

WATERLOGGED 7 UPAZILAS IN SATKHIRA

Education of five lakh children hampered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Education of over 4.5 lakh students in flood-hit seven upazilas of Satkhira district is being hampered as most of the institutions, inundated on August 2, are still waterlogged.

Besides, a large number of educational institutions in the upazilas are being used as temporary shelters for the affected people.

Following heavy rainfall, silted Kabodak and Betna rivers overflowed their banks, flooding Tala, Satkhira Sadar, Assassuni, Debhata and Kalaroa, Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazilas.

Around 382 school, 30 madrasas and 21 colleges in the upazilas are either waterlogged or being used as temporary shelters for the affected people.

District primary education office sources said 48 primary schools in Tala upazila, 56 in Sadar upazila, 26 in Assassuni upazila, 19 in Debhata upazila, seven in Kalaroa upazila, two in Kaliganj upazila, and 26

schools in Shyamnagar upazila are still under water.

As many as 45 primary schools in Tala upazila, 25 in Sadar upazila, 26 in Assassuni upazila, 10 in Debhata upazila, and four in Kalaroa upazila have been made temporary shelters, sources further said.

Education of students at most of the institutions in the seven upazilas are being greatly hampered as flood waters have not yet receded from the schools, sources further said.

District Primary Education Officer (DPO) Panjhanon Bala said over 126 primary schools have been made temporary shelters in the affected upazilas. "We have urged the flood victims to leave these institutions to resume academic activities, but to no effect," he said, adding that their houses were completely damaged by flood.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna reported that a team of senior officials of the Ministry of Women and Children

Affairs yesterday visited the flood affected areas of Shibpur, Majhiarah, Khayerdanga, Khanpur and Kismatghona under Tala upazila, Shubarnaghat, Baroshanta and other affected areas of Debhata Upazila of Satkhira district.

The team members talked to the flood-hit people and exchanged views on how to redress untold sufferings of the victims, particularly women and children.

The officials include Project Director of Empowerment and Protection of Children (EPC) Project Ashrafunessa, Assistant Project Director Md Hafizul Islam, Senior Assistant Secretary Suraiya Akhter Jahan, Prof Rezaul Karim, Shambhu Chowdhury and Hasina Begum.

Apart from seeing for themselves the relief distribution work, they also talked to the affected people on matters relating to prevention of women and child trafficking and dropouts of school going children.



PHOTO: STAR

Serving as shelter for the flood affected people, this primary school at Kumira in Tala upazila of Satkhira district has kept academic activities suspended for over a month. Study of over 4.5 lakh students in seven flood-hit upazilas under the district is badly affected as more than 400 educational institutions are either flooded or being used as flood shelters.

ARREST FOR INTRUSION, DRUG TRADE

Demonstration by Indians disrupts trade at Hili port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Trade at Hili land port in Dinajpur district remained suspended for over an hour yesterday as hundreds of Indians staged demonstration in the zero line area there demanding release of an Indian national arrested by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Wednesday noon.

A BGB team picked up Md Atiar Rahman, son of Hazrat Mondal of Purbo Abtoir Hili village of Pashchimbanga, from Shatkania village of Hakimpur upazila in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh on Wednesday noon when he was having tea at a roadside tea stall, said BGB sources.

BGB of Joypurhat-3 Battalion filed a case with Joypurhat police station the same day on charge of intrusion and drug trade in Bangladesh territory, they said.

The Indian protesters gathered in Hili land port area in Dakkhin Dinajpur of

Pashchimbanga of yesterday noon. They halted the trade, staged demonstration and chanted slogans against the arrest.

At a rally, the agitators threatened to enforce harhal at the land port if Atiar is not freed immediately, said the officer in charge (Immigration) of Hili in Dakkhin Dinajpur.

They also threatened to harass Bangladeshi travelers in Indian territory if their demand is not met.

At around 2:40pm, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and police removed the agitators and restored the cross-border trade.

Meanwhile, BSF gave proposal for talks to BGB but the latter declined, BGB sources said.

According to the records of Hili land port immigration offices in Dinajpur of Bangladesh and Dakkhin Dinajpur of Pashchimbanga, Atiar Rahman entered Bangladesh on August 31

with Indian passport (No E721304, issue date August 1, 2011) and his visa for Bangladesh issued on August 29 has 60-day validity.

He was to visit Monirul Islam, C/O Nasir Uddin, Daudpur village of Nawabganj upazila in Dinajpur, says the entry record at the land port immigration.

Paritosh Kumar, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat police station confirmed that a case was filed against Atiar Rahman with the police station.

When contacted, Col Shawkat Alam, sector commander of BGB in Dinajpur, said, "Atiar is a godfather of drug peddlers of the two neighbouring countries. BGB members detected some errors in this passport."

On the other hand, PK Mondal, OC (Immigration) at Hili in Dakkhin Dinajpur, claimed that Atiar's passport was okay.

