

SNAPS

Outlaws kill 28 in a fortnight in 7 dists

UNB, Khulna
Outlaws killed 28 people in seven southwestern districts in the first fortnight of July.

Police said nine of them were killed in Khulna, eight in Jessore, four in Chuadanga, three in Bagerhat, two in Satkhira and one each in Meherpur and Jhenidah districts.

However, no killing was reported in Khustia, Magura and Narail districts in this period.

Outlaws killed 46 people in June and 56 in May this year in the region.

Boy killed in road mishap

UNB, Gazipur

A minor boy was killed in a traffic accident at Bhogra near Joydevpur on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway Tuesday afternoon.

Police said the victim, Babu, 12, died on the spot when a Dhaka bound microbus ran over him while he was crossing the road at about 1.30 pm.

Police seized the vehicle and arrested the driver Abu Bakar. The body of the victim was sent to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Joydevpur police.

Unnatural death of sawmill worker

UNB, Noakhali

A worker of a sawmill at Basurhat in Companiganj upazila died when the stockpiled timbers suddenly fell on him Tuesday.

Witnesses said Abul Bashar Mollik, 45, an inhabitant of Jhalakati district, met the tragic end of his life while he was working in the sawmill. A case was filed with the police.

Girls abducted

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A schoolgirl was abducted by her neighbour from a village in Nabinagar upazila on Sunday.

Police said Rekha, 16, a student of class VII of Shyamgram Mohini Kishore High School was abducted allegedly by one Ripon and his accomplices when she was going to school.

In another incident, Lutfa Begum Ratna, 20, of village Majhikara is missing since Sunday. She was an HSC examinee from Nabinagar Women's College. Cases were filed with police.



People wade through floodwater at a village near Dhunat upazila headquarter in Bogra district. The Photo was taken on Tuesday.

Feasting on flood

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The flood is a bane for all but can be a boost for a few.

A section of contractors are feasting on the current flood, allegedly in connivance with some dishonest Water Development Board (WDB) officials.

The contractors are drawing hefty amounts by submitting 'vague bills' for dumping stones and sandbags to 'repair' breaches in riverbanks, it is alleged.

"Who counts how many stones are dumped into water?" said a contractor at Kajipur while talking to this correspondent.

And, breaches are not lacking. The 76-km main flood control embankment in Sirajganj breached at Baoikhola and Shubhagachha in Kajipur last year.

This year, flood washed away about one kilometre of the embankment and damaged about and 25 kilometers, said sources.

Breach in embankments by the mighty Jamuna is almost a regular phenomenon because renovation is not done properly in right time, they said. The Jamuna can be blamed for all the evils.

But WDB officials have a ready

answer for this. The dams could not be repaired timely for 'want of funds', said Anwar Hossain, sub divisional engineer of WDB.

However, Ratanakandi Union Parishad Chairman Golam Mustafa blamed the BNP-led alliance government for not initiating repair of the dam in time.

The dam was built at the initiative of Awami League lawmaker and former home minister Mohammad Nasim MP, elected from Kajipur constituency, he claimed.

Life term for killing in Bogra

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra Second Additional District and Sessions Judge Anwar Hossain on Tuesday sentenced one person to life term for killing a man.

The judge also fined convicted Joynal Akhondo Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer more one year imprisonment.

Joynal of Hodardighi village under Gabtoli upazila beat one Abdul Jalil on November 9, 2000 over a land dispute.

3-day programme marking death of Maulana Habibur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A three-day programme begins here today to mark the death of Alhaj Moulana Mohammad Habibur Rahman, an eminent Islami thinker and scholar.

Moulana Habibur Rahman served as Khatib of different mosques including the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Jam-e-Mashjid for about 50 years. He died on June 9 at the age of 85. Khatme Koran and special Doa Mahfil will be held at the Jamea Ahmadiya Sunniya Aliya Madrassah after Magrib prayer today.

