



PHOTO: STAR

Is it customary to put up a signboard? An overloaded truck (right) crossing the Teesta railway bridge cum road though transports weighing over five tonnes are banned on it as per the signboard (left). Life of the bridge expired in 1978, railway officials said.

30,000 marooned in Companyganj

Surma, Kushiya in Sylhet flow above red marks, 1200 displaced in Nilphamari

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Nilphamari districts deteriorated on Tuesday following rains and onrushing of waters from upstream areas in India.

Our staff correspondent reported from Sylhet that at least 30,000 people have been marooned in Jhingabari, Dakshin Banigram, Raniganj and Barachatul unions in Companyganj and several hundred have moved to safer places in Beanibazar and Balaganj pazilas.

Companyganj upazila headquarters is under knee-deep water, official sources said.

Road communication between Sylhet and Chhatak

upazila headquarters has been snapped as water is flowing over the road.

The Surma is flowing 100 cms above the danger level in Sunamganj and 121 cms at Kanaighat, the officials said.

The Kushiya is flowing 38 cms above the danger mark at Sheola and 45 cms above the level at Amolshid.

Collection of stone from quarries in Jafflong, Bisnakandi and Dholoi is suspended since Monday morning.

The local meteorological department recorded 50 mm rainfall in Sylhet, 82 mm in Kanaighat and 40 mm at Sheola during the last 24 hours ending at 6 pm Monday.

Our Nilphamari correspondent reported that about 1200

people have taken shelter on the Teesta Guide Dam as more 10 unions in the district have been inundated by flood waters.

The Teesta is flowing above the danger mark a Teesta Barrage point, Water Development Board (WDB) sources in Rangpur said yesterday.

They said all the Teesta tributaries Charalkata, Deonai, Burikhora and Chiklyare in spate and are swelling.

They said the flood situation will deteriorate due to heavy rain in upper reaches in India.

Efforts by WDB to stop further erosion by Teesta at Doani have failed and the Teesta Barrage is threatened at some points due to water pressure as all the gates of Gagaldoba Barrage in India have been opened, they said.

Old CU building risky for students

BSS, Chittagong

The dilapidated arts faculty building at Chittagong University is risky for classes and a tragedy like the Jagannath Hall incident at Dhaka University may occur any moment, teachers and students apprehend.

Around 5,000 students attend classes in 13 departments in the faculty.

Cracks have developed in the ceiling and walls at many points. Rain water leaks through the cracks, they said.

Both male and female students suffer as most of the time toilets remain unusable due to lack of maintenance.

Conservancy cost increased to

Tk five lakh from Tk 2.61 lakh in 1997-1998 but services deteriorated, they alleged.

Besides the arts faculty building, several others buildings are also in a dilapidated condition because of the structural faults in construction, other sources said.

Windowpanes of most of the rooms in the arts faculty are broken. Students have to listen to teachers in heated classrooms as most of the fans are out of order.

The arts faculty building was constructed in 1966.

While contacted Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Shamsuddin said the university authorities were mulling a Tk2 crore project for renovation of the building.

Irregularities alleged in Rangamati DPHE project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Irregularities have been alleged in installing 65 ring wells and 10 tube well in slum areas in Rangamati town under the government's Slum Development Project.

The project, partly funded by Unicef, is being implemented by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in co-operation with Gorkhali Mahila Kollyan Shamity (GMKS), a body of slum people in the town.

Sources in GMKS alleged that proper sites were not selected and some of the ring wells and tube well will become useless during dry season.

Written representation was given to the DPHE authorities in this regard, but to no effect, they

alleged.

Eighty-five percent of the work has been completed.

A ring well costs TK 57,540 and a tube well TK 25,000, according to DPHE engineer Dilip Chowdhury.

Besides alleged bribery, low quality materials are being used in the work, contractors involved in it claimed. Also, they have to meet demands for "extra payment" in getting their bills approved, they alleged.

When contacted, DPHE executive engineer Md Abu Khaled said the GMKS representation was replied properly.

He said the allegation of bribery is false.

"Contractors who did not get work are making the false allegations", he said.

4 suicides in four days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three schoolgirls and a housewife committed suicide in the Sadar upazila in four days.

Police said Bina Khatun, an SSC examinee, killed herself by hanging at her father's house on Monday in the town. The reason could not be known.

Schoolgirl Tohura Khatun ended her life at Ailchhara village on Sunday following a dispute over marriage.

Another schoolgirl -- Rekha alias Rufa committed suicide by hanging herself at her father's house in the town Friday morning when inmates were out. The cause could not be known.

Hamida Khatun, 26, mother of two, committed suicide Saturday night at Bagdanga village in the Sadar upazila, allegedly after an altercation with her husband.

Quoting neighbours police said her husband used to torture her often.



PHOTO: STAR

Gaibandha unit of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma (BRCT) brought out a procession in the district town in observance of the International Day Against Repression. The day was observed on June 26.

83 edn institutes face cancellation of MPO in Khulna

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Eighty-three educational institutions in Khulna division have been asked to explain why their monthly pay orders (MPOs) would not be cancelled for poor results in the last SSC examinations.

Of these, 75 are madrasahs and eight are high schools, according to sources at Kushtia district education office.

Twenty-six of these are in Jessore; 22 in Bagerhat; six each in Kushtia, Narail and Satkhira; four in Jhenidah; three in Magura; eight in Khulna and two are in Cuaadanga

districts.

