



STAR FILE PHOTO  
A woman standing in front of a submerged tube-well at Raritara village in Tala upazila of Satkhira district during flooding in August last year.

FLOODS, WATER-LOGGING IN SATKHIRA

# 1.5 lakh to get DFID, WFP aid for a month

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 1.5 lakh people affected by the recent flood and water logging in Satkhira district will get cash grant to cover food needs.

Each household will get Tk 1,500 for a month.

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) will provide the much-needed support for the victims, says a WFP press release.

The distribution of the grant, \$679,000, will start

next week and continue for 10 days in addition to the WFP's ongoing nutrition support there to children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Floods in the middle of last year and water logging affected livelihoods of nearly 4 lakh people in Satkhira.

"The persistent challenges faced in these vulnerable regions requires a sustained effort from all actors to help these communities build their resilience, and facilitate their recovery following the disaster," said

DFID Country Representative Gwen Hines.

Following heavy rainfall and flooding in Satkhira in July and August last year, WFP and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation conducted a joint food security assessment of the affected areas.

The December assessment highlighted that 30 to 60 percent of croplands in the most affected unions in Satkhira remains underwater, and that the prolonged high water levels continue to affect food production and work opportunities over the

long term.

Christa Rader, WFP representative in Bangladesh, said water logging in Satkhira has put the livelihoods of thousands of people at risk, and women and children remain particularly vulnerable to under-nutrition.

"This contribution from DFID will enable WFP to continue assistance to those worst affected people. Such dedicated support from our partners enables WFP to help families recover from disasters and rebuild their lives," she said.

# Feuding Pabna BNP factions fail to hold programmes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two factions of Pabna BNP could not hold their programmes yesterday as the district administration imposed Section 144 in the town, apprehending deterioration of law and order.

Johurul Islam, office secretary of the newly formed district unit, yesterday said they will start performing their organisational responsibilities from today while the rivals said their agitation will continue until the new committee is dissolved.

The rival group led by Kamrul Hassan Mintu, former organising secretary of the district unit, yesterday

announced a seven-day programme.

The programmes include processions and rallies demanding dissolution of the 172-member committee that was announced on Sunday with KS Mahamud as president and Habibur Rahman Tota as general secretary.

Internal feud in Pabna BNP surfaced anew after approval of the new body by the central committee. Since then aggrieved leaders and workers of the district unit have been agitating, rejecting the committee and demanding formation of a new one with the dedicated leaders and workers.

Twenty-five members have so far resigned from their posts in the newly formed committee, saying they are unable to perform their responsibilities in the new committee. "We have quit the posts as we want to free us from this internal feud," they added.

Join secretaries Saiful

Islam Badsha and Md Sabir Hossain Bachchu, Assistant Organising Secretary Sheikh Shamsul Islam, Co-operative Secretary Mahfuzur Rahman Chowdhury, and Assistant Publicity Secretary Rafiqul Islam Rafique are among the 25 who resigned from the new committee.

MAYOR LOKMAN MURDER CASE

# Nurul Islam remanded for one day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A court here yesterday granted one day's remand for Narsingdi Sadar thana unit BNP general secretary Md Nurul Islam in municipality mayor Lokman murder case.

Detective Branch (DB) of Police Sunday arrested Nurul Islam on his return from Malaysia.

