



Tidal surge damages houses outside the embankment of the Baleshwar River in Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat, *middle*, affected people with their belongings leave for safer places, *right*, damaged portion of the embankment at Rajoir in the upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

TIDAL SURGE DAMAGES HOUSES, EMBANKMENTS

Aila-affected Sharankhola, Koira badly hit again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tidal surge caused by depression over the Bay has swept away over 1,000 thatched and mud houses, damaged embankments and crops and disrupted communications in Khulna and Bagerhat districts.

The affected people, who have taken refuge at shelter centres, have been facing severe crisis of food and drinking water since Friday. The shelter centres are not sufficient enough to accommodate a large number of people.

Five to six feet high tidal surge hit several villages of the two districts, damaging food protection embankments at different points.

According to Koira Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abul Bashir, cracks have developed in most of WDB embankments. At least 20 villages in seven unions of the upazila have been flooded, marooning over 2,000 people, he added.

Three to four feet high tidal waves of Kalabogi River hit Dakop upazila, also in Khulna district, on Friday, damaging over 200 houses, uprooting electric poles and a large number of trees in nine unions, said UNO Md

Daulatuzzaman.

The Aila-hit people, who have been staying in makeshift camps on embankments since May 2009, are now the worst victims of inclement weather, said Upazila Chairman Sheikh Abul Hossain.

In Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district, over 700 thatched and mud houses were washed away by six to seven feet high tidal surge of the furious Baleshwar River.

UNO Khandaker Zahirul Islam said six unions under the upazila have been inundated as the 15-kilometre-long embankment of the Baleshwar developed cracks at eight to 10 points due to high tide. Thirty under-construction houses with financial assistance of the Indian government in Sharankhola upazila have also been damaged, the UNO added.

Tidal surge accompanied by torrential rain and gusty wind have damaged standing crops on about 2,000 acres of land in Southkhali, Rayenda and Khontakata unions of the upazila.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Supati forest station in the Sundarbans, said two fish-ing trawlers

capsized in the sea on Thursday. But I did not get any further information about fate of the fishermen on board, he said.

Loading and unloading of goods at the outer anchorage of Mongla port have remained suspended since Thursday night.

Torrential rains also disrupted normal life in Khulna city and most of the low-lying areas went under knee-deep water on Friday.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: Torrential rain has disrupted normal life in the city and forced most of the people to stay inside their houses.

Roads and the low-lying areas have been inundated, causing disruption to vehicular movement and sufferings to city dwellers.

River port authorities imposed restrictions on plying ML type motor launches less than 65 feet length due to inclement weather, said Kazi Wakil Newaz, deputy director of BIWTA, Barisal.

All fishing boats and trawlers on the north Bay and have been advised to stay on the shore until further order, the BIWTA office said.

One killed, 36 hurt in UP election-related clashes

STAR NATIONAL DESK

One person was killed and at least 36 others were injured in union parishad election-related clashes in Jhenidah and Kishoreganj districts yesterday.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reported that the supporters of two chairman candidates clashed at Dakkhin Castosagra village during election to Shurat Union Parishad under Sadar upazila yesterday, leaving a man dead and at least 25 others from both injured.

The deceased was identified as Jaminur Rahman, 32 son of Ezahar Joardar of the village.

Police quoted locals as saying that the clash ensued as the supporters of Awami League supported candidate Monjurul Islam intercepted some voters on their way to Dakkhin Castosagra polling centre at around 9:00am.

The supporters of BNP backed candidate Kabir Hossain locked in altercation with their rivals over the issue and at one stage, both sides equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, injuring at least 26 people.

Of the injured, 12 including Jaminur were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital while the rest given first aid. Jaminur was shifted to Faridpur Medical College



PHOTO: STAR

Braving rain, female voters go to polling centre to cast their votes in union parishad election at Bhumdakkhin High School centre in Singair upazila of Manikganj district riding rickshaw van and on foot yesterday.

and Hospital as his condition deteriorated. He succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at around 11:30 am.

However, voting at all the 85 centres in nine unions of Sadar upazils was largely peaceful. According to an election official, as many as 44 chairman, 296 member candidates and 95 women for the reserved seats contested the election to nine union parishad.

