

Flood situation worsens in Bogra, Faridpur

Improves in Gaibandha, Rangpur: Breach in river dam floods 30 villages in Comilla

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The flood situation slightly improved in Gaibandha and Ramingpur districts as rains tapered off but it deteriorated in the central districts of Bogra and Faridpur.

In Moulvibazar, Dholai and Monu rivers that breached their embankments in at least 10 points on Monday, started receding but the gushing waters inundated more areas. Erosion by Nagar river in Bogra and Padma in Faridpur intensified yesterday.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reported that the situation in seven upazilas of the district slightly improved as rain temporarily ceased yesterday.

The Brahmanputra and the Teesta started receding but the Karatoa swelled by about one feet at Gobindaganj point in last 24 hours ending yesterday afternoon. The river was however flowing below its danger mark, Water Development Board (WDB) officials said.

People in Teesta and Brahmaputra shoals were the worst sufferers, mostly losing crops. Houses were submerged in many areas, officials said.

In last 24 hours, Brahmaputra and Teesta waters eroded their embankments in many areas. The affected areas include Kapsasia, Belka and Haripur under Sunderganj upazila; Kamarganj, Mollarchar and Gideri under Gaibandha Sadar upazila; Kanchipara, Gajaria, Fazlupur, Uria and Arendabari under Fulchari upazila.

In Moulvibazar, more areas were inundated in last 24 hours as waters were gushing out through the 10 breaches in Monu and Dholai river embankments.

WDB officials said water levels of the Monu and Dholi started receding from yesterday noon and was flowing below their danger marks.

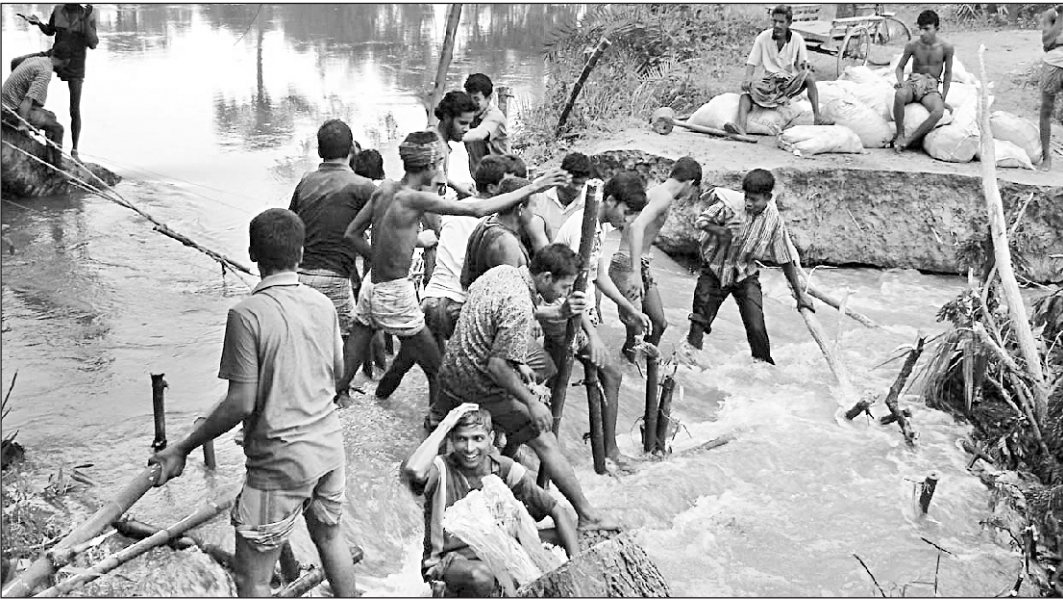
Alinagar Tea Garden in Kamalganj was affected.

Kamalganj-Adampur and Moulvibazar-Kamalganj road links remained disrupted till yesterday as some portions remained under water.

Our Staff Correspondent in Bogra reported that at least 2,000 families lost houses due to erosion by Nagar river at Kharia Nishindara village in Kahalol upazila.

