

Worst sufferers as always
Women, children take the hardest hit in Sylhet flood

MINTU DESHWARA

The flood situation in the Sylhet division has left a destructive effect on the lives of its residents. Women and children are the worst victims as of yet, with severe health complications, especially, malnutrition.

Tahmina Akhter (20), who took refuge in Hakaluki High school (at present a flood shelter) with her 15-month-old child, said, "My husband left me a month ago. I took shelter in my father's house with my child but now, it's flooded."

"I'm only eating food that's distributed to the shelter. But I can't feed my baby due to the lack of privacy. It worries me."

Bilasi Begum (40) at the same shelter said, "I've never seen such a flood in

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A girl looks into the distance, with her eyes searching a boat carrying her parents -- who had set off in the early hours to get food and relief. After losing their homes, many flood victims like her have forgotten the taste of a hot meal and spend time waiting long, unpredictable hours with hungry stomachs. This photo was taken from Gowainghat's Lengura union yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Attack on teachers protested

STAR REPORT

Students of different colleges in Rangpur formed human chains in the city yesterday, protesting the attack on and killing of teachers in Narail and Savar recently.

The human chains were formed in front of Rangpur Press Club and the premises of Charmichael College.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front organised the programmes.

Meanwhile, similar programmes were held in Savar yesterday where teachers, students and guardians demanded punishment for the perpetrators and urged the government to ensure justice for teachers.

On June 25, college teacher Utpal Kumar Sarkar was beaten by a student with a cricket stump in Ashulia, for protesting sexual harassment by the latter.

He died at Enam Medical College Hospital.

On June 18, there was another incident involving a teacher being assaulted in Narail over allegation of communal provocation.

PRAYER
TIMING

JULY 1

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Juma | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4-10 | 12-30 | 5-00 | 6-55 | 8-17 |
| JAMAAT 4-45 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 7-00 | 8-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Only 1.5hrs rain inundates Khulna



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DIPANKAR ROY

Moderate rain inundated around two-thirds of Khulna city yesterday, causing immense sufferings to residents.

According to the met office, 39 mm rainfall was recorded in the city. Amirul Azad, senior meteorological officer, said the rain started at 12:30pm and ended at 2:00pm.

Locals and development activists said encroachment of waterbodies in and around the city and poor drainage system caused such waterlogging. Meanwhile, residents alleged that the sufferings of around 1.7 million people living in the 45.65-square-kilometre area, under 31 wards, are persisting due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

According to Khulna City Corporation, total length of the city's drainage network is 651.50 km. Of it, 291.23 km is made of concrete, 55 km half concrete and 305 km earthen.

While visiting many areas yesterday, including Daulatpur, Pabla, Boyra, Rupsha Stand Road, KDA Avenue, Iqbalnagar, Tutpara, Gallamari, Moilapota, Dakbangla, Santhidham Mor, Phulmarket and Press Club, this correspondent found most of the roads under ankle- to knee-deep water.

Slum dwellers and residents of low-lying Bastuhara, South Pabla, Dayana and Boyra areas were the worst sufferers. Many kitchen markets -- including Sheikhpura, Bastuhara and Boikali -- went under water.

Vehicles were found stranded on waterlogged roads. Habibur Rahman, a resident of Bastuhara, said, "Most of the drains in our area are not properly cleaned."

Imran Sheikh from Boyra residential area said their area got waterlogged just 10 to 15 minutes after the rain began.

Anisur Rahman, conservancy officer of KCC, said KCC regularly cleans drains to ensure proper water flow. The cleaning drive for all 2,187 drains is sometimes interrupted due to manpower shortage.

Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, secretary general of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Committee, said, "The drains and canals have lost navigability and water flow due to encroachment and garbage dumping."

Contacted, Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said during high tides in Bhairab and Rupsha around the city, the sewers cannot properly drain water to the rivers. "We have taken steps to repair and construct drains and excavate 22 canals at a cost of Tk 823 crore," he said.

ENERGY TREATY
Bangladesh should not sign it: CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should not sign the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), as the international agreement only serves the purposes of international businesses in the energy sector, not the country's national interest, said Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) at a dialogue with journalists yesterday.

At the programme held at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, they said while many of the countries are trying to get out of this agreement, Bangladesh is preparing to sign it.

"The government is saying that it will need more foreign investment in the energy and power sector, and if it signs the agreement, it will ensure investment," said Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, professor of international relations at DU. He said some of the agreement's clauses state that the host country has no right to oblige foreign investors to use local products or to appoint local workers.

"On the other hand, the investors have all legal rights to take all the investments, interests, surplus money, officials' payments and gifts to their country," Prof Tanzimuddin said.

