

PATUAKHALI AND BARGUNA DISTRICTS 28 villages flooded as two dykes collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two flood control embankments—one in Bauful upazila of Patuakhali and the other in Amtali and Taltali upazilas of Barguna—collapsed in the last three days, inundating 28 villages of the upazilas.

The dykes collapsed during high tide under the impact of new moon, flooding 28 villages in three upazilas of the two districts.

In Bauful upazila, a one kilometre area of the flood control dyke of Tentulia River collapsed at Kalaiya points in the upazila, submerging eight villages under Nazirpur and Chandradwip unions.

The worst affected villages are char

Baret, char Rousaheb, Char Nimdi, Char Wadel, Char Darakachua, and Dihandi. At least 7,000 people of the villages are badly affected as their aman seedbeds have damaged by flood water.

Amir ALI, a farmer of Char Nimdi village, said aman seeds on his two bighas of land were damaged by flood water. Moslem Fakir, another farmer of Dihandi village said he cannot prepare aman seedbeds as his land is still under water.

"Farmers in the upazila will face aman seed crisis if they cannot prepare seedbeds within a week," Babul Bepari, a farmer of Chandradwip village said, adding that fishes in the

ponds of his village have been washed away.

Md Ibrahim Faruque, chairman of Janirpur Union Parishad, they are preparing a list of the flood-hit people of the union.

In Barguna, flood engulfed at least 20 villages in Amtali and Taltali upazilas of the district following collapse of a dyke at two points during high tide. Amtali town protection embankment is also under threat.

The badly affected areas are Amtali Launch terminal, ferryghat, Baliatali, Pashuribunia, West Ghatkali, Baithakata, Angulkata, Jayalbhang, Bargir Bazar, Moupara, Tentulbaria and Talukderpara.



PHOTO: STAR

Water enters cropland and villages through the breached portion of the flood control embankment at Kalaiya-Keshabpur point in Bauful upazila of Patuakhali yesterday.

Party rivals cut off AL man's tendons

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A group of party rivals severed the tendons of an Awami League activist at Mominpur village in Naldanga upazila of the district on Friday.

The victim, Mansur Rahman, 45, is an activist of local AL and a resident of the same village.

Police quoted locals as saying that there had been a longstanding dispute between Akkas Ali, former president of ward unit of AL and Mansur Rahman, over several local issues.

A gang of 14/15 youths led by Akkas Ali's son Mizan, hacked and cut off Mansur's tendons with sharp weapons, while the later was taking tea at a stall in Mominpur Bazar around 9:30pm on Friday, leaving him critically injured.

Locals rushed him to Natore Sadar Hospital, from where he was referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), following deterioration of his condition.

Meanwhile, the attackers again launched a fresh attack on the ambulance that was carrying Mansur from Natore to RMCH, but failed to do further harm to him.

Manirul Islam, officer in-charge of Naldanga Police Station, said Marium Begum, daughter of the victim filed a case with the police station, accusing 15 people yesterday morning.

Later in a drive, police arrested AL activists--Jahurul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Maruf Hossain, Alam Uddin, Uzzal Hossain in this connection and recovered some sharp weapons from them.

One dies as bus catches fire in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A man was killed and seven others were injured as a bus caught fire following explosion of its gas cylinder on Satkhira-Jessore road in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known as of filing of this report as 6:00pm yesterday.

Passengers of the bus said the gas cylinder a Satkhira-bound bus of Shohag Paribahan went off after the vehicle hit a roadside tree in Madabhkathi area at around 5:00pm.

They said the bus caught fire following the explosion, leaving a passenger dead and seven others injured. The injured were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Being informed, fire fighters from Satkhira town rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control.



PHOTO: STAR

Shalgaria Forestpara in Pabna municipality remains flooded for over two weeks as the drainage is too poor to release the water during the ongoing monsoon. Inset, people wade through the stagnant polluted water in the area yesterday.



POOR DRAINAGE IN PABNA TOWN

Thousands suffer due to water logging

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, Pabna

A large portion of the district town sees persistent waterlogging due to the overflowing of silted up Ichhamati River during the ongoing monsoon.

