

# 35,000 families in Bhola cry for succour

UNB, Bhola

Around 35,000 families, marooned here during tidal surge due to depression in the Bay, are passing their days amid food and shelter crisis.

Several thousand houses in Tulatoli, Majher Char of Bhola Sadar, Syedpur of Daulatkhan upazila, Char Nasrin of Tojmuddin upazila, Kolatolir Char, Char Nizam of Monpura upazila, Char Kukri-Mukri, Dhalchar, Char Patila and Sikderer Char of Charfassion upazila went under 3/4 feet water on Friday.

Although the water is receding, the victims are now suffering for lack of food. Many of them are also passing days under the open sky as their houses

were totally damaged or washed away.

Relief and food items which were distributed among the victims so far were quite insufficient, said an inhabitant of Kolatolir Char of Monpura.

Besides, diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases have broken out in some water-logged areas due to lack of pure drinking water.

Around 50 people were attacked with water-borne diseases in the last two days.

Temporary medical teams have been sent to some affected areas and health officials of upazilas concerned asked to form medical team, said Bhola civil surgeon Dr Sahe Alam Sharif.

Charfassion upazila nirbahi officer

(UNO) Nur-e-Alam said 15 tonnes food have been allocated for the victims.

District relief office sources said the extent of loss caused by the depression induced tidal surge has been estimated at Tk50 crore in seven upazilas of the district.

Fifty four kilometre embankment of the Meghna river here out of 100 km has been affected while 665 km kutchra road and 27 km pucca road damaged, the sources said.

Around 11,000 houses have been damaged either partially or totally while 19,000 acres cropland went under water. Besides, 250 educational and religious institutions were affected and fishes worth Tk about 1 crore washed away.

## Jubo League leader murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Police recovered body of a slain Jubo League leader from a water body at Kolatali Moddapara in Karimganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mazharul Islam Ruman, 30, former joint convenor of Karimganj upazila Jubo League and son of Md Abdur Rashid alias Meghu Mia of Ashutia Para in the municipality.

Being informed, police rushed to the water body at about 11:30am and recovered the body bearing around 10 injury marks in the head. The throat of the victim was slit. However, police could not say any reason behind the murder.

Meghu Mia, father of deceased said Ruman was missing from Saturday night after some unidentified people called him out of home through mobile phone.

Ruman was a councillor candidate of Karimganj no 1 Pourasava in the last election. He might have been killed by his rivals over previous enmity, he said.

Babul Hossain, sub-inspector (SI) of Karimganj PS said the body was sent to Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy and a murder case was filed.

## EAGLE FREED, TORTOISES RESCUED



PHOTO: STAR

This crested serpent eagle, rescued by forest officials from the cage of a resident of Dakkhin Khabongpura in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila, was released back to freedom on Monday.



PHOTO: STAR

Police seized 29 tortoises from a wholesale fish market in launch terminal area of Patuakhali town on Monday evening, prior to preparation for their alleged smuggling to India. The tortoises were later released in a canal.



PHOTO: STAR

Tidal surge during the last couple of days is causing extensive damage to this embankment having a paved road at Kakpara in Pekua upazila under Cox's Bazar district.

# Khagrachhari colleges limp for shortage of teachers

KAFIL MAHMUD, Khagrachhari

Shortage of teachers badly hampers academic activities in colleges of Khagrachhari hill district.

During recent visits to Ramgarh Government Degree College and Khagrachhari Government College, this correspondent found that classes are not held regularly due to the problem.

With only five teachers against 21 posts, Ramgarh Government Degree College is struggling to cope with the responsibility to impart education to over six hundred students of HSC and degree levels, college officials said, adding that Bangla, economics and chemistry departments have been running without any teacher for the last three years.

Baishakhi Datta, an HSC first year science student of the college, said they did not get any class of chemistry although the first year is nearing end.

"During the two years of college life I did not get any class of management. As a result I did not write well in the subject," said Ukraching Marma, who attended the last HSC examinations from business studies group of the college.

"A total of 166 candidates attended the last HSC examinations but only 75 passed. Most of failures occurred in

English, economics and chemistry as the classes were not held regularly due to teacher shortage," said Shahidul Islam, a student of degree second year of Bachelor of Business Studies.

He also completed his HSC from the same college.

Due to shortage of teachers college authorities managed the recent HSC examinations with the help of high school teachers, said Abdul Latif, vice principal of the college.

Admitting the situation, college Principal Prof Nur Nabi said, "We wrote to the higher authorities for solving the problem more than once but to no effect. Now it has become a challenging matter to continue academic activities at the institution."

In Khagrachhari Government College, there are only 22 teachers against the sanctioned posts of 44 persons to teach over two thousand students of HSC, degree and honours levels. The college opened honours studies in social science and political science two years ago and in history recently but there only one subject teacher in each of the departments, official records say.

Talking to this correspondent at the college ground during their English period, Hali Chakma and Ria Chakma, HSC second year students of business studies group, said they

often pass English, Bangla and management periods gossiping as classes are not held regularly due to shortage of teachers.

