



Stock of huge coins has become a nuisance for some traders in Tangail as local banks are declining to receive it as deposit.

# Gaibandha flood situation grave, 5 more UZs affected

Erosion hits other N dists as water starts receding

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The flood situation in Gaibandha district worsened further with inundation of 34 more unions in five upazilas yesterday, reports our correspondent. The affected upazilas are Sundarganj, Sadar, Fulchhari, Saghata and Gobindaganj, said local Water Development Board (WDB) sources.

The Karotoa and Brahmaputra rivers were flowing 16 centimetres above the danger marks, according to the district flood control room.

Meanwhile, breaches have developed in at least 300 metres of Ghagot flood control dyke at Dakkhin Shabuj in Sundarganj upazila, leaving over 500 families at Uttar Shabuj, Dakkhin Shabuj, Garokata, Masterpara, Rambhadra, and Nayerhat villages marooned.

Besides, breaches have developed in Karotoa flood control dyke at Chengari in Palashbari upazila, flooding three unions of adjoining Gobindaganj upazila.

Local people of Bochadaha in Gobindaganj upazila started dumping sand bags to stop water seepage in the flood control dyke along the River Bangali that faces the threat of collapse anytime.

With the sharp increase of water level in the Karotoa River, national highway at Hawakhana in Gobindaganj upazila is likely to overflow anytime.

In Jamalpur, 21 more villages in Bakshiganj upazila and 102 villages in Islampur, Dewanganj, Sarishabari, Melandaha and Madarganj upazilas were flooded in the last 24 hours, reports our correspondent.

Shildaha Government Primary School under Belgachha union in Islampur upazila was devoured by the river on Tuesday night.

The authorities shut 119 schools due to the floods,

said Abdul Alim, district primary education officer.

About 8402 hectares of croplands have been damaged in the upazilas, said local Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources.

However, flood situation is improving in some places of the district as the Jamuna was flowing below its danger level yesterday.

Our Kurigram correspondent reports: Although flood situation in the district improved, erosion by the Dharla River took a serious turn at various points in Phulbari upazila as the water of Dharla, Teesta, Dudhkumar and

Brahmaputra started receding, local WDB sources said.

The rivers were flowing below danger level yesterday.

According to WDB, Charmiklee Government Primary School in Barobhita union of Phulbari upazila went under water on Tuesday due to the erosion.

Pashchim Dhanirum Government Primary School and Pashchim Dhanirum Abashan (housing) project in the union are under erosion threat.

According to our Bogra correspondent, flood situation was improving in three upazilas of the district as the Jamuna and Bangali rivers

were flowing below the danger marks yesterday.

However, over 50 thousand people still remained marooned for the fourth day as water was flowing 54 cm above the danger mark at Sariakandi point in the district, said WDB sources.

The district administration has distributed 60 tonnes of rice and dry food and Tk 2.25 lakh among the marooned people, said Deputy Commissioner Md Ashrafuddin.

Away in Lalmonirhat, traffic movement on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway got snapped as the newly constructed diversion road cum Bailey bridge over

the Swarnamati River has been washed away by the floodwater in Aditmari upazila of the district, reports our correspondent.

Mofarul Islam Khan, 56, of Sarpukur village, said the bridge went under the flood water as it was constructed in an unplanned way.

"We started moving our vehicles on the vulnerable bridge amid risk of accidents," said local trucker Nazrul Islam.

The bridge was constructed, using proper materials, said Sub-Divisional Engineer of Lalmonirhat RHD Manwarul Islam, adding that the contractor will repair it.

## Robbers kill fisherman, abduct 25 others in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A fisherman was killed and 21 others were injured as robbers opened fire on them in the Bay of Bengal on Monday night.

The gang also kidnapped at least 25 fishermen, said Nur Hossain, an injured fisherman of one of the 35 fishing trawlers 'MV Kakali'.

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

day. Of the injured fishermen, Selim, Yasin, Tofael, Kalam (1), Bellal, Md Ali, Kalam (2), Shahin, Motaleb, Mannan, Kader and Reaz are now undergoing treatment at Charfashion Upazila Health Complex.

Nur Hossain said a gang of 35/40 armed robber swooped on some 35 fishing trawlers in the Bay around 8:00pm and sprayed bullets indiscriminately, killing a fisherman on the

spot and injuring 21 others.

The gang looted fish, cash and fuel from at least five trawlers and kidnapped 25 fishermen. Later, the injured fishermen return to Samraj Ghat in Charfashion on Tuesday night, Nur added.

Contacted, Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge of Charfashion Police Station, said they heard about the incident and informed Monpura and Sandwip police stations of the matter.



Locals take oath to resist implementation of any coalmine project in Phulbari upazila under Dinajpur district as they gather at the temporary memorial built in honour of the three people who were killed during August 26, 2006 demonstrations against the government move for such project in the area.