Bangladesh has been an observer of ECT since 2015, after signing declaration of the agreement.

‘Wish you were here’
Family remembers AC Rabiul Karim, who died saving hostages in Holey Artisan attack

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Rabiul Karim was an assistant commissioner working at the Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

In the last quarters of 2015, he got to know that his wife was expecting again. His dream of being the father of a baby girl was about to get fulfilled.

The family was passing the best of their days just a month before their second child's arrival when Rabiul had to respond to the call of duty. He never returned.

Rabiul was killed during the 12-hour rescue operation on July 1, 2016, in Dhaka's Holey Artisan café, where terrorists kept many visitors hostage.

AC Rabiul could not see his daughter. Kamrun Nahar Raina, who is six years old never saw her father either.

Rabiul's wife Umme Salma is currently working as an administrative officer at Jahangirnagar University. She lives in Dhamrai



with her two children Sunny and Raina.

"I have never seen my father, except in photos," said Raina, when asked about her father.

"I heard Abbu brought many toys for Sunny bhaiya. When he tells Abbu's story, I imagine him still by our side. I like to think he would bring toys for me too if he were here."

"My children make my life now. I'm proud that my husband sacrificed his life for people and country," said Umme Salma.

Rabiul formed a school in his village for differently-abled children, where around 69 children are currently studying. For Rabiul, the school and the children were just like other family members.

AC Rabiul Karim was the elder son among the two in his family. His younger brother Shamsuzzaman Shams is a journalist at a Bangla daily.

"There is no one left now to call me and ask when I'll be going home on Eid vacations," said Shams, while reminiscing his brother's memory.

On July 1, 2016, armed militants stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery at the diplomatic zone in Dhaka's Gulshan area. Twenty-two gave their lives in the grisly terror attack. Two police officers, including Rabiul, were also killed during the 12-hour standoff that followed.

Newly-wed hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A newly-wed girl was killed in Sherpur's Nalitabari on Wednesday.

The deceased is Diti (21).

OC Basir Ahmed Badal of Nalitabari Police Station said Diti got married to one Khairul Islam on June 23. After marriage, Khairul went to Dhaka for work, leaving Diti at her parents' home.

On Wednesday night, her neighbour Ruhul Amin, who is helper of a trucker, entered the house, hacked her and fled the scene.

Police arrested him early yesterday.

During primary interrogation, Ruhul said he and Diti were in a relationship. He attacked her as she married someone else, said police.

6 cattle markets for port city this year
5pc tax on selling price; Covid precautions to be in place

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) has been allowed to set up just three temporary markets, although CCC sought permission to set up 10 for Eid-ul-Azha.

Chattogram District Administration has taken this decision. It also imposed 17 conditions, mostly related to following health guidelines, for setting up the markets, said sources.

Meanwhile, tax on buying sacrificial animals would remain the same for port city's cattle markets this year, just like the previous ones.

The tax would be five percent on the selling price, said Syed Shamsul Tabreej, revenue officer of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC).

In addition to the temporary

markets, cattle would be available in the three permanent cattle markets of CCC. This means port city residents would be able to buy sacrificial animals from six markets this year.

Sources in CCC said the district administration did not permit setting up too many cattle markets in the past two years due to the pandemic. It approved only three temporary markets last year as well.

The markets will open to the public 10 days before Eid, said CCC Chief Revenue Officer Mohammad Nazrul Islam.

The three markets are at Nur Nagar Housing Estate field; the field adjacent to Saltgola Railway Crossing; and TK Group's vacant field, south of Butterfly Park in South Patenga, said CCC's Tabreej.

The permanent markets are at Sagarika Bazar, Bibirhat Bazar and Postarpar Goat Haat.

Dr Md Delwar Hossain, Chattogram district livestock officer, said 30 veterinary medical teams have been formed for the cattle markets. They would confirm the health condition of sacrificial animals for buyers.

Among the 17 conditions, some major ones are temporary markets should be set up at a convenient place; to prevent Covid-19 infections, hand sanitiser, soap and water should be provided at entrance and exit; elderly and children should be discouraged from entering the markets; presence of veterinarian surgeons must be ensured to verify health of animal; and CCTV should be installed by lessees.



Santal community yesterday observed the 167th anniversary of their historic rebellion, known as "Santal Hool", in Gaibandha. They brought out processions and paid homage to community members who sacrificed their lives in the Santal mutiny on June 30, 1855, and those killed in police firing at Shahebganj sugarcane farm on November 6, 2016.

PHOTO: COLLECTED