

Flood situation worsens in Moulvibazar, Sylhet

Affected people face crises of food, medicine and safe drinking water

MIN TU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Flood situation in three upazilas of Moulvibazar and two upazilas of Sylhet district worsened yesterday due to onrush of water from hills and heavy rain.

Flood-hit people of Juri, Kulaura and Barlekha upazilas of Moulvibazar district; and Fenchuganj and Osmaninagar upazilas of Sylhet district; face crises of food, medicine and safe drinking water.

While visiting the Gouripur in the Juri River basin area yesterday, farmer Joyal Abdin, 65, told this correspondent that more

than 100 houses in the area have been washed away by flood in the last one week. The affected villagers have taken shelter on the roads, he added.

Md Shimul Ali, project implementation officer (PIO) of Juri upazila and PIO in-charge of Kulaura upazila, said floods washed away 1,500 houses in the two upazilas and damaged 12-km of roads in a week. "I have informed the district project implementation office about the situation," he added.

Abul Kalam Chowdhury, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) of

Moulvibazar, said farmers are also facing acute crisis of fodder as many areas in the three upazilas have gone under water. They have been forced to sell their domestic animals at low prices.

Kishore Roy Chowdhury Moni, vice chairman of Juri Upazila Parishad, said farm-lands have been flooded in the upazila and the affected people are crying for food, medicine and safe drinking water.

Contacted, SM Abdullah Al Mamun, UNO of Barlekha upazila, said relief operations in the flood affected areas will start as soon as possible.

Tahsina Begum, UNO of

Kulaura upazila, said they have not received any relief material for the flood affected people yet.

Foizur Rob, executive engineer of Water Development Board, Moulvibazar, said the flood situation in three upazilas of the district has remained unchanged.

Contacted, Md Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of WDB, Sylhet, said the Surma and Kushiyara rivers swelled further yesterday. The flood situation in Fenchuganj and Osmaninagar upazilas in the district has deteriorated due to heavy rain and onrush of water from hills, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

A three-wheeler struggles to move on a flooded road at Bakshimul in Kulaura upazila under Moulvibazar district as fresh areas went under water amid the worsening flood situation in the district yesterday.

Bring Debes's killers to book

Demand traders, locals of Gaibandha's Mohimaganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Traders and local people formed a human chain in front of Mohimaganj Railway Station in Gobindaganj upazila yesterday demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of trader Debes Chandra Pramanik.

The shop owners at Mohimaganj Bazar kept their shutters down for two hours, took out a

procession and then joined the one kilometre long human chain to press the demands.

Addressing a rally at the venue, the speakers urged the local administration to arrest Debes's killers as soon as possible. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme in the district.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Mohimaganj Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Latif Prodhan,

Mohimaganj Chamber of Commerce President Abu Raihan Chowdhury, General Secretary Nurul Islam Fakir, Mohimaganj Union Awami League President, Munshi Rezwanur Rahman, advocate Ganesh Chandra Sen, and trader Abdul Matin.

Shoe trader Debes Chandra Pramanik, 66, was murdered inside his shop at Mohimaganj Bazar around 7:00am on May 25.

Following a case filed by the victim's wife Ananda

Rani, 48, with Gobindaganj Police Station, police arrested Nipen from the area the same day.

Later, police produced Nipen before a Gaibandha court, seeking a 10-day remand. The court granted a two-day remand for him, Officer-in-Charge Mozammel Haque of Gobindaganj Police Station said.

Law enforcers are raiding different areas to arrest some others involved in the killing, the OC added.



PHOTO: STAR

Traders accompanied by a large number of locals form a human chain in Mohimaganj rail station area of Gobindaganj upazila under Gaibandha district yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who killed trader Debes Chandra Pramanik, 66, inside his shoe shop at Mohimaganj Bazar on May 25.

Abducted schoolgirl traceless for 7 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A schoolgirl, abducted from Sapher Ghera area under Lama upazilla of Bandarban district on May 24, is yet to be rescued.

The victim comes from a Marma indigenous family and is a Class VIII student at Hargheja Junior High School in the upazilla.

Victim's father said a gang of six abducted his daughter while she was going to her relative's house at around 8:30pm.

Immediately after the incident, he filed a case with Lama Police Station, accusing Md Mizan, Mansur Alam, Md Nizam, Manzur and two Rohingyas of the area. In the case statement, he alleged that the six often teased his daughter on her way to school.

"Police did not take any steps to rescue my daughter though I filed a case," he alleged.

Contacted, officer-in-charge Iqbal Hossain of Lama Police Station said: "We have nothing to do in this regard as the girl went on her own wish. If you have any query you can contact her parents."

14 get life for murder

UNB, Comilla

A court here yesterday sentenced 14 people to life imprisonment for killing a youth in Sadar upazila in 1999.

