

**Low over Bay turns into Depression****Strong tidal surge swamps the coastal Belt***Over 100 fishermen missing, thousands marooned*

***This is a regular phenomenon in the month of September*** in our country since the last few years. If we look back the last three years 2007, 2006 and 2005 the tidal surge swept across the coastal belt on September 7, 2007, September 23, 2006 and September 18, 2005, caused deaths and huge damages to people's belongings. The similar event happened this year on Tuesday night (Sep 17, 2008). ***Therefore, there are chances that something may happen in the forthcoming days as the sea is now swelled up.*** The loss and damage could be minimum if we could proactively analyze the trend of "climate change" and learn from immediate past years.

The monsoon low staying over the northwest Bay of Bengal turned into a deep depression and was likely to cross the coast of Orissa any time Tuesday night, the Met Office said. . The maximum wind speed within 48 kilometres of the depression centre was about 50kmph, rising to 60kmph in gusts or squalls. **Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been asked to keep hoisted local cautionary signal 3.** All fishing boats and trawlers staying in the North Bay have asked to take shelter immediately and remain in shelter till further notice.

Coastal districts of Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Feni, Lakshmipur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Pirojpur, and Jhalkati and offshore islands were inundated by three-to-four feet high spring tide. Over a hundred fishermen went missing when their trawlers capsized in rough waters caused by depression in North Bay on Monday night. Reports from Khulna, Bagerhat and Bhola about 25 trawlers with over 300 fishermen onboard were caught in gusty winds, accompanied by driving rain, and went under. About 200 fishermen managed to swim ashore.

In Cox's Bazar, a three-year-old child drowned in the high tide in the town and about 2,000 families along the coast moved out during the tide as it was about four feet higher than regular tide. The sea remained rough and the fishing boats kept to the coast. People in coastal areas in southern districts of Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, and Jhalkati experienced seven-to-eight feet high tide for the full moon.

**The administrations of the coastal districts have alerted their volunteers to any probable deterioration of the situation. Squally winds blew over the region. There was report of devastation.** The district headquarters of Patuakhali and Barguna were inundated. Many areas of two towns went under knee-to-waist-high water. The same was the situation with Kalapara. Communications on the Barisal-Kuakata Road was disrupted as the pontoons at the Neelganj ferry point were submerged. The high tide breached dams at Atirtek and Dhalbunia at Dacope in Khulna. The people in Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira faced tide three-to-four feet higher than regular tide, which is usually occurred.

**Sarankhola Upazila in Bagerhat District**

**Southkhali Union:** The embankment has been broken of the Baleswar River at Gabtola, Sonatola and Sarankola villages. The broken area is about 25 meters. The water height has increased 3-4 feet in the plain land in the broken areas. The Sarankhola village market went under water during the high tide.

**Dacope Upazila in Khulna District**

The Banishanta village went down under water. The houses of the sex workers and the Pre-School for the sex workers children run by our partner JJS also went under water. The children have been taken to the cyclone center.

**Prepared By: Sumaya Noor**

Disaster Forum  
5/1, Sir Syed Road  
Mohammadpur  
Dhaka – 1207