

Thousand People marooned as floods hit Southeast in Bangladesh

Rain and onrush of water from upstream caused the flooding to worsen in the hilly district of Bandarban, Feni and Cox's Bazar yesterday (July 26, 2015). This is the second time floods have affected these places this year. Around 40,000 people in Bandarban were marooned and road communications between the district and other parts of the country remained snapped for the second consecutive day yesterday. Tourists have been stranded and there is no electricity at many places in the district since Saturday night (July 25, 2015).

Locals said low lying areas of Lama, Thanchi, Ruma, Rowangchhari, Alikadom, Naikkhangchhari of the district have gone under six to eight feet of water. Wapda Bridge, Bus Station, Army Para, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Islampur, Member Para, Officer's Club, and Hafezghona in Bandarban municipality area have also gone under water. Many flood affected people have taken refuge in schools and cyclone shelters.



Soil and Water Preservation Centre in the district recorded a 192mm rainfall in 24 hours since Saturday morning. Sub-divisional engineer for Bangladesh Water Development Board, said the Matamuhuri was flowing 72cm above the danger level near Lama while the Sangu 65cm in the town. Flash floods due to excessive rain, elevation of the river bed due to earth filling, and encroachment of river banks contributed to the flooding, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban, said the administration opened eight relief centres in the town and Lama to give people dry food, water, medicines and other necessities.

In Cox's Bazar, hundreds of houses have gone under flood water in 14 unions of Chakaria and Pekua upazilas . Over 50,000 inhabitants in the two upazilas have been marooned. People of those areas had taken shelter on high ground with their livestock and valuables. The Met office recorded 131mm of rain in Cox's Bazar between yesterday morning and 3:00pm.

In Feni, the flood situation deteriorated in Feni Sadar, Dagonbhuiyan and Sonagazi upazilas with 657 hectares of seedbeds, 605 hectares of Aman and 50 hectares of vegetables going under water. Some roads in the town were still under water. Executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, said flood protection embankment for the Muhuri river in Feni broke on Saturday (July 25, 2015), flooding a few upazilas of the district.

Landslide kills 2 in Cox's Bazar

A woman and her daughter were killed in a landslide, triggered by incessant rainfall over the last few days, in Hilltop Circuit House area in the district town early Monday (July 27, 2015).

Acting deputy commissioner of the district said some parts of the Rader Station hill, including its protection barrier, collapsed on the house of Khairul Amin near Hilltop Circuit House around 2am.

On information, members of army, police and a firefighting unit rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation. They recovered the two bodies and rescued two others from the spot

Signal No. 3 at Seaports

The maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal no 3 as the low over the North Bay and adjoining Bangladesh coast rapidly concentrated into a monsoon depression over the same area.

It was centred at 12 noon about 115 kms west-southwest of Chittagong port, 140 kms west-southwest of Cox's Bazar port, 140 kms southeast of Mongla port and 55 kms east of Payra port, said a Met Office special bulletin. It is likely to intensify further, said the bulletin.

Maximum sustained wind speed within 44 kms of the depression centre is about 40 kph rising to 50 kph in gusts/squalls. Sea will remain moderate near the depression centre. All fishing boats and trawlers over the North Bay have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

Below is the comparison between the river water levels of this year and the previous year (2014) as on July 26.

Basin	Station	Danger Level	2015	2014
Surma	Kanaighat	13.20	13.89	11.07
Kushiyara	Amashid	15.85	16.53	13.80
Kushiyara	Sheola	13.50	14.20	11.95
Halda	Narayan Hat	15.25	15.55	12.24
Sangu	Bandarban	15.25	15.80	7.16
Sangu	Dohazari	7.00	7.75	2.65
Matamuhuri	Lama	12.25	13.19	7.23
Matamuhuri	Chiringa	5.75	6.73	3.34

Source: Disaster Forum Archive

Significant rainfalls recorded during last 24 hrs. ending at 06:00 AM July 26, 2015.

Name of the Station	Normal for July	Rainfall in mm	Name of the Station	Normal for June	Rainfall fall in mm
Chittagong	811.7	299.0	Panchpukuria	702.0	76.0
Lama	769.0	217.0	Noakhali	739.3	63.7
Bandarban	595.5	197.0	Khulna	351.9	50.0
Rangamati	567.5	140.0	Patuakhali	560.0	44.6
Cox's Bazar	945.6	116.0	Barisal	416.0	40.0
Narayanhat	812.4	112.0	Ramgarh	626.0	39.0
Teknaf	318.0	105.3	Chandpur	417.3	37.0

Source: FFWC

Dengue back in Dhaka

Authorities have devised plans to launch dengue fever awareness campaign in Dhaka as the mosquito-borne infection has returned with the onset of monsoon. The 'breakbone fever' caused by the bite of the aedes aegypti mosquito had baffled doctors and was a cause of great concern when it first appeared in the early 2000s. But it subsequently became a seasonal fever with doctors having proper guidelines, and people coming to know about the disease. "There is nothing to panic. It's very normal now, and everyone knows about this," said Dr Md Tito Miah, an associate professor of medicine at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. But he cautioned inappropriate management can trigger fatal bleeding, advising people not to take medicines other than paracetamol without prescriptions during fever.

The government's disease monitoring agency, IEDCR, has been following the trend of dengue fever. Its director Prof Mahmudur Rahman said the trend was "normal" so far. "Many factors can influence the rise of dengue fever, such as climate change and the breeding of the vector mosquito," he told, citing 2013 as a critical year when there were cases every month.

Usually June to September is the season of this fever, but it can be prolonged. The first case this year was reported in June, and the government's control room has recorded 89 cases so far. "There may be some more patients. But our surveillance gives us a clear picture about the trend of the disease and it shows nothing to trigger panic," Prof Rahman said.

Dhaka South City Corporation on Sunday (July 26, 2015) held a meeting on how they would generate awareness about the disease. Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Md Mahbubur Rahman told that they had decided to campaign through folk songs and the media for awareness. Health Officer of Dhaka North City Corporation Dr Emdadul Haque told that they would meet on Monday (July 27, 2015). "But we have already decided to monitor hospitals. We'll collect dengue patients' addresses from hospitals and strengthen our activities in the areas where they live," he said. The city corporations have routine programmes for sanitising the breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

General awareness is necessary as the dengue-causing aedes mosquito usually breeds in a small collection of clean water in and around houses, such as inside a flower vase. The symptoms of dengue are sudden high fever, severe headache, pains behind the eyes, muscle and joints. The severity of the joint pain has given dengue the name 'breakbone fever'. "If the fever is accompanied or followed by cough and sneeze, it is unlikely to be dengue," Dr Md Tito Miah said.