



PHOTO: STAR

People from Islampur in Bandarban town leave their inundated houses for safer places yesterday as the downpour during the last few days caused flash floods there, as in different areas of Bandarban district. Right, defying the risk of landslide, many people live in risky houses constructed on hill slope areas, like this one in the district.

Thousands marooned as flash floods hit Bandarban

Dist admin orders evacuation of hill slopes dwellers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Around 5000 families have been marooned in seven upazilas the district due to a flash flood triggered by incessant rain for the last four days.

"The people who had been living at the foothills amid risk have been evacuated. In some areas, incidents of landslide have occurred but no casualty has been reported," said Mizanul Haque Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of the district.

District administration official sources said low lying areas of Lama, Thanchi, Ruma, Rowangchhari, Alikadam, Nykongchhari and Sadar upazilas of the district have gone under 5-6

feet of water.

Army Para, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Islampur, Member Para, Officer's club, and Hafezghona in Bandarban municipal area have been flooded.

District administration and municipality authorities have opened shelter centres for the flood-hit people.

General secretary of Bandarban Bus Owners' Association, Jhantu Das said road communications between the district and other parts of the country remained suspended since Saturday noon as many roads and bridges have gone under water. Many tourists have been stranded in the district.

Soil and Water Preservation Centre office of the district recorded

156 mm of rainfall in the district in 24 hours till 7:00pm today.

Sangu and Mathamuhuri were flowing above the normal level due to onrush of water from the hills.

"The Bandarban Disaster Management Committee met today evening and directed the local administration to distribute food and water to the flood-affected people," said the DC.

He added that many areas in the district were inundated and many families were forced to take shelter in schools and cyclone shelters.

Bandarban Municipality Mayor Md Javed Reza and Lama Municipality Mayor Md Amir Hossain said 14 shelters

were set up in the affected areas and food, water, and other daily necessities will be distributed among the flood-stricken people.

Bandarban district administration yesterday asked the people living on the hills to leave the risky areas amid fear of landslide due to the incessant rain for the last few days.

Around 50,000 people in the hill district are living at the foot of the hills ignoring the risk of landslide.

Many thatched and semi-pucca houses have been built in Kashempara, Banorupa para, Bus Station, Siddique Nagar, and Sikdarpara areas in Sadar upazila, which become very risky in the rainy season.

3 missing in engine boat capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three people, including two teens, went missing as a boat capsized due to alleged overloading in the Brahmaputra River in Gafargaon upazila of the district yesterday.

The victims are Sheuly Akhter, 30, wife of Sharafat Mia, Monir Mia, 15, son of Paran Mia, and a Class VIII student and Munni Akhter, 14, daughter of Nurul Islam of Hosainpur upazila of Kishoreganj, also a student of Class VII.

Badrul Alam Khan, OC of Pagla Police Station, said a Galakata Bazar-bound engine driven boat carrying some 30 passengers from Char Agli sank in the river around 11:00am.

Though others managed to swim ashore, the three remained missing.

2 kids drown in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two children drowned in a Beel of Gopil village of Mohonpur upazila yesterday morning.

The victims are Mominul Islam, 9, son of Nayeab Sarder, and Khadija Khatun, 10, daughter of Anarul Islam of the village, said Abdul Hamid, officer-in-charge of Mohonpur Police Station.

The two, along with their two friends, went to the Beel on a small boat to collect water lily at around 10:00am.

The boat lost balance and sank when the children were playing on it. Mominul and Khadija drowned while the two others managed to swim ashore.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

2 held with arms, jihadi books

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested two people with a revolver, seven crude bombs and some books on jihad in Baurbhag area under Sadar upazila of the district yesterday. The arrestees are Kanchan Miah, 55, of Sadhuhati village, and Nuru Miah, 40, of Fatepur village. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested the two with the firearm, bombs and jihadi books. A case was filed in this connection, said Moulvibazar Model police.



PHOTO: STAR

Two areestees with a revolver, petrol bombs, and jihadi books seized from their possession yesterday.

8 back home from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Eight Bangladeshis returned home from India on Friday after languishing in jail for two years there. Aslam Khan, officer-in-charge of Benapole immigration police, said Indian police arrested four women and four children at Kolkata railway station for entering the country illegally in 2013. They were later sent to Kolkata central jail. The returnees hail from Rajshahi and Satkhira districts, said the OC.

Youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police recovered the body of a youth from the Padma River at Kalagachhia in Hariampur upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased is Shihab Hossain, 20, of Athajari village in Barisal district. He worked at a motorcycle workshop at Dakkhin Kamalapur in Dhaka. Shihab went to the house of his friend Alim at Khalpar-Boyra village in the upazila to celebrate Eid. He went to take a dip in the river on Friday and went missing. On information, police recovered the body from the river the following morning and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Hartirampur Police Station.

Firearm, ammo seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a foreign made pistol, six bullets and two magazines from Raghob village in Shibganj upazila of the district on Friday night. Major Nazmul Alam, deputy commanding officer of BGB-9 Battalion, said on secret information, the border guards raided the bordering village and seized the firearm and bullets around 8:30pm. None was arrested in this connection, he said.

