

# At least 15 killed

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Nineteen people were rescued while several others managed to swim ashore, said Stalin Barua, a sub-inspector stationed at the Inani police camp.

Eight of the victims were admitted to Ukhia Upazila Health Complex and six others to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Rescue efforts by police, coastguards and the local administration were still on at the time of filing this report around 10:00pm.

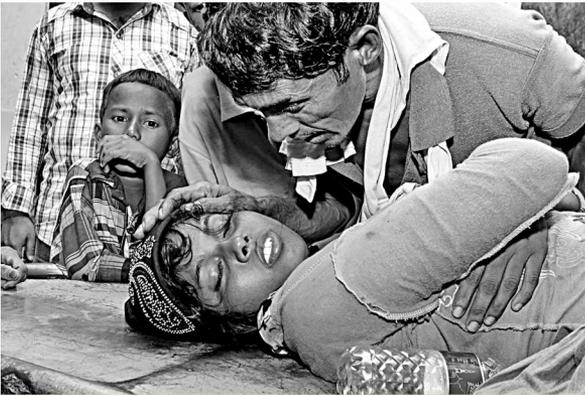
A Red Cross team was also there to provide medical support.

Kashem, who lost three members of his family in the tragedy, said the boat started for Bangladesh from Merulla Lake in Rakhine around 9:00pm on Wednesday.

He said he was from Jahama village at Bhusiding in Rakhine State. He is being treated at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

"The boat hit something underweight as it came close to the beach. Then it overturned," said Abhus Salam, another survivor.

He said eight of his family members, including his mother and brother, were unaccounted for after the incident.



**Md Kashem, strokes the forehead of his critically-ill daughter Sajeda, 15, while perhaps whispering words of comfort and hope. The family boarded the ill-fated ferry carrying Rohingyas from Myanmar which capsized in the Bay near Inani beach in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Sudden gas

**FROM PAGE 20**

The worst hit neighbourhoods are Chawk Bazar, Bakalia, Jamal Khan, Anand, Dey, Dey, Dey, Dey, Dey, Chandpur, Asara Dighir Par, Kapandoga, Badrutta, Bohaddarhat, Katalung, Halishahar, Agrabad, Shalakhaj, Rahamatganj and Ghat Forhadhagar, locals said.

Azizul Haque, deputy general manager (distribution) of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCIL), said the crisis would ease soon, but could not say the specific time when the compressor will be operational again.

Meanwhile, residents of Chittagong city have to buy food or cook at ungodly hours.

Anjan Ara, a resident of Jamal Khan Road, said the situation was frustrating as they did not get any heat.

"At night, we thought they were working on some pipeline and gas supply was suspended for a short period."

"I cannot even boil drinking water. We are buying everything, vegetable, water, now," she said. Salam Ullah, owner of a restaurant on DC Road, said they had been using fire wood and had to hike prices on the menu to cope with the additional cost.

President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mahbubul Alam told The Daily Star that the sudden crisis took a toll on the industries in Chittagong as well.

"Production is affected badly. It may ultimately impact the country's exports," he said. "We usually see a drop in gas pressure in winter but this sudden crisis is severe."

Anupam Dutt, manager (local commissioning) of KGDCIL, said the crisis was not as severe as it seemed.

He explained that Chittagong has been receiving less gas than needed for several years.

"We have seen a drop of 400mcf per gas a day, but it has to make do with roughly 240mcf," he said.

"But after the compressor went down due to the lightning strike around 9:30am on Wednesday, supply of gas from national grid stopped. We only got 119mcf on Wednesday."

He also went on to add that daily gas production at Fenuchang and Bangladesh gas fields fell last week by 70mcf. The 2.75 mcf gas fields usually produce 2.75 mcf a day, but the production fell to 2.68mcf.

"All these matters negatively impacted the supply. Work is going on to repair the Ashuganj compressor and we hope the crisis will ease soon."

# Maha Ashtami

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At Puja mandaps, including Ramkrishna Mission Temple in the capital.

The worshipped girl symbolises the power that regulates creation, stability and destruction on earth.

The goddess is bathed symbolically and dressed for the final battle. It is believed that on this day, Durga kills the buffalo demon.

