

# Death toll in China flooding climbs to 377

AP, Beijing

The death toll from storms that have pounded southern China for more than a week has climbed to 377, the government said yesterday.

The toll is expected to rise as 142 people are missing and more rain is expected, according to the China Meteorological Administration website. That threatens to hamper rescue efforts that have seen 4.4 million people evacuated from their homes.

The death toll climbed from 211 in the past two days as heavy rains fell in the southern regions of Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangxi, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said on its website.

The government says the flooding has caused about \$11 billion in damages.

Workers and soldiers began repairing two breaches along the Fuhe river near Fuzhou city in Jiangxi province yesterday, said a report posted on the Jiangxi Flood Control Headquarters website, days after it overflowed its banks and a dike on another portion of the river burst, forcing the evacuation of 100,000 people.

Thousands of soldiers and workers transported stones and sandbags to block and redirect water, with the goal of patching up the breach within the next week, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Fuzhou to rally rescuers and comfort victims, wearing galoshes and wading through floodwaters in the disaster area, according to

## India to try to extradite ex-Union Carbide head

AP, New Delhi

India's Cabinet has approved pushing for the former head of Union Carbide to be extradited over the toxic gas leak in 1984 that killed an estimated 15,000 people. Public ire over the world's worst industrial disaster in the Indian city of Bhopal resurfaced this month after a court convicted seven former employees.

They were found guilty of "death by negligence" and sentenced to two years in prison. Many in India saw the verdict as far too light a punishment for the tragedy.

On the morning of Dec 3, 1984, a pesticide plant run by Union Carbide leaked about 40 tons of deadly methyl isocyanate gas into the air of Bhopal, quickly killing about 4,000 people.

Lingering effects of the poison raised the toll to about 15,000 over the next few years, according to government estimates. In all, at least 500,000 people were affected.

## Death of mother

**FROM PAGE 16** make the girl certain when she was groaning after taking sedatives while he also said that Rashedul took part in the killing.

According to earlier confession of Farzana's father-in-law Shafiqul Kabir, police personnel were present at the May 6 arbitration where Farzana was forced to sign an agreement over leaving her husband's house.

Regarding the presence of police, DC Wari zone Tawfik Mahbub Chowdhury said, "Shafiqul Kabir requested police to come over to his house, as there had been a dispute. Responding to the call a team of Kadamtoli police led by ASI Mohammad Kibria went there."

Kibria found Farzana, her children and the in-laws were locked in altercations and at one stage things went physical between Farzana and Noor Banu, said the DC, adding that Kibria left the scene after they calmed down and he was not present during the signing of any deed.

Farzana's family members, however, alleged that police were present when she was forced to sign the agreement. DC Monir said they formed a special team and conducted several raids outside Dhaka in a bid to arrest Rashedul and Smriti.

footage aired on China Central Television.

Storms have pounded southern China for more than a week, collapsing 368,000 houses, as landslides have cut off transportation and rivers and reservoirs have overflowed.

China sustains major flooding annually along the mighty Yangtze and other major rivers, but this year's floods have been especially heavy, spreading across 10 provinces and regions in the south and along the eastern coast.

## Case against 150 Shibir men filed for RU anarchy

BSS, Rajshahi

A case has been lodged here yesterday against 150 leaders and workers of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) for their alleged involvement in creating anarchic situation at Rajshahi University last night.

Sub-inspector Selim filed the case with Mother Police Station under arms and explosives act.

However, none could be arrested in this connection till yesterday.

Police sources said the ICS workers brought out a militant procession and blasted 12 bombs on the RU campus in protest against the arrest of their seven fellowmen.

Officer-in-charge of Mother Police Station Abul Khayer told the newsmen that punitive measures would be taken against the culprits.

## Daughter's

**FROM PAGE 16**

However, despite repeated attempts, she failed to get a job though she completed a course on computer applications.

Eldest among three, Babita continued her school and college education by doing private tuition to reduce pressure on his father Shukhamoy Barman. She has two brothers studying in class X.

Project Director of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of DMCH, Samanta Lal Sen told The Daily Star that even after undergoing 22 days' of treatment, her condition is still critical. "She cannot ingest food essential for her which may worsen her condition," he added.

