



Villagers wade through knee-deep water on a road at Raghunathpur village in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila. Inset, two farmers of adjacent Dhupatila village are seen taking necessary measures in a bid to save their fish enclosure. PHOTO: STAR

Heavy rain damages paddy, seedbeds on 3,000 acres

80 dwelling houses go into river in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Standing Aus paddy and Aman seedbeds on about 3,000 acres of land along the Dhalai and Monu rivers in Kamalganj upazila of the district have been badly damaged due to heavy rainfall since Thursday night.

Besides, at least 80 dwelling houses in different low lying villages adjacent to the two rivers have already gone into the river and many remained inundated due to the heavy downpour for the last two days.

The affected villages are Bharatpur, Raghunathpur, Nityanandapur, Satijirgram, Kesuluti, Patanushar, Maizgaon, Patanushar and Dhupatila.

Farmers are worried about the fate of their standing crops because a major portion of their croplands adjacent to the two rivers has remained under water for the last two days.

Mentionable, Boro growers in those villages also lost much of their paddies due to water-logging just before the season ends.

Shamsul Alam of Raghunathpur village in the upazila said most of the marginal farmers prefer cultivating crops either on the riverbeds or char areas as it cost much less.

Besides, the riverbeds and char lands are more fertile, he said, adding that he cultivated paddy and other crops on two acres land along the river this year.

The water level in the Dhalai river usually starts rising in May, but it happened a bit late this year, Shamsul said, adding that he has given up hope of saving his crops.

Potonushar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Narayan Mollik said at least 50 families under his union have been badly affected by the recent rainfall and most of their houses remained under water as well.

Kamalganj Upazila Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer Krishna Singh said a vast tract of Aus land in the upazila has been completely submerged due to the rain.

Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ashequl Haque said they were monitoring the overall situation.

Thunderbolts kill 3, injure 3 others

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people were killed and three others injured as they were struck by lightnings over the last couple of days in Pirojpur and Sirajganj.

In Indurkani upazila of Pirojpur, a thunderbolt strike yesterday morning killed Zakir Hossain Akan, 36, from Kholpatua village, reports our correspondent in Pirojpur.

Son of Abu Sayeed Akan alias Kalu, Zakir was vice president of Jubo League's Ward 6 unit of Balipara union.

Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Indurkani Police Station, said Zakir was struck by lightning around 7:30am when he and several others went to the Kacha river to catch shrimp fry.

He was pronounced dead after locals took him to Pirojpur District Hospital.

In the afternoon the day before, two agricultural workers were killed and three others injured in a lightning strike on a paddy field in Ramail village under Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj, reports our correspondent in Pabna.

The deceased -- Idris Ali, 35, and Abdul Jabbar, 40, from Roghudighi village of the upazila -- and the injured were harvesting paddy during the incident, said Ullapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer Arifuzzaman.

Of the injured, Zinnah and Raihan Ali were taken to a hospital in Sirajganj, he said, adding that all necessary assistance will be provided to families of the deceased and injured.

Farmer killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A man, who was found in a critical condition in Melandah upazila on Friday midnight, died on way to Jamalpur General Hospital early yesterday.

The deceased, Jahurul Islam, 48, a farmer, was son of Abdul Hai of Randhunigachha village in the upazila.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Officer in Charge (OC) of Melandah Police Station Rezaul Karim said Jahurul went out of his house around 4:00pm on Friday and did not return home since then.

Meanwhile, people of Charpolisha village in the upazila found Jahurul lying near a bridge in a critical condition on Friday midnight and informed police, he said.

Police rescued injured Jahurul and rushed him to Jamalpur General Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead, the OC said.

The body was kept at the hospital for autopsy, he said, adding that they were trying to trace the criminals behind the murder.

Burglaries at HSTU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Burglars have stolen valuable parts of 21 computers, a projector and three monitors from two laboratories in the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in the district.

A one-member probe body has been formed to investigate the incident.

Adiba Mahajabeen Nitu, chairman of the faculty, said a gang of burglars entered room no 202 by breaking the door on the night of May 21 and looted valuable accessories of 13 computers, including processors, hard disks and Rams.

Earlier on the night of May 17, a gang stole parts of eight computers including processors, hard disks and Rams and a projector and three monitors from room no 201 by breaking lock.

Dr Khalid Hasan, proctor of the university, then filed two cases with Dinajpur Sadar Police Station.

After the burglaries, the authorities on Friday identified two students of BBA and Agriculture faculties from footage of CCTV cameras and then caught them, but they were released later, said Adiba Mahajabeen quoting the proctor.

Replying to a query, the proctor said they only identified the two students from the footage of CCTV cameras but they are yet to be caught.

