Country's overall flood situation stable

Water level of a few rivers sees a little rise but recurrence of major floods unlikely, say officials

STAR REPORT

Water level of a few major rivers saw a slight rise in last two days, although government officials concerned say there is no possibility of recurring major flood.

The water will start receding again within next couple of days, said officials of Water Development Board (WDB).

Yesterday's bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said water of Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers was in rising trend but it will remain steady today.

The water of the Padma will continue receding till tomorrow, said the bulletin.

At least three rivers were flowing above danger level yesterday, according to the FFWC bulletin.

Our correspondents from different districts have reported on the flood situation.

In Sirajganj, floodwater has started rising again in the fourth phase. Water of the Jamuna river showed falling trend during last three weeks but it started swelling again since Wednesday.

"The water level will keep rising for next few days. But there is no possibility of serious flood," said AKM Rafikul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of WDB.

People of the flood-hit area said their sufferings are being prolonged due to rise of water in phases since June.

"We face flood almost every year. But this year's floods have caused immense sufferings for us for a long time," said Mukti Khatun, a resident of Shuvogachha village under Kazipur upazila.

Many people are still staying at flood centres fearing that flood may hit again.

In Bogura, similar situation is prevailing as water level of the Jamuna started rising again.

The rising trend will continue for next couple of days. Then, the water will recede again, said officials of local WDB office.

In Gaibandha, flood situation is improving slowly as water of major rivers started receding.

Water of the char areas has been receding for last one week and it will continue till next week, said Mokhlesur Rahman, executive engineer of WDB.

A flood-hit area of Betilchar in Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj. Over 500 people of Shuvogachha village in Kazipur upazila under the same district are living on an embankment for weeks. PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Many people have started returning home from flood centres.

In Nilphamari, water of the Teesta river was receding yesterday although it almost touched the danger level on Tuesday, said WDB officials.

If there is rainfall in Teesta basin, the water level may rise again, said Rabiul Islam, executive engineer of WDB's Dalia zone.

In Sunamganj, although all major rivers of Sunamgnaj are flowing way below danger levels for days, many people in Haor region are still waterlogged as water is receding slowly.

Meanwhile in some areas, water rose a little since Wednesday night.

"Water is receding slowly. But sometimes it increases suddenly, creating panic among us," said Jashim Miah, a flood victim of Rupnagar village under Tahirpur.

However, the district WDB's Executive Engineer Md Sabibur Rahman said no major flood will happen again, although water increased slightly in some areas.

In Munshiganj, water in the Padma river has been receding for last two days.

But many people are still dwelling in shelter centres or on high roads amid crisis of food and drinking water.

Many houses, roads and embankments are at risk of collapse.

"Water in the Padma is expected to recede next week. Geo-bags are being dumped at some places to protect embankments and other structures," said Rakibul Islam, assistant engineer of WDB.

Our correspondents from Pabna, Bogura, Nilphamari and Sylhet contributed to the story.

Rab-12 kicks off tree plantation programme in Tangail

The elite force took the initiative to increase greening activities across the country

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-12 has kicked off its tree plantation programme with the slogan "*Shabuj Brikkho, Nirmul Paribesh, Bangabandhur Bangladesh* (Green Tree, Clean Environment, Bangabandhu's Bangladesh)" in Sirajganj district town. The programme was inaugurated on Mujib Road and New Dhaka Road in the town on Sunday. Commander of RAB-12 Lt Col Muhammad Khairul Islam inaugurated the programme in the afternoon. Sirajganj municipality Mayor Syed AH Rauf Mukta Siraj and Acting Company Commander of Rab-12 Muhammad Mohiuddin Miraj, among others, were present at the inauguration programme. According to the officials of the elite force, Rab-12 took an initiative to plant saplings of fruit, forest and medicinal trees in their respective areas to increase greening activities across the country in the Mujib Year, following the direction of the prime minister and advice of Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun.

As part of this initiative, saplings of fruit, forest and medicinal trees have been planted on the two roads in Sirajganj town. Rab-12 Commander Khairul said "There is no alternative to increase greening activities if we want to save the environment. The elite force is therefore determined to maintain law and order in the country as well as keep the environment green and clean." Mentionable, RAB-12 will plant 5,000 saplings at important roads, highways, schools, colleges, and madrasas in five districts. The districts are Sirajganj, Pabna, Bogura, Tangail and Kushtia, said Rab official Khairul.

