



Law enforcers stand guard in front of the building on Road 5 in Kalyanpur where nine militants were killed in a gunfight with police early Tuesday. Right, a school next to the building has been closed following the raid. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Flood situation deteriorating

**STAR REPORT**

The flood situation in the north and northeastern regions is deteriorating day by day as the water in the Jamuna, Teesta, Dhara, Ghagot and several other rivers was flowing above the danger level, forcing thousands of people to move from their houses.

Three persons including two children drowned in floodwater in Sirajganj and Gaibandha on Tuesday and yesterday. The victims are Abu Huraira, 3, son of Khorshed Ali, and Fahima Khatun, 2, daughter of Fulchan Ali, of Khukni village of Shahjadpur upazila in Sirajganj and Lal Chand, 50, of Utter Khatiyamari village in Fulchhari in Gaibandha.

The government in different places has started distributing relief among the flood-affected people, but many claimed the assistance was inadequate.

Cropland in the vast flood-affected areas has also gone under water.

In Rajbari, the Ghat No. 2, 3 and 4 of Daulatdia Ferry Terminal are now under serious threat of erosion from the onrush of water in the Padma, said Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Daulatdia office.

In Manikganj, water of the Jamuna is flowing 26 centimetres above danger level at Aricha point causing flood in

different areas in the district.

On the other side, the water of the Ichhamati, Kaliganga and Dhaleshwari rivers is also increasing.

In Sirajganj, the Jamuna is flowing 59 cm above the danger level since Tuesday, according to the district administration.

"The water level is rising rapidly in last couple of days and is now flowing 59 cm above the danger level," said Md Wali Uddin, district relief and rehabilitation officer.

Around 20,000 people have been marooned in the district, he added.

In Jamalpur, the flood situation has drastically worsened as the water level in the Jamuna rose by 18 cm at Bahadurabad Ghat point in 24 hours as of yesterday afternoon, said sources in the Water Development Board (WDB).

As many as 33 unions of six upazilas have been affected in the flood, the sources said.

Sources at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said around 2,450 hectares of cropland in the flood-hit upazilas has been inundated.

Classes at 231 government primary schools, 66 secondary schools, 30 madrasas and seven colleges have been suspended due to flood.

Eight flood centres have been set up in Islampur and Dewanganj upazilas

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## 52 suspected

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In Satkhira, police arrested 43 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami, including Nurul Alam Siddiki, library secretary of the party's district unit, on suspicion of their involvement in planning subversive activities, reports our correspondent.

In Manikganj, joint forces during their drives yesterday in four char (shoal) areas on the Padma River under Harirampur upazila detained five militant suspects.

In the meantime, a court in the district yesterday sent four militant suspects to jail. Cases had been filed against them for planning insurgency after they were arrested on Tuesday from different chars on the Jamuna River under Daulatpur upazila.

In Chittagong, police in the early hours of yesterday morning held three alleged activists of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a group banned for militancy, from Stadium Market area in the city, reports our correspondent.

On the same day, a court in the district placed four activists of the same group on a three-day remand in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The four activists were arrested on Sunday.

In Thakurgaon, police yesterday arrested a JMB activist from Borial village under Haripur upazila, reports our correspondent.

In Sirajganj, a court on the same day placed five JMB activists on a three-day police remand, reports our Pabna correspondent. The activists were arrested from Sirajganj on Tuesday and two cases were filed against them under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Explosive Substances Act.

## Panic still prevails in Kalyanpur

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stay out and talk for long," he said in a faint voice.

Zahir's family has been living at a flat on the second-floor for more than a year.

His son Shahinur said they had been living in Kalyanpur for several years and that people in the neighbourhood knew them well.

Another family, however, had been confined to its rented flat on the second floor for more than 16 hours. They could come out around 4:45pm on Tuesday.

Local people said some residents of the building had been evacuated before the operation and some after the operation.

The six-storey building has four units on each floor.

