

## Sidr gave birth to Sidr Jona



Prophet Jona who once was swallowed by a fish got back his life. This Biblical history teaches us that God can do anything. On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007, when Sidr the devastating storm, was crushing the south-western part of Bangladesh, the people over there prayed to God to save them. At that dangerous moment, a baby was born there. His parents named him Sidr Jona after the dangerous storm Sidr. It means that, like Prophet Jona, He saved baby's life from Sidr.

A daily newspaper of Bangladesh named ``The Protham Alo''(first light) made a calendar with the photograph of Sidr Jona. They put a caption mentioning that the Sidr can crush the Sheds, trees and lives but cannot

crush a newly born baby. This was blessing of God, which reveals His wonder.

During the Sidr, when storm blew violently and tidal surge inundated the area, Gorgi Sarker (24) brought his pregnant wife named Sathi Sarker (19) to a school building. Suddenly she felt labour pain. Gorgi knew that his aunty received training on midwifery. He took a risk and went to his aunty house to fetch her to school. At that time the first floor of that building was washed out by the strong rain. Sathi remained lying on the wet floor.

In the middle of the night, when the Sidr assumed a terrible form with excessive high wind and tidal surge, Sathi gave birth to a male baby. Both the mother and baby were senseless. Some people came forward to rescue them from the crowd taken shelter in that school building. They blew mouth-to-mouth respiration, massaged the body of the baby's mother to create heat. That school building is situated in a church campus. A man went out and collected some hot water from the near by house of catechist. Though the efforts and prayer of the people, the mother and the baby got back their senses. The Sidr failed to crush their lives.

Now the baby Sidr Jona Sarker is 30 cm. tall. His weight is 8 Kg. On each its gum two teeth has grown. He has been suffering from cold and cough since his birth. A proper treatment is very essential for him. His affectionate father has not enough money for his proper treatment.

His father Gorgi is a fisherman. He catches fish in the near canal close to the Sunderbon, which is a mangrove forest. On average Gorgi had earned Tk. 1200/- every week before the Sidr hit the locality. They are in a joint family. His father, mother, sister are live in the same house. Their village named Kanainagar is at Mongla *Upazila* (Sub. District) under Bagerhat district. This area is 300 Km south of Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh and 55 Km. from the Bay of Bengal.

After the SIDR, Bangladesh Government, Caritas Bangladesh, Church of Bangladesh, Najarin Church and the Daily *Protham Alo* (a daily Bangla newspaper) group gave them food items as relief. The Daily Protham Alo group also gave them C.I. sheet for reconstruction of their house and thirty thousand Taka to establish a business. Gorgi has a shop named ``Sidr store'' where food items are sold. Besides he also goes to the canal to catch fish. After Sidr he can earn Tk. 1500 to 2000 a week. The shop is not running properly because the villagers are poor. They are not able to purchase food items by cash, maximum time they take the goods on loan but cannot return money in time.

Gorgi dreams of educating his son. He said, "God saved my son from Sidr, Please pray for him so that we may be able to prepare him as an ideal citizen for the society. We have got our son in a terrific moment, which we cannot forget. Our Sidr Jona reminds us the pain of Sidr as God's blessing is with us nothing is able to destroy our Joy ."