Over fifty thousand people living in ward No 3, 7, 8, 9 and 11 of Pabna municipality are directly affected by the situation as stagnant water cannot be removed due to poor drainage system.

"We are badly suffering as polluted water has remained stagnant for the last couple of weeks," said Md Selim Uddin of village

Shalgaria Talbaganpara in the municipality area.

"Snakes bit two members of my family last week. They got well as they received herbal treatment immediately," Md Atiar Rahman, a shopkeeper of Shalgaria Forestpara.

Md Mukul Hossain of Radhanagar Jugipara village said his wife now cooks food on a stove placed on the cot as water entered the floor of his semi-pucca house.

Most of the places of Shibrapur and Dilapur areas also give similar picture.

Md Tobibur Rahman, executive engineer of Pabna

municipality, said, "The Ichhamati River serves as the outlet of excess water from Pabna town but the river has now filled up and it causes water logging in Pabna town. Over 50 thousand people living in one third portion of the municipality area are badly suffering due to the massive water logging this season."

Admitting the situation, Pabna municipality Mayor Md Kamrul Hassan Mintu said, "There is a mega project for the dredging the Ichhamati River. We have started work for developing new drainage system in Shalgaria area to remove the stagnant water."

BRUR VC freed after 36 hours of confinement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) was freed on Friday midnight, 36 hours after his confinement.

The agitating staff of the university finally allowed VC AKM Nur-un-Nabi to come out of his room after a two-hour long meeting with him.

They also postponed their siege programme for 15 days following an assurance by the VC of taking steps to meet their demands within July 19, said Obaidur Rahman, a section officer (Grade-2) at BRUR.

On July 22, we will resume agitation programme if the demands were not met within the deadline, said the agitator.

Around 138 staff kept the VC confined to his office from Thursday noon, demanding

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On September 17 last year, the teachers and staffs had laid a 75-hour siege to the VC's office to press a seven-point demand including regularisation of jobs of 338 temporary teachers and staffs.

Coming out of the office,

the VC said the university authorities had already discussed the University Grants Commission (UGC) over regularisation of jobs of the agitating officers and employees.

In his four-year tenure, former VC Prof Abdul Jalil Miah appointed 338 teachers and staff on a temporary basis defying the rules and regulations of UGC, said Morshed-ul-Alam Roni, acting registrar of the university.

Later, Prof Nur-un-Nabi regularised the jobs of 200 teachers and staff as per the direction of the UGC.

On Thursday, 14 officers and 124 employees besieged the VC's office, demanding payment of their salaries for the last 14 months.

The university has now 678 teachers and staff against 540 posts, said the registrar.

SNIPPETS

JMB man held in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An alleged member of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB) was arrested in Birganj upazila of the district yesterday noon. Police also seized a computer and a few jihadi books from his possession. The arrestee was identified as AKM Shafiullah, 32, son of Jahurul Islam of Amiyapur of Matlab upazila of Chandpur. Sources said Birganj police arrested him from Tajmahal area in Birganj upazila town at 1:30pm. Following interrogation, police seized a computer and a number of jihadi book from his rented house in Makrai area of the town.

Ban on motor launches

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal port authorities have banned plying of motor launches up to 65 feet in length on 29 routes of Barisal region until further order. The step was taken after weather department asked the river-port authorities to hoist cautionary weather signal no. 2 from Saturday morning following heavy rainfall. AKM Sahidullah, Barisal port officer and deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority said river port authorities stopped plying of those categories of motor launches due to adverse weather and rough river condition in the region. The other types of water transports including triple deck launches have also asked to ply cautiously, he added.

Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A young man was stabbed to death allegedly over extramarital relationship with a friend's wife at Mallikpur village in Mirpur upazila on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Alamgir Hossain, 35, son of late Hamza Hossain of the village. Shahidul Islam Shaheen, officer in-charge of Mirpur police station, said Alamgir developed an extramarital relationship with the wife of his friend Kamal recently. When Kamal came to know about the incident, he called Alamgir to a lonely place at about 11:30pm and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

Body recovered from canal

UNB, Sylhet

Police recovered the body of a young man from a canal in Osmaninagar upazila on Friday noon. The deceased was identified as Jahangir Mia, 20, hailing from Pura Sotpur village of Bishwanath upazila. Locals said, Jahangir had remained 'missing' since Thursday afternoon, after he went out of the house to go fishing. Locals spotted his floating body in Military Canal and informed police. Police recovered the body from the canal around 2:00pm and sent it to Sadar Hospital for an autopsy. Police suspected Jahangir might have drowned in the canal at night.

