



A flood-displaced family of four returns on a boat, carrying a bundle of bamboo and straw to rebuild their home. As the water starts to recede, the rehabilitation process begins in the flood-affected areas in Sylhet and Sunamganj. This photo was taken in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. PHOTO: COLLECTED

FLOODS IN THE NORTH-EAST Time to focus on rehabilitation

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

With the fast receding of waters of the Surma and the Kushiyara rivers, the livelihood of flood-affected areas in Sylhet and Sunamganj is slowly getting back to normal.

However, as a side effect of the fast receding waters, the flood situation in some low-lying areas on the bank of the Kushiyara at Fenchuganj and Balaganj upazilas in Sylhet further deteriorated.

The Flood Forecast and Warning Centre (FFWC) in its daily report forecasted an improved flood situation in the districts.

With no floods in the forecast, government offices are now planning for the rehabilitation of the distressed people. The relief distribution is also going to end soon.

So far, 20 lakh people were directly and indirectly affected by the flood in all 13 upazilas in Sylhet and seven out of 11 upazilas in Sunamganj.

According to the district relief and rehabilitation offices, the relief last was sent to the upazilas on Monday and as the situation improves, no further relief will be distributed.

In Sylhet, 551 tonnes of rice and 11,800 sacks of dry food were distributed as relief along with other food materials worth Tk 15 lakh.

Meanwhile, in Sunamganj, 175 tonnes of rice, 4,000 sacks of dry food, and other food materials worth Tk 12 lakh were distributed.

Md Nurul Islam, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Sylhet, said,

"Now we're assessing the damage done by the flood. After the final report, the ministry of disaster management will allot corrugated tin and relevant support for rebuilding damaged houses in the district. Other respective departments will also work on recovering the damage."

Shafiqul Islam, the district relief and rehabilitation officer in Sunamganj echoed the same.

Besides that, the flood incurred a good amount of damage to the roads and crop production.

According to respective offices in Sylhet and Sunamganj, more than 650 kilometres of road under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) were damaged along with six culverts.

Meanwhile, around 19,000 ponds, fish farms and hatcheries washed away in two districts, causing a loss of around Tk 22 crore according to the fisheries offices in the districts.

Not only that, the Boro and the Aus paddy were also damaged.

According to agriculture extension offices in the districts, more than 2,500 hectares of Boro harvest were damaged along with more than 1,600 hectares of Aus saplings.

Additionally, 1,700 hectares of vegetables and 75 hectares of peanuts were also damaged. According to the FFWC, Surma at 3:00pm yesterday was flowing 38cm (above danger level) at Kanaighat in Sylhet while 23cm and 42cm below danger level at Sylhet city and Sunamganj town.

Push for early repatriation Momen urges UN on Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has urged the UN to take practical actions to ensure early repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.

He made the call when the newly-appointed UN Resident Coordinator to Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis presented her credentials to the minister yesterday at State Guest House Padma.

She handed over a letter from the UN Secretary General António Guterres, thereby officially entering into her new role, succeeding Mia Seppo. The minister thanked UN bodies for standing beside Bangladesh with humanitarian assistance for Rohingyas, but also underscored the importance of starting the work of UN bodies in Bhasan Char, following the signing of an MoU between Bangladesh and UNHCR in October, 2021.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Nazrul's birth celebrations begin in Trishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

A three-day programme celebrating the 123rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam starts today at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha in Trishal.

The programme, organised by the cultural affairs ministry, will be assisted by Mymensingh district administration.

On the occasion, a series of programmes have been chalked out, including discussions, cultural

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Advertisement for Bangladesh Applied University, Dhaka, listing various job openings and contact information.

Advertisement for Md Nurul Islam, Relief, Rehabilitation Officer in Sylhet, with contact details.

Large advertisement for the Government of Bangladesh, detailing procurement information, tender details, and contact information for the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust.

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