The six institutions in Kushtia are Bheramara Alim Madrasah, Daulatpur Rezwani-Ulum Alim Madrasah, Barogangdia Siddique Alim Madrasah, Khoksa Chadat Madinatul Ulum Madrasah, and Bashgram Fazil Madrasah and Sadipur High School in Kumarkhali.

The sources said standard of education in these institutions is very poor due to negligence by teachers and other irregularities.

Their MPOs will be cancelled if they can not give satisfactory replies.

2 lawyers sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Kushtia Bar Association has sued the former president and the secretary of the association for alleged embezzlement of its funds.

According to the complaint, the former president and the secretary defalcated Tk 25,000 in the name of loans to some of its members, using illegal means.

Movement soon for Padma Bridge at Daulatdia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Daulatdia Padma Bridge Implementation Action Committee has demanded setting up of the proposed bridge over the Padma at Daulatdia.

More people will be benefited if the bridge is set up at Daulatdia instead of Mawa, leaders of committee claimed at a press conference at the town on Monday.

Convener of the committee Matiar Rahman Laltu, its secretary Mizanur Rahman and Nasin Uddin addressed the press conference.

They said a movement will be launched in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Rajbari, Jessore and other districts if a decision to build the proposed bridge at Daulatdia is not announced soon.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League brought out a procession in Chittagong on Monday condemning Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's slanderous remarks on the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and AL chief Sheikh Hasina and demanding cancellation of his nomination to contest for the post of secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Gopalganj newsmen condemn suit against editors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Local journalists at a meeting at the Gopalganj Press Club yesterday protested filing of defamation suit against editors of two national dailies by Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The meeting was presided over by Arifuzzaman, senior vice president of the club. It was addressed by, among others, Sheikh Masudur Rahman, vice president of the club, its secretary Syed Mirajul Islam, Muzammel Hossain, Md Abdus Sattar, Md Alimuzzaman, Mazaharul Haq, Subroto Saha, Monoj Saha, Prosun Mondal, Abul Fatta, Soiledranth Majumdar, Samar Bain and Mozaffar H Nannu.

Computer fair UNB, Sylhet

A three-day 'Computer and career fair' concluded here at Purbani Shopping Complex of Purba Zindabazaar area of the town recently.

ABMCT (Bangladesh) organised the fair in association with Worldwide Wave Institute.

Death sentence for killing minor girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

One person has been sentenced to death for killing a teenaged girl failing to marry her.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ismail Miah handed down the punishment to Kola Miah of Ghoshgaon village in Golapganj upazila on Monday.

Kola Miah had proposed to marry Joitun Begum, 14, of nearby Lakshmanaband village. On her refusal, he tried to kidnap her on September 9 last year when she came out of house for nature's call at night. Failing, he stabbed her. She later died at a local hospital.

Bad days looming for farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Aman cultivation has suffered a setback following heavy rains in the district in the last ten days, sources in the Agricultural Information Service (AIS) said.

Rainwater has submerged 2500 hectares of Aman seedbeds in Baghaichhori, Longdu and Naniarchar upazilas, they said. Most of the lands are around the Kaptai lake.

"If the rain continues Aman cultivation will be affected in the low-lying lands", SM Towfiq said.

The Department of Agriculture Extension earlier fixed 5900 hectares for Aman cultivation during the current season. The target will not be reached as most of the lands are inundated, they said.

Bodies of 2 women recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Bodies of two young women were recovered in Gaibandha and Kushtia recently.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that police recovered the body of Kulsum Begum from near the bank of a pond at Takherpur village under Sadullapur upazila. The throat of the body was slit, Sadullapur police said.

Quoting Kulsum's mother Chalki Bewa police said her daughter worked as a maid at the house of Hasan Chhodhury in the village.

Kulsum was called by Hasan's son Sadanur Chowdhury to his house on the night of June 15 and she was missing since then.

Kulsum's brother Khadem Ali filed a case accusing five persons for the murder.

Gaibandha Police Superintendent Lokman Hakim visited the spot.

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that police recovered an unidentified body of a young girl from a shoal in Galghasia river near Kalikapur village in Kaligonj upazila.

Police said the body bore marks of torture. The girl might have been gangraped before being killed by miscreants, police said.

Police recovered the body after being informed by local people.

Five Gaibandha orphanage staff suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Five officers and employees of government run Gaibandha orphanage were suspended on charge of irresponsibility, inefficiency and negligence of duties.

Suspended persons are Piyer Boksh, Deputy Director, Dijendra Nath Ghosh, Superintendent of the orphanage, Momtaz Begum and Nurun Naher, teachers and Suroj Ali, peon of the same orphanage.

Minister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsan Mohammed Mujahed expressed his dissatisfaction over mismanagement and irregularities in the orphanage during his recent visit there.

Int' Day against Repression observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha unit of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma victims observed the International Day against Repression here on June 26.

A discussion was held at Gaibandha Public Library hall which was presided over by its convener Dipok Kumar Pal. The meeting was addressed by Aminul Islam Golap of Workers' Party, Moimul Islam of Gono Forum, Mizanur Rahman, Shaymol Chakraverty, Dr Solaiman Hossain and Monowara Talukder. Earlier, a procession was brought out in the town.