

Flash flood leaves 10,000 marooned in Gaibandha

C'nawabganj situation marks slight improvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Onrush of water from the upstream has flooded hundreds of houses in low-lying areas of Jamuna and Ghagot river basins in the district in the last two days, leaving over 10,000 people marooned.

Floodwater also inundated vast tracts of cropland in 16 unions of three upazilas.

According to the local water development board office water levels of Jamuna and Ghagot rivers swelled alarmingly and were flowing 44 and 43cm of above

danger marks.

The worst affected areas are Hatbari, Gobindi, Sathalia, Hasilkani, Patilbari, Nalsia, Gobindapur, Haldia in Saghata upazila, Galna, Nilkuthi, Bhajondanga, Baje Phulchhari, Pipulia, Gabgachhi, Kholabari, Ziadanga, Khatiyamari, Kalasoner Char, Kaiteer Haat, Harichandi, Kabilpur, Rasoolpur in Phulchhari upazila and Kamarjani, Batikamari, Pardiya and Kharjani in Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

In Phulchhari upazila, crops including Aman paddy, pulse and seedbeds

on vast areas went under water. Most dwelling houses in charland were submerged by knee-deep water.

Due to sudden increase of water levels, the flood control dykes are under serious threat in Phulchhari and Saghata upazilas. Besides, Gaibandha town protection dyke along River Ghagot also face similar threat at three vulnerable points.

Meanwhile, flood situation in Chapainawabganj district has marked a slight improvement while the low-lying areas of the district still remain under flood water, reports our

correspondent.

Sources at the local Water Development Board (WDB) on Monday said the water levels of Padma and Mahananda rivers marked fall although they were still flowing above danger levels.

Heavy rain followed by onrush of water from the upstream for the last two weeks flooded 15 unions of Sadar and Shibganj upazilas and some low-lying areas of Chapainawabganj municipality, learning over one lakh villagers marooned.

The affected unions are Alatali, Narayanpur, Anupnagar, Shahjahanpur, Debinagar, Charbagdanga, Islampur and Sundarpur and partially of Moharajpur and Baroghoria of sadar upazila and Panka, Ujirpur, Durloppur, Monakasha, Ghorapakhia, Chhatrajitpur and partially of Shabajpur union in Shibganj upazila.

A large number of flood hit people have already taken shelter on embankment and high lands. They face acute crisis of food, fuel and drinking water.

Many educational institutions suspended their academic activities as flood water entered the classrooms.

The floodwaters damaged Aus paddy on about 6.83 thousand hectares and vegetables on 530 hectares in the upazilas, said officials of the District Agriculture Extension office.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals of Mondolpara in Phulchhari upazila of Gaibandha put bamboo spars along the Kattamari--Nilkuthi flood control dyke to save it from being damaged as onrush of water from the upstream causes flooding in the low-lying areas of Jamuna and Ghagot river basins in the district.

15 hurt as AL, BNP men clash over mosque committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between local activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP over forming a mosque committee at Godai Rupsi village in Bhangura upazila of the district on Monday afternoon.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Bhangura upazila health complex while the rest given first aid

treatment.

Police quoting locals said a meeting was scheduled between two groups, one led by Bhangura upazila unit AL general secretary Baki Billah and the other led by the upazila unit BNP general secretary Noor Mujahid Swapan, on the premises of Godai Rupsi Jame Masjid around 4.00pm over forming a working committee for the mosque.

At one stage, a heated debate ensued between the two groups which later turned into a fierce clash with sticks, leaving 15 people injured from both sides.

Of the injured, Asghar Ali, 60, Abdul Aziz, 30, Rawshan Ali, 28, Abdul Kuddus, 45, Azimuddin, 32, Mahabub Alam, 25, and Abdul Malek, 45, were rushed to the health complex.

Hizb-ut Tawhid activists held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Police arrested two suspected female activists of Islamit outfit Hizb-ut Tawhid in Uttarpara area under Gangni upazila town of Meherpur district yesterday.

The law enforcers also seized 10 books on jihad and 50 leaflets from their possession.

The arrestees are Zulia Khatun, 21, and Sharmin Khatun, 22, of the area.

Police said, a team arrested the duo while they were distributing the books and leaflets at about 2:00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

An oil mill at Puran Bazar in Chandpur town is on the verge of being devoured by the Meghna as the river suddenly started its onslaught yesterday. Around 120 metre area of the town protection embankment went into the river in just six hours from 6:00am.

Two major parties forget promises after election

Says PCJSS, calling to implement accord fully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Hill Women's Federation (HWF) and Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) yesterday reiterated their demand for full implementation of the CHT peace accord.

