



Severe flooding has affected at least 12 districts in Chattogram and Sylhet divisions. Heavy monsoon rains and rush of water from upstream are displacing people and significantly damaging infrastructure. More than 36.5 lakh people have been stranded in 495 flood-affected unions across the 12 districts. The Met Office yesterday said rain is expected to continue today in most parts of Mymensingh, Dhaka, Barishal, Chattogram, and Sylhet divisions, and it may subside tomorrow. The photos were taken in Feni, Brahmanbaria, and Khagrachhari yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN, MASUK HRIDOV, SHANTO DEBNATH

Editors' Council

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The council also condemned the attack on the building of East West Media Group in the Bashundhara residential area of the capital.
"The offices of Dainik Kaler Kantho and Radio Capital owned by East West Media Group were attacked and vandalised. Several cars in front of the building were also vandalised. The Editor's Council condemns this incident," added the statement.
The council also expressed deep concern over the filing of a murder case against the former head of news of Ekattor Television Shakil Ahmed and its principal correspondent Farzana Rupa.
"If Shakil Ahmed and Farzana Rupa have committed any crime outside the purview of

journalism, legal action can be taken against them by following the proper procedure," the statement said.
The Editor's Council emphasised that unethical journalism without professionalism is condemnable.
"However, the Editors' Council thinks that the filing of a murder case [against Shakil and Farzana Rupa] is a matter of deep concern," the statement added.
On August 21, Shakil Ahmed and Farzana Rupa were detained at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.
Later, immigration authorities handed them over to the Detective Branch (DB) of police.
The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) later announced their arrest in connection with a murder case.

Flash floods wreak havoc in 12 dists

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According to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, more than 36.45 lakh people were trapped by the floods.
Three people drowned in Ramu, Cox's Bazar, and one each in Feni and Brahmanbaria yesterday.
Only the victims of Ramu have been identified: Amjad Hossain, 22, son of Chhayed Hossain; Rabiul Alam, 35, son of Saleh Ahmed; and Coching Rakhine, 50, said Abul Kashim, a union parishad member.
The government said 10 people went missing in Cumilla as flash floods hit the villages hard there.
In Feni, over 300,000 people were stranded in the town and six upazilas with roads being inaccessible.
"I have never seen floodwaters rise this high. The water has reached

up to the first floor of my house," said Alam Manik, a resident of Chhanua area in Feni town.
According to government data, 154,661 people are stranded in 12 upazilas of Cumilla and 184,900 people in eight upazilas of Noakhali.
Floods are wreaking havoc in nine upazilas in Chattogram, seven in Moulvibazar, eight in Khagrachhari, five in Habiganj, two in Brahmanbaria, and three in Sylhet.
At least 12,20,877 people are stranded in these districts.
In Burichang upazila of Cumilla, an embankment along the Gumti river was washed away late last night, said officials, adding that the flood situation may worsen in Burichang and Brahmanpara upazilas.

The government deployed 492 medical teams and opened 2,246 shelters where 82,694 people and 7,755 cattle took refuge in these districts.
Over 13,000 people are stranded in Rangamati and 80,000 in Cox's Bazar.
The disaster management ministry allocated Tk 3.32 crore; 19,650 tonnes of rice; and 15,000 packs of food, said a statement.
Traffic on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway was disrupted after Cumilla's Chaudagram went under water early yesterday.
Of the 6,986 cell phone towers in the affected districts, 1,510 went out of order, leaving thousands with no signal on their phones.
More than 41 percent of the towers in Feni

and Khagrachhari were inoperative.
The Department of Posts and Telecommunications sent several V-Sat units with the help of the Bangladesh Satellite Company to the districts to improve telecommunications.
Deputy commissioners of the districts were asked to work in coordination with student organisers, the army, medics, and volunteers.
The disaster management opened a hotline - 0255101115 - to provide information and assistance.
More than 160 army personnel in 40 rescue vehicles, 71 navy personnel in eight rescue vehicles, and boats of border guards were sent to Feni. A water treatment plant has been set up there.

