

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 9, 2009



SAGA OF A STORM RAVAGED PEOPLE

A Day of Cyclone Aila brought down prolonged sufferings for more than one lakh people of Ashasuni and Shyamnagar upazilas at Satkhira coast. The storm gave rise to a tidal surge breaking down dams and sweeping away dwellings of the residents. Many thousands were left paupers after their belongings were swept away. Following the storm, some found only poles standing, where there used to be their houses. Villages after villages were inundated by saline water, giving rise to a severe crisis of fresh drinking water. Heavy rain made the roads so muddy that it was easier for storm shelter bound people to get down into the Kholpetua and Kopotakkhya rivers and wade along the shorelines. Thousands still languish in shelters too ill equipped to accommodate the massive number of the ill fated, while many thousands more are still marooned in remote areas surrounded by saline water. The government says it will take at least a year to rebuild the destroyed dams in the area, while another storm is brewing around the corner.

Photo: Anisur Rahman