## 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHULBARI TRAGEDY DAY Meet 6-pt demand by Oct 31 or face agitation

Leaders give ultimatum from rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of National Committee for Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port Protection in Phulbari upazila under the district yesterday warned of a yearlong agitation if the long-pending six-point agreement is not met.

Phulbari people have been urging the government to implement the six-point agreement signed in 2006, but the government is not paying any attention to it, Anu Mohammad, member secretary of the National Committee, said at a rally at Nimitolamor in Phulbari town yesterday.

The rally was held remembering the black day of August 26 in 2006, when law enforcers opened fire on anti Phulbari coalmine protesters, leaving three people dead and nearly 70

others injured. The people of Bangladesh are the owner of its all asset and nobody can impose any decision that goes against them, Anu Mohammad said.

He also declared that his committee along with Phulbari people will place memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through the deputy commissioner of Dinajpur on October 7, urging her to implement the long-pending six-point demand.

"If the demand is not met within October 31, we will start our yearlong agitation on November 1, holding different programmes across the country.

Junayed Saki of Ganosonghati Andolon, Mosaraf Hossain Nannu of Communist League Bangladesh, Saiful Islam of Bangladesh Socialist Party also spoke at the rally.

Earlier on the day, locals placed floral wreaths at the altar of the temporary memorial built on the Chhoto Jamuna River bank in Dinajpur town to pay tribute to the victims of August 26 tragedy in 2006.

Golam Mortuza Manik, mayor of Phulbari municipality, also an anti-coalmine protest organiser, administered an oath at the memorial to resist any coalmine project in Phulbari area at any cost.

## BENAPOLE BORDER 12 rescued while being trafficked to India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members rescued 12 Bangladeshi nationals while they were being trafficked to India through Putkhali border under Benapole Port Police Station in Jessore on Tuesday night.

BGB sources said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the border guards raided the area around 10:00pm and detained 12 people, including five women and three children.

The arrestees hail from different areas of Gopalganj district.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the traffickers fled the scene.

BGB later handed them over to Benapole Port Police

Station, said Officer-in-Charge Monir Hossain.

Away in Rajshahi, BGB personnel detained three Indian nationals for entering Bangladesh territory illegally and seized 1100 bottles of phensidyl from them near Mirganj border in Bagha upazila on Tuesday night.

The arrestees are Sanaul Sheikh, 28, Ayub Nabi, 25, and Babu Sheikh, 20, of Murshidabad district in Paschimbaranga.

A patrol team of the border guards, led by Subedar Md Ali Khan of Mirganj Border Observation Post (BoP) challenged the trio while they were entering the country through the Padma River along with the phensidyl.

## 6 BRUR BCL men sued on charge of stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Six leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) unit have been sued on charge of stalking a female student of the university.

The accused are unit president Mehedy Hasan Shishir, general secretary Mostafa Mahmud Hasan, senior vice president Ariful Islam Joy and activists Shaon Ahmed Shuvo, Adnan Ali and Shamim Ahmed.

Victim Umme Habiba Asha, a first year student of computer science and engineering department, filed

the case with Rangpur Kotwali Police Station on Tuesday, said Officer-in-Charge Md Abdul Aziz.

According to the case statement, Shuvo, also a first year student of statistics department, along with his followers used to tease the girl since she refused his love proposal five months ago.

Three days ago, Shuvo threatened Asha with dire consequences if she did not accept his proposal.

Finding no other way, she informed Md Ali Raj, vice president of the university unit of BCL, and Hadiuzzaman Hadi, expelled vice president of the unit, about the matter.

As they protested the incident, a group of leaders and activists, including the six, attacked them on Monday evening, leaving Ali Raj and Titas Chandra Roy, joint general secretary of the unit, injured.

Refuting the allegation, Hasan, general secretary of the unit, said to hide their illegal activities, expelled vice president Hadi and his men staged the drama.

He also demanded fair investigation of the incident.

Punitive action would be taken against those responsible for the offence after investigating the incident, said the OC.

## One killed over land dispute in Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A student was killed at Madya Baria village under Rajapur upazila of the district over land dispute yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Sohel Fakir, 20, a student of Baria Degree College, and son of Amjad Fakir of the village.

Harun ur Rashid, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Rajapur Police Station, said there had been a longstanding dispute between

Mahbub and Amjad of the village over a piece of land.

Sohel was hacked with sharp weapons by Mahabub and his men while he was returning home from his college at 12:00 noon.

He was admitted to Rajapur Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal, where he died in the afternoon, said police.

Police arrested Mahabub and his wife Nargis Aktar in connection with the incident.



Huge quantity of current nets, seized by the fisheries department and the coastguard, being burnt near Paira river port in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district yesterday.