



WFP Bangladesh Report on

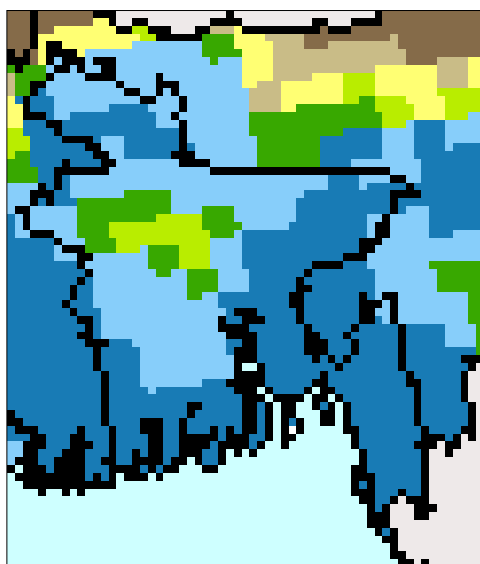
**EARLY WARNING and
MONITORING**

Issue 3

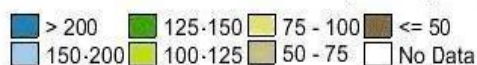
3 June 2006

HIGHLIGHTS

- § Rainfall was well above average for much of the country during the period 21st thru 31st May.
- § Heavy rains during the recent period have contributed to localized flooding, particularly in the Northeast (near Sylhet) and in the Southeast (Chittagong Hill Tracts/CHT).
- § River levels have risen considerably in the Northeast; a number of rivers within the Meghna Basin near Sylhet and surrounding areas have reached “danger level” as of 3 June.
- § The rainfall forecast for the coming period (3rd June thru 9th June) shows particularly heavy rain expected for a few areas of the country including parts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Coastal Belt, as well as Gazipur and surrounding districts.



Dekadal Percent of Normal Rainfall (21-31 May 2006)



RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION/
MONSOON SEASON

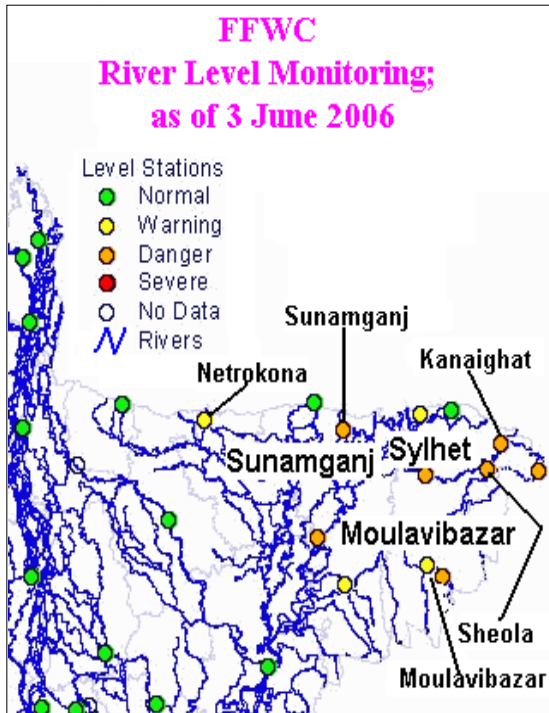
Rainfall during the 3rd dekad (21-31 May) was well above average for much of the country. More than twice the normal rainfall was estimated for large areas of the Northeast, Southeast and South.

In the Northeast (Meghna Basin) most of the heaviest rains fell between the 28th May and the 1st of June. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Sylhet station received over 200 mms. of rain during the 28th –29th of May.

In the Southeast (Chittagong Hill Tracts/CHT) rainfall was heavy during the period 27th – 30th of May. Two areas where precipitation was particularly heavy include Chittagong and Sandwip island. According to the BMD data, Chittagong received over 200 mms. on the 27th of May, while the same was true for Sandwip island two days later on the 29th May.

The map featured in this section is taken from the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service website, where related and more detailed information is available:
<http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/imageview.cfm?regionid=sasia>.

Disclaimer: The data and views expressed in this report do not represent the official position of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, nor any other United Nations member state.



FLOOD SITUATION MONITORING

Based on the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) data, as of 2nd June river water levels were flowing at their danger levels for seven stations in the Northeast of the country. Districts with stations at danger level included Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Habiganj. The FFWC has issued a warning, as of the 3rd June, stating that “the prevailing flood situation in the districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj is likely to continue”. Additional information is available from the FFWC website at: <http://www.ffwc.gov.bd>

Flash floods affecting hundreds of people within Gowainghat Upazilla and the Jaflang area of Sylhet district were reported on the 29th May. The information was obtained from WFP’s Dhaka Regional Office and originally reported by the newspaper “Ittefaq”. Similarly, a local NGO working in Sylhet (Friends in Village Development in Bangladesh/FIVDB) issued a flood situation report on the 31st of May. According to the report three Upazillas within Sylhet were particularly affected; these included Gowainghat, Jaintiapur, and Companiganj. Close monitoring during the coming period is warranted.

Localised flash flooding was also reported in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. According to WFP’s CHT Regional Office, flash floods have occurred in Bandarban and surrounding areas. Although the FFWC noted that as of 3rd June, all rivers in the South Eastern Hill Basin were flowing below their respective danger levels, forecasts for the region (see below) indicate a need for further close monitoring.

RAINFALL FORECAST

According to the forecast depicted on the map on the left, cumulative rainfall for the period 3rd – 9th June is expected to be 100 mm or more for most of the country. Areas warranting close monitoring include Chittagong, Cox’s Bazar, and parts of Bandarban district where more than 150 mms. of rain are expected. A second potential high rainfall area is centered near Gazipur district, just North of Dhaka.

The data used to generate the rainfall map originates from the US based NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Climate Prediction Center (CPC). More detailed information is available from the CPC website at: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

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