

Sylhet flood

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break of diarrhoeal diseases in an epidemic form in the flood affected areas.

During a visit last week to a number of unions and villages in the upazilas of Golapanj, Kanatgahat, Fenchuganj and Balagonj in Sylhet and Rajnagar upazila in Maulvibazar, many of the places were found completely submerged.

"My uncle died a few days ago, not because of the floods but due to old age ailments, and we could not find any dry place to bury him, so we had to bury him at a graveyard in a near by union," pointed out Amirul Islam. He noted that he could not even open a shelter in his union.

Although the official death toll from drowning, lightning, various water-borne diseases and snake bites stands at over 60 in the two districts, unofficial reports claim that more than 100 people died. A large number of cattlehead and poultry was also lost.

Thousands of acres of standing crops have been submerged and in many places crops harvested earlier were also lost as there was no place to store the stocks. According to official estimates, more than 2.5 lakh acres of cropland was inundated in the two districts.

"We lost all our standing crops and we couldn't even save the food stocks we had at home," said Monfor Mia, a farmer of Shurbhog village in Rajnagar.

He said that his home was damaged by a norwester earlier and then the water gushed in from the Monu river about two weeks ago, forcing him and his family of four to abandon their home and take shelter in the nearby Panchgao union offices.

Educational institutions in the districts were also sustained extensive damage. More than 8000 schools, colleges and madrasahs were reported to be either fully or partially damaged in Sylhet and Maulvibazar.

The dams embankments in the districts were also severely damaged. The Surma dyke at Kanatgahat alone was breached at 32 different places, according to upazila officials.

The dams and embankments of the rivers Monu, Dholai, Juri and Sonai in Maulvibazar broke in as many as 125 different places, district officials said.

Hundreds of kilometres of roads, numerous bridges and culverts were reported to have been damaged.

The road link between Sylhet and the upazilas of Kanatgahat, Zakiganj, Goinatgah, Companiganj, Baniabazar and Balagonj continues to remain snapped.

A trip to the Balagonj upazila headquarters, a distance of about eight miles by road, took over two hours on an engine boat.

Even the Dhaka-Sylhet road link was threatened and at one time as many as ten different places of the road were submerged.

The approaches to the floating-bridge at Sadipur in Balagonj on the river Kushiyara is still under water.

Balagonj is one of the worst affected upazilas in Sylhet district. All 11 unions of the upazila are affected by the flood waters. Water from the Kushiyara river and the adjoining haors of Rouwa and Shatal appears to have merged into a mighty sea of water.

The unions of Purba and Pashchim Gouripur, Purba and Pashchim Pailampur, Usmanpur, and Khosrupur are mostly under knee-deep water.

Even the upazila town is largely submerged. The hospital, schools, colleges, police station and most of the houses have water inside them. The upazila Local Sales Depot (LSD) food godown is also threatened. The Balagonj bazar was under knee-deep water.

The Rajnagar upazila of Maulvibazar is also severely affected by the flood waters. Water from the over-flooded Monu river and the adjoining Khauwa Dighi haor has inundated a large number of unions in the area.

Hundreds of houses were submerged upto the roof level and thousands of people are

marooned in relatively high ground in these villages.

This correspondent also visited a flood shelter next to the Panchgao union offices, where more than 70 people of some 20 families were living crammed in a building of about 300sq ft area for the last two weeks.

An engine boat trip in the Khauwa Dighi haor and the adjoining areas late last week revealed that the villages of Koala, Rokta, Amirpur, Jalalpur, Borogao, Banarai, Kubja, Shahrapur and Bahadurganj were almost completely submerged.

Villagers of the Rajnagar area said that the dam at the river Monu was allegedly cut loose deliberately to save Maulvibazar town from being flooded. The town is located on the southern side of the Monu dam, while on the northern side is Rajnagar. The dam was cut allegedly near Balikhandi union at Doupasha under Maulvibazar upazila on 9 May, said Md Faisal Ahmed, a madrasa teacher of Amirpur in Rajnagar.

Relief operations in the flood affected areas started off very slowly at the beginning. However, relief efforts were geared up when State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Md Tariqul Islam was sent to coordinate relief operations in Sylhet and Sunamganj.