The lifers are Ali Ahmed, Abul Bashar, Shafiqur Rahman, Sirajul Islam, Rafiq Mia, Raja Mia, Mohammad Ali, Abdur Razzak, Abdur Rahman, Mohon Mia, Doulat Ahmed, Bahar Mia, Nazir Ahmed and Abdul Karim. Of them, Bahar Mia, Nazir Ahmed and Abdul Karim were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, a gang swooped on Matiur Rahman Babul, 25, son of Nazimuddin in Lalbagh area of Sadar upazila on March 21 and stabbed him to death due to previous enmity. They also gouged out the eyes of Babul.

Nazimuddin filed a case against 20 people with Kotwali Police Station the same day.

Police submitted the charge sheet against 20 people on April 11, 2000. Five of the accused died during the trial of the case.

After examining records and 11 witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge M Ali Ahmed pronounced the verdict, acquitting an accused as allegations brought against him could not be proved.

Lightning kills youth in procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A youth was killed by lightning yesterday while he was participating in a procession to celebrate the victory of Awami League (AL) nominated chairman candidate in Saturday's election to Basaljani union parishad in Basail upazila under the district.

The deceased was identified as Robiul Islam, 27, son of Bosir Uddin of Chakpara village.

Witnesses said the thunderbolt struck when a victory procession was passing a road through crop fields at Molianpur Uttarpara village under the union around 2:00pm, leaving Robiul seriously injured.

He was immediately rushed to Basail Upazila Health Complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

The newly-elected chairman Habibur Rahman Chowdhury Hobi of Kawaljuny union, told this correspondent that the incident was unexpected and sad.



PHOTO: STAR

Like many others areas, Ganginapar intersection in Mymensingh town goes under water after a moderate rain yesterday, thanks to the poor drainage system in the district headquarters.

Housewife killed after 'rape' in Tangail

Dinajpur townspeople demand arrest of teacher on charge of raping schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A housewife was killed after rape at Niguir village in Kalihati upazila of the district.

Law enforcers recovered the body of Bilkis Begum, 30, wife of Anwar Hossain, an expatriate in Saudi Arabia, from her house yesterday.

Police and locals said Bilkis along with a seven-year-old domestic help used to live at the house in the area.

The housemaid found Bilkis dead at the house in the morning. Being informed, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Tangail Medical Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim's legs were tied with a scarf while her neck with a piece of cloth.

Bilkis was strangled after rape, suspected police.

They also seized a juice packet, cigarette and a pair

of shoes from the spot, said Saiful Islam Farajee, officer-in-charge of Kalihati Police Station.

Police are investigating the incident, said the OC.

Away in Dinajpur, townspeople formed a human chain in the district town yesterday, demanding arrest of a schoolteacher for 'violating' a seventh grader, reports our correspondent.

They also demanded arrest of the chairman of Ridge School's managing committee in the town for not taking action against the accused teacher.

Organised by Sochetan Nari Samaj, the human chain was formed in front of Dinajpur Press Club around 11:00am.

They demanded action against Topu Roy, 25, assistant teacher of Ridge School, and Waliur Rahman Nayan, 45, chairman of the school managing committee.

According to First Information Report, the

victim's mother came to the school campus on the night of April 24 to take back her daughter home.

At this, the power of the area went off. Taking chance of darkness, Topu allegedly violated her daughter.

Mentionable, the school conducts classes till 8:00pm.

Later, the mother informed the school authority about the incident. But the school authority created pressure on the mother and the girl to suppress the incident without taking any action against the offender.

The mother filed a case with a court on May 22 as school authority started harassing her.

The participants at the programme warned of greater agitation if the accused are not arrested within seven days.

ATM Khalequzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said they are investigating the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Coastguards seize 58 drums of shrimp fry worth Tk 1.16 crore from Mawa area of the Padma River yesterday. The fry were later released into the river.

Post-poll violence leaves 40 hurt in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 40 people were injured in a post-polls clash at Monglapur village under Aushkandi union of Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila on Sunday night.

Locals said the clash ensued after the supporters of defeated chairman candidate Maolana Mostofa Ahmed swooped on the supporters of elected member candidate

Joytun Miah because Joytun berated Mostofa at the village.

Both groups used sticks and other weapons during the clash that gradually spread over the entire village and the adjacent areas.

Being informed, police from Nabiganj Police Station rushed to the spot and struggled for an hour to bring the situation under control. They fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to

disperse the feuding groups.

Abdul Baten, officer-in-charge of Nabiganj Police Station, said around 40 people from both sides were injured in the clash.

Of the injured, five were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital, seven to Nabiganj Health Complex, and 13 to private clinics. The rest were given first aid.

Additional police were deployed to avert further trouble, the OC added.