Members of Rab-12 plant tree saplings in Sirajganj town as part of their initiative to increase greening activities on the occasion of the 'Mujib Year'. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Being landless is not the end of it

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

Elderly couple Mazeda Khatun and Shamsul Islam were in deep water when their only son, who provided for the family by driving a human haulier, became jobless after damaging an arm in a road crash.

Before the accident in 2010, day labourer Shamsul spent his lifesavings to buy the vehicle for his son so he could stand on his feet and take over responsibilities of the family.

With the disappearance of the cash flow, the couple had to find something to support not only themselves, but also their son's family -- his wife and three under aged children.

Things started to take shape slowoly when the couple, residents of Balarampur village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah, learned how to make vermicompost and organic pesticides (also known as balainashak).

Vermicompost is nutrient-rich organic fertiliser and soil conditioner made through the process of decomposing vegetable or food waste by using various species of earthworms. Organic pesticides are non-toxic pesticides, used mostly in organic farming, made from bark of different trees.

After they received training from Hunger Free World, a voluntary organisation, they found motivation in the work as aside from providing them with a source of income, the production of the organic farming helps save the environment.

Patience and hard work of Mazeda and Shamsul -- now aged between 60 and 65 -- started to pay off and a steady flow of income started to pour in from the sales of the organic farming materials.

Landless Shamsul said he leased 25 decimals of land in the area for the purpose. For additional income, they also grow mint and different vegetables following organic farming methods.

With around Tk 24 to 25 thousand earnings each month now, they have been able to pull the family together.

Reminiscing on how it all started, Mazeda said for making vermicompost, they first bought 250 grams of earthworms from a farmer. And ten years later, they now sell earthworms to other organic farmers, at Tk 1,000 for each kilogram.

Their main income comes from vermicompost, which they produce 1,200 to 1,600 kgs per month and sell for Tk 10 each kg.

They earn around Tk 3,000 each month from sales of mint and another Tk 1,000 from that of organic pesticides, she also said.

Shamsul said while overuse of chemical fertilisers at farms have been causing health hazards to humans, the same chemicals used in farmlands are also causing damage to the soil and eventually, to the environment.

He also said that it gives him great satisfaction when he realises that his line of work, in some way, is helping minimise the risks chemicals pose to human health as well as the environment.

Low-cost ingredients such as cow manure, rotten banana trees and leaves of various other trees are mainly required for making vermicompost. After collecting those from local sources, they mix those with earthworms and put the mix in earthen pots.

He uses about 12 decimals of his farm to set up about 300 such earthen pots. The remainder of the land is used for making organic pesticides and growing mint and other organic produce.

From the profit of the farm, they recently leased two bighas of land where the couple plans to grow rice and various other crops.

Mazeda Khatun and Shamsul Islam busy at their vermicompost farm in Balarampur village of Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila. PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

Year Round Fruit Production for Nutrition Improvement (1st revised) Project
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215
www.dae.gov.bd

Memo: 12.01.0000.000.99(19).09.2016-**299** Date: 12-08-2020

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 03/2020-21

Open Tender Method (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of the work	Last date & time of document purchase	Last date & time of tender submission	Opening date & time
01	481533	Construction of Boundary Wall for Horticulture Centre, Ramchandrapur, Chapainawabganj	26.08.2020 5:00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm
02	481534	Construction of Boundary Wall for Horticulture Centre, Dighinala, Khagrachori (Part-1)	27.08.2020 1:00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm
03	481535	Construction of Boundary Wall for Horticulture Centre, Dighinala, Khagrachori (Part-2)	27.08.2020 1:00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm
04	481536	Construction of Boundary Wall for Horticulture Centre, Narankhaia, Khagrachori	31.08.2020 12:00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm
05	481537	Construction of Boundary Wall for Horticulture Centre, Sholakia, Kishoreganj	27.08.2020 1:00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm	27.08.2020 4.00pm
06	481538	Vertical extension work for Dormitory Building (2nd Floor) at Horticulture Center, Jhilongia, Cox's Bazar	31.08.2020 12:00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm
07	481539	Vertical extension work for Dormitory Building (2nd Floor) at Horticulture Center, Dhanbari, Tangail	31.08.2020 12:00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm
08	481541	Vertical extension work for Dormitory Building (1st Floor) at Horticulture Center, Kheartola, Jessore	31.08.2020 12:00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm
09	481543	Vertical extension work for Dormitory Building (2nd Floor) at Horticulture Center, Banarupa, Tangail	31.08.2020 12:00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm	31.08.2020 3.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is mandatory.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders/proposals without showing any cause.

Dr. Md. Mehedi Masood
Project Director
Ph: 55028348
E-mail: pdyrfp@gmail.com

GD-1255