

# Flood maroons 2 lakh in Jessore

About 40,000 houses go under water

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Intermittent downpour for the last two weeks and onrush of water from the nearby rivers has marooned about two lakh people in thirteen unions under Monirampur upazila of the district.

About 40,000 houses, croplands, roads and embankments also went under water in at least 130 villages under those unions due to the rainfall that started on August 10.

Meanwhile, several thousand residents in the upazila are facing food and pure drinking water scarcity as rains and onrush of water from Mukteshwari and Hari Rivers.

While visiting several flood-affected villages, this correspondent found that most of the villages under knee-deep water and many took shelter on highlands.

Many shrimp enclosures and water bodies in the areas were washed away due to the inconstant downpour, said Abul Kashem, owner of an enclosure.

Besides, around 103 schools and other educational institutions remain officially closed, as they have been flooded.

Swapan Bhattacharya, lawmaker for Jessore-5 constituency, said the rainwater could not get released as nearby Hari and Mukteshwari Rivers are silted up.



Jessore-Satkhira road in Monirampur upazila goes under water as flood situation worsened further amid rain and onrush of water from Hari and Mukteshwari rivers.

PHOTO: SHAHRIAR PERVEZ KAUSHIK

## DISEASES DUE TO FLUCTUATION IN TEMPERATURE Children suffer most

Guardians crowd with their wards in hospital

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Children affected with different diseases due to fluctuation of temperature are being admitted in large numbers to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and four upazila health complexes in the district.

According to the met office the temperature was 37.08 degrees Celsius yesterday noon, while it was 35.2 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. The temperature falls at dawn.

Hospital sources said the children are suffering from stomach pain, dysentery, bronchitis, vomiting and diarrhea due to the fluctuation.

Dr Hafizur Rahman, the lone child specialist in the hospital, said the situation deteriorated yesterday. He treated 255 outdoor child patients while 21 child patients were admitted for indoor treatment yesterday, he added.

Sources in the civil surgeon's office said, 620 children -- 255 in Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and 365 in four upazila health complexes -- were treated in outdoor service, while 65 children -- 21 in Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and 44 at four upazila

health complexes -- were admitted for indoor treatment yesterday.

Manira Begum, 25, mother of Nusrat Ara, 6, of Harati village under Lalmonirhat Sadar said, "I waited to get serial for treatment of my child from 10:00am to 12:30pm on August 21, but I didn't get a chance due to the crowd of patients. I got serial from the child doctor, who gave a prescription." She added that her child was affected with bronchitis on August 21.

"The temperature in the morning is different than in the afternoon, and it drops during the night, resulting in our children getting affected with different diseases," said Sultana Khatun, 35, a mother at Mahendranagar village. "Our child Maminul Islam, 3, was fit during the night on August 21, but he felt stomach pain the next morning," she said.

Dr Nuruzzaman Ahmed, superintendent of the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital, said the doctor and nurses are providing treatment to the children carefully. A letter has been sent to the authorities concerned to fill the posts of senior consultant and child specialist, he added.

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

## 90 years not enough for elderly allowance!

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

In their twilight years, Noor Mohammad and his wife, have to struggle for two square meals a day but they are yet to get government-sponsored allowance for the elderly people.

Around 10:30pm on Monday, Noor, around 90, was waiting for Jamalpur-bound Brahmaputra Express train to reach his home at Charbasantu (Tupkarchar) village of Shyampur union in Melandah upazila of Jamalpur, some 70-kilometre from Mymensingh town.

"I do not know why we did not get the government cards for elderly allowance," said Noor as this correspondent met him at Mymensingh Railway Station on Monday night.

"After taking a light breakfast, I came out of my house in the morn-

ing to catch the Mymensingh-bound train at Melandah station. I took very little food during the whole day as I have to return home with only Tk 50 that earned by begging.

"Now I am too weak to go out for begging regularly," said Noor, suffering from serious respiratory problems.

"My wife Sahera Begum works as a domestic help in the village when she can but the earning is too scanty.

"My children, now too busy with their families, do not bother about the untold sufferings of their parents," said a sobbing Noor, father of seven children including two sons.

"Even after giving Tk 2,000 to a former union parishad member of my locality to manage a card, I am yet to get it," he said.

As a train reached the station around 11:45pm, a feeble Noor got busy to board it to return home.

## 2 abducted madrasa girls rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police on Wednesday rescued two madrasa girls from Savar of Dhaka, 32 days after they had been kidnapped from Chuadanga.

Police arrested three people including a woman in connection with taking the girls to Dhaka for trafficking.

The girls, hailing from Hothatpara of Darshana in Chuadanga, were Class VII students of Darshana DS Fazil Madrasa, said Belayat Hossain, additional superintendent of police (ASP) in Chuadanga.

"They went missing on July 10. Informed by victims' families, Damurhuda police started investigation and arrested Sohel Rana, son of Ashraful Islam of Kurulgachhi in Damurhuda upazila, on Tuesday.

"Rana admitted of his involvement in the abduction of the girls and gave information of their whereabouts.

"A police team from Damurhuda raided a house of Radio Colony in Savar of Dhaka early Wednesday, rescued the girls and arrested one Laboni Khatun who kept the girls confined there.

