

# Storms damage 400 houses

STAR COUNTRY DESK  
Over 400 houses were damaged as storms hit Natore and Rajshahi yesterday.  
At least 10 people were injured and more than 300 houses got damaged as a violent storm lashed eight villages in Lalpur upazila of Natore.  
The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex. The affected villages are Mominpur, Baknai, Manjilpukul, Mohorkaya, Raghunathpur, Hashempur, Nurdah and Dhoshpara.  
Besides, a good number of trees and several electric poles were uprooted in the areas during the storm.  
Meanwhile, a storm swept over eight villages in Bagha upazila, leaving over 100 houses damaged.  
The affected areas are Digha, Khagorbaria, Haripur, Jhina, Birebari and Nurnagar villages and Gochor rail station and Koyermill area of Arani municipality.  
Sader Ali, 55, of Gochor village, died of heart attack during the storm, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Shahin Reja.  
Reporters from Rajshahi and Natore contributed to the report.

# Two JMB men on three-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail  
Two suspected Jam'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) men were produced before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in the district yesterday with prayer for a seven-day remand, but the court granted three-day remand, said Bina Rani Das, commander of Crime Prevention Company-3 (CPC) of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) 12.  
They were shown arrested in a case filed with Kalihati Police Station on September 5.  
Rab-12 Commander Selim Md Jahangir, at a press briefing at Tangail Rab Camp yesterday, said they arrested the duo from Siddhirganj and Fatulla in Narayanganj following confessional statements of JMB members Masum, arrested from Kalihati in Tangail on September 4, and Moktarul, arrested from Melandaha in Jamalpur on October 1.  
The arrestees, Mohammad Samrat Miah alias Amir Hamza, 21, and Mohammad Shahadat Hossain alias Hurr, 22, were accomplices of militant Abdullah, who was killed along with family members in a raid at Mirpur in the capital.



Not a single baby came out from 91 eggs laid by two crocodiles at Karamjal breeding centre in the Sundarbans this year. Right, crocodiles being raised at the centre.

# No baby from 91 crocodile eggs

## Breeding centre at Karamjal in Sundarbans without expert for 2 years

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat  
No crocodile babies came out from 91 eggs laid by two crocodiles at Karamjal Wild Animals Breeding Centre in the Sundarbans this year.  
In the last 12 years, crocodiles Juliet and the Pilpil laid 723 eggs, and 465 babies came out from them.  
"The 91 eggs laid by Pilpil and Juliet were kept in incubator. Regular observation under a breeding specialist was needed so that immediate action can be taken in case of infection or any other problem. But there was no such arrangement and the eggs got damaged," said an official of the breeding centre in Bagerhat, on condition of anonymity.  
"There is no crocodile breeding spe-

cialist here for the last two years. If the authorities do not take notice of this, the reproductive centers will be in danger in the future," he said.  
To increase breeding of saline water crocodiles, the country's lone government-run crocodile breeding centre was set up in 2002 at Karamjal, at a cost of Tk 32 lakh, on eight acres of land of forest department, said officials of Sundarbans East Division.  
Forest department officials Nirmal Kumar Hawlader and Abdur Rob were sent for the special training on rearing of crocodiles and wild animals for a year in Australia's International Wildlife Conservation Centre.  
Afterwards Rob served as the officer in charge of Karamjal centre and arranged

reproduction of crocodiles there.  
He retired in 2015 but no crocodile or animal specialist has been appointed at the centre after that.  
At present, there are two saline water female crocodiles named Juliet and Pilpil while a male crocodile named Romeo died a couple of months ago. From 2005 to last year, this centre got 465 baby crocodiles from 723 eggs of Juliet and Pilpil. Last year, they had 47 babies from 98 eggs.  
On May 9, Juliet laid 43 eggs and on May 20, Pilpil laid 48 eggs. Crocodile babies generally come out from the eggs within 90 days. But no babies were born from the 91 eggs.  
Hawlader Azad Kabir, in charge of Karamjal Wild Animal Breeding Centre,

said, "After Abdur Rob retired in 2015, there is no official with formal training on crocodile rearing here. We deal with the crocodiles depending on the suggestions from Zakir, an official who worked with Abdur Rab as an assistant for a long time."  
"In the last 12 years, Juliet and the Pilpil laid 723 eggs, but only 465 babies came out from those. And we did not get any crocodile babies from 91 eggs of Juliet and Pilpil this year. We think that the eggs were not fertilised properly," he said.  
Divisional Forest Officer of Sundarbans East Division Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan said they have informed the higher authorities of the matter, mentioning the need for a crocodile specialist at the breeding center.



This fishing cat gave birth to a kitten at Bangladesh Bonyo Prani Sheba Foundation, a privately run wildlife care centre in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar, yesterday morning. Successful breeding of the animal, mostly living in riverbank areas of the wild, brings hope for the species that has become vulnerable due to water pollution and shortage of food.

# Five trafficked kids rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail  
Detective police arrested a woman and her son from a house in Tangail on Monday night, suspecting them to be members of a child traffickers' ring.  
The law enforcers also rescued five children -- two girls and three boys -- from the rented house, owned by Mohammad Shajahan, at Taltala in the town.  
The arrestees are Swapna Bhadra, 57, and her son Rana Bhadra, 25.  
The rescued children are Shama, 12, Sangeeta, 11, Kajal, 10, Krishan, 4, and Anal, 4.  
The officer-in-charge (OC) of Tangail Detective Branch (South), Ashok Kumar Sinha told this correspondent that, acting on a tip-off, they raided the house, arrested Swapna and Rana and rescued the five children from the house.

