

FLOOD IN THE NORTH

90,000 marooned in 3 districts

STAR REPORT

Over 90,000 people in three northern districts – Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat – are still marooned due to floodwaters.

The flood situation is expected to improve from today as Teesta's water level came down below danger level yesterday, said Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Lalmonirhat.

Teesta was flowing 11cm below the danger level at Rangpur's Kaunia Point at 6:00pm yesterday. It was flowing 32cm above the danger level at the same point 24 hours earlier, said BWDB officials in Rangpur.

At least 30,000 people have been severely affected by flood in Rangpur's Gangachhara, Pargachha and Kaunia upazilas.

"We were compelled to relocate to safety on Sunday night when our house became submerged," said Nazrul Islam of Charga village under Gangachhara upazila.

Ansar Ali, chairman of Balapara union parishad under Kaunia upazila, said many people took shelter on roads and embankments as entire villages went under water.

"Erosion damaged numerous houses, leaving many people homeless," said Rashedul Islam, chairman of Dhepmadhupur union under the same upazila.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, over 60,000 people were facing similar ordeals.

"We have been living in a makeshift polythene shanty on the embankment since Sunday morning after our house became inundated," said Asma Begum, 40, of Gatiashyam village under Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila.

Soleman Ali, 60, of the same village, said the village's only community clinic was at risk of being eroded by the river.

Meanwhile, croplands in some low-lying areas of Sirajganj district were inundated after Jamuna's water level rose by 63cm in past 24 hours since 6:00pm on Sunday.

"My peanut cultivation on around two bighas of lands has been submerged under water," said Md Afsar Bhuiyan of Bonnrchar village under Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

However, the river was still flowing below danger level till yesterday, according to BWDB officials.

The water level will drop in next two or three days, and there was no forecast of flood in Sirajganj, the officials added.



A woman sits in the broken remains of what she once called home, destroyed by the recent floods in Jashore. Several thousand residents of the Bhabadaha area in Jashore district suffer for nearly six months every year due to flooding by the Mukteshwari, Teka, Sree and Hori rivers, which have become shallow because of siltation over the years. As the rivers cannot drain the floodwater, mobility remains a challenge in the area for a long time. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

10 sand lifters held in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 sand lifters were arrested following a clash with locals over extracting sand illegally from Padma river in Char Kanthogazra area of Varara union under Pabna Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

The arrestees are: Altaf Sheikh, 30; Joyal Sheikh, 28; Ripon Sheikh, 26; Mostafa Sheikh, 28; Hredoy Sheikh, 22; Rakib Sheikh, 25; Abul Hashem, 36; Ismail Hossain, 60; and Suruj Jowarder, 36.

Of them, Rakib was injured and admitted to Pabna General Hospital in police custody.

Md Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said a group of sand lifters led by Suruj and Ismail were extracting sand from the river illegally when locals tried to resist them and a clash ensued between the two groups.

The locals eventually beat up the sand lifters and later handed them over to police.

A case was filed with Pabna Sadar Police Station, the OC added.

Traffic congestion worsens in Tangail



MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Traffic congestion in Tangail has continued to worsen due to movement of battery-run rickshaws and easy-bikes, lack of renovation to roads and footpaths, and lack of parking spaces.

According to Tangail municipality sources, there are 590 small and large roads under its 18 wards across 29.43 square kilometres area.

While around 4,200 easy-bikes were issued license to ply the roads in the town, the actual number of these three-wheelers is much bigger, most of which are illegal.

Besides, around 7,000 battery-run rickshaws and around 5,000 paddle-rickshaws ply the roads.

"Almost the same number of legal and illegal three-wheelers ply the town's roads, exacerbating the traffic woes," said Delwar Hossain, traffic inspector (administration) of Tangail.

The acute lack of parking places or stands for the three-wheelers complicate the situation further.

During peak hours, most thoroughfares in the town witness severe traffic gridlock, prompting many to walk to their destinations. However, even that becomes difficult as the footpaths across the town are largely occupied by thousands of vendors, makeshift shops, beggars, as well as hotels and restaurants that do not have own parking facilities.

"I have already raised these issues at the monthly law and order and development coordination meetings but no coordinated steps have been taken so far to this end," Delwar added.