Kahalul Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Azmal Islam said around 1,000 families have been shifted from Kharia Nishindara, Chandpur, Nawdapara, Gundiswar, Titia and Zhinai villages as their homesteads were devoured by Nagar river yesterday.

In Faridpur, the Padma rose by 83 cms in last 24 hours, a correspondent reported. Erosion by Padma



Water gushing through the breached embankment of Kakri river in Chouddagram upazila in Comilla district (top) and villagers struggling to repair the Nagar river dam at Kharia Nishindara village in Kahlul upazila in Bogra yesterday.

has taken a serious turn, displacing about 200 families in Faridpur Sadar upazila in last two days.

UNB adds from Comilla: Around 30 villages in two upazilas of the district were inundated Tuesday as waters rolling down from hills damaged an embankment along the Kankri river.

Locals said the embankment suffered damages at seven points in

Ujirpur union of Chouddagram upazila.

They said 25 villages in Chouddagram upazila and 5 in Sadar (South) upazila went under waters this morning, leaving over 1 lakh people marooned.

The worst affected villages are Krishnapur, Ashrafpur, Chandful, Manikpur Gatam, Iliaspur, Shamukchhara,

Komardoga, Rajeshpur, Chandush, Manikpur, Ramchandrapur, Chandsree, Poranpur, Boraiabari, Paranpur and Kashinagar in Chouddagram upazila and Rajeshpur and Lalbagh villages in Sadar upazila.

JMB man on fresh remand in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Alleged JMB activist Mostafa Hossain Nomanee was placed on a seven-day fresh remand yesterday.

Police said Mostafa confessed to his involvement in August 17 serial blasts in 2005. He will be sent to Dhaka for quizzing at joint interrogation cell (JIC).

Police prayed for seven days' remand and a court in Barguna granted the prayer, court sources said.

Mostafa, 45, was arrested on June 5 from his house at Dibamaittha village in Barguna Sadar upazila.

Police said he was an active member of JMB (Jamiatul Mujahidin Bangladesh).

Earlier, police took Mostafa on six days' remand on two occasions.

Mostafa gave important information about JMB and he should be interrogated by JIC, investigation officer of the case Khondakar Nurul Haq said. He said nine books on jihad were recovered from him.

Top criminal flees from police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A handcuffed gang leader of inter-district robbers fled from police custody in Chuadanga on Monday.

Police and Rapid Action battalion (Rab) are yet to catch Abdul Kader Mollah, a day after he jumped from the first floor of Chuadanga police superintendent's office building, police sources said yesterday.

Jibonnagar police arrested the gang leader of inter-district robbers from Mahanagr in the upazila on Sunday night.

On Monday, he was taken to Chuadanga police superintendent's office for interrogation.

The criminal pushed an on-duty constable, jumped from the first floor corridor and ran fast. He swam the Mathabnga river and disappeared, police sources in Chuadanga said.

Chuadanga SP Mafiz Uddin Ahmed said police from all police stations joined by Rab launched drives in different areas of the district to nab Molla.

Constable Mahub Uddin has been suspended in connection with the incident, the SP told this correspondent when asked over cell phone yesterday.



Awami League chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina offering fateha at the major of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday.

ALLEGATION OF ABETTING JMB MILITANTS

Charge framing against Aminul, Ruhul Kuddus and Nadim Mostafa now on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The third court of Rajshahi District and Sessions Judge yesterday shifted again the date for charge framing against former minister Barrister Aminul Haq, deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukhdar and lawmaker Nadim Mostafa in the case for allegedly abetting militants.

Alleged torture victim Ayub Ali Pramanik of Polashi village in Bagmara upazila in Rajshahi filed the case with Bagmara police station on April 1.

Judge Abu Saleh Sheikh M Zahurul Islam fixed Sunday for framing charges.

Former deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukhdar Dulu and 14 accused militants of Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) were in the dock yesterday. The JMB men were Mostafizur Rahman, 'killer' Mustak, Abdul Jalil Amin, Majnur Rahman, Majid, Siddiq Sona, Mozahar, Sajmul, Moksed, Rahim, Hanif, Kalam, Abdul Mandol and Darji Nazrul.