Menon arrested in Gulshan

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in another ICT case over alleged mass killings during Hefazat-e-Islam's 2013 rally at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel.
In Sylhet, a Chhatra Dal leader injured during the protest has also named Menon in a case against Hasina and others.
During the past Awami League government, Menon had first served as the civil aviation and tourism minister, and later as the social welfare minister. He was elected MP from Barishal-2 in the last national polls held on January 7.
The chief of the leftist Workers Party had also served as the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Education.

Menon has recently been made Hasina's co-accused in a number of cases over the deaths in clashes between protesters and law enforcers during the student-led movement.
Workers Party politburo, the highest policymaking body of the party, in a statement condemned Menon's arrest and demanded his immediate release.
In one of the cases, Menon is charged with crimes against humanity at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) over the death of a student in Mirpur.
He has been implicated

Jt initiative needed to deal with floods

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to resolve the water-sharing issue.
The Indian envoy expressed concern over the security of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and its establishments in Bangladesh.
Shafiqul said security has already been stepped up in Dhaka's diplomatic zone to address such concerns.
"It is unfortunate that there are some posts [regarding India] on the social media."
Citing the high commissioner, the press secretary said India wants more positive engagements with Bangladesh.
The envoy stressed the need for working together to ensure shared prosperity of the two nations.
"We strongly believe in a strong and prosperous Bangladesh. We are really looking forward to work together," Shafiqul quoted Verma as saying.
The envoy also briefly discussed minority issues with the chief adviser.
Yunus earlier urged the Indian media outlets to visit Bangladesh and report from the ground as there are some exaggeration about the minority situation in Bangladesh, the press secretary said.
Regarding people-to-people engagement, the Indian high commissioner said his country has the largest visa operations in Bangladesh. About 16 lakh Bangladeshis visited India last year. Of them, 60 percent visited for tourism purposes, 30 percent for medical purposes, and the rest for other purposes.
On the ongoing floods in Bangladesh, the envoy said water got "released automatically" from India due to a rise in water levels.
Yunus talked about BIMSTEC and SAARC, and laid emphasis on bringing

young people together in South Asia.
He also spoke about a world of "Three Zeros" - the new economics of zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions.
'INDIA NOT CAUSING FLOODS IN BANGLADESH'
The flood situation in eastern Bangladesh has not been caused by the release of water from an Indian dam on the Gumti river in Tripura, India's foreign ministry said yesterday.
"We have seen concerns being expressed in Bangladesh that the current situation of flood in districts on the eastern borders of Bangladesh has been caused by opening of the Dumbur dam upstream of the Gumti river in Tripura. This is factually not correct," the ministry

It said the Dumbur dam is located quite far from the border - over 120km upstream of Bangladesh. It is a low height (about 30m) dam that generates power to feed into a grid, and Bangladesh also draws 40MW from it.
Heavy rainfall has been continuing since August 21 in the whole of Tripura and adjoining districts of Bangladesh. In the event of heavy inflow, automatic releases have been observed, the statement added.
Along the about 120km river course, India has three water level observation sites at Amarapur, Sonamura, and Sonamura 2. Amarapur station is in part of a bilateral protocol under which India is transmitting real-time flood data to Bangladesh.
"Data showing rising

Floods on the common rivers between India and Bangladesh are a shared problem inflicting sufferings to people on both sides, and require close mutual cooperation towards resolving them, it added.
As the two countries share 54 cross border rivers, river water cooperation is an important part of bilateral engagement.
"We remain committed to resolving issues and mutual concerns in water resources and river water management through bilateral consultations and technical discussions," the statement said.
Meanwhile, speaking to BBC Bangla, Ratan Lal Nath, minister of power of Tripura, yesterday said the allegation that the opening of Dambur sluice gate caused floods in

