

# Scanty relief in flood affected areas

Situation precarious in Moulvibazar haors, Fenchuganj, Bogra, Sirajganj

## STAR NATIONAL DESK

Flood affected people are passing days virtually without food in many areas in Fenchuganj in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Bogra and Sirajganj districts, according to reports by our correspondents.

Unlike other areas of greater Sylhet, the flood situation is deteriorating in *haor* areas of Moulvibazar as waters are flowing into those from Kushiya and Monu rivers.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Sylhet:

Sixty-year-old widow Sitara Begum and four others of her family are on a boat for five days in a village.

"A man came on Saturday and gave us some *chitra* (dry food). We take this twice a day, but no water," she told this correspondent on Sunday.

The village is near the Kushiya river. But the river can not be demarcated now. There are vast sheets of water all around, dotted by trees with most of the homesteads underwater.

Only a small stretch of the pucca road in the village is dry, where flood victims have taken shelter.

Almost all dwellings in the area have gone under water, forcing people to shift to high lands, flood shelters or relatives' houses in other areas.

Flood hit the region twice in only ten days, local people said.

Sitara said she neither got any rice crop this year nor could retrieve any of her household belongings from floodwater.

Elderly Kola Miah and 45-year-old Nuruddin were on makeshift raised platforms built with bamboo as their houses are inundated. They said they are without food for two days. Flood took away their crops earlier. They sent their cows to relatives' houses in Burkiyari and Munshibazar villages in Rajnagar upazila.

They are not leaving the inundated homesteads apprehending theft or dacoity.

"We do not know what will happen to us and our cattle. There is no food and fodder," worried Kola Miah said.

"We may survive on doles but our cattle will die for want of fodder," he said.

The situation in other areas has

improved a little. But it is reverse in several upazilas in the Kushiya basin with a rise in the water level.

Day labourer Fennai Biswas of Mainpur village has no work for the last eight days.

"I do not know I will survive with two others of my family. Our kuchha house is under four feet water for seven days."

Sundera Biswas and Sushanta Biswas and their families were seen on rafts. Their families were cooking *khichuri* (food prepared with water, rice and pulses).

The floods damaged 45 km embankments, 15 km roads completely and 100 km roads partially and 55 educational institutions.

They said only 72 tons of rice, Tk 55,000 and 32 tons of biscuit have been sanctioned, which is very scanty for the upazila.

However, some individuals and organizations came forward with food and other relief materials for flood victims.

The administration has opened six flood shelters. Some other shelters are being run by individuals including expatriates.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: The people of *haor* areas in the district are in a precarious condition because, unlike in other areas, the flood situation is deteriorating there as waters from Kushiya and Monu rivers are

the alternative road via Sherpur amid risks as that is also inundated at places.

According to official sources, 75,000 people have been badly affected by floods this time in the Fenchuganj upazila.

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flowing into those.

This correspondent during a visit to some of the *haor* areas on Saturday saw many people were without food for days.

"We have no food, no drinking water for two days. We got three kilograms of rice and two candles on Thursday," said Anerkullal Haor at Berkurivillage in Fatehpur union.

Surabala Das and her two grandsons were standing on a raft in front of her inundated hut, waiting for relief.

Ankerullah and Surabala are among hundreds of people in similar condition in Fatehpur and Panchgaon unions in Rajnagar upazila; Khalilpur and Akhali Kura unions in the sadar upazila, Bhukshimul, Bhatera and Barachampi unions in Kulaupur upazilas.

Most of the homesteads there are under five to seven feet water.

Even well do families with no expatriate members are waiting for relief, many people said.

Forty-five year old Anwara Begum and her family have taken shelter on the Monu River Irrigation Project (MRIP) embankment with her

household belongings and two cows.

She got five kilograms of rice from an organisation. But she is worried for her two cows. If those die for lack of fodder, her family will be simply helpless, she told this correspondent.