In Maulvibazar, Abdul Matin Choudhury, MP, (BNP-Narayanganj) was sent by the Prime Minister to coordinate relief efforts in the district.

US transport planes were being used to move relief materials to Sylhet and Indian and Bangladeshi helicopters transported relief goods to the upazilas.

The army is also extensively involved in the overall relief operations.

At Kanatgahat, a contingent of the army built a makeshift helipad within a few hours.

Whatever relief materials are reaching the flood affected areas are far from being adequate and many remote areas are yet to receive any relief goods, local people said. There were no food stocks even at the LSD godown at Kanatgahat when the State Minister visited the upazila on 21 May.

A day earlier, he visited the food godown at Sylhet and found that the stock there was being delivered short of the standard weight, a reliable source said. He expressed his dissatisfaction about the affair and warned officials of serious consequences if it was repeated in future.

On the way to Balagonj on 22 May, the State Minister stopped at a flood shelter at Doyamir to distribute relief materials.

JUCSU polls
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Aricha highway by some local students and outsiders on Saturday. They accused members of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of resisting the local students from entering the campus. At one stage, a member of the group broke a windshield of the bus and injured its driver. When three other university buses arrived there, the group fled away.

The JU union of JCD in a press release said its members were not resisting students from entering the campus. JCD workers, however, were against allowing the nine students who were accused of creating trouble on May 19, to enter the campus. The press release claimed that the campus situation was normal.

Police guard has been strengthened following a gunfight between two rival groups on Thursday last. So far, five of the students accused of creating troubles, namely Dhitman, Himel, Rahim, Harun and Dipu have been arrested.

JCD, it may be noted, is in favour of holding JUCSU elections without any delay.

This correspondent came across Hal on the runway of Chittagong Airport where he was sitting on bags of relief goods. He was posted there to help loading of relief goods onto the helicopters for ferrying to the offshore islands.

James Disney, a young man in the Task Force disclosed that he would like to go to Japan where his wife is living. He, however, said that he was feeling very happy to join the noble deed here.

Lt Commander Ken Dekerman, leader of Preventive Medical Team, said he may have to stay longer though he too felt homesick.

The amphibious Task Force group is expected to leave on May 29 while 500 personnel including medical team members will leave by mid-June.

The Task Force members, in a relaxed mood, were found either reading novels or gossiping.

The accelerated relief operations by the Task Force turned the Chittagong airbase very busy. The force has made over 1200 sorties so far dropping more than two thousand tons of relief materials in the battered coastal areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

The speakers linked the arrival of the US Task Force and other foreign forces engaged in relief operations, rise of fundamentalists in India and Bangladesh, to the killing of Rajiv and called upon the people to be united against the civil design.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia performing 'umrah' at Holy Ka'aba Sharif on Saturday. —PID photo

APSU splits

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organisation.

The Chhatra League denied the allegation promising that if anyone was found connected with Milon's murder he would be expelled from the organisation.

Although this is the official position of the BCL, its armed cadres were reportedly threatening peace in the campus assailing a member of the DUCSU on Friday and sealing the Salimullah Hall to everyone after 10 pm.

University authorities expressed grave concern over the situation and called for a cessation to all hostilities to restore a congenial academic atmosphere.

The Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof M. Maniruzzaman Miah told The Daily Star that the political leaders have been invited to help the university authorities defuse the tension.

The JCD in a press conference held Friday directly brought allegations against the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and the leaders of the BCL for allowing the killers of Dr. Milon to join their organisation.

They said that the alleged killers belonging to the Obhira-Niru group who were expelled from the JCD were subsequently provided political refuge by the BCL, which was a breach of conduct as decided earlier by the APSU.

APSU took a decision that the killers of Dr. Milon would not be allowed to join any student organisation.

JCD leader and General Secretary of DUCSU Khairul Kabir Khokan said that the BCL and the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina would be held responsible for giving shelter to the killers of Dr. Milon and if any terrorism was repeated on the university campus by them.

