



Dr MA Matin, Farah Kabir, Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, Prof Nazrul Islam and Prof ABM Faruque launch two books titled 'No To Tipaimukh Dam!' and 'Controversial Tipaimukh Dam: Overall Overview' at a publication ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## 'Building Tipaimukh Dam a violation of UN convention'

### Two books on dam launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of Tipaimukh Dam, a project of India, on the river Barak in Manipur is a violation of UN Watercourse Convention, speakers at a book launching ceremony said yesterday.

Experts and environmental activists termed the Tipaimukh Dam on the common river with Bangladesh a serious threat to the river system, bio-diversity, ecology, agriculture, fisheries and socio-economy of Bangladesh.

Two books titled 'No To Tipaimukh Dam!' and 'Controversial Tipaimukh Dam: Overall Overview' were launched at the ceremony at the National Press Club. The Angkor Bangladesh Foundation, publisher of the books, organised the event.

The book 'No To Tipaimukh Dam!' is based on the International Tipaimukh Dam Conference held in Dhaka in December 2005 while the other book is a research paper by M Anwar Hossain.

The environmental activists

urged the peoples of both the countries to resist the construction of the dam.

The Tipaimukh Dam would displace millions of people as well as damage the heritage and livelihoods of the people in the two countries, they said.

The dam would have a serious negative impact on agriculture and the environment of Bangladesh and it would also put the region at greater risk of earthquake, said Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of University Grants Commission.

"We are not against development activities," Prof Nazrul said, adding that but such a dam would bring disasters instead of creating positive impact.

"The river Barak has entered into Bangladesh through Zakiganj in Sylhet and is flowing into two directions -- Sirma and Kushiara. The Tipaimukh dam will choke up both the rivers during the dry season and leave similar effect on Bangladesh as the Farakka Barrage is doing," Abul Mal Abdul Muhit said.

Dr MA Matin, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, Prof ABM Faruque and Muhammad Hilaluddin of Angkor Bangladesh Foundation also spoke.

## Roof collapse kills one in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A construction worker was killed and four others were injured when the roof of an under-construction building of a spinning mill collapsed in EPZ area here yesterday.

Witnesses said the roof of the spinning mill of Nama Group broke down during its clustering work, leaving five workers injured.

Of the injured, Harun, died on the way to Comilla Medical College Hospital. The others were admitted to the hospital.

# Crops on 8.5 lakh hectares, 8870 schools, 12,000-km roads damaged in floods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floods have damaged crops on over 8.5 lakh hectares of lands, 8870 primary schools and about 12,000-kilometre roads across the country this year, according to official statistics presented at a workshop yesterday.

Also, fisheries worth Tk 196 crore were washed away, livestock worth Tk 64 crore was lost and around 1.7 lakh handlooms and 2.25 lakh weaving labours were damaged due to floods that affected 228 upazilas in 39 districts.

The workshop on '2007 Flood Damage' was held at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital with a view to preparing a consolidated damage by this year's flood.

Food and Disaster Management Ministry, Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised the workshop.

Representatives of eleven sectors -- Department of Agricultural Extension, Directorate of Fisheries,

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation, Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Department of Public Health and Engineering, Directorate of Primary Education, Directorate of Livestock Services, Bangladesh Handloom Board and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) -- presented their individual damage report.

According to the Directorate of Primary Education, floods have

damaged 110 primary schools completely and 8,686 schools partially while river erosion has gobbled another 74 schools.

The LGED estimated that 12,203-kilometre of roads -- 6383-kilometre of muddy roads and 5820-kilometre of pitched roads -- were totally damaged.

DMB Director General KH Masud Siddique presided over the workshop while Ian Rector, chief technical adviser and team leader of CDMP, gave an welcome address.

Ian Rector said CDMP would

prepare the Flood-2007 damage assessment report through a series of consultation with the departments concerned at national and local level.

UNDP Disaster Management Programme Manager Tarik-ul-Islam, World Food Programme Senior Officer Monju Morshed and CDMP Consultant AKM Mamunur Rashid took part in the workshop.

Senior government officials and representatives of international and non-government organisations attended the programme.

