



Cyclone Bulbul has damaged crops worth Tk 84.19 crore in six districts of Barishal division. *Inset*, a damaged betel leaf field in Barishal's Agailjhara upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

IMPACT OF CYCLONE BULBUL Crops over Tk 84cr damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Cyclon Bulbul that hit the country's coastal areas on the night of November 9 damaged crops on some 7,421 hectares of land in 42 upazilas of six districts in Barishal division, said Aftab Uddin, additional director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the division.

The districts are Barishal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola.

The DAE official also showed an accumulated loss of Tk 84.19 crore in damages by the storm that affected some 24,097 farmers in the districts.

In Barishal district, 4149 farmers were affected while 66,000 tonnes of crops on 1684 hectares of land damaged fully or partially by Bulbul.

Dulal Dasgupta, a farmer of Gaila union in Agailjhara upazila, said the storm mainly hit betel leaf gardens in the area.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Bipul Chandra Das said most of the betel leaf gardens were damaged under the influence of Cyclone Bulbul.

Another farmer Jasimuddin of Gournadi upazila said Aman harvest would begin within seven to ten days but before that, his paddy field was damaged by the storm.

Meanwhile, 3550 farmers were affected while 3089 tonnes of crops on 558 hectares of land damaged in Pirojpur. The loss caused by the cyclonic storm could go up to Tk 11.6 crore.

In Jhalakati, 3645 farmers were affected while 3193 tonnes of crops on 530 hectares of land damaged fully or partially. The loss was estimated worth Tk 9.66 crore.

In Patuakhali, some 4814 affected farmers incurred losses of around Tk 11.89 crore. About 4513 tonnes of crops on 769 hectares of land were damaged by Bulbul.

In Barguna, 2501 farmers were affected while 2035 tonnes of crops on 374 hectares of land damaged. The farmers incurred losses of Tk 5.50 crore.

In Bhola, 5438 affected farmers incurred losses of Tk 21.34 crore. Some 7784 tonnes of crops on 975 hectares of land were damaged by the storm.

Annada Shankar, a farmer of Charfashion upazila in Bhola, has sought government's assistance to recoup their losses.

PATIENT'S DEATH DUE TO 'NEGLIGENCE' Doctor, clinic manager arrested

Victim's brother alleged that his sister was admitted to the hospital in Jashore town with labour pain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A doctor and a manger of Bandhan Hospital and Diagnostic Centre were arrested on charge of negligence of duty that led to the death of a female patient in Jashore town on Friday night.

The arrestees are Dr Protosh Kumar Kundu and manager Jahangir Alam. Protosh is also the owner of Bandhan Hospital and Diagnostic Centre.

The deceased was Moina Khatun, 25, wife of grocer Ismail Hossain Hiru of Gazirghat Road area in Jashore.

The victim's brother Saiful Islam said Moina was admitted to the hospital on Chop Jail Road in the town with labour pain on Friday evening.

At the time, Protosh said the patient's condition was critical. She was then taken to the operation theatre where she gave birth to a child around 11:00pm.

After coming out of the operation theatre, the doctor told the family members that the condition of the mother and child was well. He then left the hospital.

But Moina started feeling unwell

around 11:30pm and died shortly afterwards, said Saiful.

They were even asked to bring two injections and one bag of blood after Moina died, he said, adding that when they went to hospital with the stuff, they were informed that the patient's condition worsened and she was referred to Khulna.

Even after her death, the caretakers of the hospital injected the patient, alleged the victim's brother Saiful.

Contacted, the doctor said the condition of the mother and the newborn was well after the surgery but he was called from the hospital around 11:20pm and informed that the patient's condition was in critical condition.

When he came to the hospital and found her dead, said the doctor.

After getting complaint from relatives of the deceased, the two were arrested early yesterday, said Tasmim Alam, inspector of Jashore Kotwali Police Station.

On information, they recovered the body from the spot and sent it to Jashore Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said the police official.

Bhasani's 43rd death anniv today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 43rd death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, a legendary political leader of the sub-continent, will be observed today.