Sadar police said the proctor confirmed that two students were caught, but the two are yet to be handed over to them.



Police seized this Bishnu statue from a house at Koroish village in Kachua upazila of Chandpur early yesterday. The house owner had found the 82-kg highly valuable statue while digging his premises, said Wali Ullah, officer in charge of Kachua Police Station.

PHOTO: STAR

Abducted AL leader's body found in Bandarban

District AL calls half-day hartal today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The body of former vice president of Awami League's (AL) Bandarban town unit was found in a hilly remote area of Kuchalong union in Sadar upazila yesterday noon.

The AL leader, Chaw Thowai Mong Marma, 53, was allegedly abducted from his farmhouse on Wednesday night. He was also a former commissioner of Ward 5 in Bandarban town.

Being informed by locals, police went to the spot around 2:00pm and recovered the body.

Chaw Thowai's wife Mya Sa Ching Marma said on Wednesday around 8:45pm, a group of unidentified criminals picked up her husband at gunpoint from their farmhouse near Uji Headman Para area under Sadar upazila.

The incident took place in front of her, she said, adding, "The criminals also beat me up that night when I

resisted. They killed my husband... I want justice."

Demanding arrest of the criminals, AL's Bandarban district unit President Kwe Shwe Hla claimed that an armed group of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) is responsible for the abduction and murder of Chaw Thowai.

KS Mong Marma, a central leader of PCJSS, refuted the allegation, saying, "Since the last parliament election, ruling party leaders with the help of law enforcement agencies have been sheltering criminal gangs for abduction, extortion, and murder of innocent hill people including the PCJSS men."

On May 7, a member of PCJSS was shot dead and another PCJSS man was abducted from Rajbilla area of Sadar upazila.

On May 9, another supporter of PCJSS was shot dead by a group of armed men in Bakichhara rubber garden area of the same upazila.

On May 19, brother of an AL leader

was shot dead at Rajbilla while a local Jubo League leader was shot dead in his house in Rajasthali upazila of Rangamati.

Shahidul Islam, OC of Bandarban Sadar police station, yesterday said they detained KS Mong Marma, joint organising secretary of PCJSS central unit; Kyawba Marma, secretary of PCJSS Bandarban unit; Thoi Hla Prue Marma, headman of Kolakyong Mouza; Mong Hla Tripura, Karbari of Jordan Para; and Hla Ching Mong Marma, Karbari of Uji Mukh Para.

The individuals have been detained for interrogation over the murder of Chaw Thowai, the OC added.

Meanwhile, Bandarban district unit of AL has called a half-day hartal in Bandarban, protesting the murder.

Uchow Mong Marma, president of PCJSS in Bandarban, said, "We strongly protest the arrest of our leaders and innocent hill people who are not involved in the AL leader's murder."

'BCL men' ruins

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on condition of anonymity, some organisers of the iftar party said they had reserved the restaurant for the programme by making an advance payment. But the programme could not be held as some "BCL activists" locked the front door of the restaurant.

Md Selim Uddin, OC of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station, said Nur was travelling to Brahmanbaria from Dhaka by Chattala Express to join the iftar party. A tense situation was prevailing in the town over the programme, he added.

After receiving an instruction from police, railway officials stopped the Chat-tala Express around 3:30pm at Talshahar Railway Station, which is only a few kilometres away from Brahmanbaria.

A team of Brahmanbaria police went to Talshahar Railway Station and took Nur to the venue with protection around 5:30pm, the OC added.

The VP of Dhaka University Central Students' Union could not enter the restaurant as he found it locked.

Talking to journalists in front of the venue, Nur, also a joint convener of Chhatra Odhikar Songrokkhon Parishad, said he could not understand why the "BCL men" barred them from holding the programme.

"I have informed the central Chhatra League president and general secretary about the incident. If we had any links with the Jamaat-Shibir, the prime minister wouldn't have invited us to the Gono Bhavan. We hope that central Chhatra League leaders will take actions in this regard."

Robiul Hossain Rubel, president of Brahmanbaria district BCL, said, "Nur had made anti-government statements. Some Chhatra Shibir activists also came to the venue. Angered

at this, a group of general students stopped the iftar party."

Abdul Malek, owner of the restaurant, said some youths, identifying them-selves as BCL activists, drove the hosts out of the venue and locked the front door.

Nur left Brahmanbaria from Dhaka by another train at 7:45pm. Bangladesh Sadharon Chhatra Odhikar Songrokkhon Parishad had carried out a movement last year demanding cancellation of quota in government jobs.