The situation in Kawadighi *haor* is the worst following collapse of the MRIP embankment. Waters from the Kushiya and Monu are now flowing into the *haor*, which will bring horrifying days for the people in Fatehpur, Panchgaon, Khalilpur and Akhali Kura unions, local people said.

The MRIP dam breached at some points on Tuesday night due to pressure of water.

Water Development Board officials in Moulvibazar said the flood situation will deteriorate in the *haor* and MRIP command areas.

Sixty out of 67 unions in six upazilas in Moulvibazar have been flooded, affecting at least 2, 50,000 people, according to official. They are estimating the flood damage including croploss.

Some socio-cultural and political organisations are giving relief but those are scanty compared to the demand.

Our Bogra Correspondent reports:

Several thousand flood affected people are passing days under the open sky on Dhanut-Sirajganj and Dhanut-Goshaibari roads virtually without food for about a week.

Till yesterday, no government relief team visited the affected people on the roads. Some private organisations gave doles, which was very insignificant, some of the people told this correspondent during a visit. Drinking water is also scarce in those areas.

About two lakh flood affected people of Bogra and Sirajganj out of about 16 lakh have taken shelter on roads and embankments.

Sources in Bogra District Relief and Rehabilitation office (DRRO) said 28 flood shelters have been opened in Bogra.

Civil Surgeon (CS) office sources said 125 medical teams including two from army are working in different areas in Bogra district.

District administration sources said about six lakh nine thousand 54 people have been affected by flood.

Bogra. Of them, at least 25,000 families in seven upazilas lost everything.

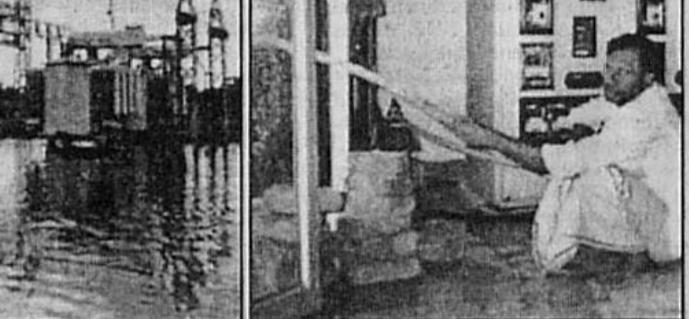


PHOTO: STAR

The inundated compound of the 33 KV sub-station (left) and water is being pumped out of the control room (right). The photos were taken yesterday.

## Blackout in B'baria any moment

Three feet water on 33 KV sub-station compound, 9 cm rise will stop power supply

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Power supply from the Datia 33 KV PDB sub-station in Brahmanbaria may stop any moment if the flood situation deteriorates, PDB officials said.

The whole compound of the sub-station is inundated with about three feet water.

According to PDB officials, two transformers in the sub-station distribute 20 MW power. The main control room of the sub-station is also inundated. Water is being pumped out of the control room with an irrigation pump.

If the floodwater on the com-

pound rises by nine centimetres, all effort to keep the control room operational will fail and power distribution will stop, they said.

PDB Assistant Engineer Md Sana Ullah said flood protection walls have been raised but water is leaking through drains and seeping into the control room.

"Food water is going to touch the main transformers. If that happens, power supply will collapse," he said.

He also informed that 20 small 'unit transformers' have gone under water in different areas of the district and 50 electric poles including 30 with 1100 volt wire are partially affected by flood water.

Power supply to Gukarna Ghat area near the town has been stopped as five 1100 volt electric poles and one 'unit transformer' have been affected by floodwater, PDB officials said. Power supply there will not resume till the flood goes, they said.

Meanwhile, the two wagons of a goods train which derailed between Bathshala and Paghachang railway stations on Saturday due to inundation of the track were retrieved on Sunday. Trains are moving on both the tracks, but with great caution, railway officials said.

They said most portion of the tracks between Ashuganj and Akhaura is under water.