In old days, a buffalo was offered as sacrifice to the goddess. These days, bananas, pumpkins and cucumbers replaced the animal.

Also known as Maha Ashtami, the day is dedicated to the Hindu social and religious calendar of the Hindus.

Devotes of all ages offer flowers at the feet of the girl Goddess Durga.

# 32,000 MT

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October 2 for a stocktaking of the food reserve situation and the already-floated tender for purchase of two lakh tonnes of parboiled rice from local private importers who have been allowed to use polybags instead of jute sacks.

The government has so far imported a little over two lakh tonnes of mostly white rice from Vietnam under a government-to-government (G2G) arrangement since its rice stock hit an all-time low at 1.5 lakh tonnes at the beginning of fiscal 2017-18.

Though Dhaka struck a separate G2G deal with Cambodia as well, the rice is yet to reach Bangladesh ports. Besides a deal with Myanmar is yet to be approved by the cabinet/body concerned.

Apart from the G2G arrangements, the Directorate General of Food also started processing imports of three to four lakh tonnes of parboiled rice through international tenders.

In early August, Singapore's Olam won the first of the bids under which it would supply the government with parboiled rice for \$419.51 a tonne.

Olam dispatched over 32,000 tonnes of the stipulated amount in the first two consignments in two ships at the beginning of September.

A food department team inspected the grains and declined to receive those, saying the rice brought from Thailand is too reddish and not up to the mark.

The setback comes at a time when the government badly requires to demonstrate gain then no objection certificate for selling the rice to private buyers, they are trying to do so," he said.

# Suu Kyi wants

**FROM PAGE 20**

keep supporting Bangladesh in the United Nations and all other international forums on this issue.

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lost at least 20 lakh tonnes of Boro crop due to Haor flashfloods and fungal attacks.

The shock that the government could build so far is mostly of white rice. But most people have shown little or no interest in buying the rice variety channelled through OMS at a subsidised rate as they prefer parboiled rice.

Meanwhile, private traders have imported nearly seven lakh tonnes of rice over the last three months, giving a little stabilising effect on volatile domestic rice prices.

Quaid Siraj, proprietor of the Olam International's local agent Zarah Grains told this newspaper that the Thai rice looks a little reddish because of its varietal feature, but it's not substantial.

Since the government declined to take it, Olam kept the ships at the outer anchorage and was trying to sell it to private parties in Chittagong, said Quaid.

If no deal can be struck here, Olam would move the ships elsewhere, most likely to South Africa and the sea rice there, he added.

All Akbar, who heads the Seven Seas Shipping in Bangladesh, told this newspaper that two of their ships that Olam hired for shipping the rice to Bangladesh have been kept at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port for nearly a month.

"Yes, they [Olam] are paying for the demurrage. As Bangladesh's food department gave them no objection certificate for selling the rice to private buyers, they are trying to do so," he said.

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# Sharishabari

**FROM PAGE 20**

the 42-year-old politician, also the vice-president of Sharishabari upazila Awami League in Jamalpur, was shifted to United Hospital in the capital around 3:00pm yesterday soon after police gave the mayor in his family custody of the boy.

Earlier around 10:00am, a team of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police admitted Rokon to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for check-up. The mayor was interrogated by detectives on Wednesday night, said DB sources.

Shafiqul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of DB, said Rokon could not cooperate with the DB team during interrogation due to illness.

Quoting the mayor, his wife Kamunnahar Happy said some five to six unidentified men picked up her husband in a black microbus around 9:25am on Monday when he went out for a walk in a park in Uttara's Sector-13 near his apartment.

"The criminals blindfolded my husband and later made him unconscious with sedatives. He could not identify anyone," she told The Daily Star.

Kamunnahar said they were still in the dark about the "abductors".

According to Saiful, the family informed law enforcers about Rokon's missing with a youth and a contractor from Sharishabari. A general diary was filed with Sharishabari Police Station in this regard about two weeks ago.

Asked whether they would file an abduction case, Saiful said they were yet to make a decision in this regard.

"We are waiting for the police probe report and recovery of my brother."

Jahurul Islam Manik, a neighbour of the mayor and also a Jamalpur AL leader, said Rokon maintains close relations with his brother.

"But I have no idea about his business, friends and other activities in Dhaka," he added.