In Kishoreganj, At least 12 people, including three cops,

were injured in clashes at two polling centres in Gobria-Abdullahpur Union of Kuliarchar upazila yesterday

Police said a gang of criminals attacked Laxmipur Government Primary School centre during voting in the morning. They snatched 600 ballot papers, stamps, seal and other equipment from the centre. Nine people were injured during a scuffle with the gang, reports UNB.

Police arrested a man named Khokon Mia, 22, son

of Hassan Ali of Bhatipara village for his alleged involvement in the attack.

At Bhatipara polling center at South Laxmipur, criminals equipped with lethal weapons entered the centre at around 11:00am.

They snatched ballot papers, voting equipment and assaulted policemen, leaving Sub-Inspector Nizam Uddin and constables Tofail and Rezaul Karim of Kuliarchar Police Station injured.



PHOTO: STAR

Five Indian trawlers were seized in Mohipur area of Patuakhali yesterday and the day before as they entered Bangladesh waters during depression.

79 Indian fishermen rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 79 Indian fishermen in five fishing trawlers were rescued in Bangladesh waters in Mohipur area of the district yesterday and the day before.

Of them, 64 fishermen with four trawlers were rescued early yesterday and 15 with one trawler on Friday evening.

All the fishermen and their trawlers are now under police custody.

Police said, the Indian fishermen were fishing in the deep sea. They entered into Bangladesh territory during depression as their trawler engine went out of order.

The trawlers are FB Malakhmi, FB Annapurna, FB Anandomoe, FB

Shankhodip and an unnamed one.

Rescued fisherman Nikhil Das said, their trawlers were floating in the Bay and local fishermen brought them to Mohipur. One of their trawlers capsized and it also entered the same area during the tidal surge, he added.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and brought all the rescued fishermen to their custody. Abu Bakor Siddiqi, additional superintendent of police in Patuakhali told this correspondent.

Patuakhali police superintendent has already informed the matter to the Indian embassy through high officials, he added.

The fishermen will be handed over to Indian government following legal procedure, he said.

Convicted BDR man dies at hospital

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A BDR member who was convicted in 2009 BDR mutiny case died while undergoing treatment at Sadar hospital yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Sepoy Hafizur Rahman Feroz, 36, son of Tofazzal Hossain Majumdar of Rajpasha village of Jhalakati district.

Jail superintendent of the district jail Giasuddin said Feroz was suffering from liver cirrhosis. Once he was given treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

He was taken to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital four days ago as his condition deteriorated in the jail. Later, he died at 10:00 am yesterday.

Feroz was sentenced to six months jail in a departmental case of BDR.

2 cocktails found at RU hall

RU CORRESPONDENT

Motihar police yesterday recovered two cocktails from a drain of Sher-e-Bangla hall of Rajshahi University (RU).

Sources said a worker of the hall found the cocktails while he was cleaning the drain in front of room 6 of west block of the hall around 11:00am.

The worker informed the matter to the hall officials who called Motihar police to take steps in this regard.

Contacted, hall provost Provash Kumar Sheel said, "We are anxious about the matter. We are trying to identify the culprits."

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জন সচেতনতায় :

বিআইডব্লিউটিএ

নদী রক্ষার আহবান

অবেধ দখলদার এবং বিষাক্ত বর্জ্যে ঢাকার চারিদিকের বুড়িগঙ্গা, শীতলক্ষ্যা, তুরাগ ও বালু নদী মৃত প্রায়।
নদীগুলোর প্রাণ ফিরিয়ে এনে নির্মল ঢাকা গড়তে আপনার নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

আর নয় বিষাক্ত নদী

নদীতে

- অবেধ স্থাপনা নির্মাণ করবেন না
- পলিথিন বা বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- দৈনন্দিন গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- হাসপাতাল, ট্যানারী বা শিল্প বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- সুয়েরেজ সংযোগ দিবেন না
- মল-মূত্র ত্যাগ করবেন না
- নৌযানে ব্যবহৃত পোড়া তেল ফেলবেন না
- মাটি বা বালু দিয়ে ভরাট করবেন না
- স্বাভাবিক গতি প্রবাহ বাধাগ্রস্ত হয় এমন কাজ করবেন না

চাই স্বপ্নের নির্মল নদী

মলে রাখবেন, নদী দখল এবং দূষণ করা পোর্ট রুলস-১৯৬৬ এবং বাংলাদেশ পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ আইন-১৯৯৫ অনুযায়ী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

জন সচেতনতায় :

বিআইডব্লিউটিএ