Barrister Aminul Haq is allegedly hiding since proclamation of emergency and Nadim Mostafa is on bail.

The date was shifted as Dulu's lawyers submitted a prayer for providing them with copies of the case documents. They said Dulu is in Dhaka Central Jail which delayed his

signatures on some case documents. Dulu was taken to Rajshahi Central Jail Monday night from Dhaka.

Earlier, the court deferred the charge framing date on June 7 last as Dulu could not be placed before the court.

Sixteen alleged JMB militants out of 30 accused in the case were absconding.

Plaintiff 55 year-old Ayub Ali Pramanik alleged that JMB militants with backing from the accused political bigwigs tortured him in 2004. They (militants) had frequent talks with the accused during their 'operations', Ayub Ali alleged in the case.

ARREST UNDER ARMS ACT

Former Barisal lawmaker Abul Hossain freed on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Abul Hossain Khan, central Jubo Dal vice president and former BNP lawmaker from Barisal-6 (Bakerganj constituency), jailed for seven years under Arms Act by a Barisal court, was released on bail from Barisal Central Jail Monday night.

The High Court earlier accepted his appeal against the judgment and granted him bail.

Abul Hossain Khan was sentenced by Barisal Divisional and Special Sessions judge AT M Musa on May 24 under Section 19(f) of the Arms Act.

Ibrahim Khalil, administrative officer at the trial court and defense lawyer sources said Abul Hossain appealed to the High Court against the verdict and prayed for bail.

A High Court Bench comprising Justice Sharifuddin Chakladar and Justice Md. Emdadul Huq accepted the prayer and granted him bail for one year on June 6.

The HC order reached Barisal on June 11 and was sent to Barisal Jail on Monday.

Abul Hossain Khan surrendered his licensed pistol without ammunition to Bakerganj police station on February 2.

Later he deposited 90 bullets of his pistol at the same police station on February 14.

Sub Inspector Zahurul Islam of Bakerganj police station as complainant lodged a case on February 16 under Sections 19(e) and 19(f) of the Arms Act charging him for possessing ammunition illegally as he surrendered the ammunition after the deadline for depositing legal arms and ammunitions. A warrant of arrest was also issued against Khan.

On May 20, Abul Hossain Khan surrendered before the court and prayed for bail.

ASSAULT ON CID MEN PRIMARILY PROVED

SI suspended in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Sub-inspector Sarwar Hossain, who was closed to the police lines on June 10 for allegedly assaulting and threatening two police inspectors on June 9 at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) office in Satkhira, was suspended Monday night.

Satkhira Police Superintendent Mirza Abdullahel Baki in an order suspended SI Sarwar following an inquiry that found him guilty. The inquiry report was submitted by Additional SP Zakir Hossain, police sources said yesterday.

Sub-inspector Sarwar entered the CID office at about 12:30 pm on June 9 and allegedly assaulted Inspector Lutfor Rahman of Security Cell and Inspector Hari Pada Biswas of CID when they were probing the allegation against him.

The sub-inspector also snatched away recorded statements given by the complainants, CID office

sources said.

The two inspectors on June 9 lodged two separate general dairies (GDs) with Sadar police station accusing SI Sarwar of Kalaroa police station of assaulting and threatening them.

They also informed higher authorities about the incident. Soon after the incident, Satkhira Police Superintendent Mirza Abdullahel Baki asked Additional SP Zakir Hossain Khan to probe the matter.

Earlier on June 10, after getting inquiry report from the Additional SP, the SP closed Sarwar to Satkhira police lines as allegations brought against him was primarily proved, sources said.

On contact, the SP said the SI has been suspended and action will be taken against him after investigation.

DEATH IN CUSTODY

Fresh autopsy of Tangail garo leader done

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Indigenous leader Chalesh Ritchil has been buried at his Magunthinagar village in Modhupur upazila after autopsy for the second time at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Earlier, the body was exhumed from on Sunday in presence of First Class Magistrate Rangail Siddiqur Rahman, Ritchil's wife Sandhya Rani Simsang and other family members and local indigenous leaders.

