



PHOTO: STAR  
Relatives of these fishermen, who went missing during the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007, have circulated posters in Kuakata under Patuakhali district, announcing reward for giving their whereabouts.

## Gone with cyclone Sidr, still untraced

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Family members of eight fishermen, who went missing during the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr six years ago, are still searching for their dear ones.

Several people, who came to Kuakata area on November 15 to search for their missing relatives, set posters announcing prize of Tk 2 lakh if anyone can give information about the ill-fated men.

"My brother Waziullah along with 18 fishermen went missing during the Sidr when they were fishing in the Bay. After two and a half years, ten of them returned home from a jail in India. But Waziullah and seven others are still traceless," said Mofiz Ullah, 50, who came to Kuakata from Maijapara village under Sudharam upazila in

Noakhali.

"Waziullah left his lone daughter Tania who was then only three months old. Now she is a Class II student of Uttar Andarchar Government Primary School in Noakhali. I have come here to search for my brother as both Tania and my mother often cry for him," said a tearful Mofiz.

"I published posters with pictures of my brother and other missing people including Maleq, Kamal Hossain, Shah Alam, Md Hanif, Abdur Rahim, Zillu Mia and Shahjahan of the same area. We also announced Tk 2 lakh reward if anyone can give information about them but in vain," he said.

Left without the earning members, the poor families are yet to get any help from the government or others, he added.

# Horror goes, agony persists

### Sidr victims still live in miserable condition six years after the super cyclone

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Six years after the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr, many of the victims who lost their houses at the time, are still living amid miserable conditions in shabby huts.

As many as 2.25 lakh people of 54,006 families in Patuakhali district became shelter less as Sidr destroyed their houses. Of them, 34,796 families got houses under the programme taken by different donor agencies from home and abroad, said sources of the District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer.

Only a portion of the remaining families could afford to build houses.

"Just after Sidr, I got some food items as relief. But I am yet to get any help to rebuild my house that was fully damaged during Sidr. Now I with my family am living in a low hut made on a khas land," Ali Ahmed of Naubhanga village in Nilganj union under Kalapara upazila said during this correspondent's visit to the area on November 12.

This correspondent saw five members of the family living in an awful condition as their domestic cow, ducks, and hens also stay beside them.

"We often suffer from various diseases as we live in an unhealthy environment. Like us, some Sidr victims who lost their houses are still shelter less and passing days in shabby huts," said Beauty Begum, wife of Ali Ahmed.

"We heard that the government arranged houses for Sidr victims but we are still deprived. Our sor-



PHOTO: STAR  
WOEFUL LIFE AFTER SIDR: The family of day labourer Ali Ahmed at Naobhanga village in Nilganj union of Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district lives under a shabby shed along with their domestic cow and fowl since super cyclone Sidr destroyed their house six years ago.

rows know no bound during the rainy season as rain water enters our house," said Eunus Khan Ali of Mukimpur village under the same upazila.

Abdul Maleq Khan, chairman of Nilganj union parishad under Kalapara

upazila, said, "Several times we submitted list of shelter less people to the authorities concerned and they gave assurance of taking step regarding the matter but no Sidr victim got new house in my union. Many of the Sidr

victims are too poor to rebuild their houses."

Shanti Ranjon Baidya, Patuakhali district relief and rehabilitation officer, said, "We are trying our best to arrange shelter for every victim."



PHOTO: STAR  
Doctors, officials and nurses of Thakurgaon Swasthoseba Hospital observe work abstention and wear black badges yesterday demanding payment of their seven months' arrear dues.

## No SALARIES FOR 7 MONTHS

## Strike at Thakurgaon hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Doctors and staffs at Thakurgaon Swasthoseba Hospital (diabetic) observed a day-long work abstention programme, yesterday, demanding arrear salaries for seven months.

During the programme from 10:00am to 11:00am, they stood in a line in front of the hospital where several doctors and staffs spoke.

Medical Officer of the hospital Dr Nur Alam Mondal said that the doctors and staffs of the hospital had been passing hard days with their family members as they were not getting salaries from the last seven months.

Sarwar Alam, an employee of the hospital, said that they were already burdened with huge loans.

"It is hard to pay attention to duties and give better service to the patients when you are starving. We got our salaries in April last in the current year."

The protesters threatened to stop work for indefinite period if their salaries with

dues were not paid immediately.

Earlier, the staffs of the hospital observed an one hour-long work abstention every day for several days to realise their demands and wore black badges from Monday.

Executive Director of the hospital Dr Ekramul Haque told this correspondent that they had already informed the matter to the higher authorities.

Replying a query, he said that 126 staffs including 12 doctors, 13 staff-nurses and 101 employees were working at the hospital.

The 30-bed Thakurgaon Swasthoseba Hospital started its journey in August 2006 under a joint Health Care Development Project of Bangladesh Diabetic Association and the Netherlands government.

The income of the hospital is sent to the central account of the project of Bangladesh Diabetic Samity every day. Monthly expenditure of the hospital is about Tk 18-19 lakh while it needs Tk 26 lakh per month to run the hospital. Without any subsidy it is not possible to run the activities, ED Ekramul Haque said.

## BCL beats up BAU official

BAU CORRESPONDENT

An official of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was beaten up allegedly by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus yesterday.

Victim Mohammad Shahriar Mamun, sub-assistant engineer of construction and maintenance division at the university, is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital.

Sources and eyewitnesses said, some BCL boys pushed Mamun, also the vice-president of Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan (AMUS) of BAU unit, while he was drinking water in Jobbar More area, following an altercation over trivial matter.

After the incident, Mamun appeared in front of the Nazmul Ahsan Hall of the university and threatened a student.