Pabna PP suspended on graft charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Public Prosecutor (PP) of Pabna advocate Belayet Ali Billu has been suspended on charge of corruption, court sources said.

An official letter issued by Mir Shafikul Alam, deputy solicitor of the law ministry in this regard came to the district judge court on Wednesday, they said.

In the letter, additional PP of Pabna Md Akteruzzaman was given the temporary charge of the post.

The suspension order was issued on Wednesday following complaints of 26 people. Belayet Ali was suspended on charge of anti human activity and corruption. An inquiry would be conducted against him soon, the letter said.

However, Belayet Ali Billu, also joint secretary of Pabna district unit Awami League claimed that he was a victim of conspiracy.

Akteruzzaman, additional public prosecutor, yesterday confirmed the incident and said he had already joined the court as the acting PP.



PHOTO: STAR

People of 12 Indian enclaves inside Panchagarh district start fast unto death on the premises of Shaheed Minar in Panchagarh town yesterday demanding early exchange of enclaves.

Frustrated enclave people on fast-unto-death

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Frustrated enclave people began a fast-unto-death in Panchagarh while people of 12 Indian enclaves in Kurigram observed a token half-day hunger strike yesterday.

They were demanding immediate implementation of Indo-Bangla enclave exchange accord.

In Panchagarh, the fast-unto-death programme began at Shaheed Minar in the town, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

Leader of India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee and chairman of Shalbari enclave Sirajul Islam, chairman of Puthimari enclave Toslimuddin and chairman of Garati enclave Mofizer Rahman led the programme joined by over a hundred people of different enclaves in Panchagarh.

A discussion followed the fast-unto-death programme.

The speakers at the discussion

expressed their frustration as no timeframe was mentioned in the agreement signed on Tuesday between India and Bangladesh for implementation of exchange of enclaves.

It was just a renewal of Mujib-Indira Treaty of 1974. No new thing was added to the deal for relief of the enclave people, they alleged.

It will not bring any good to the enclave people as there is no specific timeframe for exchange of enclaves, they said.

They said the enclave people live in awful conditions amid lack of adequate employment opportunity, infrastructure, educational institutions, electricity and medical facilities.

They urged both the governments to implement the deal as soon as possible considering the enclave people's miserable life without citizens' rights.

Our Kurigram correspondent adds: People of 12 Indian enclaves yesterday observed a half-day hunger strike at

Kalirhat Bazar of Indian enclave Dashiari Chhara demanding implementation of enclave exchange accord.

Dashiari Chhara enclave people tried to enter Kurigram district town at 10:00am yesterday to observe the hunger strike programme at the district's Central Shaheed Minar.

But Phulbari police resisted their procession and returned them back into their Indian enclave.

Later the Indian enclave people gathered at Kalirhat Bazar of Dashiari Chhara enclave and observed hunger strike till 5:00pm on the day.

According to official estimates, Bangladesh has 51 enclaves inside India. Similarly, India has 111 enclaves inside Bangladesh.

Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh are situated in four districts -- Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Nilphamari -- while all 51 Bangladeshi enclaves are in Indian Cooch Behar district.

Torture for failing to repay loan

Now they are threatening to kill the victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The accused of a criminal case and their relatives are threatening to kill the complainant if she does not withdraw the case.

Moina Begum, 22, lodged an FIR with Khulna Sadar Police Station on the night of September 4 against three people on charge of brutal torture on her.

The FIR was recorded as a regular case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act at 10:00pm the same night. Hours later, police arrested an accused -- Raju, 23, of Rupsha Strand Road in Khulna city.

Two other accused are Raju's sister Noor Nahar, 25, and mother Jahar Banu, 48.

Moina Begum stated in her FIR that the accused tortured her brutally in their house on June 13 this year for failing to pay back loan of Tk 5000 with compound interest.

"They confined me to a room and brutally tortured me physically for several hours. At one stage, they cut hair of my head and rubbed bitumen on my face. They also poured dust of dried chilli on different places of my body including private parts," goes the FIR.

The accused, also alleged drug peddlers, threatened to kill her in case of any police action, she said, adding, "As OC Kamruzzaman refused to receive my FIR that time, I went into hiding for security reasons."

Senior Sub Inspector Asmani Khanam, who has been made investigation officer (IO) of the case, arrested accused Raju on September 5 morning. "Raju is a drug peddler.



The torturers at one stage cut Moina Begum's hair and rubbed bitumen on face.

He is also a stalker. I am trying hard to arrest the two other absconding accused in this sensational case," the IO said.

When contacted, Moina Begum told this correspondent yesterday, "I went to Dhaka and stayed there for days with a relative who provided financial assistance for my medical treatment. But still I am not physically and mentally fit

enough to move freely. Now in Khulna, I am feeling insecure due to the threat from the accused."

When asked about the reason for refusing to receive the FIR two months ago, OC Kamruzzaman said, "It is not mandatory to always answer each and every query of journalists regarding a criminal case for the sake of investigation."

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