appeal with the EC challenging this.

The returning officers, however, accepted their applications and on their verbal promise to submit copies of the certificates of their educational qualification "as early as possible", the EC allowed them to contest the polls.

Talking to journalists on April 13, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said, "We will write to the speaker, informing him that both the lawmakers were disqualified for contesting the election and will be ineligible to continue as members of parliament if they fail to submit copies of their educational certificates within the time [May 31]."

## Shahid to return

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Former chief whip of the club Khandaker Delwar Hossain took Tk 18 lakh, former whip Syed Wahidul Alam, who was secretary of the club, received Tk 4 lakh from the club for medical treatment.

Besides, the then executive committee of the club donated over Tk 40 lakh more to different individuals including former lawmakers.

Talking to reporters yesterday at Shahid's office, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Jewel, joint secretary of the club, said the club can usually donate up to Tk 1 lakh to an individual.

"But the abnormal amount of donations have tarnished the image of the club," Saifuzzaman said referring to the money taken by Delwar and Wahidul.

Chief Whip Shahid said he applied to the members' club for Tk 5 lakh in December of 2002 for his medical treatment. The club, however, sanctioned him Tk 1 lakh, he added.

Talking to reporters on the Parliament building premises, Opposition Chief Whip Farooque at first denied taking any money from the members' club during the tenure of the last parliament.

When his attention was drawn to the list that shows that he also took money, Farooque then gave in and said he took Tk 50,000.

Meanwhile, the all-party

parliamentary probe body formed to look into alleged corruption in the parliament secretariat in the last seven years said the House would determine the fates of the former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

The probe body yesterday at its meeting deferred the date of appearance of Jamiruddin, Akhtar Hamid and Delwar before the committee to defend themselves.

Earlier the committee fixed June 10 for their appearance but now it has deferred the date, as the national budget would be placed in parliament the following day.

They will be summoned after we fix a new date, he added.

"It is the House who will determine fates of the trio once they are found guilty in the investigation," advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia told reporters after the meeting at the parliament building.

Meanwhile, the sub-committee to investigate alleged anomalies in procurement at the parliament secretariat during the last seven years yesterday submitted its report to the main committee.

The committee chief Fazle Rabbi Mia denied disclosing the recommendations and findings of the sub-committee.

## Sandhya river

**FROM PAGE 1**  
report stating that the housing plots are being developed on the bank of Sandhya river in Barisal by dumping earth on the river.

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) secretary, director general (DG) of the Department of Environment, executive engineer of the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), Barisal, deputy commissioner of Barisal, upazila engineer and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Baranipara in Barisal have been made respondents to the HC order.

The petitioner's counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star yesterday that as per the HC order, the concerned authorities could not longer continue the filling up of the riverbank.

It was stated in the application that the housing plots are being developed in violation of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act and the Water Bodies Protection Act provisions.

The petition also prayed to the court to direct concerned authorities to take immediate steps to stop construction of structures on the riverbank.