Transport strike postponed

UNB, Sunamganj

The indefinite transport strike, enforced by the District Road Transport Workers' Union, in the district has been postponed till today upon the local administration's assurance to fulfill the union's demands, including release of a bus driver. The postponement decision came at a meeting held at the union office at about 9:00pm on Friday. Nurul Islam, general secretary of the union, said, "We've decided to postpone the strike as the local administration has given us assurance to solve the problem resulting from the arrest of a bus driver and release him by Sunday." Earlier on June 30, a mobile court arrested Abul Kashem, a bus driver, and sent him to jail for driving

SEQUEL TO JUNE 22 INCIDENT

Rival AL men in Gouripur clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a councillor of Gouripur municipality early yesterday on charge of attacking the houses of rival Awami League men and a journalist in Gouripur upazila on Friday.

The arrestee is Abul Quadir, commissioner of Ward No 3 of the municipality, said Mohammad Ali Sheikh, officer in-charge of Gouripur Police Station.

Police said two factions of AL--one led by local lawmaker Captain (ret'd) Mujibur Rahman Fakir and another by municipality mayor Syed Rafiqul Islam--brought out separate processions in the upazila town on Friday afternoon protesting recent attack on a teacher of Government Muminunnessa Mohila College.

On June 22, a gang of 15/20 swooped on Farid Uddin, associate professor of the college, as he took strong stance against the MP during the January 5 national elections, sources said.

At one stage, the attackers stripped the teacher, took him to the office of the lawmaker and assaulted him. Since then a group continued agitating protesting the incident.

As a sequel to the incident, a chase and counter



Moshir Rahman Kawsar

chase took place between the two rival groups, leaving at least 10 people from both sides injured on Friday evening.

A group of men, allegedly led by Mayor Rafiqul Islam, attacked the houses and business establishments of AL leaders Md Nurul Islam, his brother Rafiqul Islam and others, who are loyal to MP Mujibur Rahman Fakir.

They also stabbed Moshir Rahman Kawsar, Gouripur Press Club secretary and Gouripur correspondent of Amader Samoy, in the upazila town, leaving him seriously injured.

Contacted, Mayor Rafiqul Islam refuted the allegation of the attack on the rival AL men and the journalist.

Meanwhile, journalists held a rally at the press club in the town yesterday, protesting the attack on



PHOTO: STAR

Tea workers of several gardens in Sylhet yesterday block road in the city protesting arrest of two union leaders on Friday.

Tea workers block road to protest arrest of leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Tea workers of Kalagul Tea Estate and other adjoining gardens blocked the airport road in Malnichhara area on the outskirts of the city yesterday, demanding immediate release of two union leaders.

Police arrested Rupok Das, Sylhet district unit general secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha, and Nurul Islam Mokbul, convener of Zila Krishak Sangram Samity, on Friday in a case for beating up some tea workers belonging of their rival group of Kalagul Tea Estate.

Officer-in-Charge Md Shahjaman of Airport Police Station said the two leaders were arrested while returning from the garden after addressing a rally there.

Demanding release of their leaders, around 2,000 tea worker blocked the airport road for one half hours from 12:00 noon. They, however,

withdrew the programme at 1:30pm, issuing a 24 ultimatum for release of the two leaders.

Under the banner of Cha Sramik Sangha, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha and the Zila Krishak Sangram Samity were organising the tea workers against the election of Cha Sramik Union, scheduled for August, police said.

Workers belonging of two organisations locked in clashes with the workers, who are interested to join the election, police added.

A case was filed with Airport Police Station against Rupok Das and Nurul Islam Mokbul for attacking tea workers of the group that is interested to participate in the upcoming polls of Cha Sramik Union.

Besides, the garden manager Pradip Barma and health centre staff Prasun Kanti Talukder were also roughed up by the Sramik Sangha men, who cut off the electricity and water supply lines at the garden on that day.