

AFTERMATH OF FLOODS IN SIRAJGANJ

# Floodwaters receded, but marks of wrath all over

3,259 people rendered homeless; overall damage estimated at Tk 300cr; urgent rehabilitation programmes absent

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Sirajganj

Lal Banu Begum and her family decided to come home after the floodwaters started to recede, but only to find their house, made of corrugated iron sheets, in utter despair.

They came back a couple of weeks ago from the nearby flood protection embankment where they had been staying since June 2.

The flooding of their home, at Char Porjana village in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj, had forced them to leave all their belongings behind and take shelter on the embankment.

By that time, the two money earners of the family, Lal Banu's two sons, had become jobless. The brothers, handloom artisans, have been victims of an abrupt fall in demands for handloom items during the rise of Covid-19 cases in the country over the past several months.

Then the floods came and destroyed the handlooms of the brothers -- the final nail in the coffin of their livelihood.

Sifting through the ruins, in their attempt to salvage any piece of their household items, the family is now baffled and bewildered as to how they would survive or repair their only house that they call home.

"Now I don't know how we'll stay alive, let alone fix the house," Lal Banu said.

Asked whether they received any assistance from the government, she replied in the negative.

In the same upazila, farmer Jalal Hossain from Jamirta village now pulls a rickshaw-van to make a living. He and his family also took shelter on the embankment during the flood and they returned home recently.

The flood destroyed all the Aman rice he planted as well as the earthen foundation of his tin-roofed house.

Jalal also said his family is yet to see any government effort to help flood victims get back on their feet.

Sahjahan Ali, a small-time trader from the same village, said that without finding any financial support from the government, he took a loan of Tk 1.3 lakh from a non-governmental organisation to rebuild his flood-damaged house.

Many other flood victims are also running around for loans from NGOs as the government is yet to come forward with any sort of



The skeleton of a road, a culvert, is what remains after floodwaters receded from Porjana village in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj. The photo was taken on last Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

rehabilitation programme for the flood victims, he added.

Abdur Rahim, relief and rehabilitation officer in Sirajganj, said 3,259 people became homeless after the three-month-long flood that caused partial or full damage to nearly 1.3 lakh houses in the district.

He also said that they already sought Tk 53 core from the ministry to rehabilitate the affected population.

Aside from homesteads, the floods wreaked havoc on all sorts of agriculture and infrastructure in the district.

The total estimation of the damage by the flood in Sirajganj stands at around Tk 300 crore, Abdur Rahim added.

During this flood, 2.24 lakh farmers have lost about Tk 212.46 crore worth of crops on 22,665 hectares of land in the district, said Shahid Nur Akbar, acting deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Sirajganj.

The DAE has started distributing seeds and saplings to affected farmers, he added.

Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department in Sirajganj, said the district suffered about Tk 58

core in damage after the flood destroyed 274 kilometres of roads along with culverts.

The ministry has been informed of the situation and restoration work of the road network would start once the funding is allocated, he added.

According to Sirajganj Livestock Officer Akhtaruzzaman Bhuiyan, 770 tonnes of grass and 588 tonnes of straw were damaged, while 8,562 acres of grazing field was inundated during the flood.

The flood washed away an estimated 155 tonnes of fish, worth Tk 2.48 core, in 778 ponds, according to data provided by Sirajganj Fisheries Officer Shahed Ali.

During a visit to Porjana village in Shahzadpur, this correspondent witnessed signs of devastation caused by the flood all around the village.

The inhabitants of the village were seen walking on foot for miles as the devastation on roads there has been so severe that those are no longer fit for vehicular movement.

"The floodwater has receded, but it has left marks of its wrath all over," said village doctor Abdur Rouf.

## Covid-19 forces indigenous women to change profession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Arpa Dewan, an honours 3rd year student of Rangamati Government College, taught at a local kindergarten school in the district town to support her family and her education.

She has become jobless after educational institutions across the country remained closed in March this year due to coronavirus outbreak.

Arpa is now making various kinds of snacks at home and selling them to customers through Facebook. To encourage customers, she is also providing home delivery service in different areas of the town. And she is now earning good profit from selling the homemade food.

Arpa said she does not know when the situation will improve. So, she has started the new venture without wasting the time.

Like Arpa, a number of women in three districts of Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) have been compelled to change their profession due to the pandemic. Many are living a hard life in the challenging time. They have to go outside for work every day taking the risk of being infected by the coronavirus.

At present, around 40 women in Bilaichharipara area of Rangamati Sadar upazila sell different types of vegetables collected from Jhum farmers every day. Each of them earns Tk 500 to Tk 1000 from selling the vegetables daily.

Sushmita Chakma said she used to work at different places before the pandemic. But Covid-19 hit the job market badly. Many lost their jobs.

She further added that the relief given by the government and various organisations was not sufficient. Finding no other alternative, she was forced to sell vegetables to support her family.