One of the policemen deployed around the building yesterday said they were asked not to allow anyone to enter the building until further instruction.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Masud Ahmed of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said police were not preventing tenants from getting in.

Only the flat on the fourth floor where the militants were living was sealed off.

"We have deployed two platoons of police in front of Taj Manzil to dispel fear among people in the area," he told The Daily Star by phone last night.

Some 30 policemen were seen in front of the house yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the neighbourhoods in the capital's Kalyanpur were still reeling from the sensational police encounter.

The operation "Storm 26" left house owners and tenants worrying about what is awaiting them in the days to come.

A number of inhabitants on Road-5 said they could not come out during the night-long standoff.

Shops remained closed for the whole day on Tuesday, locals said.

There are about 1,200 houses in the area. Twenty percent of them have been rented by university and college students and small scale traders, said Mahbubur Rahman Ratan, president of the Kalyanpur Kendria Samaj Kalyan Parishad.

Many houses in the area are not

preferred by families due to unplanned construction, he said, adding that Kalyan Parishad, which has a number of house owners as member, would take steps to collect information about tenants from now on.

Local people said low-income group prefers the area to neighbouring Mohammadpur area as house rent here is low.

"House owners will now think twice before renting out their flats," said Mohammad Shahin, a house-owner on Road-8 in the area.

Liton Shikder, a photo studio owner, said it was hard to believe that a group of militants had stayed in the area and used a flat as hideout.

Locals also said the militants who rented the flat last month were unknown to them.

"I cannot remember seeing any of them in the area," said a security guard of an adjacent building.

Zahir's son Shahinur, however, said he had heard sounds of hammering nails on the wall upstairs often at night.

## Police identify 7 militants

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and pictures of the seven on its news portal and also on its official Facebook page.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Commissioner (Media) of DMP Masudur Rahman told reporters that DNA tests of the dead would be conducted upon court orders.

Identities of the two others remain unknown.

The nine were killed in a special drive codenamed "Storm-26" in the early morning of Tuesday.

Police started a block raid in the neighborhood and stumbled across the militants' den on the fourth floor of the house named Taj Manzil, locally known as Jahaj Building.

Before striking the hideout, police captured a suspected militant named Rakibul Hasan Reagan around 1:30am.

He was shot by police after he jumped from the building and attempted to flee, police said.

The raid came in the wake of two back-to-back attacks -- the July 1 Gulshan siege and the Eid day attack near Sholakia Eidgah.

Law enforcers had been on high alert after the two deadly attacks, and in the last two weeks Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina twice warned of further militant attacks.

It all came following three years of targeted attacks by suspected militants, killing writers, publishers, secular bloggers, university professors and member of minority communities, including Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and Shia Muslims in the Sunni-majority country.

Terror group Islamic State took credit for many of the past attacks, including the Gulshan siege where militants killed 20 hostages, 17 of them foreigners.

The government insists IS has no presence in the country.

Those killed on Tuesday were in black outfits and red-white scarves similar to the ones the five Gulshan attackers were seen wearing in the photos with the IS flag in the background. The photos of the five were posted by US-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activities.

The black outfit and the scarf are often seen in pictures of IS militants in the media.

Islamic State's another trademark symbol is its black and white flag with Arabic lettering. Black cloths resembling the IS flag were also found at the Kalyanpur flat.

Bashundhara; Md Motiar Rahman, 24, of Omarpur village of Tala in Satkhira; and Md Jubayer Hossain, 20, of Paschim Maijdee village of Shudharam in Noakhali, according to police.

Shazad comes from a well-off family. He studied at reputed educational institutions at home and abroad. On completion of his studies, he went on to work at a multinational company, police said.

Jubayer was a second-year student of political science at Noakhali Government College, but he was irregular in his class. On June 15, he went missing, said relatives.

Rashiq graduated in electrical and electronic engineering from a reputed private university in Dhaka and went missing in January, said a next door neighbour.