They blamed the AL-led government for not taking effective measures to execute the accord fully in the last four and a half years of its rule.

"When the national election comes, the leaders of two major political parties make commitments to meet the demands of the indigenous people. After election, they forget everything," said the leaders of PCJSS and its front organisations while addressing a rally at Rajbari outer stadium in the town.

PCP district unit organised the rally, marking its 16th council. Chaired by PCP district unit President Ranonjoy Chakma, the

rally was addressed, among others, by Ushatan Talukdar, vice president of PCJSS central unit, Shoikat Ranjan Chowdhury, district convener of Chhatra Union, Rimita Chakma, secretary of Hill Women's Federation, and Sarat Jyoti Chakma.

The speakers said the armed cadres of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and Manabendra Narayan Larma faction of PCJSS are carrying out destructive activities in the three hill districts and killing PCJSS men one after another. They are also involved in kidnapping and extorting money from common people, the leaders alleged.

They demanded that the government ban UPDF, anti-peace treaty organisation, and MN Larma faction in hills.

The leaders also threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme to realise their demands, including full execution of the peace accord.

Newborn stolen from Bogra hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A newborn baby was stolen from a ward at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital on Monday night, 10 hours after his birth.

Shapla Begum, 20, wife of Mostafa Kamal of Jatholida village in Gabtoli upazila of the district was admitted to the hospital on Monday morning and she gave birth to a baby boy at around 10:00am.

According to Shapla's mother Meherunnessa, a woman aged around 50, entered the gynaecology and infant ward at around 8:00pm. At that time Shapla was napping along with her newborn baby.

"The woman told me that she came to the hospi-

tal to attend to her ailing mother in the adjacent room and took Shapla's baby boy in the lap as he was crying," Meherunnessa said, adding that when she went out of the ward to collect drinking water, the women took away her grandchild.

Meherunnessa, nurses and other hospital staff later searched for the woman and the baby, but in vain.

Senior nurse Anika Banu told newsmen that the incident took place at the time of shift change. "We often alert the relatives of the mothers of newborn babies about such incident, but they rarely heed to our advice" she said.

SNIPPETS

Sramik Dal man held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested a local Sramik Dal leader in Sultanganjpara area of the district town yesterday morning along with a foreign made pistol, two bullets, one magazine and a machete. The arrestee is Moniruzzaman Roni, 33, joint secretary of town unit Shramik Dal and son of late Yeasin Ali of Seujgari area. Police said on secret information, a team raided Roni's in-laws house and arrested him along with the arms and bullets at 9:00am.

Teacher suspended for caning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A schoolteacher was suspended on charge of mercilessly beating up a student in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district on Monday. The victim is 10-year-old daughter of Md Abdul Kayum of Gopinathpur village and a class four student of Ayma Rasulpur Government Primary School. Assistant teacher Md Rahman gave his students homework on Sunday. As Kemy could not complete the homework, the teacher started beating her mercilessly in the classroom. She was admitted to a hospital, he said.

Drilling starts at new gas well

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Drilling at the new well at Fenchuganj gas field in Kulaura upazila began yesterday. The drilling work at the well no 5 of the gas field in two unions of the upazila started under the supervision of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited. The work kicked off due to favourable weather condition, said drilling in-charge Rezaul Karim. Field in-charge Mohammad Hasanuzzaman said a total of 39 million cubic feet of gas is being added to the national grid everyday from two out of four wells in the gas field. Drilling remained halted in two other wells due to technical fault, he said.

Students block road

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University blocked the Gopalganj-Tungipara road yesterday, demanding seats in the residential hall. The roadblock continued for about three hours. Registrar of the university Jagodish Chandra Roy said work of two student halls has been completed till now. Only 250 second year students will get seats in the newly constructed hall initially. Others would get chance on completion of the hall, he said.

Old man 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An old man allegedly committed suicide following a family feud at Dhantola village in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat district on Monday. The deceased is Izar Akand, 103, of the village. Police and locals said, Izar's son and grand children declined to take care of him further. Being frustrated at the attitude of family members, Izar hanged himself from the window of the house.

BCL leader stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A Chhatra League leader was injured as criminals stabbed him in Bilsuka area of Bheramara upazila town on Sunday night. The victim is Ali Hasan Sony, 27, convener of Bheramara upazila unit BCL. He was admitted to the upazila health complex. Zafar Ali, officer in-charge of Bheramara police station, said a gang of 4/5 attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured while he was returning home from the town at 11:00pm.

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