



Aila ravages shrimp farms in Satkhira

Tk 109 crore fish loss estimated

WASIM BIN HABIB with ABU AHMED, from Satkhira

Thousands of shrimp and freshwater fish farmers in Satkhira suffered a setback as cyclone Aila washed away most of the shrimp enclosures and water bodies in the area.

At least 7,117 shrimp enclosures on 26,028 hectares of land in six unions were ravaged by fierce tidal surge on May 25 when Aila ripped through the country's southwestern part.

Now many shrimp farmers who lost their homes and belongings in the cyclone have to shoulder the burden of huge loss.

The district fisheries office put the

total loss of shrimp at Tk 93.21 crore and that of freshwater fish at Tk 16.30.

Abdul Wadud, district fisheries officer-in-charge, told The Daily Star that about 2,707 tonnes of shrimp and 3,107 tonnes of freshwater fish were washed away by tidal surge that breached the embankments at many points.

"Shrimp fries worth around Tk 3.90 crore were washed away in the cyclone while the loss of shrimp and damage to shrimp enclosures has been estimated at Tk 93.21 crore and Tk 24.39 crore," he said.

There are about 25,381 shrimp enclosures on 57,956.75 hectares of land in the district from where shrimp worth around Tk 12,000 crore are exported every year.

Wadud said the loss of freshwater fish

has been estimated at Tk 16.30 crore as about 4,031 ponds on 428 hectares of land were washed away in the cyclone.

Shrimp is cultivated in six of the seven upazilas in the district. Of the 7,117 ravaged shrimp enclosures, 3,361 are in Shyamnagar upazila, 1,891 in Assasuni upazila, 1,450 in Kaliganj upazila, 250 in Tala upazila, 150 in Satkhira Sadar and 15 in Debhata upazila.

SM Nurul Alam, a shrimp cultivator and former chairman of Anulla union, told The Daily Star that he has to incur a huge loss as his seven shrimp enclosures on 1,300 bighas of land in the coastline of Gabura union were completely washed away by tidal surge.

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A shrimp farmer in Pratapnagar of Assasuni upazila in Satkhira tries to salvage his shrimp enclosures, which are inundated daily as seawater flows into the enclosures through embankment breaches made by cyclone Aila. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

2,781 'political' cases sought to be dropped

Last date for filing applications ends

COURT CORRESPONDENT

As many as 2,781 applications have been submitted to the Dhaka district magistrate for withdrawal of "political harassment and motivated" cases filed against political bigwigs including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia as the deadline to apply ended yesterday.

Meantime, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Quamrul Islam said the deadline for application to withdraw the political cases would not be extended.

"We'll decide about the fate of the cases

within June-July," Quamrul told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I have received 2,781 applications from different political bigwigs for withdrawal of their cases. I will send the applications to the Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (MPP) soon for his opinion on the merit of the cases," Dhaka District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner Zillar Rahman told newsmen at his office yesterday.

Earlier, Hasina's lawyers submitted applications to the district magistrate for withdrawal of the cases against her. Later, MPP Abdullah Abu

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Liakat tells the same story too

But denies his involvement in 10-truck arms smuggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Detained former National Security Intelligence (NSI) deputy director (DD) Liakat Hossain gave information to investigators that conform to many important points of the confessional statement of ex-NSI director Sahab Uddin.

The former NSI DD also hinted at involvement of a foreign embassy

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Liakat Hossain

Proshika Order Court rejects Faruque's petition for injunction

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a petition of Qazi Faruque Ahmed seeking a temporary injunction on the decision of his removal from chairmanship of Proshika, one of the largest non-government organisations (NGOs) in the country.

Judge Merina Sultana of the First Assistant Judge's Court passed the order.

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WB unhappy over move to amend procurement rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has expressed concern over the government's initiative to bring amendments to the Public Procurement Act and Public Procurement Rules, hinting that it could hamper WB assistance.

"A few of the proposed changes (Public Procurement Act/Rules) we have learnt about may have severe consequences on the implementation of a large number of Bank-financed operations," WB Country Director Xian Zhu said in a letter to M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary of Economic Relations Division.

Copies of the letter dated May 25 were sent to Finance. SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

50pc drop in mango output

Climate change blamed

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Mango growers fear 50 per cent drop in production this year in Rajshahi region due to irregular weather pattern.