## Road crash kills one in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and 10 others were injured when a truck hit a pickup at Sherkol near Kafil bridge at Singra upazila on Monday night.

Local sources said a Bogra-bound passenger bus hit a pickup from opposite direction, leaving pickup driver dead on the spot and 10 bus passengers injured.

The deceased was identified as Khokon, 26, of Bogra.

The injured were rushed to a local hospital but their identities could not be known immediately.

In another incident, two people were injured when a truck hit them from behind at Puthia-Taherpur highway on Monday evening while they were crossing the highway.

The injured identified as Ranjan Kumar, 38, and Ranjan Das of Arial village under Puthia upazila were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Local people seized the truck in Taherpur area.



Pearabagh area in the city goes under water following heavy rains yesterday because of poor drainage system.

## Girl crushed under wheels of train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a local train on the Ishwardi-Dhaka route near Ullapara railway station yesterday.

The victim was identified as Khadija Khatun, 4, daughter of Rustom Sheikh of Sengati village in Ullapara upazila.

Railway police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 9.00am when a Dhaka-bound train from Ishwardi crushed her while she was crossing the rail tracks along with her grandmother.

Police sent the body to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy and filed a case with Railway police station in this connection.

## Bakery fined in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court fined a bakery Tk 5000 for using adulterated edible oil in Ifar items at Patenga in the port city yesterday.

Sources said the mobile court conducted by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury in a drive at a factory of Moon Bakery and Confectionery at Patenga on Sunday seized samples of different Ifar items and sent those to Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) for laboratory test.

BSTI test report yesterday confirmed that adulterated palm oil was used in the seized Ifar items.

Free fatty acid and iodine were found as 0.81 percent and 5 percent above the tolerable limit in the palm oil, sources said.

The melting point of the palm oil was found 12 percent more than the tolerable limit.

On receiving the report, the CPA Magistrate summoned the bakery authorities and realised Tk 5000.

The court yesterday seized 10kg of adulterated palm oil from the bakery and damaged those.

The bakery has been running for long and producing huge amount of confectionery items, using adulterated palm oil and delivering those in Patenga, Steel Mill, Bandar and Kathgar areas posing serious hazard to public health, added the sources.

## Falu charged with misuse of govt relief materials

FROM PAGE 1  
Rashiduzzaman Millat, his wife and son in a case filed in connection with concealing their actual wealth in their wealth statements.

**CASE AGAINST FALU**  
ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet before a first class magistrate's court, Dhaka showing 45 people as prosecution witnesses.

The other charge-sheeted accused is Monirul Islam Sohel, who was assigned to draw relief materials and distribute those among people. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Monir, as he is absconding since the case was filed against Falu.

The army-led joint forces seized government relief materials from Falu's factory in Savar on February 9. Following the seizure, Ashulia police filed the case against Falu and several other unnamed officials and employees of the factory.

According to the prosecution, the army-led joint forces on January 9 that Falu, owner and chairman of the Dhaka Shanghai Ceramics Factory at Gohalbari of Savar, built 40x50 foot houses for his workers with corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for government relief. The forces dismantled six such houses constructed on the factory premises.

Six hundred and fifty pieces of CI sheets worth around Tk 4 lakh and inscribed with, 'Relief materials of Relief and Rehabilitation Department: Not for sale' were recovered.

The BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government bought the CI sheets manufactured by PHP Arabian Horse Ltd for rehabilitation of the poor and distressed through government assistance.

Falu, also the owner of private satellite television channels ntv and Rtv and daily newspaper Amar Desh, was arrested on February 6 and is now in jail.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed October 17 for the next hearing of a case filed against Falu and 15 others in connection with embezzlement of government relief materials.

On September 17, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam submitted the charge sheet against Falu, four Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioners and 11 others.

Of the accused, Anwar Hossain, headmaster of Tejaon Community Centre Adarsha High School and Nazir Ahmed, MLSS of DCC Ward-37, are in jail.

On March 2, security personnel recovered 605 CI sheets and 63 blankets meant for relief at Ruhul Amin's office in Tejaon.

**CASE AGAINST FIROZ**  
Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court ordered attachment of all properties of Firoz in a case filed in connection with failing to submit the wealth statement within the ACC deadline.