"The two girls were kept for trafficking. But it was taking time as one of the girls fell ill," the police official said.

Police later arrested Shahinoor Rahman from Savar.

Police brought the rescued girls and the arrestees to Chuadanga on Wednesday afternoon.

Police produced them before Chuadanga Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court and the court sent the three arrestees to jail.

Police sought five days' remand to interrogate the arrestees and the court fixed Sunday for hearing.

Police handed the girls to their families after medical test.



The lone child specialist of Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital struggles to cope with the number of children visiting the hospital for treatment of various diseases caused by fluctuations in temperature during the last few days.

## Cross-border crimes fall after BGB's campaign

AMANUR AMAN, back from border areas

Motivational programmes by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) see success in curbing smuggling, human trafficking and other cross-border crimes in 300-kilometre area of four districts under south-western region.

The programmes include door to door campaigns, meetings at bazaars, speeches at educational institutions and imams' lectures at mosques during khutba (the speech before Jum'a prayers on Fridays) in Meherpur, Chuadanga, Kushtia and parts of Jhenidah district, BGB sources said.

The awareness building programme started in July 2014 with battalions of BGB-47 and BGB-6 and now they are working on a 300-kilometre border belt covering the four districts under Mirpur Sector in Kushtia, they said.

"We have been successful to check smuggling of different items including small firearms and drugs and human trafficking. Especially imams' speeches during khutba before Jum'a prayers has been proved very successful to make people aware in this regard," said Lt Col Amit Majid, director of BGB-6.

Around 1000 jawans of BGB in all 65 Border Observation Posts under the two battalions are engaged in the programme.

Crimes in border areas have come down to 40 percent within two years of taking the initiative, said BGB officials.

According to BGB records, it recovered 14 small firearms in 2014, six in 2015 and one in last seven months since January 1 this year.

The records of human trafficking area 11 in 2013, seven in 2014, three in 2015 and nil in seven months of the running year.

In the said period, killing of Bangladeshi people by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) was four in last seven months while it was seven in 2015, 13 in 2014 and 18 in 2013 in the 300-kilometre border area, BGB records say.

"Now our people in the border areas are much aware about the harmful effects of smuggling," Sohel Ahmed, chairman of Kazipur union parishad in Gangni upazila of Meherpur.

"I have left smuggling and am trying to start a grocery. I was chased by Indian BSF several times in last two years," said a man earlier involved in cattle smuggling.

One lakh Yaba tablets seized in Teknaf

BGB says smugglers manage to flee

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized one lakh Yaba tablets from Naitongpara area in Teknaf upazila yesterday.

Lieutenant Colonel Abu Jar Al Zahid, commanding officer of BGB-2, said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the border force conducted a raid in the area adjacent to the Naf River around 5:00am.

Sensing the presence of the Border Guard Bangladesh team, the smugglers fled the scene, leaving behind a packet.

Later, BGB recovered the Yaba tablets from the packet.

## 2 arrested with arms in Magura

UNB, Magura

Police arrested two alleged arms traders with pistols, magazines and bullets from two passenger buses in Keshtapur area under Shalikha upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Kuddus Molla of Jessore town, and Alamgir of Kulchar village in Sharsha upazila of Jessore.

Additional Superintendent of Police Tariqul Islam said the law enforcers intercepted a Dhaka-bound bus in the afternoon.

They arrested Kuddus from the bus and seized a foreign-made pistol, two magazines and three bullets from his possession.

Later, according to his confessional statement, police halted another Dhaka-bound bus of 'Hanif Paribahan' and arrested Alamgir with two pistols, four magazines and two bullets.

Golam Mostafa, general secretary of Bangladesh chapter of former India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange

## Ex-enclave people cry for a bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

People of former enclave Dashiarchhara under Phulbari upazila of the district have been demanding for over one year construction of a concrete bridge to replace the bamboo bridge they built over the Nilkumar River near Kalirhat Bazar.

Thousands of people cross the bridge to go to Phulbari upazila headquarters on bicycle, motor cycle and rickshaw. They have to travel six kilometres more for transporting goods by motorised vehicles as the bridge cannot take the load.

Samiul Haque, 58, of Kuti Chardhakana village said a 40-metre-long bamboo bridge was constructed with the help of locals in the first week of August.

Nazrul Islam, 60, of Kalirhat area said, "We expect the bamboo bridge to last up to December this year. A concrete bridge should be constructed here in public interest."

Golam Mostafa, general secretary of Bangladesh chapter of former India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange



A man pulls his rickshaw on a bamboo bridge over the Nilkumar River constructed by former Dashiarchhara enclave people in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

## 37 arrested in Satkhira special drive

UNB, Satkhira

Police in a special drive arrested 37 people, including five leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami and its students wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, from different areas of the district on various charges.

Mizanur Rahman, inspector of Satkhira Special Branch of Police, said they launched the drive from Wednesday night to Thursday morning in different areas of eight upazilas and arrested them.

Some of the arrestees were accused in sabotage cases, added Mizanur.

Of the arrestees, 15 are from Sadar upazila, 10 from Kalaroa, two from Tala, three from Kaliganj, three from Ashashuni, two from Shyamnagar, one from Debhata and one from Patkelghata upazilas.