

Tidal water floods 52 Cox's Bazar villages

10 Aila-hit villages inundated in Satkhira

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

More than 800 dwelling houses in 52 villages under six upazilas of the district were inundated as embankment collapsed during high tide

Sunday night.

Meanwhile, weathermen hoisted signal number 3 as the Bay became rough in the last 24 hours.

The tidal water rose several feet above the normal level hitting the coast.

The affected villages fall under Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Sadar, Pekua, Chakoria and Teknafupazilas.

Cox's Bazar Met office sources said, in the last 24 hours till 3:00pm yesterday, the district experienced about

88 mm rainfall. All the trawlers and fishing boats in the Bay of Bengal have been told to stay near the coast and move cautiously, they said.

Kutubdia upazila parishad chairman ATM Nurul Bashar Chowdhury said, more than

10 km stretch of the 40-km coastal embankment has been washed away by the sea water. Another 15 km has become risky, leaving one lakh people of the upazila in utter panic.

Five villages in Moheshkhali upazila went under water as tidal water entered through the breaches of the embankment, locals said.

In Cox's Bazar town, the tidal water submerged about 120 dwelling houses at Fadnardail and Najiratek char areas yesterday. Several thousand people have taken shelter in nearby cyclone shelters, educational institutions and on highlands.

In Satkhira, at least 10 villages in Padmapukur, an Aila affected union under Shyamnagar upazila, were inundated as the embankment on the river Kabodak collapsed during violent tide on Sunday night.

About 50 yards at New Mosque point of the embankment have been washed away, reports our correspondent.

Over 8,000 people of almost all the villages in Padmapukur union have been marooned.

The affected villages are Padmapukur, Uttar Pakhimara, Dakkhin Pakhimara, Chandipur, Baintala, Khutikata, Kamalkati, Chaukhola, Jhappa, Ershad Nagar, Sonakhali and Chandipur.



PHOTO: STAR

Fifty-two villages under six upazilas of Cox's Bazar district go under water following collapse of a coastal embankment during high tide in the Bay yesterday. Photo shows a submerged village in Kutubdia upazila.

35 hurt as BCL clashes with Jamaat-Shibir

32 Jamaat-Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least 35 people were injured during a clash between Jamaat-Shibir and Chhatri League activists in the town on Sunday night.

The clash ensued following an attack by BCL men on Hatkhola Jamaat office where Shibir was holding a meeting at around 8:00pm. Both sides used sharp weapons and chased each other during the clash.

Police dispersed the clashing groups and took control of the area at around 10:00pm.

Later, they raided Hatkhola Jamaat office and arrested 32 Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists.

The arrestees include acting Ameer of Jamaat district unit Sagir Ahmed, former ameer Abdul Alim, former secretary Abul Kashem, and ex-vice-president of KC College students union Mosabber Hossain Laltu.

They received severe injuries during the clash and are undergoing treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital under police guard.

During the clash, the BCL activists also set fire to a

coaching center run by Chhatri Shibir at Hatkhola and assaulted some newsmen who went to the area to cover the incident.

BCL claimed that Jamaat-Shibir men swooped on its activists, leaving ten, including Salam, Rabiu Islam Robi, Tokon, Hasan, Bablu, injured.

Police yesterday filed a case against the arrested Jamaat-Shibir men on charge of launching an attack on BCL activists. Of the arrestees, 28 were produced in a Jhenidah court that sent them to jail.

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Naya Diganta reporter Alauddin Azad, injured during Sunday night's BCL and Jamaat-Shibir clash, undergoes treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, right, arrested Jamaat-Shibir men at Sadar police station.

LITON DAS MURDER IN TANGAIL

Four get life, three acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment in the sensational Liton Das murder case.

District and Sessions Judge Golam Mortuza Mazumder delivered the verdict in a crowded courtroom. He also fined the convicts Tk 25,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail. The convicts are Nakul Datta, of Char Aloa village, Nazimuddin and Hazrat Ali of Aloa village in Sadar upazila and Mohammad Jahangir of Maithan village in Delduar upazila in the district.

The Court took deposition of 24 witnesses before delivering the verdict. It acquitted three other accused, Titu, Khokon Das and Tokon Das, as allegations brought against them were not proved.

According to the prosecution, Nakul Datta

along with others, on March 3, 2004, took Liton Das, owner of a watch shop in the town, near the Jamuna river at Alokdia village in Sadar upazila. They slaughtered him there with sharp weapons and threw the body into the river.

The murder was a sequel to a financial dispute.

After 23 days of the incident, Liton's father Ranjit Kumar Das of Purbo Adalat Para in the town filed a murder case accusing seven people with Sadar police station.

Later, accused Nakul Datta made a confessional statement under Section 164 to the court of Magistrate Ziauddin on May 3, 2005.

Nakul, Nazim and Jahangir were present at the court at the time of verdict while another accused Hazrat Ali was tried in absentia.

Public Prosecutor Akbar Ali Khan appeared for the state while advocates Golam Mostafa and Abul Kashem stood for the accused.

SNIPPETS

Magurjhara Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The national committee for protection of oil, gas and port Moulvibazar district unit formed a human chain yesterday to demand compensation from the Occidental for Magurjhara gas well explosion. The human chain was addressed by BSL leader Maynur Rahman Magnu, CPB central presidium member Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed, Nilimesh Ghose and Mamunur Rashid Shuhel. On this day in 1997, a gas well at Chawmuhana Square in the town exploded causing a huge damage to the surrounding areas. But the US company is yet to pay necessary compensations to the victims of explosion, the speakers said.