Different socio-political organisations will observe the day with elaborate programmes across the country.

Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University will organise different programmes, including placing wreath at his grave, special prayers, food distribution and a doa mahfil at the central mosque on the campus.

The other programmes at Santosh include discussion, feeding the destitute, blood donation, photo exhibition, and events of patriotic and spiritual songs by different organisations.

Born in 1880 at Dhagara village in Sirajganj, Bhasani dedicated his entire life to establishing the rights of the oppressed and downtrodden.

Maulana Bhasani fought against the British imperialism and later oppression of Pakistani rulers.

He was the founder of the Awami Muslim League in 1949, which later became Awami League.

In 1957, he formed a progressive political organisation named National Awami Party.

Bhasani played a significant role in the 1969 mass movement against Ayub Khan's autocratic rule in the then Pakistan.

During the 1971 Liberation War, Maulana Bhasani worked as the chairman of All Party Action Committee under the Bangladesh Government in exile in India.

He led the historic Farakka Long March in 1976.

The brave and devoted leader worked relentlessly and spent almost his entire life for the oppressed masses, which earned him the title "Mazlum Jana Neta", meaning the leader of the oppressed.

Bhasani passed away on November 17 in 1976.

One killed, another freed on ransom

Police arrest 2 of a gang that committed the crime after cargo boat got stuck during Cyclone Bulbul in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, from Bhola

Robbers killed a staffer of a stranded cargo boat and realised ransom for release of an abductee at Elisha of Bhola Sadar upazila on Thursday.

The sand-laden cargo, going to Chattogram from Sylhet, got stuck on a submerged island in the Magna river on Sunday during the tidal surges effected by cyclone Bubul.

The boat was on wait for a suitable high tide period for its movement, when a gang of robbers got on it around 4:00am on Thursday, said police.

They killed Dalim Mallik, 39, son of Selim Mallik of Boritol village in Barguna, and abducted Md Jafor, manager of the boat, for ransom.

Police recovered the body from Elisha area on Thursday evening.

"Seeing a trawler coming towards us, I with five others of the cargo boat went inside the cabin and locked its door. The pirates got on the vessel, fired a bullet and broke open the door," Md Jafor said.

"The armed robbers beat us mercilessly. At one stage, Dalim became senseless and they kicked him into the river, causing his death. They took me to their trawler that carried us to a lonely island after two hours. Demanding Tk 5 lakh for my release, they started torturing me.

"I managed to get Tk 1.45 to my bKash



account from different sources and sent the money to several numbers as per instructions from the robbers. After getting the money, they released me in the evening.

"After reaching Kamolnagar of Lamxipur on a fishing boat, I phoned my other companions. By the time, they had been rescued by Bhola Sadar police," Jafor said.

Police detained a bKash agent from where some of the ransom money was withdrawn on Thursday night and following information from him, later arrested two robbers.

"A case for abduction and murder was filed with Bhola Sadar Police Station against six robbers. The body was sent to Bhola Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Police arrested two of the gang and raids are on to detain others," said Sarkar Mohammad Kaiser, superintendent of police, Bhola.

Woman held for 'killing' stepson

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police detained a woman in Sadarpur upazila yesterday in connection with a case for killing her stepson.

Police arrested Swapna Begum, 25, second wife of Ibrahim Mollah of Mollah Dangi village in the upazila, following a case filed by her husband.

Ibrahim's son Tanim Mollah, 8, who was poisoned allegedly by his stepmother Swapna, died on way to Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital (DMCH) on Friday.

Tanim's grandfather Akkash Mollah said his grandson fell sick after Swapna fed him poison mixed honey on Tuesday.

After primary treatment at Charbhadrasan Upazila Health Complex, the minor boy was taken back to the house the same day.

As Tanim's condition deteriorated, he was again admitted to Faridpur Child Hospital on Wednesday, from where he was referred to DMCH on Thursday night.

The boy died on way to the hospital in the capital early Friday.