The mayor's family suspected Rokon might have been abducted to frighten him.

He had been an expatriate in Italy and was a BNP activist. He joined the ruling AL in 2014 and was elected mayor in 2015 and the next year.

According to his nephew, Mahabubur Rahman, Rokon used to visit Sharishabari every Friday to see his wife and two children. He would return to the capital on every Sunday night.

In Uttara, he used to live with Mahabubur, a bodyguard, and a driver.

Our Jamalpur correspondent contributed to this report.

# DU probes

**FROM PAGE 20**

two DU syndicate members told The Daily Star.

Allegations of plagiarism were also brought against these assistant professors of tourism and hospitality management department. Two teachers of the same department brought the allegations against their colleagues, sources said.

The syndicate, headed by newly appointed acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Abulhasan, also appointed Prof Saadek Halim as the acting dean of the Social Science faculty, replacing Prof Amir Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan.

Several teachers questioned this move as Bhuiyan had become the acting dean only on Tuesday. They said the syndicate could have extended Bhuiyan's term until the university could hold an election to the post.

Replacing an acting dean with another acting dean without holding an election to the post is a violation of Dhaka University Order, 1973," claimed Bhuiyan, adding that such a decision was nothing but a ploy to illegally remove those who had been appointed during the tenure of the previous VC.

Prof Akhteruzzaman, however, claimed that Halim would be acting dean for no more than three months and by that time election to the dean post would be held.

Several teachers assumed the office as acting dean after his predecessor Farid Uddin Ahmed went on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) on June 30.

# Tigers get it all wrong

**FROM PAGE 1**

Elgar ended the day unbeaten on a clinical 128 off 285 balls, with the talented Hashim Amla looking on from an unbeaten 68 after the wicketless Markram was tragically run out three runs short of what would have been the seventh debut century by a South Africa batsman.

Finding opportunities for Bangladesh yesterday was also a finding needle in a haystack. There could conceivably have been two, but even those come with caveats and reminders of opportunities lost.

There were no glaring catching errors and that was mostly because few catching opportunities were created.

There were two -- first when a Taskin Ahmed delivery hit high on Markram's flashing blade and almost carried to point, where it bounced just short of Mustafizur Rahman, living forward at the other end of one of the side's weakest fielders was fielding in Jonny Rhodes's position is a question for another day. In the 77th over, part-time leg-spinner Sabir Rahman's half-volley was hit back superbly by Amla, and the bowler just got a touch on the ball's scoring part to the boundary.

There were no other hiccups apart from a few under-edges off deliveries that kept low, which actually may have been intended by the visitors, their blunder in fielding first and relinquishing the chance to bowl last.

The second positively was that, after two sessions of mostly mediocre and toothless bowling for the first hour of the last session, Taskin seemed to have found some reverse swing while off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz found a bit of rhythm. From the 66th over when Taskin came on to bowl till the end of the 33rd, seven overs had produced just 18 runs, a veritable crab compared to what had gone on before. Doubts seemed to be created in Amla and Elgar's mind, not least by three balls in the 67th over from Taskin that shot low outside the off-stump.

Instead of capitalising on their first bit of momentum in the whole day, Mushfiqur brought on part-time leg-spinner Sabir from Mehedi's end, and the off-spinner was brought back from the other end in an all-just started to reverse with their best fast bowlers twiddling at the boundary.

Sabir served up full-tosses and half volleys, causing Elgar to reach a brisk fifty in 79th ball he faced with a straight six off Mehedi in the 80th over.

Earlier, like later on, Bangladesh's little demeanour and tactics on the pitch were not what they too were surprised by their decision to field, which must have had something to do with being spoiled by the temporary early-morning cloud cover that may have assisted the South African batsmen.

Mehedi, the off-spinner, was brought on in the sixth over to replace Shafiqul Islam, who had just bowled two overs. It was almost as if Mushfiqur was reading from the book of the late captain, Muttiah Muralitharan, who was allowed to bowl for longer from the other end, started bowling a line outside off stump, but by his fourth over, was bowling the odd short ball with two men out on the leg side fence -- a bowler's trap within the first half hour of the match.

