

FOUR DAYS AFTER CYCLONE ROANU

# Victims of Bhola's Tazumuddin crying for food, water, medicine

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, back from Tazumuddin, Bhola

Thousands of people of Tazumuddin upazila under the district are passing days under the open sky amid dire need of foods, water, medicine, and other relief materials, four days after cyclone Roanu battered the area on Saturday.

Yesterday morning, this reporter along with other newsmen visited Tazumuddin Bazar and around two hundred houses of Shashiganj, Dewanpur, Balykandi, and Mahajankanda villages in Chandpur union of Tazumuddin and talked to a number of victims.

Water borne diseases have started affecting people, especially children and women, while lack of drinking water, oral saline and medicine made the situation all the more serious.

"We did not get a single kg of rice or any food as relief. We are managing meal once a day, taking help from relatives or friends who are less affected," said Shakibur Rahman, a shopkeeper of Tazumuddin Bazar.

"My sister Rehana Begum died by the storm but none came to help us. I managed a shroud and buried her with much difficulty," said Rafiquddin of Mahajankanda.

The people, many of whom looked weak apparently due to lack of food, were seen busy to save whatever they could from the debris of their destroyed houses.

"I got a little injured but I could not go to hospital as I cannot move alone," said Honufa, an elderly woman.

Many of the injured could not even receive treatment locally, as dispensaries and medicine shops got badly



PHOTO: STAR

Members of a victim family on Monday try to save whatever they can from the ruins of their house in Tazumuddin upazila under Bhola district, as cyclone Roanu battered the area on Saturday.

damaged by the storm.

Losing their books in the natural calamity, hundreds of students, especially around 40 HSC examinees, are passing a worrying time.

All the domestic animals were lost in the area, said villagers.

Jalaluddin, upazila nirbahi officer of Tazumuddin, said, "We are arranging foods for the

victims. The civil surgeon of Bhola visited the affected areas and formed a few medical teams."

Md Fakrul Alam Jahangir, chairman of Chandpur union parishad, said he has got 20 tonnes of rice and 640 pieces of corrugated iron sheets from the administration which is too scanty for the requirement.

The local MP has assured Tk

10.50 lakh as relief, he added.

"The cyclone and accompanying surges flooded 15,000 hectares of land, damaging crops, vegetables and betel plantations and washing away most of the fish enclosures as two and a half kilometres of embankment got destroyed," said Md Selim Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of Bhola.

"Seventy tonnes of rice,

2400 pieces of corrugated iron sheets and Tk 14 lakh in cash was distributed among the victims in all the upazilas of the district. Compensation will be given after getting the assessment report on the losses," he added.

Three people were killed and four others are still missing in Bhola district following the onslaught of cyclone Roanu.

## Speech impaired woman raped in Jessore

Raped by neighbour, schoolgirl tries to commit suicide in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A speech impaired woman was raped allegedly by a neighbour at Rasulpur village in Chougachha upazila of Jessore on Monday.

The 19-year-old victim, a widow, who used to live with her mother at the village, is now undergoing treatment at Jessore Medical College Hospital.

Police quoted victim's family members as saying that Ohidul Islam, 25, of the village, forcibly took the woman to a nearby bush while she was taking her goats to a field around 5:00pm.

Ohidul, son of Sikandar Ali, raped the girl there and fled the scene, Officer-in-Charge Moshir Rahman of Chougachha Police Station said.

Away in Mymensingh, a schoolgirl, raped by a neighbour in the district town on Saturday, tried to commit suicide by taking poison on Sunday.

The victim, 13, a Class VII student at Kewatkhali High School in the town, is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested Hridoy Mia, 20, son of Liton Mia of Balashpur area, from his house early Monday, and later produced him before a court that sent him to jail.

Quoting the victim's mother Zulekha Khatun police said Hridoy lured the girl by saying that he would love to have a rickshaw-ride along with her and

took her to Bangladesh Agricultural University area on Saturday afternoon.