On October 1, ACC Deputy

Director Akhter Hossain, who is also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Firoz before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, showing 14 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 5, ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with Ramna Police Station under section 26(2)(Ka) of the ACC Act, 2004.

According to the first information report (FIR), the ACC sent a letter to Firoz on July 8 telling him to submit his wealth statement within seven working days.

The ACC extended the deadline by another seven days as Iqbal's wife Intiaz Begum applied for more time on July 15. But, Firoz failed to submit his wealth statement within the extended time as well.

**CASE AGAINST MILLAT**  
The same court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Millat, his wife Mabiya Suraiya and son Sayeed Bin Jaman Sourav in a graft case filed with Gulshan Police Station.

On October 3, ACC Assistant Director Ibrahim Kawsar, who is also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against them.

On June 3, ACC Deputy Mobara Khanam filed the case against them for concealing Tk 4,82,05,695 in their wealth statements submitted earlier to the ACC.

**CASE AGAINST EX-ORIENTAL BANK OFFICIALS**  
Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday issued arrest

warrants against former assistant vice-president Tariqul Islam of Oriental Bank Ltd, its former senior vice-president Mushtaque Ahmed and a proprietor of Sky Enterprise Sultan Mahmud Hiro in connection with misappropriating Tk 40 crore from the bank's Karwan Bazar branch.

The three are absconding.

On October 3, ACC Assistant Director Abul Hossain, who is also the IO of the case, submitted charge sheet against six including the three and showing 61 people as prosecution witnesses.

The other three accused are former executive officer Ashfaqul Hakim, former executive vice-presidents Sabbir Ahmed Siddiqui and Muhammad Muktadir Billah. They are in jail now.

In the case filed with Tejaon Police Station on January 21, it was alleged that they misappropriated Tk 40 crore using fake accounts from Oriental Bank Karwan Bazar branch on different dates.

**CASE AGAINST ABBAS**  
The same court yesterday fixed October 17 for next hearing of a graft case filed against detained former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and 24 others in connection with causing a loss of Tk 127.64 crore to the government exchequer.

They allegedly sold 18 abandoned government houses at a low price.

Abbas and 11 others, now in jail, were produced before the court yesterday during the hearing.

The ACC filed the case against Abbas and 11 others on May 29. The names of Harris, Amir Khasru and 11 others were later added in the charge sheet as investigation found their involvement in the case.

On September 20, ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda submitted the charge sheet against Mirza Abbas, Amir Khasru, Harris, three former secretaries and a number of high officials of Rajuk and Public Works Department (PWD).

**CASE AGAINST HABIB**  
The ACC yesterday pressed charges against SM Ahsan Habib, former administration officer to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the incumbent assistant director of Board of Investment, and Ahmed Mirza Khabir, proprietor of Bengal Consultant Managing Partner, in a case filed in connection with a bribery involving Tk 93.5 lakh.

ACC Assistant Director Abul Hossain, who is also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against them, showing 15 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them and the order of attachment of all their properties.

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case against Habib on April 2 with Tejaon Police Station but Khabir's name was included in the charge sheet as his involvement was found during investigation.

## Govt urged to reconsider decision to buy 150 SUVs for UNOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to reconsider its decision to buy 150 brand new Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) at the cost of Tk 40 crore for the Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) since the move would not be cost effective.

Citizens' Rights Movement (CRM) organised the press conference at National Press Club in the city to draw the attention of the chief adviser in this regard.

Speaking at the programme, CRM Secretary General Tushar Rehman said the decision of buying SUVs for the upazila level officers of a developing country would be highly ambitious, he added.

He suggested allocating ten motorbikes to the Upazila level officers, five for the use of UNO office and five for the use of local police stations.

Average fuel consumption of such vehicles is 4 to 5 kilometers per litre while that of a motorbike is 40 kilometers per litre, he added.

Speaking at the programme, journalist Syed Abul Maksud said in a developing country like Bangladesh any decision on public spending should be made after taking its socio-economic conditions into account.

CRM President Prof Masud Rahman, its Adviser Group Captain (ret'd) Engr Muhammad Afzal and Jaid Iqbal Khan of Bangladesh Krishak Federation were also present on the occasion.

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