Nuku Chakma, a development activist of Rangamati, said it is a good thing that indigenous women have come to different types of professions to make a living during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But in order to survive in the professions, it is necessary to help improve their skills, he said.

Nuku further added that at the same time, they have to give importance to various kinds of income-generating activities. So the government and different non-governmental organisations have to come forward to help the women of three hill districts in CHT.



The indigenous women, who remained jobless due to coronavirus outbreak, sell vegetables in Bilaichharipara area of Rangamati Sadar upazila to support their family.

PHOTO: STAR

## BCL leader stabbed to death in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Criminals stabbed a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to death allegedly over previous enmity in Narail's Lohagara upazila on Friday.

The deceased, Zahirul Islam Rezwan, 30, son of late Saiful Islam of Dighalia village in the upazila, was general secretary of Dighalia union unit of BCL, Officer in Charge (OC) of Lohagara Police Station Syed Ashiqueur Rahman said.

Quoting local people, police said criminals waylaid Rezwan near Dighalia

Intersection while he was returning home on Friday evening and stabbed him indiscriminately with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured.

Hearing screams, people nearby rushed to the spot, rescued critically injured Rezwan and took him to Narail Sadar Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any untoward situation, the OC said, adding that no case has been filed in this regard as of filing this report around 7:30pm.

## Lawyer sent to jail on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sent a lawyer to jail in connection with a case filed for raping a 10th-grader in Atway upazila on Friday afternoon.

The arrestee, HM Habibur Rahman Habib, a lawyer and son of late Abdul Khalek of Baragaon village in the upazila, is also known as a moneylender in his locality.

After the hearing of the case, Panchagarh Senior Judicial Magistrate Minhajur Rahman sent Habib to jail after police produced him before the court yesterday afternoon.

Quoting the case statement, Officer in Charge of Atway Police Station Ezar Uddin said Habib, who used to lend money on high interest, gave a loan of Tk 15,000 to the girl's father a couple of months ago.

Besides, taking advantage of the situation, he used to talk to the victim girl over phone frequently since then.

On Friday, Habib met girl at her grandmother's house at Darimuni Barghati village and proposed her to visit Atway upazila headquarters on his motorbike.

On their way to the upazila headquarters, Habib tactfully took the girl to one of his clients Shushil's house at Kallikapur village and forcibly raped her there.

On the other hand, seeing Habib's suspicious activity villagers encircled the house, caught the culprit and handed him over to police.

Being informed, police went to the spot and detained Habib. They also rescued the victim and took her to Atway Upazila Health Complex for a medical test.

Later, father of the victim girl filed a rape case with Atway Police Station, accusing three people, including Habib.

Meanwhile, protesting the heinous act, local people formed a human chain in front of Atway Upazila Parishad on Atway-Panchagarh road yesterday afternoon, demanding capital punishment of the culprit lawyer.

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Memo No. HED/SIRAJ.DIV/Repair/Tender/2020-21/548

Date: 10-09-2020

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 04 No LTM packages under Sirajganj Division.

Sl No	Tender ID & Reference	Package & Name of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
01	493979 45.02.0000.009.24.002. 20-1732, Date-03/09/2020	HED/Siraj.Div/2020-21/GeneXpert/04 <b>Repair &amp; Maintenance works of GeneXpert Machine Room at Santhia Upazilla Health Complex under Pabna District</b>	27-Sep-2020 Time: 17:00:00	28-Sep-2020 Time: 15:00:00
02	493972 45.02.0000.009.24.002. 20-1732, Date-03/09/2020	HED/Siraj.Div/2020-21/GeneXpert/03 <b>Repair &amp; Maintenance works of GeneXpert Machine Room at Gurudaspur Upazilla Health Complex under Natore District.</b>	27-Sep-2020 Time: 17:00:00	28-Sep-2020 Time: 15:00:00
03	493957 45.02.0000.009.24.002. 20-1730, Date-03/09/2020	HED/Siraj.Div/2020-21/Digital X-Ray/02 <b>Remodeling &amp; Renovation works of Digital X-Ray Machine Room at Sadar Upazilla Chest Disease Clinic CDC in Natore District.</b>	27-Sep-2020 Time: 17:00:00	28-Sep-2020 Time: 15:00:00
04	493879 45.02.0000.009.24.002. 20-1730 Date-03/09/2020	HED/Siraj.Div/2020-21/Digital X-Ray/01 <b>Repair &amp; Maintenance Works of X-Ray Room for installation of Digital X-Ray Machine at Chest Disease Center CDC in Sirajganj District.</b>	27-Sep-2020 Time: 17:00:00	28-Sep-2020 Time: 15:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
1. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
2. Detail about the tender have shown in e-Tender Notice and e-Tender Document.  
3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

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Health Engineering Department (HED)  
Sirajganj Division  
(Phone No. 0751-64347)

GD-1447

### রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।

স্মারক নং- যবপ্রবি/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পাট-৫/১৯-১৬৯৭

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জিডি-১৪৪৫