COUNTRY

Some districts likely to be hit by flashflood

Forecasts Met office, says torrential rain to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some parts of the country may face flash floods while the situation in the alreadyflooded districts may worsen in the next three days as the ongoing torrential rain may continue

Áccording to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the highest 50-millimeter rainfall was recorded in Bogura and Tentulia each while Dhaka faced 30-metre rainfall in six hours till 3:00pm on Friday.

According to BMD, the northern, northeastern, and south-eastern regions of the country may have rainfall in the next 72 hours.

As a result, the water of the Teesta, the Dharla, the Dudhkumar, and the Brahmaputa may rise rapidly. Other major rivers of the upper Meghna basin and south-eastern hill basin may also rise, BMD said.

Contacted, Bazlur Rashid, a petrologist of BMD, said the country faces the highest rainfall in July every year.

The monsoon here is now active, he added

Meanwhile, our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that the lowlying and island areas in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram have been inundated due to the rise of river water level.

However, the water of all the rivers in the two districts, including the Brahmaputra, the Teesta and the Dharla, were flowing below the danger level since Friday morning.

Locals in the districts said they were facing trouble in movements as the roads were submerged in knee-deep water. Alongside, houses and croplands were also submerged.

21 FLOODED HOUSES OF ASHRAYAN PROJECT Construction at new location underway



Houses built under the Ashrayan project, through which houses are given to landless and homeless families, in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila, were flooded during monsoon rains. Twenty-one families who had received the houses were displaced due to the flooding. The photo was taken on June 23. PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Sarishabari upazila administration in Jamalpur has started to construct 21 new houses for 21 landless families whose houses, built in the middle of Karbari Beel under government housing project of Ashrayan, were flooded last month following incessant rain.

The houses, built at a cost of Tk 35.7 lakh, were handed over to the homeless families earlier this year

The original site of the houses was in a lowlying area of the beel, under Mahadan union of the upazila, which remains under water for nearly half of the year, said locals.

The steps to build 21 more new houses for the 21 displaced families came after news reports were published in The Daily Star and various other newspapers and media outlets regarding the inundation of their houses in Karbari Beel.

Shihab Uddin Ahmed, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Sarishabari, said this time they were constructing houses for the 21 families on higher ground in Raghunathpur area of Mahadan union.

The residents of the new houses would not feel insecure as the new site is in a 'flood-free' area and construction of the houses will be completed within the shortest possible time. Currently they arranged shelter for the 21 displaced families at Hirannabari Madrasa building, which is being used as a flood shelter

for locals Asked how a low-lying area was selected originally for the housing project under Ashrayan, the UNO said most of the upazila fall under low-lying areas and the Ashrayan Taskforce Implementation Committee in the upazila had selected the khas (government) land in Karbari area as the site of the project.

Since June 23, each of the 21 displaced families of Ashrayan already received relief materials -- including 10 kilograms of rice, potato and soybean oil -- in two phases, the UNO added.

Sarishabari Upazila Project Implementation Officer, Humayun Kabir, however, could not be reached for comments over the situation of the Ashrayan project despite repeated calls on his cell phone.

While speaking with this correspondent, Mahadan Union Parishad Chairman Anisur Rahman said before the construction started, he had raised objection to the selection of the original Ashrayan site in the low-lying area of the beel.

He confirmed that earth filling work at the new site in Raghunathpur area has started already and he hoped that the landless families would not have to wait for too long

STAR REPORT

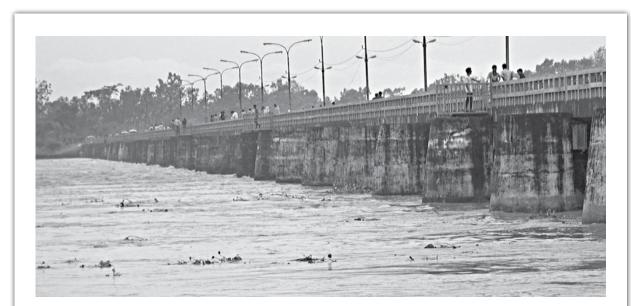
house.

to be rehabilitated and move in to their new houses

Abdur Rahman, a 60-year-old ailing member of one of the displaced families, said he and his four other family members did not go to the flood shelter and they were temporarily staying at a house in Karbari area. A member of another displaced family, Jorina Begum, said she and her three children were also staying with another family in Banshbari area.

