

Rains trigger flood in 10 dists

8,000 marooned in Cox's Bazar; 130 villages reel under water in Moulvibazar as Monu, Dholia bust embankments

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Flash flood triggered by rains inundated vast areas in 10 districts, damaging houses and paralysing traffic.

Three days' downpour and onrush of water from upstream areas across the border swelled the Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Teesta and Dharala rivers in greater Rangpur; Surma, Kusiyara, Monu and Dholai in greater Sylhet and Someswari in bordering Netrokona districts.

In Cox's Bazar, at least 8000 people are marooned in Dalghata island in Moheshkhali upazila as surging sea water whipped up by strong wind burst a protection embankment.

In Moulvibazar, at least 50,000 people have been affected as waters from Monu and Dholai rivers gushing through at least 10 breaches inundated 130 villages in Kulaura and Kolojganj upazilas.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: At least 130 villages have been flooded in Kulaura and Kamalganj upazilas as Monu and Dholai rivers breached their embankments at 10 points.

The Dholai and the Monu were flowing two and 0.35 centimetres

above their respective danger marks in Moulvibazar at 6 pm yesterday.

Both the rivers are rising, Water Development Board (WDB) officials said.

Strong current of swelling hilly river Dholai washed away its embankment at Uzirpur, Kunagao, Ghamara, Islampur, Bhanugachh, Bade-Karimpur, Sripur, Narayanpur, Bhandariya points in Kamalganj upazila yesterday, inundation about 100 villages.

The Monu river breached its embankment near Kotar-Jkuna in Kulaura upazila. About 30 villages in Hazipur and Tilagaon unions in Kulaura upazila and Rahimpur and Panusher unions in Komolganj upazila have been flooded.

Bhanugachh bazaar, the main market in Kamalganj upazila, is now under three feet water. Adampur-Kamalganj and Kamalganj-Moulvibazar road links have been disrupted.

More areas in the two upazilas may reel under water as the two rivers are swelling, WDB officials said yesterday evening.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Sylhet: Three days' rains coupled with waters rolling down hills across the border flooded low

lying areas in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts.

The Surma was flowing 17 centimetres above the danger level in Sunamganj yesterday evening.

The Surma and the Kusiyara were flowing below their danger marks in Sylhet, WDB officials said.

Villages in bordering Biswambharpur, Doarabazar and Tahirpur upazilas in Sylhet district have been inundated. Rains swamped many areas of Sunamganj town and snapped Tahirpur-Badghat road link yesterday as gushing waters washed away soil from both sides of five under-construction bridges.

Rains paralysed the life and swamped many areas in Sylhet city and flooded low-lying areas in Jaintapur, Gowainghat, Kanaighat and Companiganj upazilas.

Officials recorded 80 mm rainfall in Sunamganj and 86 mm in Sylhet in 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent reports: At least 8,000 people are marooned in seven villages in Dalghata island in Moheshkhali as the protection embankment has been destroyed, local Union Parishad leaders said.

Many educational institutions have been unofficially declared closed as

many areas of the island are under 3 to 4 feet water, they said.

Road communication with Dalghata island remained snapped as the lone road is under water.

Cox's Bazar meteorological department recorded 128mm rainfall in last two days.

Officials said Bakkhali and Kohelia rivers marked sharp rise in last three days.

Leaders of shrimp firm owners association said shrimps on 1,000 hectares were washed away by tidal surge.

During the probe, the team talked separately to the victims and some local people.

After the visit, they told journalists that the incidents that took place

JCD ATTACK ON AGOIJHORA MINORITY PEOPLE

Dr Kamal visits area, demands punishment of culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A joint team of human rights activists and legal aid providers led Dr. Kamal Hossain and former advisor to caretaker government Sultan Kamal yesterday visited Askor-Dushmi village in Agoijhara upazila to probe last month's attack on some Hindu families allegedly by JCD activists, which triggered massive protests by people.

The team also included Ajoy Dasgupta, chief joint editor of Samakal and Sohrab Hasan, columnist and associate editor of Jugantor.

On the night of May 5, some JCD cadres allegedly led by Qayum Hossain Molla tried to abduct and rape a teenage daughter of Upen Ballav.

Local people caught Qayum but his associates snatched him away, injuring some persons including the victim's uncle Gobinda Ballav and Amol Ballav.

The victim's family went to Ggajjhara police station to lodge a case, but were refused. Instead, police registered a case filed by the alleged attackers and arrested Gobinda.

On May 19, the hoodlums led by Qayum again attacked their houses and set fire to the house of Upen Ballav.

This time also when local people rushed to the police station, constable Abdur Razzak, sentry on duty, misbehaved with them and drove them out.

Protesting this, hundreds of people brought out a procession on May 20.

Additional DIG Mosharrat Hossain Bhuiyan and Assistant Police Superintendent GMK Akhtar Islam then visited the spot.

Agoijhara police accepted the case by the victims following orders from higher authorities.



PHOTO: STAR

A flood affected family in Silimpur village in Bogra taking their goats to a safer place yesterday.

Ex-BNP MP Amzad's bail prayer rejected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Special Judge's Court of Rangpur yesterday rejected the bail prayer of former BNP lawmaker Amzad Hossain Bhobe and his younger brother Rashidul Islam yesterday.

The court fixed the next date of hearing on June 24.

Nilphamari police lodged a corruption case against Amzad Hossain and his brother Rashidul Islam for misappropriating 396 pieces of CI sheets meant for relief.

Joint forces recovered the CI sheets from a college in Syedpur in March and arrested Amzad and Rashidul. The college was named after their father.

Amzad Hossain is now detained in Dhaka Central Jail.

5,000 poultry birds culled in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

About 5,000 poultry birds were culled in seven villages of Rajendrapur and Uttom unions in Rangpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

A nine-member team led by magistrate Israil Hossain culled the poultry birds following detection of bird flu (avian influenza) at the villages by the Livestock Department.

Earlier, a meeting of the Bird Flu Protection Committee was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) on Sunday. The meeting decided to cull all the poultry birds immediately.

On contact, Additional District

Outlaws kill farmer in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A solvent farmer has been killed by cadres of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at remote Boroichora village in Tarash upazila, police said.

Anis, 27, son of Subol Pramanik of the village was shot to death by the outlaws on Sunday night following his refusal to give them paddy as toll, police said.

Family sources said the PBCP cadres demanded Boro paddy from him as toll to run their underground activities.

On refusal, the gang set fire to his house on March 5 and damaged valuables there, police said.

After the incident, Anis filed a case with Tarash Police Station which was under investigation. Police also arrested 12 accused of the case. This has infuriated the outlaws who stormed into the house of Anis on Sunday night and killed him on the spot at a field near to his house.

Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

Major Gazi Md Shahidullah of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) visited the spot.

Activities of PBCP cadres are on the rise in some remote villages in Tarash upazila during the last few months, police said.

BDR-BSF flag meeting held

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A 6-hour long battalion level flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was held near Main Pillar No 894 at Singimari outpost in Hatibandha upazila yesterday.

The flag meeting dwelt on various cross border issues to create amity among the BDR, BSF members.

The BDR team was led by the Commanding Officer of Lalmonirhat 19, Rifles Battalion Lt Colonel Makbul Quader and the BSF team was led by the Commandant of West Bengal 13 No BSF Battalion Ranaji Singh.

The meeting took a resolution that BSF will not erect barbed wire fence along the border without consulting BDR officials.

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