Similar programmes have been arranged at the Nesaria Aliya Madarassah, at Madrassahye Nuria Complex and at the Islamabad Women Orphanage after Esha prayer today.

Food will be distribution of the distressed and orphan students. Religious programmes will also be held at the CCC-run Jam-e-Mashjid at Suganddha residential area after Jumma prayer on Friday and at the residence of late Moulana Habibur Rahman after Magrib prayer on Saturday.

Flood claims 5 in Gaibandha, worsens in Sirajganj, Netrakona, Natore

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Floods worsened in Sirajganj Sadar, Netrakona and Natore yesterday.

In Gaibandha, flood-related deaths rose to five as three persons drowned and two others died from snakebite. The Teesta, Brahmaputra and Ghagot rivers slightly receded yesterday but were flowing above their danger marks.

Our Roving Correspondent
Anwar Ali reported from Sirajganj that floodwater was approaching Sirajganj town as more areas of the Sadar upazila went under water following breach in the main flood control dam at Meghai on Friday.

Sixty-four out of 83 unions in the district have been inundated, 11 in Kajipur upazila being the worst hit.

This year flooding started early due to rain in Bangladesh and melting of Himalayan ice, Mojibur Rahman, executive engineer of Sirajganj Water Development Board (WDB) told this correspondent on Tuesday.

Flood usually starts in the northern region from mid-July, he said.

About ten kilometers of the Kajipur-Sirajganj highway, built during late 90s at a cost of about Tk 500 crore, is now under water.

The WDB is dumping sandbags to protect the highway. But their

'untimely work' will be a futile effort, local people said. An amount of Tk 25 was spent to protect the highway but it was simply wastage because work is not done in proper time, sources said.

The authorities stopped plying of heavy vehicles on the road.

In Kazipur, nearly two lakh people have been affected, 50,000 of them marooned. About 2000 families have become homeless due to erosion by river.

This correspondent visited the worst affected Shubhagachha, Ratanakandi and Gandhail unions in an engine boat.

People have moved to safer places.

Hundreds of people who took shelter at the three storied Shubhagachha College are facing acute crisis of food and drinking water.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reported that the Jamuna was steady but flowing 52 cms above the danger mark.

Other rivers Korotoa, Fulzore, Isamoti, Boral and Gumaniswelled yesterday.

Floodwater inundated Tarash and Raiganj upazila headquarters Tuesday night and washed away Bengnai bridge and two culverts in Raiganj.

The authorities said they have opened four relief camps and

deployed 79 medical teams in the flood affected areas.

Acute crisis of food and drinking water is prevailing in the affected areas.

State Minister for Power Iqbal hassan Mahmood visited yesterday visited the affected areas in the Sadar and Kazipur upazilas.

Our Gaibandha correspondent KM Rezaul Haque reported the three drowned as Hawya Begum of Madangerpara village under Fulchari upazila; Arman, 5, of Kalurpara village under Shaghata upazila and Belal, 18, of Kamarjani village under Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

Habibur Rahman, 35, and Jasim, 7, died from snakebite at Khatiamari village in Fulchari upazila.

Fifty-seven out of 82 unions in the district are now inundated, affecting over three lakh 49 thousand people.

Nearly one kilometre of Dhaka-Dinajpur highway went under water at Khalshi, where vehicles are moving with risk. The road link may be snapped any time.

The flood situation worsened in Gobindaganj upazila following a breach in Karotoa river embankment at Taraf Kamal and at two other points. The river was flowing 68 centimetre above the danger mark yesterday.

Nearly half a kilometre of

Gaibandha-Sunderganj road has gone under flood water.

Our Netrokona correspondent reported that the flood situation deteriorated in the district as Suma-Showary, Kongsha, Mogra and Donu rivers overflowed their banks at many points yesterday due to onrush of water from India and heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours.