Expressing contentment at the news of the commencement of fresh construction of houses for them, many of the displaced family members said they hope that their new houses would be on higher ground and of permanent nature this time.

thanked the upazila They also administration for taking care of them by sending food relief at the most critical time.



The water level of the Teesta has risen 5cm in 12 hours due to incessant rain and onrush of water from the upstream. It was flowing 20cm below the danger level around 2:00pm yesterday but people were fearing the worst. More than 1,000 families have been marooned in 18 unions of five upazilas of Lalmonirhat. Many have around knee-deep water in their homes. The photos were taken at Teesta Barrage in Hatibandha upazila and at Balapara village of Aditmari upazila. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Villagers kill Nilgai in Thakurgaon

STAR REPORT

A Nilgai, the largest antelope in Asia, died after locals chased it at Muktarbasti village in Thakurgaon's Ranishankoil upazila yesterday afternoon.

Upazila Livestock Officer Madan Kumar Roy confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

Locals said the animal crossed the border from India a few days ago and

3 held for gang-rape of minor in Chattogram

> officer-in-charge of Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station.

> The alleged rapists -- Mohammad Kamal, 30, and Rafigul Islam, 24 -- were arrested, said the OC.

> After having a feud with her mother, the victim went out of her home at night and reached the bus terminal in the upazila.

> The duo then picked her up in a bus and raped her, the police official said, adding, the duo confessed that they raped the minor girl.

> Ripon Bappi, resident medical officer of Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital, said the victim was receiving treatment at the hospital.





was seen around the village.

Spotting the animal in a crop field at the village, villagers began to chase it,

locals said. At one stage, the antelope took shelter in an under construction house of one Hamidur Rahman, they said, adding that as people were about to catch it there, the animal jumped through the window and

fell unconscious. On information, a local Livestock Service Provider (LSP) rushed to the spot and provided primary treatment to it but it died within an hour. Being informed, acting

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Pritom Saha along with the upazila livestock officer visited the place.

tactically took the victim out of her home and forcibly took her to a nearby hill," he told The Daily Star.

"Around 7:30pm on Thursday, they

Police arrested three men yesterday for

their alleged involvement in the gang-rape

The trio -- Mohammad Alauddin, 19,

Shakil Ahmed, 21, and Shafiqul Islam, 21

-- were arrested from the port city's Khulshi

Aftab Hossain, inspector (investigation)

of Khulshi Police Station, said the three

youths used to hang out near the victim's

of a minor girl in Chattogram.

area, police sources said.

There, they raped the 13-year-old girl, he added.

According to the police officer, a local named Masud caught the trio redhanded but they threatened him with dire consequences. Later, Masud returned home and told everybody around.

In the meantime, the victim returned to her house in critical condition. Her family members rushed her to the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), the inspector said.

The victim's mother later filed the case against the three youths.

"During primary interrogation, the trio admitted their involvement in the crime," the police officer said.

Meanwhile, an indigenous girl was gangraped in Sadar upazila of Khagrachhari early yesterday.

The minor victim hailed from the Marma community and was a student of grade five at a local school, said Mohammad Rashid,

In another development, police recovered the body of a 10-year-old girl from a jute field in Kishoreganj's Katiadi upazila.

On Friday, the victim went for early morning fishing with her father Chunnu Mia, a fisherman by profession.

SM Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Katiadi Police Station, said Chunnu asked her daughter to return home as the rain started. The girl, however, did not return home.

Later, locals found her body around 10:00am on the same day. A scarf was wrapped around her neck and her hands and legs were tied, he added.

Police primarily suspected that the girl was raped before being murdered.

The body was sent to Kishoreganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed against unknown people on Friday night in this regard but police could arrest nobody in connection with the case.

