

Bangladesh: Flood situation worsens in Sylhet, Kurigram

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The overall flood situation in Sylhet deteriorated further on Tuesday due to the swelling of the Kushiara river caused by incessant showers over the last three days, rendering thousand of people homeless.

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According to the Water Development Board, the Kushiara was flowing 186cm above the danger level at Amalshid point, 67cm above the danger level at Sheula point, and 8cm above the red mark at Fenchuganj point.

Besides, the Surma river was flowing above the danger mark at all points.

The flood situation in six upazilas of the district — Jakiganj, Balaganj, Beanibazar, Osmaninagar, Golapganj and Fenchuganj — has also turned grim due to the swelling of the Kushiara.

In fact, 60 percent area of Fenchuganj upazila has been flooded while the road link from Sadar upazila to Beanibazar upazila of the district remained snapped.

Balaganj-Khasrupur and Fenchuganj-Balaganj roads are also under water, officials said.

Many new areas of the six upazilas have also been flooded due to the rise in the water level of the Kushiara river.

Thousands of people have been hit by the floods, while shortage of food and drinking water has mounted the woes of the victims.

The victims alleged that they were yet to get relief materials from the government.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in Sylhet city, Biswanath upazila and Kanaighat upazila of the district remained the same with rains subsiding over the last couple of days.

Besides, the flood situation in Companiganj, Goainghat and Jointapur upazilas of the district has slightly improved with water levels in major rivers — the Dhalai, the Pian, the Sari and the Lova — subsiding. Over 90 percent areas of the three upazilas have been flooded.

The Army, the Navy, the Coast Guard, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the local police have been pressed into action to evacuate the flood victims of the district.

Kurigram

The flood situation in Kurigram district deteriorated further on Tuesday due to the swelling of major rivers caused by an onrush of water from the hills and incessant showers, rendering over two lakh people homeless.

According to the local Water Development Board, the Brahmaputra river has been flowing 55cm and 23cm above the danger mark at Chilmari and Nunkhaoya points, respectively, while the Dharla river has been flowing 42cm above the red level at Setu point in the past 24 hours.

The flood situation in Kurigram may worsen further, said Abdullah Al Mamun, executive engineer of Kurigram Water Development Board.

According to health department sources, two children drowned in Rowmari and Ulipur upazilas, respectively, on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Maksuda Jannat, 11, daughter of Maidul Islam of Jamuna Sarkarpara village in Ulipur upazila, and Khalilur Rahman, one-and-a-half year-old son of Khalilur Rahman of Jadur Char union in Roumari upazila.

Some 65 medical teams have been formed in the district to aid the flood victims, said civil surgeon Dr Md. Manzoor A Morshed.

Besides, nine monitoring teams have also been formed in nine upazilas, he added.

The low-lying areas of the district went under water while 141 educational institutions have been shut down temporarily due to the floods, said Abdul Hai Sarkar, district relief and rehabilitation officer in charge of the flood control room.

As many as 284 villages in nine upazilas of the district have been flooded as major rivers continue to swell, he added.

Abdur Rashid, deputy director of Kurigram Department of Agriculture Extension, said some 13,711 hectares of land have been submerged and the sufferings of the flood-hit people have intensified due to the shortage of food and pure drinking water.

Deputy commissioner Mohammad Rezaul Karim said Tk 16.5 lakh in cash, 338 metric tonnes of rice and 1,000 packets of dry food have been distributed among the flood-affected people in the district. "We have Tk 20 lakh in cash and 407 metric tonnes of rice in stock," he said.

Besides, baby food worth over Tk 18 lakh and cow feed worth nearly Tk 18 lakh are being purchased, he said. "A control room has been opened in the deputy commissioner's office."

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