



Sewage water flows onto a road at Begunbari in the city's Tejgaon area due to poor drainage system, causing suffering to road users. The photo was taken yesterday.

Tornado hits 3 villages in Lalmonirhat 200 houses damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A tornado lashed three villages in Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat at dawn yesterday, injuring eight people and damaging over 200 kutcha houses.

Many trees were also uprooted during the tornado that swept over Shatibari, Durgapur and Gobdha villages. A tin-roofed structure housing seven classrooms of Shatibari Junior High School was fully damaged.

The injured people were admitted to local health complex. They are Ahmed Hossain, 42, Nur Jahan Begum, 38, Salma Begum, 42, and Hamida Bewa, 60, of Shatibari village, Ajibor Rahman, 45, and Hanifa Bewa, 50, of Gobdha village, and Ajgor Ali, 30, and Dilbor Rahman, 36, of Durgapur village.

Headmaster of Shatibari Junior High School Usuf Ali said teachers, staffs and over 200 students have been shocked as the classrooms were fully damaged. The students will face an uncertain future if government assistance is not available for repair of the classrooms.

Achhiron Bewa, 75, a widow at Shatibari village, said, "The tornado has damaged my straw-made house. Now, I am staying under the open sky."

Sakhina Begum, 58, another victim, said the tornado has damaged the hut where she along with her two grandsons has been living. "But I cannot afford to repair the house," she said.

Durgapur UP member Abdus Salam said he and other UP members visited the tornado-affected areas in the morning and they officially informed the Aditmari upazila administration of the condition of the people and sought assistance for the affected families.

Aditmari upazila education officer Manjurul Islam visited the damaged school in the morning.

Russia ready to implement Rooppur N-power project Says Rosatom DG

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Director General of Russian Atomic Energy Corporation 'Rosatom' Sergey V Kirienko on Thursday said Russia is ready for all cooperation for implementation of the nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.

The visiting Rosatom director general affirmed Russian government's readiness when he called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office. He is leading a six-member delegation to Bangladesh.

Kirienko, also former prime minister of the Russian Federation, told the foreign minister that his visit was the next step to finalise the contract, agreement and broader policy decisions on implementation of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project (RNPP).

Responding to Kirienko, Dipu Moni remarked that it carries Russia's goodwill and indicates its keenness about RNPP, which is going to be the centerpiece of bilateral cooperation.

She said RNPP implementation would stand out to be the single most visible and landmark evidence of friendly relations

between the two countries.

Kirienko affirmed Russia's readiness to extend all cooperation for implementation of the Nuclear Power Plant. Bangladesh and Russia signed the framework agreement on cooperation on RNPP in Moscow on May 21.

Dipu Moni said Bangladesh is a party to a whole range of commitments to the international nuclear non-proliferation and verification regime, such as NPT, Bilateral Safeguard Agreement with the IAEA, the Additional Protocol to Safeguards Agreement, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

She said Bangladesh needs two nuclear power plant reactors of 1000 MW production capacity each under RNPP.

Dipu Moni stressed a package of cooperation for the RNPP so that all aspects such as technical, technological, financial, safety, training and capacity building, HR development, research, management, ownership process are covered under the package.

She emphasised the necessity of exchange of visits between Russia and Bangladesh at the highest political level.



Jono Udyog holds a candlelight vigil at Shaheed Minar in Chittagong yesterday to mark the third anniversary of mudslides, which killed some 127 people.

BONN TALKS END

Sino-US flexibility on climate to help ink future deal

BSS, Bonn

The Bonn climate talks ended yesterday witnessing the US and China softening stance on various issues of climate politics.

China has proposed to be the host of 18th Conference of Parties (COP 18) with signalling its willingness to take action to measure and report on its own carbon cuts in future under UN framework.

China's expressed its position at a meeting of the Scientific Body for Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC, which delegates of different countries took as a major progress in the ongoing climate negotiation process.

With the World Cup Football kicks off yesterday with first match between two hosts of the next two international climate conferences -- Mexico and South Africa -- climate negotiators here hoped that the countries would be able to deliver a climate deal by next two years.