## Teacher

**FROM PAGE 16**

principal of the college, was temporarily suspended on March 29 this year after he kidnapped the girl on March 4.

Locals rescued the girl from Faruque's house two weeks after the abduction.

The college authorities recommended dismissal of Faruque, also former publication secretary of district BNP. After the incident, he got expelled from the party as well.

"The teacher has been stalking me for a long time but at first I did not dare to protest fearing stigma," said the victim, a member of minority Hindu community.

"Later when he was adamant to marry me, I informed my parents," she said, adding, this angered him and he began to insist more strongly.

According to the victim, Faruque along with 20 to 25 local BNP cadres, came to her home at Joyhori village of Barobari and tried to abduct her by force.

The gang injured her parents and two aunts by striking them with sticks as they tried to defend the girl. They managed to drag her out of the house but fled as locals intervened.

Her injured family members are now undergoing treatment at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

"I heard that the teacher had been stalking my girl but could not protest as he was a musclemán of BNP," said the girl's father, adding, they were afraid to file a case against Faruque after he abducted his daughter in March.

Locals said Faruque, father of two sons and a local of Barobari village, married his current wife also by forcefully abducting her.

"What can we do? We can neither file a case nor leave the village. Faruque and his associates are vicious. We can do nothing but cry," said father of the ill-fated girl, hopelessly.

## Mars' entire surface shaped by water

BBC Online

Signs of liquid water had been seen on southern Mars, but the latest findings reveal similar signals in craters in the north of the Red Planet.

The team made their discovery by examining data from instruments on board Europe's Mars Express and Nasa's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

They report the findings in the latest issue of the journal Science.

John Carter, of the University of Paris, led the team of France- and US-based scientists.

"Until now, we had no idea what half Mars was made of in terms of mineral composition," he told BBC News.

"Now, with the Esa and Nasa probes, we have been able to get a mixture of images and spectral information about the composition of the rock."

He explained that these instruments had revealed clay-type minerals called phyllosilicates - "the stuff you would find in mud and in river beds."

"It's not the species of mineral itself that's important," said Dr Carter, "it's more the fact that the minerals contain water."

"This enhances the picture of liquid water on Mars."

## AL men attack

**FROM PAGE 16**

Quoting local people police said the injured fishermen of Chunakhali Matsyajibi Samabaya Samity took lease of the canal from the government last year and have been cultivating fish in it since then.

Shankar Mondal, one of the injured, alleged that Kaliganj upazila Awami League organising secretary Sheikh Riaz Uddin in connivance with upazila Jubo League general secretary and upazila vice-chairman Syeed Mehedi, and Rotonpur union AL president Shahidul Islam were trying to take possession of the canal from last year.

On Thursday, local AL and Jubo League cadres led by Sheikh Riaz Uddin, Syeed Mehedi and Shahidul Islam attacked the fishermen at about 7:30 pm in a bid to grab the canal, he said.

They also looted fish worth Tk 20,000 from the canal, he alleged.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Khokon Mondal, another injured, said that he tried to lodge a complaint with Kaliganj thana accusing Sheikh Riaz Uddin of masterminding the attack but police did not record the case against him as he is a ruling party activist.

Contacted, upazila vice-chairman Syed Mehedi denied the allegation.

Syed Fariduddin, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj thana, confirmed the attack and said that action will be taken after an investigation.

## Indo-Bangla

**FROM PAGE 1** Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) president Abdul Matlub Ahmed.

Addressing the conference, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar said, "Northeast India with a population of 43 million and market size of about \$20 billion offers an attractive opportunity to Bangladesh."

"Northeast India bears rich horticultural importance and has huge plantations, including rubber, which could be used in the interest of Bangladesh," he said.

The commodities to be traded in these haats would include locally produced agriculture and horticulture products, spices, minor forest products, excluding timber, fresh and dry fish, dairy, fishery and poultry products, cottage industries items, wooden furniture and cane goods, handloom and handicraft items besides materials useful for farmers, the report said.

These border haats, which came to a halt in the post-partition period of India and the erstwhile east Pakistan, resumed after a few years and stopped again after Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971.

## Dhaka-Ctg

**FROM PAGE 1**

has now become a death trap due to its narrowness. Traffic cannot move on it smoothly causing consumption of extra fuel.

The government is upgrading the existing highway to four lanes from two lanes at a cost of Tk 1,556 crore, which the officials say will only ease some pressure but not solve the problem.

## Manpower business

**FROM PAGE 1**

According to BMET, when Bangladesh first started sending workers abroad officially in 1976, the government was directly involved in the process.

But when the number of such migrants gradually increased, the government totally depended on private recruiting agencies since early 1980s, and limited its role to regulating the functions of the private agencies.

But now when the government has decided to send manpower abroad through its own arrangement again, the recruiting agencies have become its critic.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) said BMET, as a regulatory body, should strongly enforce rules to check malpractices instead.

If BMET gets involved in business, it will not be able to provide services to the agents, said Baira Secretary General Ali Haider Chowdhury. That will create more problems, he added.

Presently over 60 lakh Bangladeshis work abroad, and the majority of them are in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore, and Libya.

The migration cost started rising in the early 1980s when recruiting agencies started competing among themselves for work orders and visas. Thus visa has become a document for sale, said a recruiting agent.

Gradually, unauthorised brokers in Bangladesh and abroad started to dominate the business, he said adding that brokers abroad maintain contacts with employers for work orders in exchange for money, and they even offer workers at substandard wages.

Migrant rights activist, Syed Saiful Haque, said due to high migration cost but low wages, many migrants switch jobs, and overstay their visas to recover the money they spent.

Some even engage in other illegal activities for extra earnings that tarnish the image of the country, and sometimes bring bans on Bangladeshi workers, he observed.

Kuwait stopped hiring Bangladeshi workers in 2006, citing malpractices in labour recruitment. Since early 2008, Saudi Arabia significantly reduced the number of Bangladeshi workers it hires.

Malaysia froze hiring of Bangladeshi workers in March

## BNP chooses streets

**FROM PAGE 1**

Things however started heating up again in December when BNP activists, during the party's council, strongly demanded return of Tarique Rahman, and withdrawal of the cases against him.

In February the government decided to change the name of Zia International Airport, and removed the word Zia from the names of more than 50 organisations in one day.

Amid a growing bitterness between the two parties, ruling party parliamentarian Sheikh Selim, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself made some adverse comments on Ziaur Rahman during the parliamentary session that ended in April this year.

By then, the internal power structure of BNP underwent a change. The right of centre party was now fully controlled and influenced by hardliner rightist leaders.

They succeeded in convincing Khaleda that the understanding with AL was not working, and it would not be wise for her to maintain the soft stance, and to keep away from Jamaat.

They also convinced her that the government would surely evict her from the Cantonment house, and would never allow Tarique to return to Bangladesh and join politics again.

They convinced her that the government would file more complicated cases against Tarique, implicating him in some heinous acts like the August 21 grenade attack that occurred during BNP's tenure.

These hardliners pursued Khaleda to restore ties with Jamaat to announce a hartal and other street agitations, in a bid to mount pressure on the government, so the move to evict her from the Cantonment house is halted; and the authorities, especially the Anti-corruption Commission, keeps away from proceeding with the cases against Tarique and Koko.

One of the hardliners, who is a prominent lawyer, convinced Khaleda that the court verdict regarding her Cantonment house might go against her, as the legal basis of the lease was indeed very weak, and the leasing was actually not done through due procedure.

That is why Khaleda's lawyers pressed for changing the court, and demonstrated inside the court to delay the verdict,

last year, citing economic melt-down. Local recruiters however said irregularities in the recruitment process led to the freeze. Such is the backdrop against which the Bangladesh government's latest decision came.

"Initially, we will send trained female domestic helps for only Tk 20,000," said BMET Director Nurul Islam. They now pay Tk 70,000 to Tk 1 lakh, he said adding, BMET will select jobseekers involving district deputy commissioners, and upazila level public representatives.

"Based on the pilot project's success, we will recruit male workers," he said. When people will know that it will cost only Tk 84,000 for male workers to get jobs abroad, private agencies will be forced to reduce their fees, he added.

Dhaka University based Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit Chair Dr Tasneem Siddiqui said, "The initiative might be good for the time being, but not for the long run."