Motiur had been living in Gazipur for the last seven to eight years and was working at a garment factory. In his childhood, he moved to his maternal uncle's house, just a few kilometres of their home, following separation of his parents, said relatives.

Motiur, whose father is a fisherman, studied up to class two or three. Although he moved with his mother, he used to visit his father. He visited his father before the last Eid-ul-Azha and stayed with him for five to six months, according to relatives.

Abdullah cut ties with his family after he came to Dhaka following his last visit to Dinajpur around a year ago, said relatives and locals.

He started going to a madrasa in Rajshahi at the age of eight.

He came to Dhaka in 2012, but his family and relatives had no idea what he was doing in the capital. His father is a mason and he leads a simple life, relatives said.

Nayeem worked as a construction worker at a real estate company in Patuakhali from 2002 to 2007.

He left the company in 2007, said Altaf Hossain, assistant manager of the company, adding that they did not know what he did afterwards.

Atikuzzaman's neighbours said they did not see him for the past six months.

One driver of a nearby house who claimed to have known Atik for about 12 years said Atik had gone to schools in Gulshan-Banani areas.

Though from a rich family, Atik would not show it off and he used to say his prayers regularly, added the driver, asking not to be named.

Meanwhile, one family from Chittagong suspects that one of the nine is their son, and family members are expected to travel to Dhaka today to identify the body.

professor at Dhaka Medical College's forensic department, told reporters.

They were shot neither from a very close range nor from a long distance, the doctor added.

There were no other injuries on their bodies.

Doctors have kept samples of their blood, hair, urine and viscera body tissues for further tests such as if they were on drugs and for DNA sampling.

According to the doctors, the nine died around 5:00am on Tuesday.

**HOUSE OWNER'S WIFE REMANDED**

Momtaz Parveen, wife of the house owner, was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nurun Nahar Yasmin passed the order after Sub-inspector of Mirpur Model Police Station Bozlar Rahman produced her before the court, seeking five days' remand.

The court granted the remand petition as the house owner did not provide police with information about the tenants, said the SI.

Earlier in the day, Momtaz was shown arrested on suspicion under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

## Militants put on

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claimed to have observed them time to time since midnight till dawn from an adjacent building.

The neighbour, in his 20s, lives on the fifth floor of a building that is very close to the militant den in Kalyanpur.

He along with his family members caught glimpses of what the youths were doing in their fourth-floor apartment.

They often came out to the balcony and kept the door to the balcony open until after the Fazr prayers, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The neighbour, who kept watching these men until dawn, said they were all wearing "normal clothes" during the night. They also had guns and knives on them, he said, preferring anonymity on security grounds.

"Through the balcony door I saw them burn something inside their room," he said. "Later, I learnt that it was money."

He said the youths were seen in black punjabis only after the Fazr Azan. But then they shut the balcony door.

Around 1:30am on Tuesday after the law enforcers cordoned off the house popularly known as Jahajbari, the youths spoke with police in a loud voice.

Another neighbour said he saw some young men shouting and screaming from the fourth floor of Jahajbari.

"We thought they were screaming at police... They were cursing the police and calling them names," he said.

## Clinton makes history

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head the ticket of a major party in US history.

In a symbolic show of party unity, Clinton's former rival, US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, on Tuesday night told the chairwoman from the convention floor that Clinton, 68, should be selected as the party's nominee at the dramatic climax of a state-by-state roll call at the Democratic convention in Philadelphia.

Capping nearly a quarter century in public life, Clinton will become the party's standard-bearer against Republican nominee Donald Trump in the Nov 8 election when she accepts the nomination today.

"If there are any little girls out there who stayed up late to watch, let me just say: I may become the first woman president, but one of you is next," Clinton told the convention via a video satellite link.

In nominating Clinton, delegates made the point that the selection of a woman was a milestone in America's 240-year-old history. Women got the right to vote in 1920 after ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, portrayed her in a speech to the convention as a dynamic force for change as he made a case for her White House bid.