Meanwhile, some passengers of Chattala Express said they remained stranded at Talshahar Railway Station for around one and a half hours after police stopped the train.

Next budget

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so that we can establish Bangladesh as a developed and prosperous country."

She said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman rebuilt the war-ravaged country within only three and a half years of its independence.

She also said that all the political parties in India unanimously passed the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh. "We exchanged enclaves peacefully which, I think, created a history in the world."

Extending her Eid greetings to all in advance, the prime minister regretted that she will not be there in the country during the festival as she has some overseas tours at that time.

"I am very sorry that I cannot stay during Eid as I have a number of visits abroad ... I am going to Japan first, then I will visit Saudi Arabia to attend the OIC Summit and from there I will go to Finland," she said.

Back at Sophia

FROM PAGE 1

sensationally beat the mighty Australians at the venue in 2005.

The match will get underway at 3:30 pm Bangladesh time and it is one in which Bangladesh, who will have the option of trying all 15 members with 11 allowed to bat, should start as favourites as they have beaten Pakistan in each of their last four encounters since the 2015 World Cup -- a 3-0 whitewash in Bangladesh in 2015 and a hard-fought Asia Cup win in September 2018. Pakistan have not had the best time of late, losing the recent ODI series against England 4-0 and also their first warm-up against Afghanistan on Friday.

Nestled in 44 acres of wooded parkland called Sophia Gardens, with the River Taff weaving through, the Swalec Stadium holds tremendous memories for Bangladesh who, having won their 2017 Champi-ons Trophy encounter against New Zealand, have a hundred per cent record at the picturesque and serene venue. Inspirational skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was the only participant in both matches spaced 12 years apart and, ahead of his last World Cup campaign, will be eager to get his troops to start putting their best foot forward today and in their second warm-up against India day after tomorrow.

Mashrafe is an avid believer in starting on the right note, perhaps because he knows how important momentum is for his side. Having netted their first ODI multi-team trophy through an unbeaten triumph in the Ireland tri-series earlier this month, the skipper will be keen to see to it that there is no break in the winning habit. Therefore, it is likely that the team

management are looking at the fixture as much more than a practice game, and there could hardly be a more fitting venue for Bangladesh to seek to maintain a winning record.

"Obviously, we feel happy when we see this ground because we have a very good record here," young off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who was not part of the team that beat New Zealand and secured their maiden Champions Trophy semifinal, said during practice at the venue yesterday. "We de-feated Australia at this very ground in 2005, and in the Champions Trophy we beat New Zealand here too. We feel good and confident when we see this ground. Even so, everyone will have to play well and work hard, and win the match playing good cricket."

Apart from maintaining winning momentum, the two practice matches will be very important for Bangladesh to settle on a playing eleven ahead of their World Cup opener against South Africa on June 2. Even fringe players like Liton Das, Mosaddek Hossain and Abu Jayed excelled whenever required in Ireland, leading to Mashrafe saying on Thursday that it is hard to see how they could be better pre-pared for the World Cup.

The two warm-ups will be especially important for Soumya Sarkar and Liton Das -- one of whom will be chosen to open the batting with star opener Tamim Iqbal -- as well as for the likes of Rubel Hossain, Jayed and Mohammad Saifuddin, one of whom are expected to make up the bowling attack alongside Mashrafe, Mustafizur Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi.

FIFTH PHASE OF UPAZILA PARISHAD ELECTION

16 injured during campaigning in Taltali upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 16 people were injured in a pre-polls violence in Barguna's Taltali upazila on Friday evening.

Out of the injured, 14 were admitted to different medical facilities including Amtali Upazila Health Complex in Patuakhali and Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

In the fifth and final phase, elections to upazila parishads including in Taltali and 15 other upazilas will be held on June 18.

The incident took place at Lawpara Bazar where supporters of two upazila parishad chairman candidates -- one is nominated by the Awami League (AL), while the other is the incumbent chairman of the upazila parishad and also an AL leader -- clashed during campaigning in the area around 6:00pm.

Taltali Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Pulak Chandra Roy said the situation was brought under control. According to locals, supporters of Rejbi-UI-Kabir Jomaddar -- the AL-nominated chairman candidate and also president of AL's Taltali upazila unit -- and his contender Moniruzaman Mintu -- the incumbent Taltali Upazila Parishad chairman from AL ticket -- engaged in heated arguments with each other as they all gathered at Lawpara Bazar for campaigning.

At one stage the arguments turned into chase and counter-chase, when most of them sustained the injuries, they also said.

Police soon arrived at the scene and used truncheons to disperse the clashing rivals, said OC Pulak, adding that no case was filed in this connection and they deployed police in the area to avert any further untoward situation.