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**PHILIPS****Flood situation in 2 N-dists worsens**

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in Rangpur, and Kurigram deteriorated further, due to heavy rain in the last three days.

The situation in Munshiganj and Manikganj districts may also worsen, according to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reported death of an unidentified old woman at Bairagipara. She was drowned in the flood water.

Flash flood gripped the entire district and Rangpur Paurashava areas have gone under water following torrential rain for the last three days. All rivers in the district swelled further and were flowing above their respective danger levels.

Our Kurigram Correspondent also reported worsening of flood situation in the district.

Most of the low-lying areas have been submerged after heavy rain. On rush of hill water flooded fresh areas adding to the miseries of the marooned people.

UNB adds: Rivers Brahmaputra and Jamuna continued to

swell due to downpour for the last two days, threatening flash flood in northern region.

It said a significant rainfall of 145.5 mm was recorded at Kaunia while 126.5 mm at Panchagarh, 115.0 mm at Chilmari, 105.0 mm at Dalia, 103.5 mm at Rangpur, 100.0 mm at Dewanganj and 85.5 mm at Gaibandha.

Rivers Brahmaputra and Jamuna were rising alarmingly and may rise further in next 24 hours till 6 am today while the Padma and Ganges recorded further fall in last 24 hours.

The Ganges registered further fall at all points, except Gualundo, while the Brahmaputra and Jamuna registered further rise at all points.

River Dharala was flowing 6 cm above its danger level at Kurigram while the Jamuna 4 cm at Aricha and the Padma 17 cm at Pankha, 1 cm at Gualundo and 16 cm at Bhagyakul.

Of the 46 water level measuring stations monitored by the centres, five were flowing above red marks while 23 points recorded rise and 18 fall.



The iron piling to reinforce the concrete in the under-construction box culvert behind Bangladesh Bank is rusting. It is part of Dhaka WASA's storm sewerage project to flush out excess water and save the city from water-logging during the monsoon.

— Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

**Clash at Ctg Commerce College: 20 hurt**

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: At least 20 people were injured when two factions of Chhatra League (BCL) clashed at Commerce College at Agrabad in the city this afternoon.

Police arrested over 100 activists of the both factions.

AZM Nasir group and Kader group of BCL locked in a clash when classes resumed after one month's vacation.

The feuding groups used firearms and exploded huge number of cocktails during the hour-long clash. They exchanged over 50 rounds gunshots.

Police in a raid arrested around 60 activists of Kader group. Police also arrested 42 activists of AZM Nasir group when they went to submit a memorandum to the DC in a procession protesting the clash.

**Belonia calm: Flag meeting on Sept 9**

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Aug 25: Director General of BDR Maj Gen Azizur Rahman, who visited the trouble spot at Belonia today had an informal meeting with Tripura state chief of BSF V.G. Golwala.

Later, a formal meeting between BDR and BSF officers was held. But details of the meeting could not be known immediately. However, BDR sources said that a flag meeting on the disputed Muhur Char will take place on September 9.

Earlier, firing at the Belonia border stopped after a 'ceasefire' between BDR and BSF yesterday.

Meanwhile, the people of the area who deserted their homes following exchange of fire between the BDR and BSF forces started returning homes after yesterday's ceasefire.

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**Agargaon slum dwellers**

From page 1

said every other person of the slum has availed micro-credit from different NGOs to run different sorts of businesses. This unplanned eviction would destroy livelihood of thousands of people they added.

"If they come to evict us from here we will take shelter at the ministers' residence," said Shomiron, a mother of four children owning a hut at Ambari Bustee in the BNP slum area. She also said she has taken credit from an NGO to set up a shop in the slum. "I lost everything due to river erosion in Bholia and came here to make a living."

The entire area is devoid of any surface drains. Liquid wastes from kitchen and other sources flow openly along the huts emitting stench. The residents showed some tubewells and latrines and said those were built by the NGOs operating in the area.

The entire BNP slum is divided into at least 26 clusters and each one has been named after the man who owns and controls his respective cluster. There are local leaders who also control some clusters. Residents said they are Haji Noor Mohammad, Siraj, Nanna, Professor Sattar, Mohabbat, Kashem Chairman, Rashid and Alam.

Residents said there are more than 17,000 registered voters in the entire stretch of the BNP slum. Among them, Tultala cluster or Hatemer Bustee has about 700 registered voters, Motaharer Bustee 300, Ali Miar Bustee 200 and Ambari Bustee 400.

Naming more rich slum owners in the area, a rickshaw-

puller tenant of Soheler Bustee said the malib (owner) Sohel Rana collects rents for his twenty rooms, rented for Tk 350 a month, on the fifth of each month. The rickshawpuller (not named here security reasons) said Sohel Rana owns a house in Mirpur and has an extravagant lifestyle.

Others who own and control big clusters of slums in the BNP Bustee include Bacchu, Gani Mridha and Mojibor. Together the trio owns over 1,000 shanties in the slum and collects rents regularly.

"Most of those living here are innocent hard working people who have come from countryside. They regularly pay rents and other charges for living here. It is the terrorists who should be blamed for any violent incidents," said Shukur Ali, an elderly man from Barugan under Patuakhali district. Shukur has been living in the slum for over 25 years.

Women told this correspondent that two terrorist groups were active in the area and gunfights between the two rival groups frequently take place right under the nose of Mohammadpur thana police. They said the "Needle Bahini" is led by one Needle who is also the secretary of Juboshakti Club at Agargaon. The other group "Kankata Mosharrif Bahini" is also fighting for 'control' over the area.

"If the government sincerely wants to do something, it should catch these criminals and let us live peacefully. We are being tortured by the terrorists, the police. And now the ministers have joined in to evict us," said a woman resident of the Tultala Bustee.

— Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

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