Riaz Ahmed, officer-in-charge (OC) of Madhupur police station, told The Daily Star that the body was buried at his family graveyard at around 11:30 pm Sunday.

Joint forces arrested Chalesh on March 18. He died in custody on the

same day.

As his family alleged death due to torture in custody, the home ministry formed a one-member body comprising retired Judge Rafi Uddin Ahmed to investigate the death.

Law enforcers also visited Ritchil's house at Magunthinagar village on May 24.

The body was exhumed as part of the fresh investigation. Law enforcers and officials here remained tightlipped about the autopsy report. They said the autopsy report will be submitted to the home ministry.

One gets life term for rape, murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal yesterday sentenced one person to life term imprisonment and fined Tk one lakh on charge of raping and killing a minor girl in Nilphamari.

Court sources said victim Beauti Banu, 8, daughter of Batalu Akand of Purba Kharibari village under Dimla Upazila was playing near her house on 22 February 2005. Convict Sanwar Hossain lured her with chocolate and took her to a nearby maize field and raped and killed her.

Father of the victim filed a case with Dimla Thana accusing Sanwar Hossain.

The investigation Officer submitted the charge sheet accusing Sanwar Hossain.

After verifying all the witnesses and evidences the judge sentenced the accused to life term imprisonment and fined him Tk one lakh.

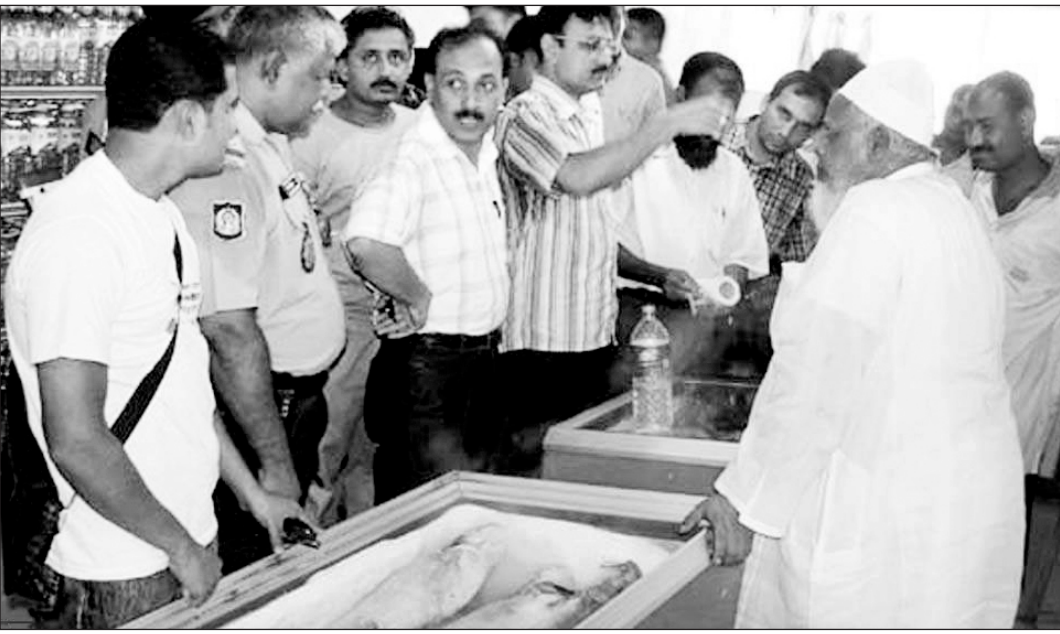


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A mobile court yesterday launched a drive against sale of formalin-preserved fish in different markers in Khulna city.



(Clockwise) A flooded area in Bandarban town, two dogs take a rooftop shelter in a flooded area in Chittagong city while workers trying to save food stuff at a godown in Sagorika area and army helping victims at a shelter at Lebubagan in Hathazari in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA