

Storm lashes 2 Kurigram unions on Eid day

25 injured, 300 houses damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Storm accompanied by heavy rain lashed two unions under Chilmari upazila of the district in the early hours of Eid day, damaging at least 300 houses

and injuring 25 people. Upazila administration sources said the storm hit Ramna Union and Thana Hat Union at around 2:45am and lasted for 15 minutes.

The worst affected villages

are Patrakhata, Guchchhagram and Badherpar under Ramna Union and Machabandha, Balabari Hat, Kishamat Banu, Beparir Hat, Teli Para and Shekh Para villages under

Thana Hat Union.

Twenty-five families in three villages under Ramna Union and 155 families in six villages under Thana Hat Union were rendered homeless by the storm. At least 25 people of the affected villages received injuries and are undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

People of the storm-hit villages could not join Eid congregations due to downpour that continued until 6:00pm.

While visiting the affected areas on Sunday, villagers Abdus Sattar, Azahar Ali, Akkas Ali and Shawkat Ali of Balabari Hat village told this correspondent that they could not join Eid congregation due to heavy rain. The correspondent found them living under open sky as the twister damaged their houses.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Habibur Rahman, Chilmari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Enamul Haque, Chilmari Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Shawkat Ali visited the storm-hit areas on Sunday and gave 20kg of rice and Tk 1,000 to each of the 155 storm-hit families.



PHOTO: STAR

A storm on Eid day blew away the house of this family at Sheikh Para village under Chilmari upazila of Kurigram.

EMBANKMENT COLLAPSE

200 shrimp, fish enclosures washed away in Bagerhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

More than 200 shrimp and fish enclosures in Bagerhat have been washed away as an embankment adjacent to the Bhairab River collapsed on Friday night.

The Water Development Board (WDB) embankment on polder number 35/3 collapsed due to tidal surge, flooding Radha Ballab Beel and marooning over 150 families of Radha Ballab and Katua villages.

Local people have been trying to repair the embankment through voluntary labour since Sunday morning.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, president of Radha Ballab Agricultural Cooperative Association under Bagerhat Sadar upazila said there are around 1400 acres of land in the beel.

He said several hundred people of the area have remained marooned since Friday night while the owners of the shrimp and fish enclosures

suffered a loss of about Tk 4 crore.

During a visit to the area yesterday, farmer Sheikh Sohrab, 50, of Radha Ballab village told this correspondent that said his family could not prepare food on Eid day as his house was submerged by tidal water. He said tidal water washed away his fish enclosure on 10 kathas of land in the beel.

Two siblings--Nikunja Paul and Shankar Paul--of Katua village said they planted aman seedlings on their 24 bighas of

land. But the seedlings got damaged due to saline water.

WDB Executive Engineer Bazlur Rashid said the WDB employees with the help of local people are trying to repair the damaged embankment.

Bagerhat Sadar upazila fisheries officer has preparing a list of the affect fish farmers in Radha Ballab Beel area. District fisheries officer Bazlur Rashid said the flood damage has been estimated at Tk 90 lakh by his department.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals start repairing the damaged portion of an embankment adjacent to the Bhairab River in Bagerhat Sadar upazila through voluntary labour yesterday.

2 youths, 3 children drown

Three missing in trawler capsized

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two college students and three children drowned in Sylhet and Narsingdi on Thursday and Sunday while three people were missing in river Passur in Khulna yesterday.

Two college students drowned in the river Plain in Jafflong tourist area in Sylhet Sunday afternoon.

They are Ainul Haque, 19, of Muktagachha upazila of Mymensingh and Ruhul Amin Khan, 20, of Jhnuakathi of Jhalkathi district.

The incident occurred as a group of around 30 students from different colleges of Dhaka were visiting Jafflong in the afternoon, reports our staff

correspondent. Their family members took the bodies yesterday afternoon from the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College after postmortem.

In Narsingdi, three children drowned in a water body at Mahmudabad village under Raipura upazila on Thursday afternoon, reports a correspondent.

The dead were identified as Ria Moni, 10, Shihab Khan, 7, daughter and son of Italy expatriate Rahat Khan and his nephew Ripon, 7.

Officer-in-charge Abdul Baten of Raipura police station said the accident occurred at around 11:00am Thursday as the three children went to

collect water lily from a nearby water body.

Family members recovered the floating bodies about an hour after the mishap.

Meanwhile, three people were feared drown as a trawler carrying 54 tourists from Meherpur capsized in river Passur yesterday, reports UNB.

Rashidul Islam and Shamim of Amjhupi Union and Mohan of Meherpur town, both around 20, remained missing, said survivor Masum Ali by phone.

Coastguard Operation Officer at Mongla Lt Commander Lokman Hakim said two separate teams of divers drown from police, navy and coastguard were carrying

out rescue operation for the missing tourists. None of them was found till 3pm. The trawler capsized as it was overloaded.

Masum Ali said, 54 people from Khoksa and Golappur village of Meherpur Sadar upazila came in a bus to Mongla in the morning on a pleasure trip.

They hired the trawler from Mongla Port and sailed for Karamjal in the Sundarbans.

Caught in a whirlpool the engine propelled boat capsized in the river in front of Fuel Jetty, about 100 yards of the Port, at about 9am.

All but three managed to swim ashore or rescued by boats and trawlers around, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Like every year, the biggest Eid congregation was held at Sholakia in Kishoreganj. Locals claim that over four lakh people, including Muslims from abroad, joined the prayers on Saturday.

Billboards having Khaleda's portrait damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two billboards containing portraits of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain were damaged allegedly by the ruling party men at Baniajuri Bus stand beside Dhaka-Aricha highway under Ghior upazila early Sunday.

Local BNP sources alleged that the ruling party men led by Golam Rabbani Bulbul, general secretary of Baniajuri Union AL, Almas Uddin Biswas, assistant secretary, and Prodig Kumer Mondol, a member of the unit, damaged the billboards at the bus stand.

Shopkeepers at the bus stop said a group of people damaged the billboards at around 3:00am. They also beat up night guard Helal Uddin as he protested their act.

Protesting the incident, locals and shopkeepers on Sunday confined the three AL men to Baniajuri Union AL office for two hours from 9:00am.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Ghior Police Station Azizur Rahman told this correspondent that police rescued the AL men at around 11:00am.

No case was filed with the police station concerned in connection with the incident as of filing of this report as 5:00pm yesterday.

Local BNP and its associate bodies also brought out a procession in Baniajuri bus stand area on Sunday demanding exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for damaging the portraits of their party chief and secretary general.

Teenage girl raped in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A teenage girl was raped at Rauzan upazila in the district on Sunday.

Police said, one Ahmedur Rahman, 26, had an affair with the girl, aged about 16. Promising to marry, Ahmedur took the girl out of her house at Yasin Nagar under the upazila at around 11:00am.

Later, Ahmedur with the help of three of his accomplices raped the girl at a solitary place in Haladia Rubber Garden area and dropped her near her house at around 2:00pm and fled away, police said.

She was admitted to local health complex on Sunday and later shifted to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Her father, a day-labourer, filed a case with Rauzan police station accusing Ahmedur and his cohorts Nasir Uddin alias Nasu, 27, Mohammad Sujan, 25, and Mohammad Moslem, 22.

Ticket crisis, high fares haunt Eid returnees

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Passengers, who went to observe Eid festival with the dear and near ones in the southern region, have continued suffering even during their return journey to work stations due to scarcity of tickets and high prices.

Tickets of the most routes are hardly available outside the black market as tickets for a few days before and after the Eid festival were sold out two weeks before the holidays started.

State owned Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) could not arrange adequate 'special services' to tackle the Eid-rush due to acute shortage of vessels.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) did not arrange any special service on this occasion.

Taking this opportunity, private operators of road and water transports in the southern districts realised 40 to 80 percent additional fare from

passengers during September 6--September 18.

According to the launch and bus owners associations, 13 triple-decker launches plying up and down Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal will have at least 224 trips in those days before and after the Eid while about 100 buses are daily plying from Barisal to different long routes, mostly connecting Dhaka.

Passengers of BIWTC vessels on Dhaka-Barisal-Dhaka route in a single trip have to pay Tk 565 for one first class cabin seat, Tk 355 for one second class cabin seat and Tk 95 for each deck seat.

Usually the fare of private launches is Tk 500 for a first class cabin seat equivalent to second class of a BIWTC vessel, Tk 1400 for a VVIP cabin seat equivalent to first class of a BIWTC vessel, Tk 250 per sofa and Tk 80-100 per deck on the same route.

But for the said 12 days, private launch operators increased their fare to Tk 700-750 for a first class cabin seat, Tk 1850-2000 per VVIP cabin

seat, Tk 400-450 per sofa and Tk 80-100 per deck on the route.

The additional charges will earn the operators a total of Tk 1.2 crore more.

The one-way bus fare on Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route has been increased from Tk 280 to Tk 400 for September 6 to September 18.

Asked about realising the exorbitant rates of fare, leaders of launch and road transport owners' associations failed to give any satisfactory answer.

About one hundred coaches, each having 40 seats on an average, are daily running on different long routes of the region linking Dhaka during September 6 -- September 18 and they will earn a total of Tk 32 lakh extra profit.

Operators of launches, trawlers and ferries and even manual transports like rickshaw and van plying different local routes in the southern region are also realising 40% to 80% additional fare during the Eid holidays.



PHOTO: STAR

Some timber traders with the connivance of a section of government employees felled a big Akash Moni tree on Dimla-Sutibari Road on Thursday evening. Photo shows logs of the felled tree at a sawmill in the upazila.

28 injured as AL men clash over sharing of 'Eid bonus'

2 killed, 40 hurt in separate clashes

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 28 Awami League (AL) activists were injured as two groups of a local unit of the ruling party clashed over sharing of 'Eid bonus' sent by Magura district unit at Rajapur village under Sreepur upazila on Sunday.

Meanwhile, two people were killed and 40 others injured in separate incidents in Chapainawabganj and Netrakona districts on Saturday and Sunday.

Our Magura correspondent reported that the clash took place following an altercation between the supporters of Amalsar union AL vice-president Khabir Hossain Khan and local Krishak League president Ahmed Ali at around 8:00am over distribution of money sent by the district unit among the party activists on the occasion of Eid.

At one stage, the activists of the two groups equipped with

lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving at least 28 people from both sides injured.

Being informed, law enforcers from Sreepur Police Station rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police have been deployed at the village.

Of the injured, ten were admitted to Sreepur Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid.

In Chapainawabganj, one person was killed as two rival groups clashed over capture of a disputed land at Naldubi village under Shibgonj upazila of the district on Saturday morning.

The dead was identified as, Rezaul Hossain, 35, son of Tofazzal Hossain of the village. Police later arrested five people at the village in connection with the murder.

around 7:00am. They attacked each other with sticks and iron rods. Rezaul received injuries on the head and died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

In Netrakona, one person was killed and 40 others were injured as villagers clashed over fishing in a water body at Kamargap village under Kendua upazila on Sunday, reports our correspondent.

The dead was identified as Shahidullah, 26, son of late Chand Mia of the village.

Police and local people said Shahidullah group and Mostafa group of Kamargap village clashed over fishing in the water body at the village.

Shahidullah died on the spot and 40 people from both sides received injuries during the clash that continued for an hour.

A case was filed with Kendua Police Station on Sunday night. But no one was arrested as of 5:00pm yesterday.