She suggested that the government should provide policy support for fair business practices, and sincere law enforcement.

Ali Haider Chowdhury of Baira said Bangladeshi brokers in destination countries, who actually hike up the migration cost, should be eliminated, but efforts for that have been absent so far.

He said Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd (BOESL), the state-owned recruiting agent, is enough to send workers through government arrangements. It is, however, inefficient, he added.

Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan acknowledged BOESL's inefficiency, and said, "We are trying to strengthen it."

A recruiting agent, Abdul Alim said BMET's latest effort might end up being counter-productive, because it is not efficient in dealing with the sector's multi-dimensional demands and problems.

## Brazil, Portugal

**FROM PAGE 1**

Simao, on as a replacement for Duda, had a smart shot saved by Cesar.

In the 77th minute, Ronaldo got on the end of a Simao through-ball but blasted high and wide under pressure.

Portugal keeper Eduardo was then on hand to palm away a late effort from replacement Ramires to save any blushes amid boos and whistles at the Moses Mabhid Stadium.

## Bodies found beheaded in southern Afghanistan

AP, Kabul, Afghanistan

Two US troops were reported killed and the bodies of 11 men, some beheaded, were found yesterday in rising violence across Afghanistan.

Mohammad Khan, deputy police chief in Uruzgan province, said a villager in the Bagh Char area of Khas Uruzgan district spotted the bodies in a field and called police.

"They were killed because the Taliban said they were spying for the government, working for the government," he said.

The acting Uruzgan governor, Khudia Rahim, said five or six of the 11 victims had been beheaded.

Meanwhile, Nato reported that a US service member was killed in an insurgent attack Friday in eastern Afghanistan and another American died following a roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan on Thursday. Nato did not provide the exact location of the attacks.

Their deaths brought to 82 the number of international service members killed so far in June, which is already the deadliest month of the nearly 9-year-old war. Forty-eight were Americans.

Also in the south, a joint force of Afghan and international troops killed a midlevel Taliban commander and other insurgents Thursday who were planting a roadside bomb near the provincial capital of Kandahar province, Nato said. Some of the insurgents were killed by a coalition airstrike, Nato said.

It said the Taliban commander, Faizullah, was responsible for roadside bomb attacks in the Arghandab district of Kandahar and is believed to have killed at least one coalition soldier in March.

The coalition is ramping up security in and around Kandahar, the largest city in the south, in an effort to drive out insurgents and bring the area under the control of the central Afghan government in Kabul.

In Khost province, another joint force captured an alleged operative of the Haqqani network, an al-Qaeda-linked arm of the Taliban. Afghan and international forces have been involved in intense engagements with the Haqqani network along the border of Khost and Paktia provinces. Several insurgent commanders have been killed during operations, Nato said.

## RMG workers

**FROM PAGE 16**

picked them from the Chowrasta intersection at around 5:30pm, while several associations of garment workers arranged a rally in protest of filing cases against four thousand garment workers for demanding Tk 5,000 as minimum wage.

Officer-in-charge Abdur Rashid of Sadar Police Station said, they arrested Mishu and five others for holding rally without prior permission and instigating the workers to create anarchism at the garment factories.

However, Mishu refused the allegation saying they had arranged the rally after taking permission from the police authority.

Police arrested them few minutes before the closing stages of the peaceful protest rally. Mishu added.

## 60 JMB men

**FROM PAGE 16**

JMB men also looted three firearms and a walkie-talkie of the police. Later police recovered one missing firearm and the walkie-talkie.

The law enforcers arrested 19 top JMB militants including Ataur Rahman Sani and Abdul Awal from Khetlal. Later they were freed on bail, police said.

Shiddiquir Rahman alias Bangla Bhai was also arrested under section 54 by Joypurhat police when he came to meet the arrestees at the jail gate. But he was also freed on bail.

Sources said former sub-inspector of Joypurhat police station Shafiqul Islam Shazu filed a case on August 15, 2003.

On June 26, 2008 the then CID inspector Md Jalal uddin submitted a charge sheet accusing 61 persons.

But the court of Judicial Magistrate ordered reinvestigation into the case as it found glitches in the charge sheet.

The CID of Dinajpur reinvestigated the case and submitted the charge sheets Thursday last.