Khokan said that the killers of Dr. Milon, expelled from the JCD as per decision of the APSU, were garlanded by Sheikh Hasina at her 32 Dhanmondi residence a few days ago.

Fazlul Haq Milon joint convener of the JCD further said that the 12 students were expelled from the JCD in view of a request by Ashim Kumar Ukil, the General Secretary of the BCL. It was also agreed that these elements would not be taken into any party.

In a counter allegation the BCL leaders said that the BNP

had first brought the trust by giving shelter to the associates of Ershad in the cabinet.

They named M. K. Anwar, listed by the APSU as an associate of Ershad.

They also alleged that the BNP did not abide by the Joint Declaration of the three alliances which envisaged the proposal for an accountable government which could only be established through parliamentary form of government.

Meanwhile, president Shah-e-Alam and General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil of the BCL in a statement to the press said that the BCL did not give shelter to the killers of Dr. Milon.

They said that after being sworn in power the BNP had forgotten the commitment to the people and did not pay any heed to the 10-point demands of the APSU. They said that the allegation of the JCD, made in a press conference was pre-planned and was done with a motive to split the APSU.

All these allegations and counter allegation came up for discussion in the APSU meeting on Friday.

Meanwhile, two members of the DUCSU who were reported to have joined the BCL in a statement said that it was not true.

Prior to the meeting a member of the DUCSU A. K. M. Mizanur Rahman was allegedly attacked by BCL workers. Mizanur ran for his life and sought help from nearby policemen who escorted him to safety.

Meanwhile, the alleged killers of Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon have taken shelter at the Salimullah Hall of the University and have hung up a notice for the residents of the Hall.

The notice said that no one could enter the dormitory after 10 at night. They let students enter the dormitory after searching them thoroughly.

The BCL leaders present at the meeting said that they did not know the persons who joined the BCL as killers of Dr. Milon. They said that if there was any person in the BCL, known as a killer of Milon he would be expelled.

But the JCD leaders said that the chief of the Awami League should seek apology for providing them shelter.

On the other hand defending the BCL, Shafi Ahmed of pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League, said that if it was so, then chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) should also seek apology because she had given shelter to the close associates of Ershad.

Following the arguments the meeting did not continue and at one stage the leaders of the different student organisations left the place.

The general students of the Dhaka University alleged that they have also seen Golam Faruk Obhi moving around the campus with his gang.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University also said that he had informed the matter to Syndicate members during the regular meeting of the Syndicate on Thursday.

He also said that he had invited the leaders of the political parties to discuss the matter, adding that the meeting will be held within two or three days.

He said that the student leaders would also be invited to discuss the matter in groups.

BCS cadres

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foiled the functioning of democracy in the country.

He said, due to bureaucratic conspiracy, Ayub Khan could seize power in erstwhile Pakistan and rule the country for 10 years. Similarly, he said, in 1982, due to conspiracy by a section of bureaucrats, Ershad could take over power by ousting an elected government.

Again, he said, a politically motivated group of BCS cadres within the administration, particularly those of BCS (Administration), were working to impede the activities of the democratic government with an ulterior motive.

Akhter Hossain said, the government officers all over the world are bound to cooperate with the government and cannot challenge any decision of the government regarding its administrative policy.

But surprisingly, he said, Secretary General of the BCS (Admin) Association Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir threatened the government of action against its decision, which, he said, was against the service rules of the government employees.

Akhter Hossain said, during the nine years' rule of Ershad the BCS (Admin) cadres got maximum benefits including undue promotion. On the other hand, the cadres of other services hardly got any promotion and in the Information Services, promotion of more than 50 persons was held up by the administration. In most cases, the BCS (Admin) cadres secured their own promotions by using their position in the administrative services. During the last nine years, due to the creation of upazila system, their number has been raised from 895 in 1981 to about 3300 in 1990, he said.

The BCS Coordination Committee leader said, the Government should do away with the office of UNOs who are not accountable to the people. He however suggested retaining the post of upazila

chairman, who is elected by the people.

Meanwhile, the BCS (Admin) Association in a meeting on Thursday discussed the Government's action against Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The meeting, presided over by Mansurul Haque Khan, Vice-President of the BCS (Admin) Association, protested the action against Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, who was restrained by the Government to go abroad and forced by the members of law enforcing agencies to return from the airport.