Markram and Elgar were loving it, meanwhile. The confusion in the opposition ranks just calmed whatever nerves they had, and the debu-

tant in particular unfurled some stylish cover drives and on drives that justified the pre-match hype about him along the locals. They took the team to lunch at 99 without losing Elgar on 56 and Markram on 43.

Shortly after lunch, Markram played a beautiful straight drive off Taskin in the 30th over, followed it up with a two to bring up his maiden fifty in just 77 balls, and a ball later celebrated before the occasion with another sumptuous straight drive. By that time, Mushfiqur seemed to have given up and was employing part-timers Mominul Haque and Mahmudulhaq Riyad as the open-sided saliently.

Disaster struck for South Africa the last over before tea, the 55th of the innings, when Elgar batting on 99 played a Mehedi delivery to point and took two steps down the pitch. Eager to run his partner's 100th run, Markram ran too far down the pitch, only to be out before Sabir's three runs collected by Mehedi, who gleefully took off the balls. Markram departed for a 152-ball 99, studied with 13 well-timed boundaries.

In the same over, Elgar received his ninth Test ton off the 176th ball he faced, but the celebration was muted, and the left-hander actually hit his pad with the bat in frustration at having deprived his partner of a slice of history. He however overcame the disappointment and bats to come on, but it seems unlikely that Bangladesh can stage a similar kind of recovery when they resume today, facing another mountain of runs.

# Hard to catch

**FROM PAGE 20**

Reiterating that the ACC would not tolerate hoarding of rice, its chairman said the government has a very good system in place, but some traders with the help of a secretary in the food department officials treated an artificial crisis of rice through hoarding.

**BASIC BANK PROBE UNDERWAY**  
About the BASIC Bank scam, Iqbal said, "It is still under investigation. I might be biased if I make any comment on the issue at this moment. I can assure you that we will continue our duties in line with the court's order."

He hinted that more cases would be filed over the scam.

The ACC has so far filed 5 cases, accusing 110 people and organisations, over irregularities in disbursement of loans worth about Tk 1.1 billion.

Of the accused, 27 were BASIC Bank officials and the rest borrowers and surveyors.

He said the ACC has introduced a point system to ensure punishment in all cases and reduce harassment of innocent people. According to the system, if an allegation is proved 80 points at the enquiry level, the ACC would proceed with filing a case.

Media personalities suggested the ACC steps to harassment of people, take reduce loopholes in the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and step up its activities against institutional corruption.

Monjurul Hasan Bulbul, chief executive officer of Ekushey Television, eminent journalist Rahat Khan and daily Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Noim Nizam spoke, among others.

# Dhaka facking

**FROM PAGE 2**

PEAKING justice, communal harmony and democratic values. And all of these are very important in ensuring that the situation is dealt with in a manner that is in the interest of all concerned," he said.

"We believe that the international community and the United Nations, the UN agencies need to engage in finding a constructive solution to the crisis."

# AID FROM UK, CHINA

A British aircraft, carrying 98.05 tonnes of relief materials for the Rohingyas, arrived at Chittagong Airport Saturday around 4:00pm yesterday.

The UK office of the International Organisation for Migration brought the relief materials sent by the UK Department for International Development. Mark Quinn, logistics officer of the flight, handed over the materials to Habibur Rahman, Chittagong additional deputy commissioner (Education and ICT).

Chinese officials flew with 53.50 tonnes of tents and blankets for the refugees landed at the airport around 9:00am.

Li Guangjun, economic and commercial counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, handed over the relief materials to Bangladesh, said

# Habibur

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries donated medicines worth Tk 100 million and Tk 1.7 crore for the Rohingyas.

Besides, it has decided to collect Tk 5 crore for the Rohingyas living in makeshift camps in Ukhia and Teknaf. Many of the refugees are suffering from diarrhoea, fever, cold, pneumonia and other infectious diseases.

Leaders of the association handed over the relief materials to Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim at the Directorate General of Drug Administration office in the capital, said a DGDA press release.

MOE has provided 100 beds at the United States, through the US Agency for International Development, is providing an additional 56 million to the UN World Food Programme to assist the Rohingyas, reports UNB.

This funding is in addition to the \$1 million provided to WFP earlier this year, said the US Embassy in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said the UK would provide £30 million for the Rohingyas, added UNB.

The minister came up with the information after a meeting with a nine-member UK delegation at the secretary.