Sources said charge sheets were filed against 60 as a militant Rashedul Islam who died in the meantime was exempted from the charge.

## DMP commissioner

**FROM PAGE 1**

processions or hartal activities on major streets including DIT, airport and Minto roads, said the DMP chief at a press briefing at Rajarbagh Telecom Auditorium in the capital.

The DMP authorities would deploy 10,000 police personnel and detectives during hartal hours forming 451 patrol teams, 74 striking teams each with 10 forces. Additional 15 reserve strike teams would be deployed around the Shahbagh police control room while detectives in important areas including the secretariat.

The commissioner said these teams, each headed by a deputy commissioner, would operate in the DMP area, which has been divided into nine divisions.

A list of pro-hartal activists, who might carry out subversive activities, had been prepared, said Shahidul Haque, adding that the law enforcers had been asked to arrest these activists. He, however, declined to disclose the list.

He said hartal is a political programme and in a democratic country police will not interrupt any political activities but they will try to uphold citizens' rights in any situation.

If pickets force unwilling people to join the hartal police would stand by the people taking action against the pickets, said the commissioner.

For instance, he said, leaders of Transport Owners Association met him seeking help on the hartal day so that they can run their vehicles on city streets uninterrupted.

The DMP commissioner warned of any kind of anarchy in the form of vandalism, shutting down business centres.

## Road crashes

**FROM PAGE 16**

Hossain of Sitakunda police station.

In Bogra, at least five people were killed and six others critically injured when two trucks collided head-on on Dhaka-Bogra highway in Sherpur upazila.

The victims were Asadul Islam, 32, Faruk, 27, Mamun, 17, Alauddin, 18, and one unidentified, reports our correspondent from Bogra.

Officer-in-Charge Amirul Islam of Sherpur police station said four died on the spot, while Asadul succumbed to his injuries at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Of the injured, condition of one was critical.

## PM to give

**FROM PAGE 16**

blaze victims were buried yesterday at a graveyard in Jurain.

Officer-in-Charge Abdur Mannan of Bangshal Police Station said the authorities of Sir Salimullah Medical College yesterday morning handed the bodies over to the Anjuman-e-Mufidul Islam, a charitable organisation, for their burial.

The charred bodies were brought to the morgue following the devastating fire at Old Dhaka on June 3 that left at least 121 people dead and scores wounded.

Morgue sources said they have preserved DNA samples of the unidentified victims to conduct DNA tests in future, if necessary.

## Khaleda

**FROM PAGE 1**

Asked about the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner's warnings against processions and rallies hampering public movement on hartal day, she said the government would have to bear the responsibilities if anything untoward happens for its attempts to obstruct the opposition programme.

The former prime minister however said time is not ripe yet for demanding a mid-term election. She advised the government: "Grasp the gravity of the situation and correct yourself."

Citing the Chittagong city corporation election where BNP-backed mayor candidate won a landslide victory, BNP chairperson thanked the port city dwellers.

She said, "People of Chittagong have given a verdict against the government's failure and misuse. They have shown a positive way of resistance."

Senior leaders including Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and standing committee members, among others, were present at the press meet.

Meanwhile, BNP and its allies were wrapping up their preparations for hartal.

Secretaries general of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Islami Oikya Jote last night met at the BNP chief's office to discuss the preparations.

tres, blockading roads and so on. Police would file criminal cases against such pickets, he added.

Meanwhile, Legal and Media Wing Director of Rapid Action Battalion Commander Mohammad Sohail said they would deploy 200 Rab personnel in the capital while 2,500 outside the city.

Rab dog squads and bomb disposal units would be deployed at strategic points.

DMP sources said members of the intelligence department would be deployed from this evening while police personnel early tomorrow.

## Mother

**FROM PAGE 16**

Majhbari at Pangshain Rajbari.

Locals and flat owners of the building where Samiul's family stayed told The Daily Star yesterday that Samiul's father knew about Humayra and Arif but he did not take any steps.

Azam, the father, on Thursday at the police station said he did not know anything about his wife's affair.

Treasurer of the flat owners' association of the building Alamgir Kabir said around one and half years ago a woman came to the flat and was screaming. "That woman was complaining to Azam