

## North East news

### 108 lose lives due to floods in Bangladesh

Courtesy Northeast now  
Dhaka Aug 5,

At least 108 people have lost their lives in the floods in Bangladesh triggered by torrential rains and onrush of water from hills across the Indian borders. National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC) officials said that "the floods caused the deaths of 108 people in 16 districts and widespread damage to habitation, crops, roads and highways across vast swathes of the country".

An NDRCC official said most victims have drowned but some died in boat capsize in the flood-hit areas. He said that at least six million people have been affected by the floods while thousands of families were forced flee home since the first week of June. The official said flood situation is now improving in most of the districts with water levels in many rivers receding. Millions of people in Bangladesh, criss-crossed

by more than 230 rivers, suffer from flooding as the low-lying country experiences seasonal floods every year during the June-September monsoon when rivers that feed into the Bay of Bengal burst their banks. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier urged officials to remain alert to tackle flood, saying some parts of the country have been flooded and the flood water would slowly come down to the mid areas of the country by the end of August.

### Assam districts panic, notices at night for NRC hearings 300 km away

Agency  
Assam Aug 5,

On Sunday, Abu Sama and Abu Bakkar boarded a packed bus with their young children and wives, hoping to make it to a hearing of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Jorhat, over 300 km away, scheduled for Monday. The daily wage labourers were among the hundreds of people in at least two districts of Lower Assam, Kamrup (Rural) and Barpeta, to have received "sudden" notices to appear for NRC hearings in far-off towns within the next few days, starting Monday.

The notices started arriving Saturday night. With the short deadline adding to the panic, and the government tightened, villagers across the two districts hired vehicles to make the long travel, many of them for the first time in their lives. The bus Sama and Bakkar boarded was hired for Rs 30,000 by those served notices in their village. Other families were seen clambering onto Tata Sumos and pick-up trucks, headed, apart from Jorhat, for towns like Dibrugarh, Sivasagar and Golaghat. In adjoining Goraimari, where many received notices too,

there was panic selling to arrange money for travel. NRC state coordinator Prateek Hajela did not respond to calls or multiple text messages regarding the notices. He had earlier been censured by the Supreme Court, which is monitoring the NRC, for talking to the press.

The notices come three days after the Assam government tabled in the Assembly district-wise data of exclusion from the draft NRC published last year — defying a Supreme Court order against it — to underline that in districts bordering Bangladesh the exclusion percentage was lower than in areas with indigenous populations. The state's and Centre's contention is that the names in the NRC should be re-verified, but the Supreme Court has turned down its request, and stuck to the deadline of August 31 for the final list.

Lawyers and activists said the far-off locations for hearings were in contradiction of the Supreme Court's April 10 order asking the NRC authorities "to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the persons required to attend the hearing and to see that they are not required to travel long

distances, if possible". The SOP for the claims and objections round of the NRC approved by the Supreme Court also states that, "The LRCR (Local Registrar of Citizen Registration) will ensure that the applicant is served the notice at least 15 days prior to the date of hearing."

According to local officials, in Chaomoria Revenue Circle, under which Sontoli falls, at least 25,000 notices had been served.

Sivasagar is one of the districts where scores of families have been told to appear to for hearings. An official who did not want to be identified said he had been told that the "legacy data" used by several families in Kamrup (Rural) for enrolment in the NRC had been found to have been used by some others in Sivasagar district. Some district officials said they were unclear about the exercise while others said it could be an attempt to clarify cases in which the disposing officer during the "claims and objections" round of the NRC updation process had certain doubts. There was also uncertainty over how many such notices had been served across the state.

Most of the families The Indian Express spoke to said they had no idea why they had got the notices. Sama said, "My name is in the NRC. But for some reason, we have been called. Last night at around 10, we were delivered the notices by the village headman. Jorhat is very far... we have never been there." Bakkar said he and his family members too are in the NRC. "People here are in panic. We don't understand why we are being called."

A local social worker in Sontoli, who did not want to be named, said 25 vehicles carrying people had left the village already and another three buses were scheduled to leave. He said administration and police officials had helped arrange the vehicles.

Maizana Nessa of neighbouring Goraimari said she had sold her nose ring for Rs 900 Sunday morning to pay for travel to Golaghat, around 400 km away. Her brother Kanchu Miya, who also got a notice to appear in Golaghat, sold his goat for Rs 1,330 and cattle for Rs 3,500. "Do you know what will happen at the hearing?" asked a worried Nessa.

### Bus passengers hurt on way to appear for NRC hearing

Courtesy Northeast today  
Assam Aug 5, 2019:

Travelling passengers in a bus met with an accident on NH 37 at 9th Mile area of Assam yesterday night. The passengers in the bus were on the way to upper Assam's Golaghat from Sontoli area near Boko in Kamrup district

to appear for NRC hearing. The authorities summoned them to upper Assam's Golaghat district for re-verification of NRC documents scheduled today. Locals said the accident took place when the driver of the bus with at least 40 passengers lost control and force into a

road divider. However, the injured passengers have been rushed to Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH). Thousands of people belonging to minority community from several Lower Assam areas have been summoned to attend NRC hearings on different dates from August 5 to August 7.