"The former municipality mayor and councillors during the recently ousted Awami League government's tenure allowed licenses for several thousand three-wheelers in exchange of hefty bribes," alleged Saiful Islam, a town dweller.

Shihab Raihan, deputy director of Local Government Department in Tangail and also administrator of Tangail municipality, said necessary steps will be taken in this regard soon.

Prepare yourselves as future leaders

CJ tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed yesterday urged



the students to prepare themselves as future leaders of the country to overcome all the obstacles facing in the path of national progress.

He made the call while delivering an orientation speech to the students of Barisal Cadet College at its auditorium.

The chief justice requested the students to devote themselves to the establishment of equality at all levels of society and the protection of human rights through intensive practice of discipline, diligence and concentration.

Need national consensus to reform constitution

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national consensus is needed to bring any changes to the country's constitution, and it should reflect the will of the country's people, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

The roundtable titled "Reforming the Constitution of Bangladesh," was organised by the Bangladesh Center for Governance and Development (BCGD), a research cell of Dhaka International University.

While presiding over the event, Gonoforum leader Subrata Chowdhury urged to immediately announce the member list of the Constitution Reform Commission. He said it should first clarify whether the constitution will be reformed or revised.

"We still do not know who are the members of the constitution reform commission; the gazette has not been published. But they are supposed to start working from tomorrow," he said.

Rumeen Farhana, former whip of BNP, said, "Our constitution has been amended 17 times so far. Every party that went into government has used the constitution at its will, for its advantage, and to consolidate its power."

Saber Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at Dhaka University, said the will and aspirations of youth must be reflected in the constitution after the July-August student uprising.

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PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-45	12-45	4-15	5-53	7-30
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Pre-Paid Metering System
Biddut Bhaban (Level-14), BPDB, Dhaka.
www.bpdb.gov.bd

Ref. No.: 27.11.0000.847.14.005.24.390 Date: 30.09.2024

Invitation for e-Tenders

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of Works	Tender/Proposal Publication date and Time	Tender Document last selling / downloading date and Time	Tender Closing and opening date and Time
1.	1013596	Supply of POS (Point of Sale) Printer with Required IT Equipment for Prepaid Meter Vending Stations	30-Sep-2024 15:00	15-Oct-2024 17:00	16-Oct-2024 16:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) / Contract Number: 01762625528-31).

30/09/2024
(Mriganika Mohan Paul)
Director
Directorate of Pre-Paid Metering System
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GD-577

Include house helps as workers in the labour law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Domestic Workers' National Forum was launched yesterday at an event in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh. Speakers at the event emphasised the urgent need to secure fair wages and working hours for house helps by integrating them into the labour law.

The forum will work from the grassroots to the policy-making level to work towards ensuring domestic workers' rights at local and national levels. They will aim to implement the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy (2015), and ensure their recognition as "workers" in the labour law.

The event was organised by Dushtha Shasthya Kendra with the help of Oxfam in Bangladesh.

Around 200 house helps attended the event. Referring to a study by Oxfam in 2022, where 67 percent of domestic workers suffered emotional abuse, 61 percent verbal abuse and 21 percent physical abuse, OXFAM Programme Director Mahmuda Sultana highlighted the need for ensuring proper protection for domestic workers.

She said, "The 16,000 domestic workers we are engaging with through this forum will work for their rights."

Regarding this new forum, Zakia Sultana, a house help, who has been selected as president, said "Our main demand is to include all domestic workers in the country in the labor law and recognise them as workers. There is no accurate data on how many women are employed as domestic workers in the country."

Khulna Development Authority
Khulna
www.kda.gov.bd

Memo No: 25.41.0000.021.0244.2024- Date:

Re-e-Tender Notice (OTM)
Invitation for Tender (Works)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No	Name of work	Tender Package No	Tender Last selling (date & time)	Tender ID No	Tender Closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
1.	Upward Extension of KDA Multipurpose Building, (Construction of total 09 (nine) storied steel framed building on existing 3 storied building with 9-storied foundation, including semi basement floor. It includes civil, sanitary, water supply and internal electrification, fire protection etc)	WD-1/multipurpose building/2024-25	14.10.2024 17:00	1020481	15.10.2024 14:00	15.10.2024 14:00

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 (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

30/09/2024
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GD-571