The meeting alleged that an interested quarter in the government was trying to tarnish the image of the BCS (Admin) cadres. The association also resented the government action making Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

Referring to Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir's role in the democratic movement against the Ershad regime, the association observed that the action against him would foil the aims and objectives of the democratic Government.

The meeting said, no question should be raised about the integrity of the BCS (Admin) cadres and extended its aloof cooperation with the democratic Government.

However, insiders told The Daily Star that some members of the BCS (Admin) cadres opposed the stand of Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and the meeting on Thursday, which continued till 11 pm could not take any unanimous decision.

Meanwhile, M A Hena, convener of the BCS Coordination Committee, pointed out that the government officers were transferred by the Establishment Division, but Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir wrote a letter to the Cabinet Division. He said, it was not understood how the Cabinet Division could solve the problems of the Establishment Division. He said, the very intention of writing the letter to the Cabinet Division indicated that a section of the government officers was involved in a conspiracy.

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Khaleda performs Umrah

MAKKAH, May 25 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia performed Umrah at the Holy Kaaba this afternoon, reports BSS.

On her arrival at the Masjidul Haram Begum Zia was warmly received by the muallims there. She also offered Asr prayer at the Masjidul Haram.

The Prime Minister who arrived in Jeddah this morning on a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, drove in a ceremonial motorcade to Makkah Al-Mukarramah this afternoon. Begum Zia and her entourage performed the circumambulations (Tawaf) of the Holy Kaaba and then took Sa'ee between Safa and Marwa.

Begum Zia left for Jeddah from where she will fly to Madinah Al-Monowarah to perform ziarat of the holy Rawza Mubarak of Hazrat Mohammad (SM) at Masjid-e-Nabubi Sharif.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Aztul Haque Mollah, MP, Salauddin Ahmed, MP, and Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan also performed Umrah along with the Prime Minister.

OIC

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In September next and the Islamic summit in December.

She expressed her belief that under the able leadership of Gaidi, OIC would play a great role in forging greater unity in the Islamic fraternity in future.

Begum Zia stressed the need for solving all outstanding problems existing among the Islamic countries. Her government would follow the policies of late Ziaur Rahman and implement the steps initiated by him to foster friendly relationship among the Islamic countries.

She said her government would also extend all support to OIC Secretary General in his efforts to strengthening unity among the member-countries.

Bangladesh would actively participate in the forthcoming Islamic Foreign Minister's Conference and the Islamic summit, she said.

The Prime Minister also thanked the Secretary General for extending assistance to Bangladesh for relief and reconstruction work following the cyclone.

She invited Gaidi to visit Bangladesh once again.

Begum Zia arrived in Jeddah Saturday morning on a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.

Begum Zia, who is here on her first official visit abroad after assuming power, was accorded warm and hearty reception at the royal pavilion of King Abdul Aziz International Airport. She was received by Prince Majid-bin-Abdul Aziz, Governor of Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

The Prime Minister was then escorted to the royal lounge at the airport where she stayed for some time.

Mayor of Jeddah city Dr Abdul Ghani, Assistant Secretary General of OIC M Mohsin, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Major General Quazi Golam Dastgir and the Consul General of Bangladesh Syed Khawja Sharif Hassan were present at the airport.

From the airport Prime Minister Begum Khaleda accompanied by Prince Majid drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the Royal Conference Palace.

Begum Zia, who returned to Dhaka on Friday night after attending the funeral of India's slain leader Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, left for Saudi Arabia earlier in the morning on a five-day official visit which will also take her to Kuwait and the UAE.

'Ajker Kagoj'

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A legal notice was served earlier on the Chief Editor of the daily following filing of a defamation case in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court by one Kaiser Rahman on behalf of the Finance Minister.

Editor Natmul Islam Khan and Senior Reporter Syed Borhan Kabir were also arrested Saturday night, police said.

Anniversary

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seminar will be followed by a cultural programme. Principal Dewan Mohammed Azraf will be the chief guest, while former communications minister Mathur Rahman will inaugurate the seminar to be presided over by Shah Md Mattur Rahman.