## More State News

### Assam Rifles Organises Picnic For Underprivileged Students with Organises Medical Camp at Molnom Village



IGAR (South)  
Imphal Aug 5,

To spread the message of love and to save our rich history by understanding the importance of our architectural designs, Assam Rifles Public School (ARPS), Mantripukhuri organised a picnic to Kangla

Fort for 26 underprivileged kids from the ARPS, Mantripukhuri. A unique way to spend the day, the objective of organising a picnic at the Kangla Fort was to teach kids the importance of architectural heritage of our country. So along with fun and food, kids were made aware about the enriching history of

the Fort and it's importance for the capital of Manipur. To make the kids understand about the importance of the Fort, this picnic was organised for underprivileged kids so that they see and mix-up with the environment. Children are pure humans and the real change makers. If they are directed

towards the right path they can do wonders. Taking them to the Fort was to show them how rich our history actually is and what importance it holds for the population of Manipur.

Kids enjoyed the visit and conveyed gratitude for the efforts of Assam Rifles in organising such visit and requested for more such informative visits in future for benefit and awareness of the students. The picnic cum visit was concluded with lunch for all the students.

A medical camp was organised at village Molnom of Tengnapha district, Manipur by Chandel Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) on yesterday. The camp was organised on the request of the villagers as there is no medical facility available in the vicinity. A total of 125 villagers including men, women and children attended the camp and were provided with a free health check up and medicines. Villagers from surrounding villages also attended the medical camp. The Assam Rifles Medical Officer carried out preliminary health check up of villagers and referred few villagers for further treatment who have been diagnosed for any ailment.

The villagers were happy with the medical camp and shown their gratitude towards the Assam Rifles for organising it. Also, villagers have been assured regarding full support from Assam Rifles through such outreach programs and they can approach company operating base of battalion in case medical assistance required during any emergency.

### Assam Rifles Contributes to Jal Shakti Abhiyan On Defence Personnel Day



IGAR (South)  
Imphal Aug 5,

Moltuk Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised Defence Personnel Day in connection with the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' on yesterday. The event was aimed at security forces contributing towards an inclusive effort for ensuring the success of the campaign, which focuses on improving the water table in 256 water stressed districts across India. In the run-up to this special event, the troops of Moltuk battalion interacted with the locals in Chandel District and identified villages where 'pilot project for rain-water

harvesting' can be implemented. Further the battalion with the help of District Administration, Chandel collected saplings to be planted in its area to boost the water-retention capability of the soil.

On the day of the event, the dedicated team of Moltuk battalion interacted with the locals and highlighted the five aspects of Jal Shakti Abhiyan viz water conservation, rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation. Thereafter, a widespread tree-plantation

drive was organised with large-scale involvement of security forces and locals. More than 3000 saplings were planted in the Khengjoi Sub Division with fruit bearing trees planted along the inner circles of the villages and bigger canopy trees further to the outer periphery. Efforts of the battalion for its contribution in the plantation drive and helping them to deal with water scarcity in the region were appreciated by the locals. The event concluded with the collective resolve of carrying out more such initiative in future and also ensuring the survivability of the saplings planted during the plantation drive.

### Assam Rifles Apprehends Three KCP (Pwg) Cadres In Imphal

IGAR (South)  
Imphal Aug 5,

Assam Rifles Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended three cadres of proscribed group KCP (PWG) including a Self Styled Corporal along with arms and ammunition on 28 July 2019 from Imphal, Manipur. Based on a specific input regarding movement of some cadres of the proscribed group in the area in and around Imphal, a joint



team of troops of Assam Rifles and Manipur Police apprehended three cadres of KCP (PWG) and recovered two point 32 Pistols and 12 live rounds from them. The operation is being seen as a major success by the

joint team and has yet again reinforced the commitment of the security forces and Police in defeating the nefarious designs of the insurgent groups and ensuring security in Manipur.

### Army Apprehends Nscn (R) Cadre In Jagun

PIB (Defence Wing)  
Assam Aug 5,

In a major blow to the militant organizations in the area of Tinsukia district, one senior NSCN (R) insurgent was apprehended from 9 Mile, Jagun, Tinsukia district on 02 Aug 2019 during a joint operation conducted by Indian Army and Assam Police.

Based on specific input received from reliable sources regarding presence of NSCN



(R) insurgent in general area 9 Mile, the joint operation was

conducted on 02 Aug 2019. During the operation, NSCN (R) insurgent identified as SS Sergeant Major Daniel Sankey s/o JongkuSankey, r/o Thaho village -1, Near Pangsau Pass, India was apprehended. One pistol with magazine and five rounds of live ammunition were also recovered from him. The apprehended cadre along with recovered arms and ammunition have been handed over to Police for investigation.