Horticulturists attributed the sharp slump in mango production to abnormal variations to the climate that has an adverse affect on the Mother Nature.

"Mango yield might drop to around 2.14 lakh tonnes from last year's average 4.28 lakh tonnes," said M Abul Bashar, Rajshahi regional assistant director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

The annual average mango production is about five lakh tonnes from over 45,000 hectares of land in eight districts including the mango capital

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PHOTO: STAR

Even though this mango trade centre at Baneswar in Rajshahi seems full of mangoes and traders, the hustle and bustle of the place is much less than that of previous years.

Lanka wants to dismantle LTTE's global network

AFP, Singapore

Sri Lanka appealed yesterday for international support in dismantling the global political network of the Tamil Tiger rebels after declaring a full military victory over the separatist movement.

Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama told a high-level security forum in Singapore that Colombo needed help in disabling the Tigers' "powerful political lobbies in certain capitals" that are seeking to resurrect the movement.

"It is important for the international community to take all measures to assist the government of Sri Lanka, to track down the global network of the LTTE," Bogollagama said.

Speaking at the forum organised by the International Institute of Strategic Studies, Bogollagama also rejected allegations of genocide in the last days of the Sri Lankan military's battle against the LTTE.

"This was both fictional and well-fabricated, with ulterior and sinister motives in order to discredit the armed forces as well as to embarrass the government of Sri Lanka," he said.

There have been allegations that large numbers of civilians had been killed as the Sri Lankan army closed in on the rebels to end the decades-long war.

Rights group Amnesty International on Saturday called for an

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OnlinePoll ✓

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the government can not put an end to the culture of 'crossfire killings' overnight. Do you support this statement?

○ Yes (43.88%)
○ No (54.57%)
○ No Comments (1.55%)

Total votes: 645

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the govt should go for legal action against Siricar, Akhter and Delwar in addition to realizing the money they had taken from MP club fund?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

	June 1	Jumaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Pakistan eyes victory against Taliban in days

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan's defence secretary said Sunday that a month-long offensive to crush Taliban fighters in the northwest could end within days, as security forces hunted down the militant leadership.

Swat valley's main town Mingora is back in government hands, the military announced late Saturday, and Syed Athar Ali told a security forum in Singapore that three targeted northwest districts were almost clear of Taliban rebels.

"Operations in Swat, Buner and adjoining areas have almost met complete success," the secretary of defence said.

"Only five to ten percent job is remaining and hopefully within the next two to three days these pockets of resistance will be cleared."

The army remains locked in battle in some areas, but the fall of Mingora was a critical milestone in an offensive launched after the Taliban thrust to within 100km of Islamabad in April.

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WAR CRIME TRIAL Dipu Moni seeks records from UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of her effort to garner international support for the trial of war criminals Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday met British Minister of International Defence and Security Baroness Ann Taylor

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ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES SQ Chy, Ruhul Amin ignore EC orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Jatiya Party Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader did not submit copies of certificates of

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Text warning not enough

Study reveals 86pc of 3.18cr tobacco users illiterate

AMENA KHATUN

Textual warning messages on the packets of tobacco products have little impact on reducing tobacco consumption in the country as around 86 percent of the total 3.18 crore tobacco consumers are illiterate.

Section 10 of 'The Smoking and Using of Tobacco Products (Control) Act, 2005' says each enterprise producing tobacco product shall print on the packet or package in capital letters clearly visible and in large size (not less than 30% of total area) any of the following warnings, namely: a) smoking causes death; b) stroke occurs for smoking; c) smoking is the cause of heart disease; d) smoking is the cause of lung cancer; e) smoking creates problems to breathing; or f) smoking is harmful to health.

Though the tobacco manufacturing companies specially bidi or cigarette companies print such textual warnings on their packets and packages, those warnings hardly help reduce tobacco consumption, as majority tobacco users cannot read.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), use of pictures with graphic depictions of disease and other negative

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Show the truth. Picture warnings save lives.

Tobacco companies use pretty packaging to make their products attractive. But the truth is, tobacco kills and sickens. Picture warnings convince people to quit. Don't just tell the truth. Show it!

www.who.int/tobacco

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 31 MAY

TOBACCO CAUSES MOUTH DISEASES

This sort of pictorial warning on cigarette packs, prescribed by WHO, is not used in Bangladesh.

IMAGE: WHO