Vast areas in Durgapur, Kalmakanda, Atpara, Modan, Mohongonj, Barhatta, Khaliajuri and Netrakon Sadar upazilas went under 6 to 7 feet water.

Netrakona-Kalmakanda and Netrakona-Durgapur road links have been snapped as floodwater is flowing over the roads.

A UNB report from Natore said 35 villages have been inundated by floodwater from the Atrai river following a breach in an embankment of Water Development Board at Shukthata.

Water level in the areas is increasing. Part of Singra municipal area has gone under water.

The Atrai river was flowing 31 cms above the danger level at Singra point, 20 cms at Atrai railway bridge point and four centimetres at Jobbazaar point.

A vast tract of land near Polder C in Chalan Beel went under water as the Koirbari embankment breached near Bishnopor.

Doctors sued in Magura for 'wrong diagnosis'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

thetwodocors.

Medicine Consultant Zulfikar Ali and Surgical Consultant Abdul Latif of Magura Sadar Hospital were sued on Tuesday for their alleged negligence and wrong diagnosis during treatment of a patient.

The patient-- Anwara Haq, 40-- died on July 12 while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The victim's husband freedom fighter Munshi Rezaul Huq filed a case with a magistrate court accusing

BDR chief visits Khagrachhari

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj. Gen. Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday visited BDR battalions at Polashpur, Jaminipara, and Panchhari in Khagrachhari hill district, says a press release.

During the visit he also urged BDR personnel to try to forge better relations between Bangalee settlers and tribesman, said a press release. Regional commanders and sector commanders of BDR accompanied him.

The BDR DG will visit battalions in Rangamati today.

Salinity is no more a problem for farming

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Rice cultivation was not possible in dry season in coastal areas of Bangladesh due to salinity of water and soil.

But farmers in Batiaghata upazila in Khulna have overcome this problem with the help and assistance of Proshika, an NGO.

They cultivated Boro paddy in the last season as Proshika demonstrated water management.

Usually, river water in the area is sweet from June to mid-February and saline in the rest of the year.

The farmers in the project area preserved river water in a canal in the dry season and used it in fields

when salinity increased.

They harvested an average of three tons of rice per hectare in the last IRRRI-Boro.

The yield will increase in the next season, some of the farmers said.

Proshika and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) have jointly taken up a project at with the financial support of Poverty Elimination Through Rich Research Institute.

The project work started in 2002 and will continue up to June 2004.

The main objective of the project is to provide farmers with technical support for development and utilisation of coastal water resources.

Road barricade in Rangamati protesting toll collection

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

People of Khilachhari raised a barricade on the Rangamati-Khagrachhari road yesterday, protesting toll collection there allegedly by activists of Shantibahini and Parbattya Chatragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

They will block the road for an indefinite period till the criminal activities are stopped, a press release issued by the people of nine villages in the area said.

Three persons were injured in attacks by the activists last week for not paying toll, it said.

When contacted, police said the area is under army control and they have nothing to do.

BNP leader killed by 'outlaws'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP leader Khajer Tarafdar, 50, of Monirampur upazila was hacked to death allegedly by members of an outlawed party Sunday night near his house at Monoharpur village.

His wife Monowara Begum was also injured in the attack as she tried to resist the killers.

According to Monowara, a gang of ten dragged the BNP leader out of his house and hacked him to death on the road.

Jessore police superintendent said the killers are cadres of BNCP. The murder is a sequel to the BNP leader's refusal to allow the outlaws to move freely with arms in Monoharpur, police said.

None has been arrested.



BNP Advisory Council member and former minister Harunar Rashid Khan MP distributing CI sheet as relief to flood victims in Saturia upazila in Manikganj on Monday. Leaders of BNP and its fronts JCD and Mohila Dal were also present there.



Flood brings misery for people. But to children floodwater is often a source of enjoyment. Oblivious of the surroundings, children frisking in Jamuna water near Sirajganj town. The photo was taken recently.