



Widowed by cyclone Aila two years ago, Amiron Bibi gives a bleak look sitting in front her makeshift hut on an embankment in Koira upazila of Khulna district, right, marooned people wade through waist-deep water beside their houses at Patakhali village that sees persistent waterlogging since the super cyclone hit the area on May 25 in 2009.



PHOTO: STAR

## Two years over, ordeal yet to be over

Thousands still passing miserable days in Aila -hit areas amid food, water crisis

QAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

"Nobody enquired about me during the two years of ordeal I have been suffering with my children. We have not got any financial help from any humanitarian organisation or NGO," sighed 58-year-old Amiron Bibi sitting in front of her dilapidated hut on an embankment in Koira upazila.

Saline water inundated 225 villages as 760 kilometres of embankments were destroyed in Dakope and Koira upazilas of Khulna district and Shyamnagar and Ashashun upazilas of Satkhira district, the worst affected areas during the calamity.

According to official sources, tidal surges caused by Aila inundated 62 villages of six unions in Koira upazila and damaged 23 embankments. Forty-one people were killed and around 70 percent homesteads, roads, educational institutions, mosques, temples,

business shops and shrimp enclosures were totally destroyed.

Aila caused extensive damage to shrimp enclosures worth Tk 500 crore, 180 schools and madrasas, 192 mosques and temples, 189 kilometres of metalled and non-metalled roads, 72 deep tube-wells, 23 fish farms, 44,000 homesteads, 1600 head of cattle and 13,000 poultry birds only in Koira upazila of Khulna district, says report on findings of a survey.

Besides, the cyclone uprooted nearly 90 percent trees and washed away 400 shrimp enclosures of six unions in the upazila.

But two years into the onslaught of the devastating storm, the government is yet to take any effective move for rehabilitation of the homeless and jobless people, locals said.

The affected people are still suffering from want of food, safe drinking water, medical facilities and education, said Koira upazila parishad Chairman GM Mohsin Reza.

Eleven villages in Dakkhin Bedkashi union under Koira upazila and three others villages in Kamarkhola and Sutarkhali unions under Dakope upazila have been under waist-deep water for the last two years, keeping 23,000 men, women and children of six thousand families homeless.

"We do not know when water will recede to end our sufferings," said Nuru Molla of Maharajpur union in Koira upazila.

Sufferings of the marooned people beggar description, said Abdul Mannan, chairman of Dakkhin Bedkashi union parishad.

## This time trees felled as per UNO's will

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 30 trees beside Hakimpur-Ghoraghat road in Hakimpur upazila of the district have been cut down allegedly without any valid procedure.

Logs of the trees, felled from May 15 to 19, remained piled up on the premises of the upazila nirbahi office complex and a nearby saw mill, locals said.

The matter came to the fore when forest officials on Monday saw stumps of the felled trees on both sides of Hakimpur-Ghoraghat road at Chhatni village.

The trees have been felled without any valid procedure, said Habib, a forest officer of Hakimpur upazila.

According to the rule, authorities have to obtain permission from forest department and then invite tender to cut down trees on any government land.

"I cut the trees marked by UNO Tofazzal Hossain following permission from him," said log trader Md Azmal Hossain, who felled the 30 trees beside Hakimpur-Ghoraghat road.

Hakimpur municipality Mayor Shakhwati Hossain Shilpi said, "I became surprised to learn that the trees were cut down without any procedure. The UNO office did not inform me anything in this regard although the trees are under the jurisdiction of municipality."

Admitting the incident of cutting 30 roadside trees, Hakimpur upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Tofazzal Hossain said, "My office decided to fell 10 dead trees for public safety. The money earned by selling the logs will be used for development of Hakimpur Kindergarten, a school in the upazila."

Md Monjur Hossain, confidential assistant of Hakimpur UNO office, filed a case against Md Azmal Hossain for felling additional trees in defiance of his direction, the