He later raped the girl inside a nearby bush and threatened her not to disclose the matter, Officer-in-Charge Kamrul Islam of Kotwali Police Station said.

Being shamed by the incident, the girl took poison in a bid to commit suicide on Sunday evening.

The girl finally revealed the matter to her family members when they asked her about the reason behind her suicide attempts, the OC added.

Meanwhile, a Mymensingh court on Sunday sent a youth to jail after police produced him before the court on charge of raping a six-year-old girl in Nandail upazila on Saturday evening.

The arrestee, Mohammad Wayeskuruni, 22, a day labourer, is son of Rais Uddin of Barunakanda village in Nandail upazila.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge Md Ataur Rahman of Nandail Police Station said Wayeskuruni, a neighbour of the victim, raped the girl while she was returning home from her father's grocery shop around 7:00pm on Saturday.

Hearing screams, villagers rushed to the scene, caught the culprit, and informed the police, the OC added.

Police arrested the culprit and sent the victim to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical test on Sunday, the OC

## Man held with firearm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested a man with a pistol and one bullet from Choudala area in Gomostapur upazila of the district on Monday night.

The arrestee is Sadikul Islam, 45, son of Laksan Islam of

Dakkhin Islampur village.

Golam Mortuza, officer-in-charge of Gomostapur Police Station, said on secret information, a police team went to the area and arrested Sadikul with the firearm and bullet.

A case was filed against him under Arms Act, said the OC.

## Mangoes, litchis

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chancery of Bangladesh embassy in Tokyo.

Hasina would formally inaugurate the Chancery Bhaban on May 29. A large number of high-profile Japanese government leaders, lawmakers, officials and other dignitaries are expected to attend the ceremony.

Foreign ministry officials say the premier will fly for Tokyo to attend the G7 Outreach Meetings on June 27 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan.

Apart from holding a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on May 28, Hasina would have the opportunity to meet G7 leaders as well as other heads of states and governments.

The mangoes and litchis would be carried in a special aircraft, in which Hasina and her entourage would travel to Tokyo, the state minister said.

He said the guests at the inauguration ceremony would be entertained with Rajshahi's famous mangoes and litchis. "I am also sending mangoes personally for the Japanese finance minister in the same aircraft," he added.

The construction of the chancery in Tokyo was a project taken in 2011 following allotment of a piece of land by the Japanese government.

However, the project hit the snag as it had been facing legal, bureaucratic and technical complexities for more than three years, officials said. Finally, under a changed law, Japanese firm Muramoto Corporation constructed the chancery at a cost of 1.143 billion Japanese yen (equivalent to Tk 9.944 million).

Bangladesh has got an allotment of a 714-square-metre piece of land in the diplomatic zone of Tokyo at a cost of 1.117 billion Japanese yen in April 2008 under a condition that the complex be constructed by June 30, 2012.

In default, the Bangladesh embassy was supposed to face a penalty of 111.7 million yen.

However, after a series of successful negotiations, the Bangladesh government has managed to extend the deadline and completed the construction recently.

**G7 OUTREACH MEETINGS** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has invited a number of heads of states and governments, including Hasina, of non-G7 countries and chairpersons of international organisations to partially take part in the summit. This will be Hasina's second trip to Japan in her current tenure since she visited the country on May 25-28, 2014. Earlier, she visited Japan in 1997 and 2010.

Diplomatic sources say though Hasina is going to attend a multilateral forum, she will have an important bilateral meeting with her Japanese counterpart when the two leaders discuss an entire range of bilateral issues, especially Japanese assistance in large development projects in Bangladesh.

Hasina will also hold a meeting with the Japanese business community to encourage them for investment in Bangladesh, considering the current stable political environment and sound economic growth, they add. She will also address a gathering of Bangladesh community in Japan.

Japan has indicated that the topic of one of the outreach meetings will focus on Asia. In another outreach session, participants will address the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on Africa.

From Asean and South Asian states, the heads of states and governments of Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea have been invited.

