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Aila victims sink deeper

Woes of waterlogged victims compounded as they slip out of spotlight; thousands still live on embankments, aid flow stopped

WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Satkhira, with ABU AHMED

Lutfar Gazi doesn't even tries to recall that disastrous day when cyclone Aila ripped through the area he lives and wrecked havoc on his life in May this year. Since then he is too busy struggling to cope with the plight with little time to look back to his past.

Staring blank at the Kobadak river that left him homeless, he tries to figure out in vain how to maintain his family with no source of income and no-one for his rescue.

He was a resident of Shora-9 under Gabura union in Shyamnagar upazila, which was one of the worst cyclone-hit areas in Satkhira. In the last four months he knocked door to door to make a living for his six-member family. But eventually he returned to his family with the 'solution' of starvation every now and then.

In a worn-out, makeshift shack on the embankment, Lutfar now spends most of his time thinking of a living but only sees a bleak future ahead.

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This recent photo shows makeshift shacks on a culvert in Sonakhali village of Satkhira where at least 25 persons of five families are passing days in dire need of food and money. They have been homeless since cyclone Aila ripped through the area in May this year. Inset, Lutfar Gazi, a resident of Shora-9 village, who lives in one of such makeshift huts.

PHOTO: WASIM BIN HABIB



Legal notice served on Bashundhara Asked to withdraw libellous ad on Prothom Alo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice has been issued on Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and four others for recent publication of libellous, false and baseless advertisements in different national dailies, publishing derogatory posters and leaflets, and its ill attempt to file a fabricated case against the daily Prothom Alo.

The legal notice issued by Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates on Saturday asks the Bashundhara Group chairman to withdraw the published advertisements and other publicity materials within 48 hours of receiving the notice and apologise to Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman and Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman.

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EC wants state to fund parties

Plans to talk with parties in effort to ensure transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will hold talks with the political parties to raise their political funds with the government contribution to bring transparency in their income and expenditure, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said yesterday.

"State funding, to a certain extent, will bring control over the political parties," the poll chief said while speaking at a discussion on "Trans-

parency in political funding: challenges and ways to overcome" organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at Brac Centre Inn.

The political parties, however, might not accept too much control over them what we realised after holding a series of meeting with them, CEC Huda said referring to the electoral reform talks with the parties before the ninth parliamentary election.

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Rashid's wife key planner

Defence lawyer tells court quoting witness

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Jobaida Rashid, wife of fugitive convict in Bangabandhu murderer case Khandaker Abdur Rashid, was the 'real planner' of the incidents of August 15, 1975.

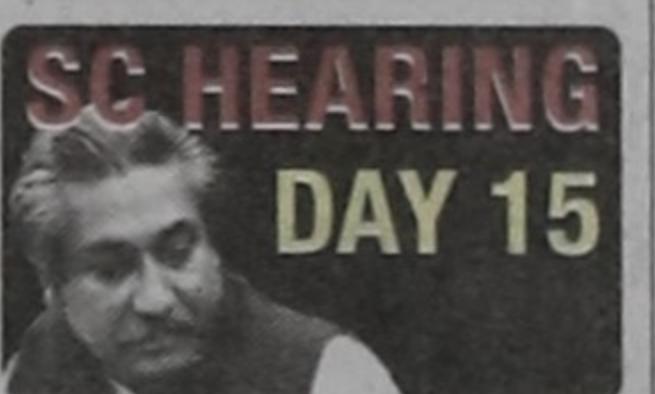
Counsel for two other convicts in the case Khan Saifur Rahman said this quoting from the statement of a witness as he placed his arguments in the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday.

His client Syed Farooq's death sentence can be reduced to life imprisonment since he (Farooq) has been in the condemned cell for 14 years, Saifur argued on the 15th-day hearing of appeals in the case.

Muhiuddin Ahmed is the other client of Saifur.

The five-member SC bench headed by Justice Md Tafazzul

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