Kid drowns in lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A three-year-old boy drowned in a lake in Sreepur upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased is Sourabh, 3, son of Abdur Rahim Badsha of Singdighi village. Fazlul Haque, chairman of Maona Union Parishad, said Sourabh fell into the lake near their house while he was playing on its bank and drowned.

Jute rotting pollutes water in Lalmonirhat

Safer ribbon retting method yet to see popular use

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The jute farmers of the district have continued rotting the plants in traditional ways in rivers and other water bodies, causing serious water pollution, posing threat to fish and other aquatic creatures.

Ribbon retting, a method of rotting the plants with less water and in shorter time, is yet to gain popularity.

Visiting different areas, it was found that water of ponds, canals, rivers and other water bodies has turned black and stinky and fishermen at many places were getting dead or nearly

dead fishes.

Introduced among the local farmers in a very limited scale a few years ago, the ribbon retting method remains virtually ineffective due to lack of steps for its promotion.

"We are not familiar with the system. A few farmers were informed about the new system but they did not show interest," said farmer Ruhul Miah of Mostofi village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"I heard about ribbon retting system but don't know how to apply the method. I have cultivated jute on eight bighas of land this season and already

harvested jute on five bighas of land. I have been rotting jute plants in a canal beside my homestead but I am facing trouble due to shortage of water in this water body," said Helal Uddin, a jute grower at Teesta village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Narayan Chandra Das, a farmer of Sarpukur village of Aditmari upazila, said, "Ribbon retting method is easy but we took training on it only for a day, which is not sufficient."

This year total 4,250 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat, said officials

of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Generally farmers remove fibre after rotting jute plants in water for two to three weeks, but 'ribbon retting' system requires much less time and water for the purpose, said Safayet Hossain, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat.

"Ribbon retting needs polythene and a big hole in the soil. After separating raw fibre from the jute stalk, it is kept in the water hole. A good numbers of farmers were imparted training in each of five upazilas," he said.

Trader killed by extortionists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Criminals hacked to death a trader at Sindurmoti Bazar of Panchagram union in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila and injured his four brothers as he didn't pay toll to them.

The victim was identified as Tazul Islam, 30, son of Abdus Samad of Uttar Mandalpara village of Panchagram union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Injured Jahedul Islam, 34, took primary treatment locally, while the other three brothers -- Reazul Islam, 42, Faruk Hossain, 39, and Ariful Islam, 36 -- were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated, police said. The gang also vandalised two shops and looted goods and money.

Police arrested Limon Islam, 30, and Liton Islam, 27, sons of Farid Uddin of Sinduria village of Panchagram union, and Ershad Hossain, 32, son of Abdul Mazid of Namapara village of Panchagram union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila in connection with the incident.

Police said a gang of about 12/14 criminals, armed with sharp weapons, demanded toll from Tazul Islam on Friday afternoon, but he refused to give it. The

Husband kills wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband at Bhannara village in Kaliakoir upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victim is Nasrin Akhter, 28, wife of Nurul Islam of the village.

Quoting locals, police said the couple had an altercation over different family issues around 1:00am. At one stage, Nurul hacked Nasrin with a machete indiscriminately and fled the scene, leaving her dead.

The couple's two minor boys spotted their mother's body in the morning and informed the neighbours.

Thousands suffer as collapsed Bailey bridge not replaced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least 50 thousand people in five upazilas of Nilphamari and Panchagarh districts are suffering a lot as a Bailey bridge over the Aoliakhana River on Jaldhaka-Domar-Dimla road in Jaldhaka municipality area of the district collapsed on Thursday night.

The bridge collapsed when an overloaded stone-laden truck was crossing it, defying a caution notice by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) stating that the bridge was declared risky. A speedy motorbike that was crossing at the time also fell into the water.

Trucker Yakub Ali, 40, his helper Md Russel, 25, of Pabna district, and motorcyclist Sumon, 26, of Jaldhaka upazila in Nilphamari, were injured, said locals.

As the authorities are yet to take any measures for making alternative arrangements to ease the commuters' suffering, people are crossing the river by banana-raft with risk of accident for the last



PHOTO: STAR

People use banana tree raft to cross the Aoliakhana River at Balagram village in Nilphamari district as the Bailey bridge on Jaldhaka-Domar-Dimla road collapsed under the pressure of a heavily loaded truck on Thursday.

three days.

During a visit to the spot yesterday, this correspondent found different heavy vehicles like buses, trucks, covered vans and oil tanks crossing additional 50 kilometres road to reach Jaldhaka or Rangpur.

Local lawmaker Golam Mostofa said he has already

informed the roads and bridges ministry about the matter.

Nilphamari RHD Executive Engineer Tanvir Siddiquee said, to ease people's sufferings, they would start construction of a new Bailey bridge at the same place within a fortnight.



PHOTO: STAR

Water at a large pond of Mostofi village in Lalmonirhar Sadar upazila gets badly polluted due to massive jute rotting.