Prof QK Ahmad, head of Bangladesh climate negotiation working group, said the flexibility of the USA and China would help ink a climate deal, which was totally absent in Copenhagen.

The US refused to be part of any global agreement until developing nations like China also agree to cut emissions. On the other hand, China refused to sign up to anything that limits its economic growth.

"US public is now likely to look a lot more favourably on green policies allowing the Senate to pass new legislation to cut carbon emissions", said Prof Vicki J Isler, a climate talk mediator and professor of Montclair State University, USA.

With some good progresses in Bonn in relation to four 'building blocks' of climate change, the closing day was marked by a new line of row between SISs and oil producing nations on 1.5 degree temperature threshold.

Small Island States (SIS), most at risk from sea level rise, proposed for technical study by the UNFCCC secretariat on required greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions if the world is to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius instead of 2 degrees.

But, oil producing nations led by Saudi Arabia opposed the proposal suggesting the island countries to go to "Google" if they want more information on the emission reduction.

Being irked by Saudi statement, some NGOs and delegates of 1.5 degrees supporters published cartoons and posters protesting Saudi stance, which led to mounting tense among the parties.

Oil producing countries argued that the study would find such large emission reductions requirements and help the developed countries pressurise the large

developing countries to reduce their emission.

Despite the trail of blunder, the negotiators listed a number of significant progress that has been made in the two-week meeting in Bonn.

A delegate of G77 and China said the Bonn talks were more transparent than Copenhagen when developing countries accused the rich nations of repeatedly trying to push them out of process.

The developing countries are also happy with new executive secretary of the UNFCCC Christiana Figueres, who the developing countries trust more as she promised to make the UN talks a more translucent.

The Bonn climate talks helped making the 'Quick Start' fund of US\$10 billion a year until 2013 started flowing as the developed countries agreed upon in Copenhagen.

Negotiators also discussed on mobilising fund of US\$100 billion per annum by 2020 and probable sources of fund. However, the meeting could not resolve the issues of the governance system of climate funds.

In the meeting, a mechanism to stop deforestation called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REED) has also made progress with agreeing in principle that all nations would pay for not to chop down trees.

ABDUCTION OF KALPANA

Half-day road blockade in Rangamati today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Hill Women's Federation (HWF) has called a half-day road and waterway blockade in Rangamati today in protest against the decision of local administration.

HWF announced the blockade programme at a press conference at the office of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) office at Kutukchhari in Sadar upazila.

They will also observe sit-in programme at Rangamati town.

The women leaders also brought out processions at Naniachar, Kawkhali, Kutukchhari and Bilaichhari upazila headquarters in support of their blockade programme.