BSS adds: Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message paid tributes to the National Poet describing him as a pioneer of the anti-imperialist movement and Muslim renaissance in the sub-continent.

The Midnight File

UN officials evacuated from Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, May 25 : The United Nations began evacuating its employees and their families from this besieged capital Friday as fear of civil unrest heightened. Israeli officials said their airlift of Ethiopian Jews was complete. Eritrean rebels captured Ethiopia's second largest city, Asmara, on Friday but Tigrean insurgents appeared to be holding their forces at bay on the outskirts of Addis Ababa pending peace talks set for Monday in London, reports AP.

Germany to reduce military bases

BONN, May 25 : Germany is closing about one-quarter of its military bases as part of an armed forces trimming programme that helped win Soviet approval of German unification. Germany is reducing its army from 462,000 soldiers to about 360,000 by 1994. Moscow is pulling its 380,000 troops out of former East Germany by 1994, and in return Bonn is reducing its own forces, reports AP.

Quake hits Iranian city

NICOSIA, May 25 : A moderate earthquake rocked the outskirts of the northeastern Iranian city of Quchan late Friday night, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the official news agency reported. The Islamic Republic News Agency said Saturday that the quake, struck at 11:30 pm (2000 GMT) Friday, Quchan, in Khorasan province, is 650 kilometers (400 miles) northeast of Tehran. The quake measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale, according to the Geophysics Center of Tehran University, reports AP.

11 killed in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, May 25 : Politicians and academics gathered Saturday for the final day of the government's controversial summit on political violence, after a night of attacks killed 11 people. The meeting took on an angry tone early Saturday when delegates from the Inkatha Freedom Party denounced the idea of a follow-up summit contented by church leaders. Inkatha's rival, the African National Congress, is boycotting the conference but has expressed support for a church-convened meeting, reports AP.

Bilateral issues

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between the two countries. Begum Zia recalled the contribution of Rajiv Gandhi in upholding democracy in his country and said the efforts of India would encourage the neighbouring countries. She also recalled the visits of Rajiv Gandhi to Bangladesh.

Prime Minister also hoped that the relationship between the SAARC countries would be strengthened in the days to come.

Condoling the death of Rajiv Gandhi Begum Zia said the people of India lost a great son of its soil.

Indian President said the visit of Begum Zia reflected the "excellent relations between the two countries". Indian President also said the relations between India and Bangladesh are associated with traditions.

Later, Begum Zia called on Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar at his official residence and expressed her deep sympathy with the people of India at this hour of national mourning.

Wangchuk
Begum Zia has stressed on making South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) more effective so that member countries can stand on their own feet. This was conveyed to Butanese King Jigme Singe Wangchuck who called on her at a hotel here Friday.

Begum Zia said late Pres-

dent Ziaur Rahman was the architect of SAARC and her government was making efforts to materialise the dreams of the late leader.

Prime Minister invited Bhutanese King to visit Bangladesh and the King gladly accepted the invitation.

Wangchuk lauded the role of late President Ziaur Rahman in setting up Bhutan's resident embassy in Dhaka and signing of trade agreement between the two countries.

Arafat
Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yaseer Arafat and French Deputy Prime Minister Lionel Jospin also called on Begum Zia separately.

During the meeting with Arafat, Begum Zia said that the people of Bangladesh would always extend their support in realising the rights and materialising the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

She invited Arafat to visit Bangladesh and he accepted the invitation.

During the meeting with Begum Zia French Deputy Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said his country was ready to provide all sorts of assistance in Bangladesh's development efforts.

Begum Zia urged the French Minister to cooperate with Bangladesh in rebuilding the damaged flood embankments and solving navigation problems of the Chittagong port.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Deputy Commissioner : Dhaka
General Certificate Officer's Court

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank

8 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka
Versus

- (1) Messrs Timmoss Shipping Lines Ltd
- (2) Ms Shamsun Nahar Noman
- (3) Mr Syed Hasan Noman

Auction Notice

Sub : Declaration to sale in auction mortgaged property under Certificate Case No 5-BSB/87