Cases against Hasina so far cross 50

STAR REPORT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina will be investigated for seven more murders, taking the number of such cases so far after her August 5 downfall to 51.
Five of the cases were filed in Dhaka and one in Narsingdi over deaths during the recent student-led uprising, while in Bogura, a case was filed over the killing that took place in 2018.
The former PM now faces at least 42 cases on murder charges, seven for alleged crimes against humanity and genocide, one on allegation of abduction and one over an attack on a BNP procession.
Hasina and 46 others were sued by Advocate Hannan Bhuiyan over the killing of a street vendor named Shahabul Islam Shaon during the protests in Dhaka's Ashulia on August 4, a day before her resignation and flight to India.
Dhaka Senior Judicial Magistrate Arifa Chowdhury Himel ordered Ashulia police to register it as a first information report (FIR).
AL general secretary Obaidul Quader, ex-home

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Govt to form commission to probe enforced disappearances

NHRC demands info about Aynaghar, people involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory council of the interim government yesterday decided to form a commission to investigate the enforced disappearances that took place during the Awami League tenure.
The commission, once formed, will investigate the reasons behind the enforced disappearances and identify the culprits, reports a Bangla daily.
The decision was taken at a meeting of the Advisory Council of the interim government at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus in the chair.
Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, briefed to media about the meeting's decisions.
Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission has demanded full disclosure of information about secret detention cells, known as "Aynaghar," including their current status,
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ATTACK ON ARMY PERSONNEL Army files case against AL leaders, 3,200 unnamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The army yesterday filed a case over attacking army personnel, vandalising and torching their vehicles, and snatching their weapons in Gopalganj on August 10.
Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station, said Lt Col Md Maksudul Alam, of 10th Bengal Regiment, lodged the case against 106 named people, including Gopalganj Awami League president and general secretary, and 3,000 3,200 unidentified people.
According to the case statement, a mob with local weapons attacked on-duty army personnel, beat up government employees with the intention to kill them, snatched their weapons, and vandalised and torched their vehicles.
On August 10, AL leaders and activists blocked the Dhaka-Khulna highway to protest "forcing former prime minister Sheikh Hasina to leave the country". Many vehicles were stuck on both sides of the road. On information, on-duty army personnel in Gopalganj went to the spot and asked the protesters to leave the highway. The protesters and the army personnel locked in an altercation.
At one stage, the demonstrators attacked the army personnel, injuring nine.
Besides, two firearms and six magazines were snatched, and a vehicle was set on fire and two others were vandalised.
Later, the army recovered the two firearms and three magazines.

'Opening of dam gates sans notice inhuman'

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shown inhumanity and non-cooperation by opening the dam without any advance warning," he told reporters after the meeting of the advisory council in front of Jamuna, the office of the chief adviser.
Nahid, also a key coordinator of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement, said, "We will urge and hope that India will refrain from this kind of policy against the people of Bangladesh soon. We must find a solution on how we can protect the people of Bangladesh and India from this kind of natural disaster together."
"Students and people of Bangladesh are enraged by this policy of India," said Nahid, also the ICT adviser.
He called upon all to work together to deal with this flood situation the

way "we worked together in the mass uprising".
Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain were also present at the briefing.
Rizwana said they discussed the flood situation with utmost importance in the advisory council meeting, and the advisers would visit the flood-affected districts.
She said the advisory council decided to instruct coast guard members to ensure that no foreign intruders can enter our waters.
Asif spoke about the government's position towards the demands made by various groups, saying the government will take steps to the best of its ability to address the issues.



Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guesthouse Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

India would like to point out that the catchment areas of the Gumti river that flows through India and Bangladesh have witnessed heaviest rains of this year over the last few days. The flood in Bangladesh is primarily due to waters from these large catchments downstream of the dam, said the statement.

trend has been supplied to Bangladesh up to 1500 hrs on August 21, 2024. At 1800 hrs, due to flooding, there was power outage, leading to problems of communication.
"Still, we have tried to maintain communication through other means created for urgent transmission of data," the Indian foreign ministry said.

Bangladesh was "nothing but propaganda".
"No sluice gate of the Gomti Hydroelectric Station was opened. The highest reserve capacity of the water body of the electricity station is 94 meters. The water will be released through the gates if the level of water goes beyond it and the gates will be closed once the water level falls," he said.