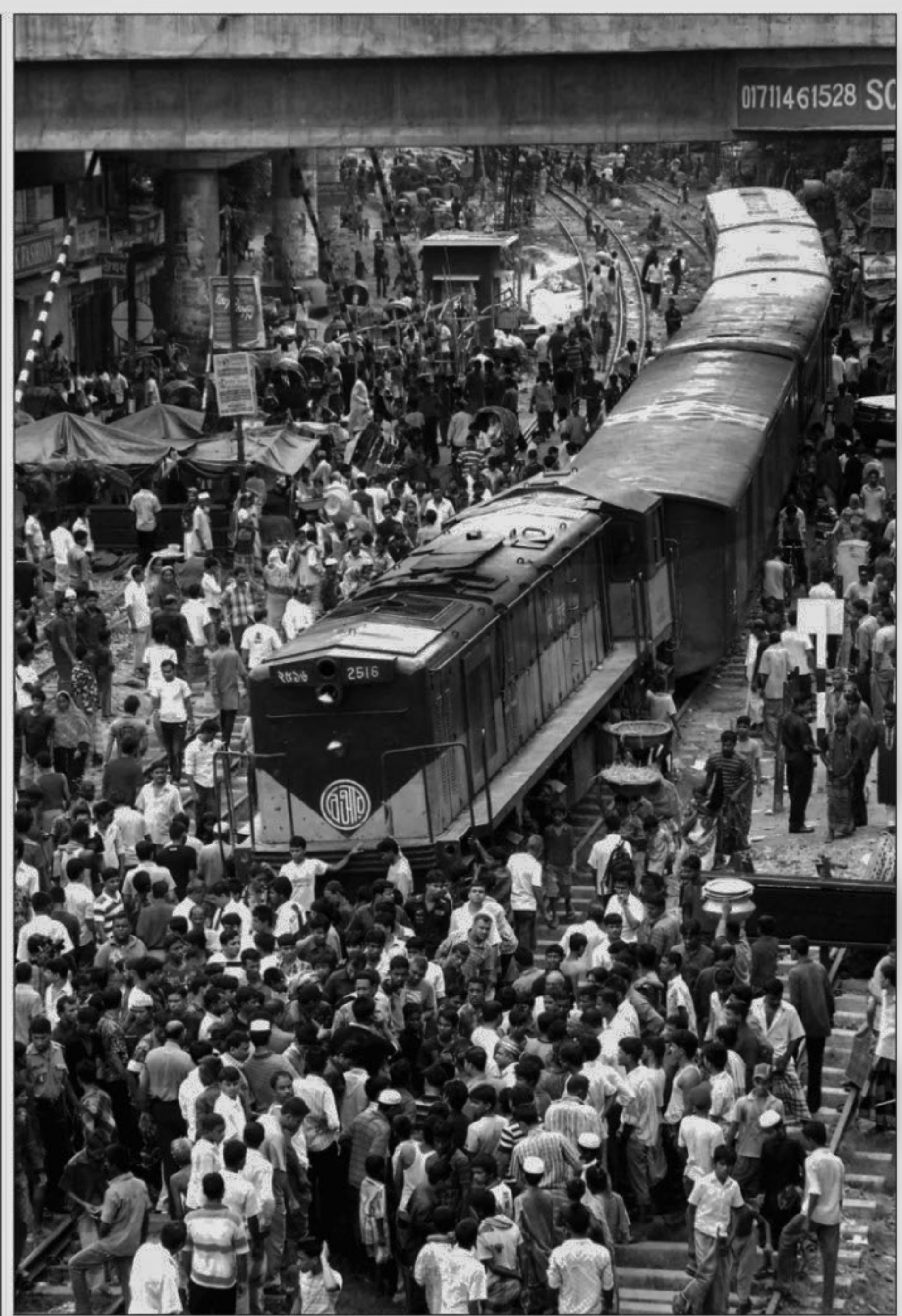
HWF alleged that they had gone to the Rangamati municipality authorities for taking permission to hold a meeting at the town hall on June 12, marking the 'Kalpana Chakma Kidnapping Day'. But the authorities refused to give them the hall due to the negative attitude of the district administration.

They said the administration was influenced by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

HWF, a political platform for women based in CHT, has opposed the peace agreement.

Kalpna Chakma, a leader of HWF, was kidnapped allegedly by a group of army from her house at New Lalya Ghona of Baghaichhari on June 12 in 1996. Since then, she has been missing.

The government formed an investigation committee. But, no report relating the incident was published till now.



A compartment of a train derailed after it collided head-on with the engine of another train near Khilgaon level crossing in the city yesterday.

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20 injured in clash between two families in Madaripur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the two families, who are relatives, at Bordowali village in Shibchar, Madaripur, yesterday over a trifling matter.

The police said the families of uncle and nephews were locked in the clash over tilting of one family's tree to the yard of other's house. The two families have a longstanding feud over land dispute.

Both the groups used sharp weapons during the clash.

On receiving information, the police brought the situation under control.

The injured were identified as Momin Sikder, 70, his wife Mojdonnesa, 50, Rashid, 35, Lutfur, 32, Bacchu, 34, Md Dabir, 38, Selim, 25, Vanu Bibi, 50, Chandra Banu Bibi, 50, Ferdousi Begum, 38, her son Faysal, 10, Morsalin, 12, Sathi Akhtar, 35, and Mobarak Sikder.

Of the injured, four people were rushed to Faridpur and Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

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