In addition, the head of state and government of Chad -- the current chairperson of the African Union -- and the chairpersons of the UN, OECD, ADB, IMF and the World Bank are also

## Nazrul study in neglect

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about him and his work.

Although there are researches on Nazrul on an individual level, he said, very few notable research work or activities were conducted at the centre.

According to Sekhar, a collection of work on Nazrul was published by the Kendra during Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam's tenure, the time when the centre was established. However, the copy of the book could not be found anywhere.

"The book could not be preserved or protected because the Kendra has no permanent office," he said. There is a shortage of staff at the centre as well.

The current location of the Kendra is actually Sekhar's faculty room, allotted to him as a teacher of DU's Bangla department.

Sekhar said the centre had been running without a fixed office, employees and research assistants since 1989.

"There are no records of any work done by any directors, who succeeded Rafiqul Islam, in the Kendra," he said, noting

that their work, if any, might be lost due to a lack of storage facility. He said a director only has a three-year tenure there.

In reply to whether students ever showed interest in Nazrul research, Sekhar pointed out that there was no full course on Nazrul at DU's Bangla department until 2013.

The department started its journey in 1921, but until 2013, Nazrul studies constituted only 16.4 out of 1,800 marks required for graduation in Bangla, he said.

Currently, there is a 100-mark course on the national poet.

After Rafiqul Islam and Karunamoy Goswami, very little notable research on Nazrul had been done by the DU, the largest university and research centre of the country, according to Sekhar.

"The problem is not with funds," he said, citing how he utilised the annual Tk 1 lakh budget for the centre since he became director in 2014.

"A seminar was organised by the Kendra last year on the 11th of Jaishtha. Nazrul's granddaughter Anindita Kazi was invited to Bangladesh and

honoured," he said.

A research journal would be published by the centre in August, Sekhar mentioned.

"We will also hold a workshop on teaching research methodology to potential researchers at an affordable fee," he said.

"It is not just Dhaka University," said Sekhar, "As much as we talk about Nazrul, we do not practise his ideals..."

In his last speech -- "Jodi ar banshi na bajey" (if the flute does not play again) -- at a rally in Kolkata in 1942, Nazrul said, "When I will be no more, perhaps big seminars will be held on that day, countless praises, poems will be written about me. Patriot, sacrificing, valiant, rebel -- adjectives after adjectives. Pounding their fists, speakers after speakers will break tables."

Urging all not to attend such ceremonies, he said, "If you can, sit quietly and remember any unwritten moment of my life."

The time has come to pay heed to the poet's advice and research on his philosophy of life.



PHOTO: STAR

Hardly aware of the consequences to themselves as well as consumers, two men spray harmful chemicals to ripen jackfruits at Garo Bazar in Ghatail upazila under Tangail district on Monday.



PHOTO: STAR

The election camp of Monirul Islam Montu, Awami League nominated chairman candidate for Hosendi Union Parishad under Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj, was vandalised by his rival candidate's men yesterday.

## Drug addict kills wife in N'ganj

Housewife found dead in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A housewife was killed allegedly by her drug addict husband in Ruposhi Kahina area in Rupganj upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victim, Khadiza Akhter, 22, daughter of Nurul Islam of the area, was a teacher of Little Flower Kindergarten in the locality.

Police arrested Khadiza's husband Motiur Rahman, son of Motaleb Mia of Sherpur Sadar upazila, from the same area in the morning.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said Motiur, a drug addict, often tortured Khadiza for money. At around 12:30am, the couple locked in an altercation over the issue. At one stage, Motiur strangled Khadiza and fled the house.

Being informed by locals, police

recovered Khadiza's body, sent it to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, Officer-in-Charge Ismail Hossain of Rupganj Police Station said.

Away in Dinajpur, police recovered the body a housewife from Salakkuri village in Biral upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased is Mostarina Begum, 19, wife of Mosharrif Hossain, 26, of Bistair village in the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge Taposh Chandra Pundit of Biral Police Station said locals found Mostarina's body hanging from a tree at the village and informed the police, who sent the body to the hospital for autopsy.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the police station in this connection, the OC added.