

HEAVY RAIN FOR 3 DAYS, ONRUSH OF HILL WATER

Flood hits Sylhet, Moulvibazar

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Heavy rain in last three days and onrush of water from hills across the border triggered flash flood in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts, leaving at least 30,000 people marooned and disrupting road links in several areas.

All the rivers in the two districts were flowing above their danger levels yesterday and were swelling further.

At many points the rivers are overflowing their banks.

The rise in water levels (of rivers in Sylhet) is abnormal as if it continues river embankments will develop breaches at many points in Sylhet, Water Development Board (WDB) Superintendent Engineer in Sylhet GM Shamsur Rahman told the Daily Star yesterday.

There was 271 mm rainfall in Sylhet city during 36 hours ending at 3 PM yesterday, meteorological department officials said.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Sylhet.

Flood water has inundated vast areas in Gowainghat, Jaintapur, Kanaighat, Companiganj, Jakiganj and Sylhet sadar upazilas.

At least 50,000 labourers in seven stone quarries in Sylhet including the country's biggest one at Bholaganj in Companiganj have become jobless.

The Surma river breached its embankment at Lakshimpur in Kanaighat upazila while cracks have developed in the Surma Dyke in Gouripur-Kandipur portion, threatening nearby villagers, WDB officials said.

If the water level rises by one foot, there will be breaches in the dykes at several points, they said.

The Surma was overflowing its banks at Kanaighat upazila headquarters and at Agram in Jakiganj upazila.

The Kushiara is also overflowing its banks at Ujirpur and at Manikpur in bordering Jakiganj upazila.

Sand bags are being dumped to stop the gushing water, WDB Executive Engineer in Sylhet Fokhrul

Islamsaid. A BDR camp at Jakiganj located near the Kushiara dyke is at risk, the official added.

Road link between Sylhet city and Gowainghat upazila has been snapped for the second time in a week as the Sari-Gowainghat road went under three feet water.

At 3 pm yesterday, Surma was flowing 35 cm and 50 cm above danger levels in Sylhet city and Sunamganj district headquarters. It was flowing 172 cm above the red mark at Kanaighat upazila headquarters, WDB officials said.

The Kushiara was flowing 185 cm above the danger level at Amolshid and 80 cm above the red mark at Sheola.

In Gowainghat upazila, about 20,000 people in Alirgaon, Toakul, Lengura, Purba Jafflong, Pashchim Jafflong and Nandirgaon unions are marooned as all roads are under water.

Another about 10,000 are marooned in 15 villages in Jaintapur upazila.

In Sylhet city, flood water has inundated Mendibag, Shibganj, Jalalabad, Bonkalapara, Jatapur, Shahjalal Upashahar and adjoining areas. However water started receding from some areas yesterday evening.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent adds: Seven unions of Juri and Baralekha upazilas in Moulvibazar district have been inundated.

The Juri, Fana and Sunal rivers were flowing above their danger levels. Most areas of Juri upazila headquarter and 50 villages in the two upazilas have been flooded.

Moulvibazar Water Development Board (WDB) officials said they recorded 110 mm rainfall in the district in last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

Flood situation in villages around Hakaluki haor areas is grave where most homesteads are under water, sources said.

Affected unions are Jayfarnagar, Poschhim Juri, Gualbari and Sagarmalin

Juri upazila and Borni,

Daserbazar and Talimpur in Baralekha upazila.

Water is overflowing the Juri river in Juri upazila. The main roads in the upazila headquarter are under two feet water, stopping movement to vehicles in the town.

Road communication between Juri and Fultala has been disrupted as about one kilometre stretch of the road in Hafizi area and 100 metres near Rutna Bazar have gone under water.

Road communication between Moulvibazar and Baralekha is disrupted as a culvert on the road near Ratuli has been damaged by surging floodwater.

Monu and Dhalai rivers are flowing above their danger levels yesterday evening. Dhalai river waters gushing through of old breaches have inundated low-lying areas of Kamalganj upazila.

Power Development Board (PDB) sources said gusty winds disrupted power supply in some areas.

PROTEST AGAINST DECISION TO SHIFT COURT

Satkhira lawyers start court boycott today

Token hunger strike this morning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Members of Satkhira Bar Association will boycott all courts from today protesting a government decision to shift the Third Additional Judge's court from the district to Bagerhat.

They also will observe a two-hour token hunger strike from 10 am to 12 am today demanding cancellation of the decision.

The decisions were announced at a press conference by association leaders held yesterday at its office.