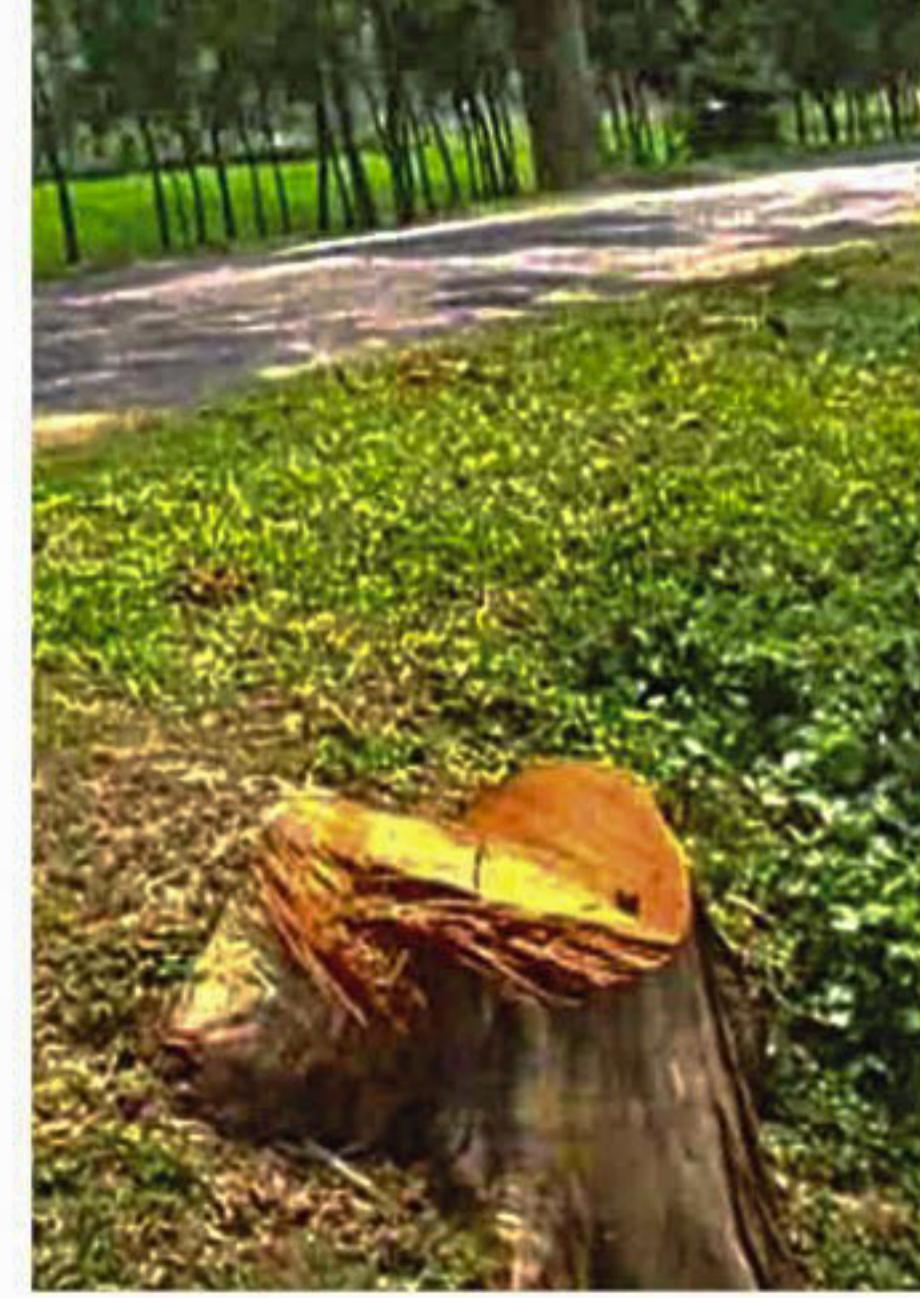


PHOTO: STAR

A eucalyptus stump bears testimony to felling of the giant tree beside Hakimpur-Ghoraghat road a few days ago.

UNO said, adding, "I also served a show cause notice to Kishor Chandra Roy, a peon of my office, in this regard."

The peon, however, said that he did what his officer directed him to do.

Surprisingly, the same UNO on February 22 this year, through a mobile court led by him, fined Tk 1.5 lakh to Md Nurul Islam, 40, of village Satni-Charmatha under Hakimpur municipality, for felling a roadside tree that he (Nurul Islam) had planted, said the penalised person.

UNO Tofazzal Hossain, however, said it was a matter concerning a land dispute.