"I am the only teacher in Bangla department against four posts to teach around two thousand students of HSC, degree and honours levels. In addition to classes, I have to do official work and so, it is not possible for me to cover all the classes different every day," said Fazlul Karim, assistant professor of Bangla department of the college.

Nomita Kheesha, mother of Boijonti Kheesha, a first year science student of the college, said they are worried about the future of their kids as the classes are not held regularly.

"Academic activities of the college are facing a serious setback due to the shortage of teachers. We wrote to the education ministry about the problem more than once but got no positive response," said Prof Dilip Kumar Das, principal of Khagrachhari Government College.

As many as 550 examinees attended the last HSC examinations from the college but only 332 of them passed.

Teacher shortage is a common problem for other colleges in the district too, said Bodhisatta Dewan, former principal of Khagrachhari Government College.

## BNP office set on fire in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The district BNP office in EB road area in the town was set on fire yesterday afternoon allegedly by local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists.

A portion of the office was damaged in the fire.

Witnesses said a few activists of Chhatra League set the BNP office on fire when a procession of the ruling party backed student front was passing by the area. The procession was brought out from Sirajganj Government College campus.

Locals doused the fire as the fire fighters were barred from reaching the spot, they said.

BNP lawmaker from Sirajganj-2 constituency Rumana Mahmud alleged that the BCL men torched the office in presence of police.

President of district BCL Asaduzzaman Sohel said, BNP men attacked the BCL procession while passing by their office.

Locals set the BNP office in protest, he added.

## Transport strike in Meherpur continues

UNB, Meherpur

Transport strike was observed here for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, disrupting vehicular movement between the district and other parts of the country.

District Motor Sramik Union enforced the strike from Saturday, demanding release of transport worker Sirajul Islam and withdrawal of a case filed against him.

The strike continued till filing of this report at 5pm yesterday.

Siraj was arrested by Rab-12 of Kushtia at Moshan near Kushtia town with one kilogram heroin worth about Tk one crore on June 7 from his bus of Meherpur-Kushtia route.

Ahsanul Haque Sona, general secretary of district Motor Sramik Union, said that their strike will continue until their demand is met.

Several initiatives by local officials failed to end the deadlock. The strike caused immense sufferings to local people.

## Thakurgaon bus strike called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Transport workers on Monday evening called off their indefinite strike on internal routes in the district after the administration and police 'regretted' for Sunday's incident.

Transport workers on Sunday began an indefinite bus strike on Thakurgaon-Ranishankoil, Thakurgaon-Balidangi and Thakurgaon-Ruhia roads protesting assault on a bus driver by police on Thakurgaon-Pirganj road at Matherganj under Sadar upazila earlier on the day.

Police said deputy commissioner (DC) Mohammad Shahiduzzaman and police superintendent (SP) Md Shah Alam were going to Mohammadpur union in Sadar upazila to see the union parishad election in the morning.

When the DC's car reached Matherganj on Thakurgaon-Pirganj road at around 10:45am, it narrowly escaped head-on collision with a passenger bus coming from Pirganj.

Law enforcers, who were

going to the union along with the DC and SP, stopped the bus and beat up its driver Ramzan Ali triggering an indefinite transport strike in the district.

The next day, agitating transport workers and police locked in an hour-long clash at Thakurgaon old bus stand.

To settle the matter, a meeting was held yesterday at the conference room of Thakurgaon Circuit House while deputy commissioner M u h a m m a d Shahiduzzaman in the chair.

At the meeting, the DC and superintendent of police Md Shah Alam regretted for Sunday's assault on the bus driver by police.

Among others, mayor of Thakurgaon municipality SMA Moin, acting president of district unit Awami League Advocate Mokbul Hossain Babu, president of Thakurgaon Transport Owners' Association Ram Babu, general secretary of Transport Workers' Union Abdul Jabbar, were present.

Later the DC and the SP visited assaulted driver Ramjan Ali at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

# Cannons used by Mujib Battery arrive



PHOTO: STAR

Cannons of Mujib Battery, handed over to Bangladesh by the Indian government, being loaded onto army trucks at Banapole land port yesterday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Banapole

The Indian government yesterday handed over to Bangladesh two cannons used by the "Mujib Battery" during the 1971 Liberation War as a gesture of goodwill.

The cannons entered Bangladesh through Banapole land port in the afternoon.

A 15-member team headed by captain of the artillery unit of Jessore Cantonment Major Morshed received the cannons from a 12-member Indian Army delegation led by Major Ariar, captain of the artillery force.

Two trucks of Bangladesh Army carrying the cannons had already left Banapole for Dhaka.

The first artillery unit of Bangladesh Army was formed on July 22, 1971 in

Konaban of India with six cannons (3.7 inch Howitzers) including the two presented by India. The newly formed artillery was named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Mujib Battery took part in the Liberation War under the "K Force" in Sector-2 and used the cannons in the battlefield.

Visiting Indian Chief of Army Staff Gen Vijay Kumar Singh is likely to present the cannons formally to his Bangladesh counterpart Gen Mohammad Abdul Mubeen at a convenient time.

Commissioned in the Rajput Regiment in 1971, General Singh had taken part in Bangladesh's War of Liberation and was part of operations in several areas including Feni and Cox's Bazar.