

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 life.

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, Kushiara, Monu and Dholai in greater Sylhet and Someswari in bordering Netrakona districts.

In Cox's Bazar, at least 8000 people are marooned in Dalghata island in Moheshkahli 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 Kololganj 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, Kunagaon, G h u r a m a r a, I s l a m p u r, 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 Patanusher 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 Kushiara 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-Badaghat 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 Mohwshkhali 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 weater, 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.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Meteorological department in recorded 256 mm rainfall in Gaibandha last 24 hours ending yesterday morning.

District agriculture officials said ready for harvest Irri-Boro paddy fields and Aman seedbeds reeled under water in many areas but the extent of damage is yet to be ascertained.

The 782-metre newly constructed embankment along the western bank of Brahmaputra at Baguria has cracked at many points.

The rain-fed Jamuna devoured about 200 feet of its embankment in Udakahli union in Fulchari Upazila in last three days, displacing at least 300 people.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: Water Development Board in Rangpur recorded 350 mm rainfall in the district in last 72 hours ending yesterday morning.

Teesta Dharala and Brahmaputra rivers are in spate but flowing below their danger marks, WDB officials said.

Teesta was flowing 1.18 cm below the danger mark at Kaunia and Dharla below s 2.15 cm in Kurigram, they said.

At least 20,000 homesteads have been inundated in Nohali, Alambiditor, Kolkond, Mornea and Bedgari under Gangachara upazila in Rangpur district; Kakina, and Kulaghat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila; and Jhunkerchar, Rolakata, Kaliragla, Jattrapur, Mogalbacha, Panchgachhi, Bhogobotipur in Kurigram Sadar upazila, according to official sources in the three districts.

Kurigram WDB Executive Engineer Asafuddoula said he submitted a Tk 300 crore project to renovate the Brahmaputra embankment in Ulipur but it is yet to be approved by the ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council).



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

PHOTO: STAR

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 Bhoje 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 Hosain 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 flue (avian influenza) at the villages by the Livestock Department.

Earlier, a meeting of the Bird Flue 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

Livestock Officer Azharul Islam said the department detected existence of avian virus (bird flue virus) in dead bodies of chicken belonging to Sufia Bewa of Uttom union and Ekramul Hossain of Rajendrapur union. He said, 'We sent the dead bodies to Gaibandha laboratory first and then to Dhaka. After examination, the experts confirmed existence of bird flu virus.'

Rangpur DC Khandker Atiar Rahman said the poultry birds owners would be compensated in due course. He said, 'We are monitoring all poultry farms in the district. The poultry farm owners are asked to take all precautionary measures.'

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.

Th 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 Ranojit Singh.

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

JCD ATTACK ON AGOILJHORA 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 Sultana Kamal yesterday visited Askor-Dushmi village in Agoiljhara upazila to probe last month's attack on some Hinhu families allegedly by JCD activists, which triggered massive protests by people.

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

in the village should be probed and culprits punished.

High police and administrative officials including Barisal Additional Police Superintendent Masruk Rahman Helal; Agoiljhara Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdul Latif Molla were also present at the village during the visit.

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 Bavallav.

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

The victim's family went to Ggailjhara 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 Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and Assistant Police Superintendent GMK Aktarul Islam then visited the spot.

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

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