In a written statement read out at the press conference, Bar Association General Secretary

advocate Shah Alam said the government took the decision when over 11000 cases are pending with the judges' courts and another 14,458 with the seven upazila magistrate courts for long.

Cases are being piled up due to shortage of judges and magistrates, he said.

He said, eleven posts of First Class Magistrate out of sanctioned 14 are lying vacant for last five years in the district, causing pile-up of cases and increasing sufferings of litigants.

The government should appoint judges and magistrates immediately to overcome the situation. Instead, it has decided to

shift the judge's court, he said. He alleged the court is being shifted due to a conspiracy by some vested quarters when the government is enacting new laws for speedy trial and disposal of cases.

Lawyers will launch a tougher agitation to resist the move, he said. "If our demand is not met within June 18, We will announce a tougher agitation programme on June 19", he said.

Among others, Bar Association President Tapan Chakraborty, advocates Samsul Haque, Golam Mostafa, SM Haidar, AKM Shahidullah, Abu Bakar Siddique and Amjad Hossain were present at the press conference.



FOOD HIT SYLHET: (From left) Inundated shanties in low lying areas of Subhani Ghat, water overflowing a road in Moubon and Osmay Medical College in Sylhet city.

Magura voter enumerators stage sit-in for payments

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Several hundred voter enumerators in Mohammadpur upazila in Magura district staged a sit-in yesterday in front of the upazila election office, demanding payment of their remuneration.

Two hours into the demonstration, local election officials assured them that payments would be made 'within a short time' after a directive from Dhaka and they withdrew the programme.

Voter enumerators in three other upazilas of the district have also been thronging local upazila election offices to inquire about their unpaid remuneration.

Sources said, they became anxious after the May 23 Supreme Court verdict which turned down the Chief

Election Commissioner's appeal against a High Court directive in January regarding preparation of a new voter list for the next general election.

Assurances by election officials that payments would be made 'within a short time' after a directive from Dhaka could not satisfy them as there was no clear answer to their question as to when and how much remuneration they would get.

Many of the enumerators apprehended that they would not at all get their remuneration 'as their service went in vain' because the new voter list became null and void after the Supreme Court verdict.

At Shalikhia upazila election office on Monday, over 100 data collectors gathered, many of them seen exchanging words with upazila

election officials.

Mohammadpur upazila election officer, when contacted over cell phone, said, "We are waiting for Election Commission's directive following the Supreme Court verdict."

District election office source said that 1,474 data collectors, 380 supervisors and 45 assistant registration officers were engaged to prepare the new voter list.

Data collection work began on January 1 and the draft voter list was published on May 3. They completed their assignments by March 12 and till that time they were not paid.

Magura District Election Officer (DEO), when contacted, said he is expecting a directive from the EC soon regarding payments.

Pneumonia kills 4 children, attacks 800 in 2 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Pneumonia claimed at least four children and attacked 780 others in Nilphamari and Dinajpur in the last one week.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent reports: Two babies, Babu and Sathi, died while the disease attacked over 500.

Senior medical officer of Nilphamari Civil Surgeon (CS) Office Abdul Majid said fluctuating temperature is the reason behind outbreak of pneumonia.

District health control room sources said 130 babies were treated in all the six government hospitals and health complexes on Wednesday. Of them, 30 babies were treated in Nilphamari 100-bed Modernised Hospital. Parents alleged that their babies were kept in a congested and unhealthy female ward. The condition of the babies are worsening day by day, they said.

On contact, Nilphamari hospital Residential Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Khorsed Alam confirmed the deaths. He also admitted that the disease is spreading fast. The hospital authorities are facing trouble in tackling the situation due to lack of child specialist, he said.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: Two children died and 280

others were attacked with pneumonia in Thakurgaon in a week, hospital sources said.

The dead are Asif, son of Akbar Ali at Baraagan village and Mamata, daughter of Md Mohiuddin Ahmed at Nargun village in Sadar upazila.

The affected areas are Thakurgaon Sadar, Ranishankail, Haripur, Pirganj and Balladangi upazilas.

Hospital sources said, at least 90 children were admitted to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital on Monday.

Diarrhoea also broke out in the areas. More than 20 children aged between 1 and 7 years were attacked and they are now undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The hospital authorities are facing a great problem due to lack of accommodation. The hospital has only 100 beds. When contacted, Dinajpur CS Dr Abdul Momen said, several medical teams have been formed to tackle the situation. He blamed unfavourable weather for the outbreak of the diseases.

On contact, Dr Shahjahan Newaz, a child specialist at Thakurgaon hospital termed the pneumonia situation alarming.