# Cycling makes girls' schooling easier

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole  
About 200 female students of Bakra Hajirbagh Ideal Girls' School and College in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore take bicycle rides to attend their classes.  
The institution, 16 kilometres from the upazila headquarters, is the only one meant for girls in the southern part of the upazila.  
Currently, there are more than 300 students in the school section and over 100 students in the college section.  
"By using bicycle, we can reach school regularly in time and our parents do not have to spend money for our transport," said Suraiya Sultana Chumki, a student of Class X.  
Talking to this correspondent, several other students including Faria Aktar Mim, Khadija Khatun Moon and Arpita Das of Class X, Tania Sultana and Runa Khatun of Class IX, Sanjina Nahar Priya of Class VIII, and Urmi Khatun, Tahira Akhter Shanta and Priya Yasmin of Class VII said bicycle has made attending their classes easier.  
However, a few girls complained that sometimes boys disturb them on the way.  
"About 200 girl students from 12/14 villages come cycling to attend class here. If anyone faces any problem while coming to the institution, we take action quickly," said Rajab Ali, principal of the institution.  
"With regular schooling, they are developing as conscious people to fight against social evils like child marriage and repression on women," he said.



Girl students ride cycles in lines on the village path to attend their classes at Bakra Hajirbagh Ideal Girls' School and College in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore.

# Musth elephant now tranquil with 2 mates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar  
A musth male elephant, which earlier killed two people in Juri upazila of the district, has finally got two partners, much to the relief of locals.  
"The excited elephant became very cheerful as two female elephants brought to me on Monday afternoon were presented to it. The three animals are now tranquil," said Saifuddin Ahmad, livestock officer of Kulara.  
"For about one and a half months during this time of the year, male elephants become musth, getting impatient to mate. In the period, the elephants become angry when they see

any people around," said Mihir Kumar Doe, divisional forest officer of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department.  
Goni Mia, mahout of the male elephant, was heading towards his workplace at Marina Tea Garden when suddenly the giant animal became angry, grabbed him with its trunk and trampled him to death on Saturday, said Saju Mia, son of the deceased.  
On September 3, the elephant killed Mangal Kharia in Pootichara area.  
Moin Uddin, owner of the elephant, said, "I employed the animal for carrying logs. It became uncontrollable as I could not manage any mate for it."

# Hindu priest

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Mogdeshwari Temple in Fakirkhil-Uttarpara area," said the SI, adding, they suspect the couple committed suicide.  
"The couple took huge amount of loan from local individuals and non-government organisations and might have committed suicide for not being able to clear the debt," he added.  
The police said devotees found the temple door closed in the morning. After waiting for long, they got suspicious, broke into the temple and found the bodies.  
On information, police rushed to the temple and found the bodies lying in the room, said SI Sirajul Islam who visited the spot.  
He added, "The priest and his wife might have taken poison as vomit and stink of poison were found in the room."  
The police said the priest had taken around Tk 8-9 lakh from local NGOs and at least seven people, adding that the couple has a son named Mintu who is a clothes trader in Fatikchhari upazila.  
AFM Mahbulul Haque Sikder, chairman of Purangar Union Parishad, also said the priest had huge debt as he had taken money from NGOs and individuals.  
The police have sent the bodies to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.



A gutum fish is being injected with hormone for artificial breeding and fry production in fresh water sub-station of Bangladesh Fish Research Institute (BFRI) at Saidpur upazila in Nilphamari.

# Artificial breeding of gutum fish

## Saidpur fresh water sub-station scientists have evolved this technique

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari  
Scientists have successfully developed a technique for artificial breeding and fry production of an endangered variety of fish, locally called gutum.  
The technique was developed in the fresh water sub-station of Bangladesh Fish Research Institute (BFRI) in Saidpur upazila of the district.  
This achievement would help save the small indigenous fish species - Lepidocephalichthys -- from extinction as it is very popular among the local people for its delicious taste and high nutritional value.  
Lepidocephalichthys is a genus of ray-finned fish in the Cobitidae family. The fish is yellowish in colour with laterally flattened body and small scales covered with mucus, with black lines on the back fin.  
"Gutum fish is listed as a threatened variety now, although it was once

found in abundance in rivers, canals, floodplains, ponds and swamps," said Shawkat Ali, upazila scientific officer of BFRI sub-station.  
"In order to conserve its gene pool, we carried out comprehensive research by collecting living samples from local water bodies in December and January and then preserving them in our specialised ponds," he added.  
At this stage, different natural and synthetic inducing agents were tested to evaluate breeding performance like ovulation, fertility and hatchability.  
By June, male and female fishes are separated and kept in trays for five to six hours after being injected with hormones so that each female fish can release sufficient number of eggs to produce fish fry, he added.  
At the age of eight days, fish fry are released into ponds where each fish grows to 15 cm in length and 10 gram to 12 gram in weight by October or

November, becoming suitable for consumption.  
"The new technique will be taught to fish farmers after instruction by the higher authorities. This will lead to improvement in the farmers' nutrition intake and also social and economic status," said Khondokar Rashidul Hasan, chief of fresh water sub-station.  
BFRI Director General Yahia Mahmud said scientists in the sub-station had earlier evolved techniques on artificial breeding and fry production of popular small fish variety tengra, for which his office was awarded silver medal by the prime minister during National Fish Week this year.  
"The scientists are now working with 65 endangered rare fish varieties like bourani, khalisha, shol, taki, chang and so on, in order to save them from extinction in the face of adverse climatic situation," Yahia added.