On information, around 50 activists of BCL attacked him with iron rods and vandalised his motorbike.

Later, one of his colleagues sent him to the Health Care Center of the university. Being informed, the BCL men vandalised a few windows of the center and tried to beat Mamun again, but failed. They also opened fire before leaving the spot.

Refuting the allegation, BAU unit BCL president Mursheduzzaman Khan Babu said, "The attack might have been done by general students."

## Cop hurt in clash with Jamaat men dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A policeman, who was seriously injured in a clash with Jamaat-Shibir men in Jaldhaka upazila town last month, died at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

The deceased is Azizur Rahman, 50, constable of Jaldhaka police station. He hailed from Mohesh village under Kaunia upazila in Rangpur district.

Police said, the clash took place when Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a violent procession in the town intercepted by the law enforcers on October 25.

Moslemuddin, 45, Jamaat activist, was killed and 50 others, including police and journalists, were injured in the clash.

Of the injured, constable Azizur Rahman was admitted to the hospital with head injuries in critical condition where he died yesterday morning.

## Terosree massacre day today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Today is massacre day at Terosree village in Ghior upazila.

On this day in 1971, Pakistani occupation army with the help of local collaborators killed 43 people at the village.

The victims include Terosree estate Zaminadar Siddheswar Prasad Roy Chowdhury and Principal of Terosree College Atiar Rahman.

To mark the day, the martyrs' memorial committee has chalked out various programmes, said president of the committee Md Amirul Islam.

The programmes include discussion, mourning procession, wearing black badge and placing of wreaths at the graves of martyrs.

## Meherpur outlaw killed in mob beating in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An underground operative, who fled to India around seven months ago to avoid arrest, was killed in mob beating in Nadia district of Pashchim Banga on Tuesday night.

The outlaw was identified as Safiqul Islam, 38, son of Babar Ali of Solmari village in Sadar upazila of Meherpur district. Indian Border Security Force (BSF) confirmed the death and identity of the outlaw at a flag meeting held on Kathuli border in Meherpur yesterday.

Receiving the death news from Safiqul's relatives, BGB had earlier sent a letter to its Indian counterpart to hold the flag meeting.

Kathuli BGB camp Commander Fazlul Haq quoted BSF 85 Tinpur camp

Commander Mahendra Kosh as saying that Safiqul went to a local bazar at Kagojipara village in Morutia Thana in Nadia on Tuesday night where locals caught him, suspecting to be a robber.

They beat up Safiqul mercilessly, resulting in his death on the spot, the BSF commander said.

Meherpur police said Safiqul was a cadre of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho faction). He was wanted in four cases, including two for murder.

Safiqul fled the country 7/8 months ago and was living at Kagojipara village under Morutia Thana of Nadia district, they added.

At the flag meeting, the Indian border guards agreed to return the body of the outlaw after completion of

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Jailed for provoking suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A court here yesterday sentenced to jail Jahangir Sheikh, the main accused in the sensational Hasna Rahman Synthia suicide case. The same court acquitted Jahangir's father Jamal Hossain, 57, and brother Zakir Hossain, 34, as the charges brought against them were not proved. Additional Session Judges Court's Judge Md Shahjahan Kabir passed the verdict in presence of the accused. The court handed down 10 years' rigorous imprisonment to Jahangir. It also fined him Tk 50,000. According to the case statement, Synthia, a class X student of Baroikhal High School committed suicide by hanging in her bedroom on August 11, 2010, after failing to bear anymore the torture and harassment by local youth Jahangir, on her way to and from school. Later, Rustam Ali, uncle of the victim filed a case in this connection with Shreenagar police station.

### Jamaat man held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police arrested a local Jamaat leader in Ghatandi area of the town early yesterday. The arrestee is Rabiul Islam, former ameer of Bhupur upazila unit Jamaat. Rabiul was arrested in a case filled following a clash between police and Jamaat-Shibir men in Sarpolshia area on November 12, said Rabiul Islam, officer in-charge of Bhupur police station.

### River dredging demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Local people of Singair upazila yesterday demanded dredging of Dhaleswari River as its some points were silted. The demand was made at a meeting in the upazila headquarters. Baira union parishad chairman Dewan Sohel presided over the meeting. Among others, joint convener of Dhaleswari Nodi Bachao Andolon General Secretary of Manikganj Press Club Zahangir Alam Biswas, was present in the programme.

### 'Robbers' held in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

Police arrested two alleged robbers along with a few weapons after foiling a robbery bid at Sonapur in Raipur upazila early yesterday. The arrestees were identified as Sharif Hossain, son of Habib Ullah of Tumchar village in Sadar upazila, and Kamal Uddin, son of Tofazzal Hossain of Bahadur village in Ramganj upazila. Police said, on information that a gang of robbers was preparing to commit a robbery, a team of police raided the house of robber Alamgir at the village in the dead of night and arrested the duo while their other accomplices managed to escape. Later, police also recovered some country-made weapons from their possession. The arrestees face several cases filed against them with Sadar and Ramganj police stations, police said. Rupok Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Raipur Police Station, said the arrestees are members of an inter-district robber gang.

### Arms, ammo seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered one revolver and three bullets from Nimtola Halderpara village in Damurhuda upazila yesterday morning. BGB-6 sources said on secret information, a team raided the area at 7:00am and seized the arms, bullets and 47 bottles of Indian contraband phensidyl in an abandoned condition. However, none was arrested in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR  
Vehicles except a few auto-rickshaws went off the Rangpur-Dhaka highway during a countrywide transport strike enforced by Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation yesterday, demanding release of its central committee Joint Secretary Shimul Biswas and arrest of those who killed 27 drivers during the opposition's recent hartals.

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