Meanwhile, oxygen crisis multiplied the sufferings of patients in the hospital.

Indefinite transport strike in Moulvibazar from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three bus owners associations of the district will go on an indefinite transport strike today.

Kulaura-Moulvibazar-Balaganj-Fenchuganj Bus-Minibus Owners Association, Baralekha Bus-Minibus Owners Welfare Association and Juri Motor Bus Owners Association jointly called the strike at a press conference held

here on Saturday.

Leaders of the three associations said they are incurring heavy loss due to plying of inter-district buses on internal routes. They alleged that the buses are doing it without legal permission.

Moulvibazar Minibus Owners Association earlier started an agitation to stop the Sylhet-Moulvibazar-Srimangal-Habiganj bus service. Transport workers damaged several

buses plying on the route

Last month Habiganj-Sylhet Bus Owners Association also called an indefinite strike. But, the strike was withdrawn as Moulvibazar owners retreated from its stand.

After inauguration of the newly built Sylhet-Dhaka Highway via Sherpur-Nabiganj-Mirpur, plying of inter-district buses decreased on the old highway via Moulvibazar-Srimangol-Mirpur route.



Pickets in action on a road in Sylhet city (left) and police intercept a 14-party procession in Netrakona town yesterday, the first day of the opposition-called 36-hour countrywide hartal.

Municipal Services Project
Post-Flood Recovery Assistance Program 2004
(Urban Infrastructure)
Pourashava: Kalihati
District: Tangail

Memo No. KALI/POU/06/204 Date: 12 June 2006

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
IFB No. 02/2005-2006

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received credits from the International Development Association (hereinafter referred to as the IDA) towards the cost of the Post-Flood Recovery Assistance Program (Urban Infrastructure) and intends to apply part of the credits to cover eligible payments under the contract(s) as mentioned in para-2. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines for Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA credits.
- The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, through chairman, Kalihati Pourashava, district: Tangail invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the implementation of the following works:

Contract Package No.	Name of the work	Bid security in Taka	Time for completion (days)	Price of bidding document (Tk)
KLH-FDR 2004-02	(a) Rehabilitation of Kalihati-Silimpur road from Tangail-Mymensingh road (near Dak-Bangol) towards Silimpur via Satata Brick Field (Ch. 0+000-0+760m). (b) Rehabilitation of road from Kalihati hospital road at Munshiganj Hat to Tangail-Mymensingh road via Ghunni Primary School (Ch. 0+000-1+145m). (c) Rehabilitation of road from Kalihati-Salanka road up to H/o Ferdous (Ch. 0+000-1+330m). (d) Rehabilitation of road from Kalihati-Ballah road towards Kamarti Primary School (Ch. 0+000-0+296m).	90,000.00	90	1000.00

- The bidders may inspect the bidding documents, obtain further information and clarification at the office of the Chairman, Kalihati Pourashava, district: Tangail, Tel: 09227-74174, M-01712151249 or the office of the Upazila Engineer, Kalihati Upazila, district: Tangail, Tel: 09227-74079, M-0171180057. For award of contract, the bidder must be qualified in post qualification as specified in the bidding documents.
- A pre-bid conference will be held on 02-07-2006 at 10.30am in the office of the undersigned and all bidders are requested to attend the conference on time.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder from the office of (i) the Project Director, Municipal Services Project (Address: LGED Bhaban (Level-6), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207) or (ii) the Deputy Commissioner, district: Tangail or (iii) the Executive Engineer, LGED, district: Tangail or (iv) Upazila Engineer, upazila: Kalihati, district: Tangail or (v) the undersigned upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned in para-2 for each set in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh drawn in favour of the Chairman, Kalihati Pourashava, district: Tangail. Additional sets of bidding documents may be purchased at the same price. The bidding documents will be available during office hours from 09.00am to 05.00pm up to 24-07-2006.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of 63 (sixty-three) days after bid opening and all bids must be accompanied by a bid security of amount as mentioned in table, para-2, in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Upazila Engineer, Kalihati Upazila, district: Tangail.
- All bids must be delivered to the office of (i) the undersigned or (ii) the Upazila Engineer, Kalihati Upazila, district: Tangail on or before 25-07-2006 by 2.00pm.
- Bids will be opened at 3.00pm at the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their authorised representatives who choose to attend on 25-07-2006.
- Bidders may deliver/submit bids personally or by registered mail or by courier services, etc. and bids must reach to the office(s) mentioned at para-7 on or before 25-07-2006 by 2.00pm.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Chairman
Kalihati Pourashava
District: Tangail

C-1437