## 'Rajshai will not get gas soon'

Fund constraint main reason

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The government has no immediate plan to supply gas to Rajshahi.

Rajshahi people have already observed a day's hartal and called another dawn to dusk hartal on July 31 for gas supply. They are holding agitation programmes almost every day demanding gas supply within the current financial year.

But sources at West Regional Gas Transmission Company (WRGC) said there is little possibility of gas supply to the divisional town Rajshahi by 2006.

"A plan for gas supply to Rajshahi is yet to be submitted to the energy ministry though this was among 14 priority projects for Rajshahi," a highly placed source in Petro Bangla said when contacted from here.

"Gas will first go to Bogra and

Pabna district towns and two major

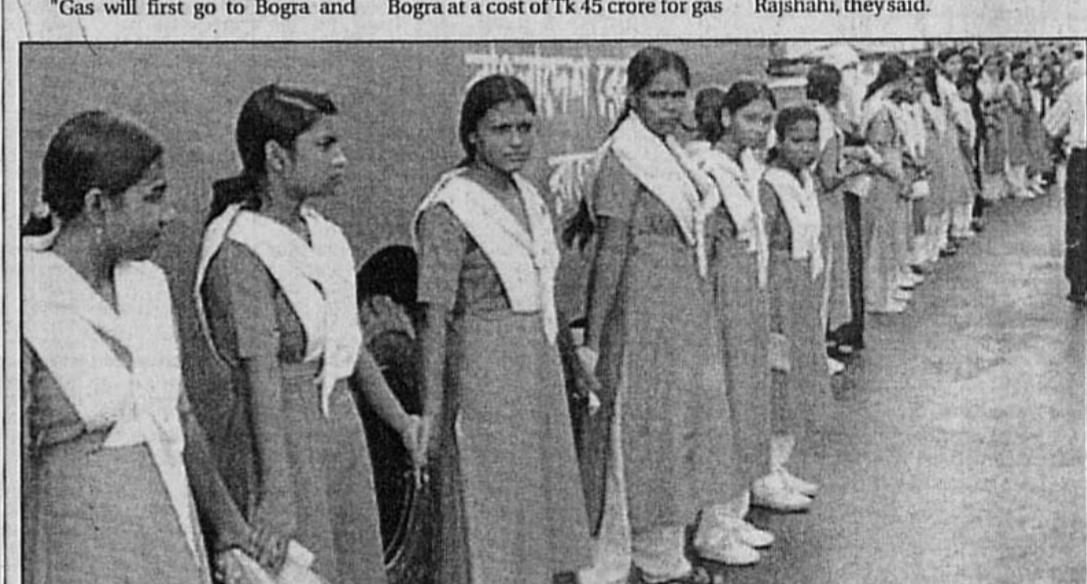
projects for this is being implemented now," he said.

Under the West Regional Gas Supply Project, a 225-km gas pipeline will be completed by the current financial year at a cost of Tk 54 crore. The pipeline will go through Sathia, Bera, Sahajpur, Pabna, Iswardi and Sirajganj.

Ten percent of the project work has been completed and the rest will be completed by June next year.

Three power plants including the one in Baghbari, 34 mills and factories and 14 industries in the areas are being connected with the main pipeline.

A 66-km main pipeline is being laid from Nalik in Sirajganj to Bogra at a cost of Tk 182 crore and another 220 km sub-line would be laid in Bogra at a cost of Tk 45 crore for gas



A partial view of the 10 km long human chain formed in Rajshahi on Sunday at the call of Rajshahi Gas Andolan Parishad demanding gas supply to the district.

## বঙবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

নতুন বিএসএমএমইউ/২০০৪/১৭০৫

তারিখ: ২৫-৭-২০০৪

জরুরী নম্ব	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক	পদের নাম ও বেতন ক্ষেত্র	পদের সময়া	প্রকাশিত মৌখিক ও অভিজ্ঞা
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