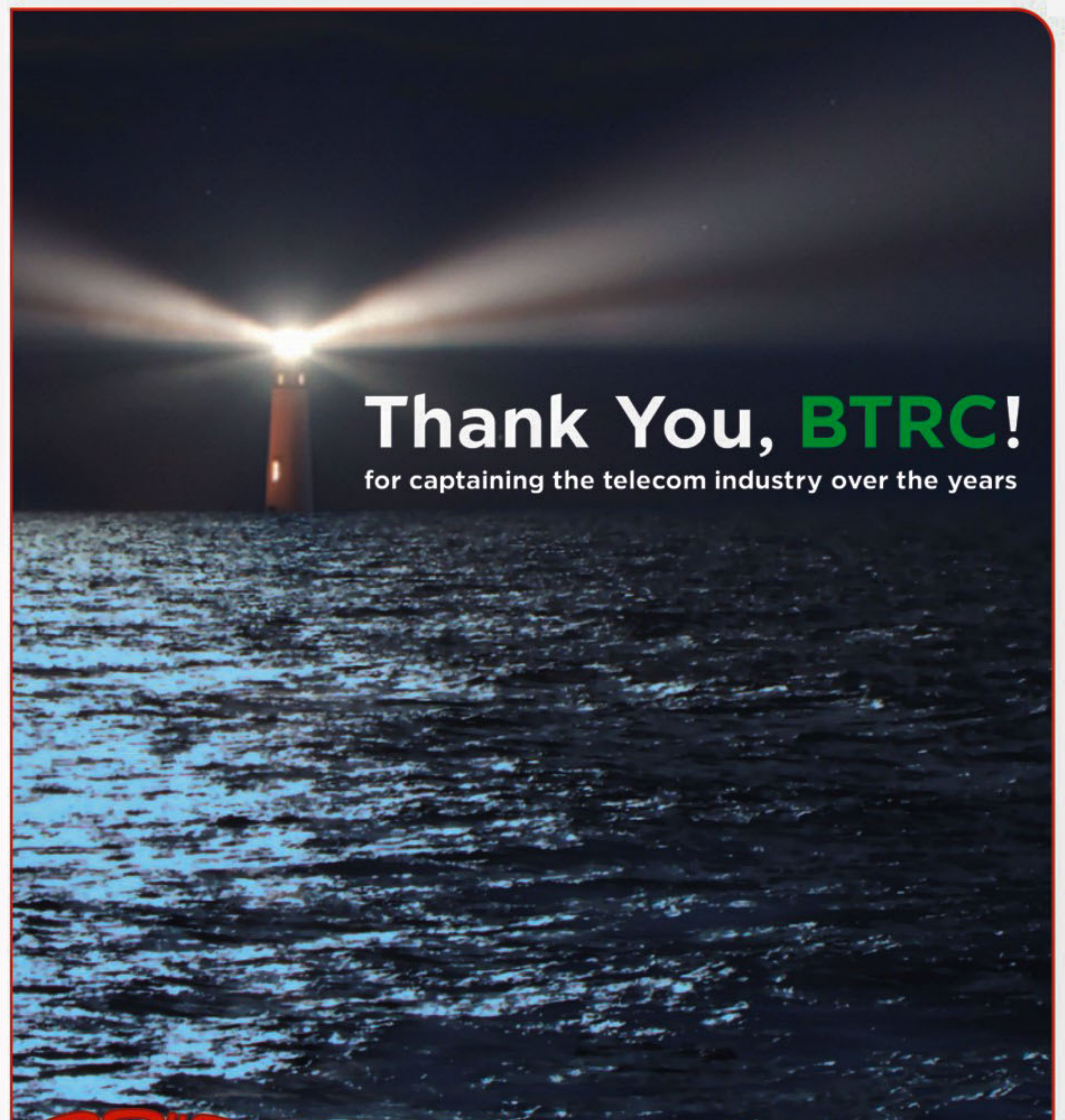
He was produced before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Nitai Chandra Saha in the morning amid tight police security.

Sub-inspector (SI) of court police Anwar Hossain said, Nurul Islam planned the killing and left the country immediately after the incident. Police sought 10 days' remand and the court granted one day's, he said.

Nurul Islam, the fifth accused in the case,

was arrested at Shahjalal International Airport at around 2:45pm, when he landed there after a three-month trip to Malaysia, said Khandaker Mohid Uddin, Narsingdi superintendent of police.

The Narsingdi municipality mayor succumbed to his injuries at DMCH hours after masked assailants shot him at the town Awami League office on Sadar Road on November 1 last year.



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