"Hillary is uniquely qualified to seize the opportunities and reduce the risks we face, and she is still the best darn change-maker I have ever known," he said, hitting back at Republican arguments she is a Washington insider tied to the status quo.

The Democratic nominee, who promises to tackle income inequality, tighten gun control and rein in Wall Street if she becomes president, is eager to portray Trump, a businessman and former reality TV show host, as too unstable to sit in the Oval Office.

Trump, 70, who has never held elective office, got a boost in opinion polls from his nomination at the Republican convention last week. He had a 2-point lead over Clinton in a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Tuesday, the first time he has been ahead since early May.

Sanders has endorsed Clinton, but

some of his supporters protested in Philadelphia against the party leadership's apparent backing of her during the Democratic primary fight.

Outside the convention hall, protests turned more heated late on Tuesday. Thousands of protesters gathered near a subway station close to the convention centre although a heavy police presence and barricades kept them far from convention guests. Among the protesters were Sanders supporters and Black Lives Matter activists.

**'THE REAL ONE'**

Earlier on Tuesday, delegates from South Dakota had given Clinton 15 votes, formally ensuring that she had more than the 2,383 votes needed to win the nomination. She emerged with a total of 2,842 votes to Sanders' 1,865.

Two delegates held up a red banner emblazoned "History" in white letters as Clinton's face showed up on the screen.

In 2008, she lost a hard-fought nomination battle to first-term US Senator Barack Obama, who went on to become America's first black president.

Bill Clinton's speech on Tuesday night offered an unusual twist to the warm spousal endorsement of a presidential candidate traditionally given at party conventions by a wife, not a man - let alone a former president of the United States.

He said Hillary had been a political activist since the couple's early days as law students together. He told how she gave legal aid services to poor people and went undercover to expose a segregationist school in Alabama in the 1970s.

Clinton put forth an alternative narrative to the Republican portrayal of his wife as a power-hungry politician who bends the rules and lacks transparency in her political dealings.

Polls show many Americans distrust Hillary Clinton. Controversy over her use of a private email server for official business while she served as America's top diplomat dogged her during the primary election season.

The convention this week is, in part, an effort to reintroduce Clinton to American voters, more than half of whom view her unfavourably, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling.

Clinton came under relentless attack at the Republican convention in Cleveland, as speakers assailed her over

the email controversy and her record as secretary of state and painted her as out of touch with ordinary Americans. Delegates weighed in with repeated chants of "Lock her up."

"They're running against a cartoon," Bill Clinton said in his speech. "Cartoons are two-dimensional, they're easy to absorb. Life in the real world is complicated and real change is hard, and a lot of people even think it's boring."

Then speaking directly to the crowd, he said to cheers and applause: "Good for you because earlier today you nominated the real one."

President from 1993 to 2001, Bill Clinton, 69, left office with high approval ratings and is known as one of the most powerful political orators in the country.

Trump appeared to approve of Bill Clinton's appearance. "Smart move by the Democrats to have Pres. @billclinton play a key role in their convention," he wrote on Twitter.

**KAINESPEECH**

Supporters of Hillary Clinton say her Washington credentials show she has the experience needed for the White House during tough times as the United States tries to hasten its economic recovery and tackle challenges abroad like Islamic State and the rise of China.

Detractors view her as too cozy with the establishment and say she carries political baggage dating back to the start of her husband's first White House term in the 1990s.

The lineup of speakers for Day 3 includes Clinton's vice presidential running mate Tim Kaine, President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City.

Bloomberg, who was previously elected as a Republican and later became an independent, is expected to endorse Clinton and could help her win over independent and moderate voters.

When Clinton announced her choice of Kaine last week, Clinton cast the former Richmond, Virginia, mayor and governor of Virginia as a seasoned and steady leader and contrast him with Trump's volatile campaign.

But the pick disappointed some supporters of Sanders who were upset over his past support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.