APPs place demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Assistant Public Prosecutors (APP) at the judge and magistrate courts here on Saturday demanded increased honorarium for moving cases on behalf of the state. At a press conference held at Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club at noon, around 10 APPs urged the prime minister and law minister to increase their daily honorarium to Tk 1000 from Tk 200. The honorariums were not increased for the last two decades after the increase in 1991, they said. At the present rate of Tk 200 daily honorarium, we hardly get over Tk 3600 a month after payment of taxes, said an APP adding that the officials are facing hardship and difficulties in pleading the cases sincerely.

11 hurt in plaster collapse

UNB, Comilla

At least 11 students were injured as plasters of the school's roof collapsed on them in Daudkandi upazila yesterday. The injured were identified as Samina, Rupa, Zakia, Amena, Suraiya, Meem, Maria, Tania, Shukhi, Salma and Suravi. They were students of class V1 at Gouripur Subal Afzal High School. Sources said the incident occurred at about 11:00am when the students were attending classes. The injured were admitted to Gouripur hospital.

Two killed in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A woman and a farmer were killed in Gangni upazila in Meherpur in separate incidents on Sunday and Monday. Of them, the farmer was murdered over a land dispute at Baniapukur village while police recovered decomposed body of an unknown woman yesterday from a field at Ghoratala. Police said Nurul Huda, 40, had a feud with one Wazzel of the same village over a piece of land. On the fateful night his rivals stabbed him to death during an arbitration. Police recovered body of a woman, aged about 30, from Ghoratala field. They suspect the woman was raped before killing.

Youth shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Masked criminals stormed into a house at Bakail village in Alfandaga upazila and shot dead a young man early yesterday. A gang of five to six criminals equipped with firearms entered the house at about 3:00am breaking open the door, said Arshad Molla, an uncle of the victim. They attacked the family members and at a stage dragged Firoj Sheikh, 25, son of Atiar Sheikh to the yard and shot him dead, as he tried to resist them. Firoj succumbed to his injuries on way to the upazila health complex.

Islamic University reopens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Islamic University (IU), Kushtia reopened yesterday after eight days of closure. All halls and offices of the university have been opened while the classes will resume today. The university was closed after a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatri League (BCL), IU unit, over forming committee on June 6. Additional police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have been deployed on the campus to avert any untoward situation. Meanwhile, a group of BCL men led by Mahbub, a leader of a faction, ransacked a student bus of the university at Madhupur bazar on Sunday night. Police and university sources said the BCL men attacked the bus at about 9:30 pm when it was returning to Kushtia after dropping students at university.

CTG CITY CORPORATION POLLS



PHOTO: STAR
Army personnel start patrolling port city yesterday as Chittagong City Corporation goes to polls on June 17, below, rainwater submerges different low-lying areas and city streets, causing suffering to the city dwellers and hampering poll campaign.

Students lock two RU buildings for 4 hours

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of different departments under social science, law and business studies faculties at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday put two academic buildings under lock and key for four hours from 8:00am demanding cancellation of evening master's courses under the faculties.

They also started two days' class boycott yesterday as a part of their ongoing agitation on the same demand.

Over 1,000 students of 13 departments under the three faculties locked the gates of Rabindra Arts Building and Momtazuddin Building and staged sit-ins in front of the gates for four hours until 2:00pm. They also held a protest rally in front of the administrative building.

All classes, examinations and official activities of the 13 departments remained suspended during the protest.

The agitating students said they locked the gates of two academic buildings and started class boycott as the university authorities did not pay heed to their demand for cancelling evening master's courses within the 24-hour

deadline that expired at 7:30am yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatri League (BCL) Rajshahi University unit yesterday expressed its solidarity with the agitating students. BCL President Awal Kabir Joy and Secretary Majedul Islam Opu met Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan at 1:00pm and submitted a memorandum to him demanding cancellation of evening master's course.

The vice-chancellor told the BCL leaders that he would take a decision in this regard immediately.

Earlier, several hundred BCL men took out a procession on the campus and formed a human chain in front of the university central library to press home the demand for cancelling evening master's courses under three faculties.

The students of social science faculty have been agitating since June 2 as the university authorities decided to introduce evening master's courses at eight departments under the faculty.

Students of business studies and law and justice faculties also started agitation from Sunday demanding cancellation of evening master's courses within the 24-hour LLM and MBA courses under the two faculties.



PHOTO: STAR
Students of 13 departments under three faculties at Rajshahi University demonstrate in front of a locked academic building yesterday demanding cancellation of evening master's courses under the faculties.

Major punishment for a trifling mistake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A young girl is fighting for life at Faridpur Medical College and Hospital (FMCH) as another girl poured boiling milk on her.

Police arrested accused Kohinur and her husband Shabuddin following the incident on Thursday afternoon at Rathkhola brothel of the town and sent them to jail.

Sources said, Kohinur poured boiling milk on Rahima Akter alias Bipasha, an unknown woman. The woman convinced her mother Khaleda of Arin Bazar area in Gabtoli in the capital that Rahima would be given job of maid servant in Faridpur.

"Later she changed my name as Bipasha and forced

me into flesh trade," Rahima said adding, "Kohinur and her so-called husband Shabuddin beat me several times as I could not attract good many customers."

"When I was passing carelessly by the oven, a few drops of water fell on the milk from my hand. It angered Apa (Kohinur) and she poured all the boiling milk on my body," she said.

"I don't like this life. I want to live, I want to return to my home," she said in an emotion-choked voice.

Rahima filed a case with Kotwali police station on Sunday in this connection.