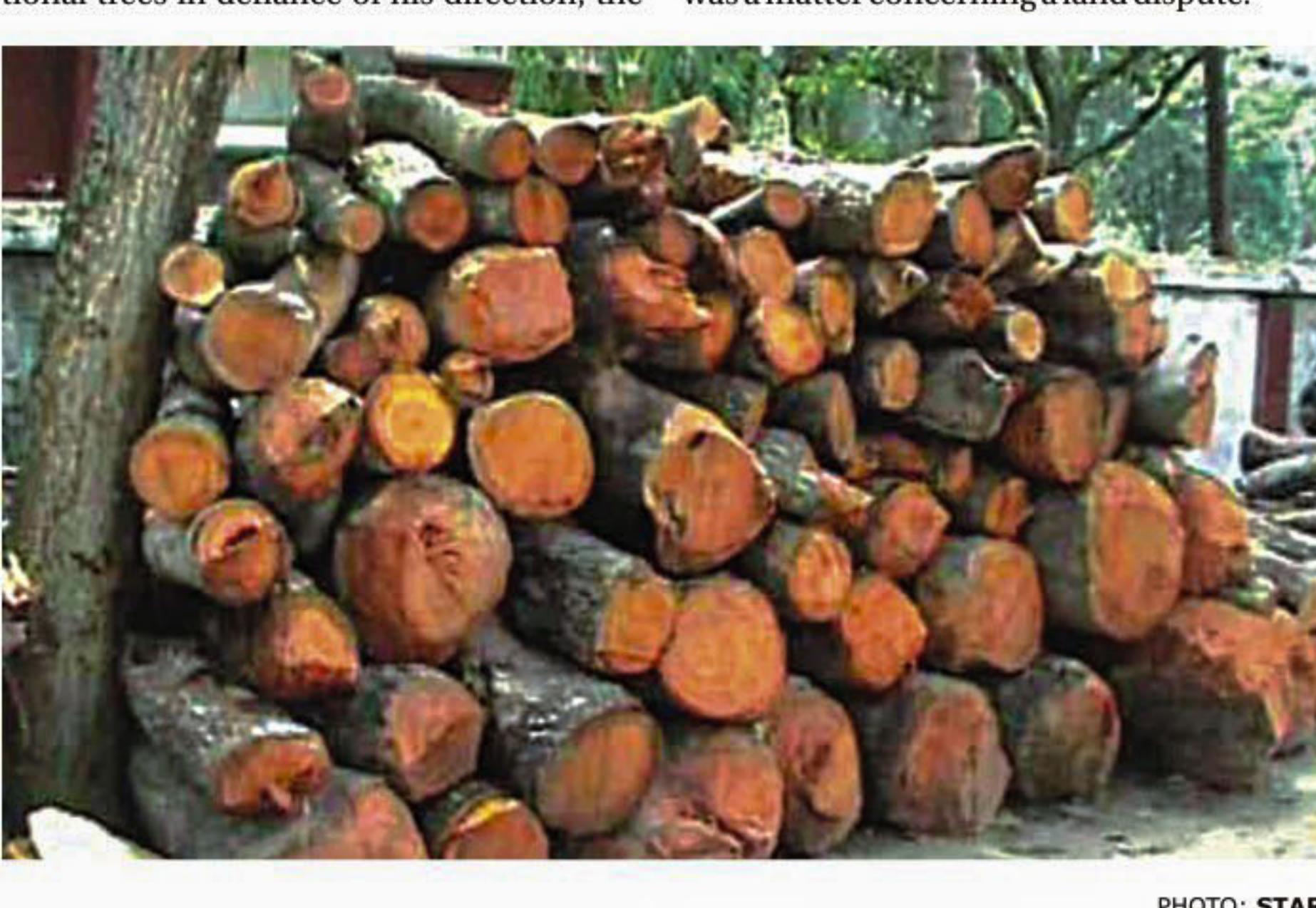


PHOTO: STAR

Logs from trees felled without any valid procedure lie piled up on the premises of Hakimpur upazila office complex in Dinajpur district. The photo was taken yesterday.

### BLAST AT AL LAWMAKER'S HOUSE

## Seven AL, Jubo League men chargesheeted in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has submitted a charge sheet in the case for bomb explosions at the residence of Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Kushtia-1 constituency Afaz Uddin Ahmed on the night of November 13, 2010.

Three people were killed and four others, including the lawmaker, injured as two bombs went off at the house at Taragunia in Daulatpur upazila of the district at around 8:15pm.

A copy of the charge sheet was made available to newsmen yesterday although it was submitted on May 3. Investigation officer (IO) Ali Azam of CID Jessor zone submitted the charge sheet to the district Judge's Court, Kushtia, on the day, accusing seven leaders and activists of Awami League and Jubo League.

The accused are Daulatpur upazila Jubo League leader Zahidul Islam Zahid, his son Abdulla Al Mamun Prince, Mirpur upazila AL Organising Secretary Kamarul Arefin,

AL activists Jamirul Islam alias Moru alias Bomaru Moru, Abdus Salam Dickens, Mintu and Ruhul Amin.

Of the accused, Zahidul Islam Zahid, Jamirul Islam, Abdus Salam Dickens, Mintu and Ruhul Amin are now in Kushtia jail while Zahid's son Abdulla Al Mamun Prince and AL leader Kamarul are still at large.

Kamarul is moving freely and also contesting the upcoming election to Sadarup Union Parishad in Mirpur upazila.

Court Inspector Khabir Uddin said proceedings of the case are being delayed as accused Abdus Salam prayed for bail. The court fixed June 16 for hearing on the bail petition.

Those killed in bomb explosions at the lawmaker's house were AL activists Siddiquur Rahman, Ahadul and acting headmaster of Taragunia High School Asmat Ali. Siddiquur Rahman and Ahadul carried the bomb to the house to kill the lawmaker, police said.

The lawmaker survived the attack with minor injuries. Lawmaker's son Arif

## Six hurt in pre-poll clash in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least six people were injured in a pre-election clash in Khetal upazila of Joypurhat on Monday night.

Police and locals said, supporters of Md Shafiqul Alam, a ruling party backed union parishad (UP) chairman candidate of Alampur UP, equipped with wooden sticks, attacked the supporters of Gaziul Haque Hablu, a rival BNP backed candidate of the same UP while they were campaigning at around 10:30pm on Monday night.

Six people were injured. A police team led by Rurul Amin, upazila nirbahi

officer (UNO) of Khetal, rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.

The injured were taken to Khetal upazila health complex. Later two of them, Rezaul Islam, 32, and Mizanur Rahman, 28, were shifted to Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital at night.

The other injured were identified as Nazrul Islam, 34, Abdul Aziz, 38, Mithu Sardar, 32, and Nur Mohammad, 17.

A large number of police were posted in the area to maintain law and order.

However, both candidates of the UP election accused each other of attack.

Ahmed, also Jubo League Daulatpur upazila unit president, and two school teachers, were also injured in the attack.

Two bombs went off soon after AL activists Siddiquur and Ahadul in the guise of visitors entered the lawmaker's room where he was talking with some school teachers of his upazila.

Over 200 students of the department started a fast unto death programme at Shaheed Smriti Pouro



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

দেশের পুঁজি বাজার বিকাশ ও গতিশীল রাখার লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড বিনিয়োগকারী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বার্থ সংরক্ষণের বিষয়টিকে সবসময় অগ্রাধিকার দিয়ে আসছে। রাজস্ব বোর্ড অতীতে ও বর্তমানে এমন কোন পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করেনি/করবেন। যা দেশের পুঁজি বাজার/শেয়ার বাজার এ বিনিয়োগকারী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বার্থ ক্ষুণ্ণ হতে পারে।

প্রসংগত উল্লেখ্য, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সরকারের রাজস্ব ফাঁকি প্রদানকারী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সরকারের ন্যায় পাওনা আদায়ে অঙ্গীকারিবদ্ধ। কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা সেল কর্দাতাগণের তথ্যের গোপনীয়তা বজায় রেখেই অত্যন্ত বিশ্বস্ততার সাথে তাদের দায়িত্ব পালন করে থাকে।

রাজস্ব বোর্ড রাজস্ব ফাঁকি রোধে সকলের সহযোগিতা কামনা করে।

জিডি-২৪১১

Follow-up

## Bhasani university students postpone fast unto death after assurance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The agitating students of food technology and nutritional science (FTNS) department at Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) postponed their fast unto death programme after 10 days yesterday.

The students put off their programme when the teachers of the university led by pro-vice-chancellor (p r o - V C ) P r o f Moniruzzaman went to the students and assured them of taking steps in favour of their demand.

They said the university authorities would write to the education ministry, with positive recommendation, by today for forming a review committee to implement the students' demand for renaming their degree.

They also assured the FTNS students that the university authorities would withdraw all the cases and suspension orders against the students of the department.

Deputy commissioner (DC) of Tangail M Bazlul Karim Chowdhury, superintendent of police (SP) AKM Hafiz Akter, Tangail district Awami League general secretary Fazlur Rahman Faruque, civil surgeon Dr Abdul Baset, divisional forest officer Asit Ranjan Paul, additional superintendent of police Jamil Hasan, local political leaders and representatives of civil society were present.

However, a leader of the agitating students said they would resume the programme if the demands are not met as per the assurance.

Over 200 students of the department started a fast unto death programme at Shaheed Smriti Pouro

Udyan in the town on May 14 for the second time to realise their demand for BSc (Engineering) degree in place of BSc (Honours) degree.

Around 60 of the fasting students of the department fell sick in the last few days and were admitted to Tangail General Hospital. Three of them have been sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) as their condition deteriorated.

Meanwhile, the guardians of the fasting students also threatened to join hunger strike to realise the demands of their wards.

The education ministry, in a handout, signed by its senior information officer Subodh Chandra, on Sunday expressed sympathy to the fasting FTNS students and urged them to withdraw their programme and return to classes.

The handout said no university has the authority to change any degree overriding the opinions of the experts concerned.

The ministry also sought cooperation of the guardians so that the students return to classes ending their fasting programme.

The students thanked the ministry for issuing the handout on the ninth day of their fast unto death programme. However, they rejected the 'so-called' experts' opinions submitted by the university authorities to the ministry terming those 'false and fabricated'.

The agitating students claimed that the ministry is hesitating to accept their logical demand, as the university, especially the VC, is not extending cooperation.

They also expressed their determination to continue their programme until the demands are met.