Faridpur Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Jamil Pasha said they recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

2 madrasa teachers jailed, 7 others expelled

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A mobile court yesterday handed down prison sentences to two madrasa teachers for providing cheat sheets to examinees at a JDC examination centre in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, while another court in Lalmonirhat expelled seven teachers from another centre for the same offence.

Monsur Ali, assistant teacher of Uttar Hariharpur Alim Madrasa, and Ayesha Sidikka, assistant teacher of Bhelajan Ansaria Fazil Madrasa, in the same upazila, were caught in the act during English exam of Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations at Salondar Kamil Madrasa centre, said Executive Magistrate and also Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdullah Al Mamun.

The court sentenced the two convicts to 15 days' non-rigorous imprisonment each, while it also imposed Tk 1,000 fines for two other teachers each for possession of cellular phones inside the exam centre, defying education board directives, reports our correspondent in Thakurgaon.

The other two teachers are Abu Sayem, assistant teacher of Danarhat Ansaria Fazil Madrasa, and Rashida Khatun, assistant teacher of Islamia Kamil Madrasa, in the same upazila.

Meanwhile, in Lalmonirhat town yesterday, seven madrasa teachers were expelled by a mobile court from Nechhariya Kamil Madrasa exam centre for sneaking in cheat sheets and supplying those to JDC examinees.

Two examinees were also expelled while copying answers from the cheat sheets, our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports.

The mobile court of Sahidul Islam, executive magistrate of the district administration, caught the seven teachers red-handed, said Lalmonirhat Sadar UNO Joyoshree Rani Roy.

The expelled teachers are Sajeda Begum of Baliram Dakhil Madrasa, Mariam Begum of Char Kulaghat Dakhil Madrasa, Rahmat Ali of Harati Dakhil Madrasa, Bhabo Ranjon Barmon of Etapota Dakhil Madrasa, Nasir Uddin and Abu Hanif of Beru Panga Dakhil Madrasa and Ashrafal Islam of Nechhariya Dakhil Madrasa in Sadar upazila.

The secretary of the exam centre was asked to seek cancellation of the expelled teachers' Monthly Pay Orders (MPO) with Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board, the UNO also said.

Sukkur Dewan will no longer need a house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Shukkur Dewan saw so much in his life of 70 years. He even saw his wife and himself living in a neighbour's cowshed after their son's deception got them evicted from their own house.

But, before seeing handover of the house being built for him and his wife, at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Shukkur breathed his last on Thursday afternoon.

The Kawkhali village resident in Rangabali upazila died of cardiac arrest around 4:00pm at the house of his neighbour Shahjahan Gazi, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mashfaur Rahman.

Shahjahan Gazi donated a piece of land where a two-room house is being built for Shukkur and his wife Sahura Begum, 65.

The government's disaster management department, under its 'construction of disaster tolerant dwellings for the homeless' project of Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme, is spending Tk 2.58 lakh for building a 'disaster-tolerant house' on the donated land, the UNO said.

A government process is also underway to allocate one acre of khas land for the couple, he said, adding that now, upon completion of the house and the land allocation process, both the house and the khas land will be handed over to the wife of the deceased, Sahura Begum.

After reports were published in different newspapers about the elderly couple's living in a neighbour's cowshed, the prime minister had asked local lawmaker Md Mohibbur Rahman to build a new house and allocate a piece of land



for Shukkur and Sahura.

The Daily Star on October 25 ran a report headlined 'Elderly couple living in cowshed for a month: They were evicted from their house after their only son secretly sold their house and left the village'.

About four months ago, Shukkur and Sahura's son Mohammad Hasan tricked them into handing over all their property on 40 decimals of land in Kawkhali village.

The couple realised of their son's deception

only a several months ago when Hasan left home secretly and Shukkur's brother Tajem Ali Dewan evicted them from their house, claiming that Hasan had sold all their property, including their agricultural land, to Tajem.

Since then, Shukkur and Sahura's neighbour Shahjahan Gazi sheltered them in a cowshed. With all their four daughters married off and no other family member to care for them, their neighbours have been providing food to them.