

An unidentified disease is causing the tamarisk (jhau) trees lining the road leading up to Shah Porir Dweep in Teknaf to die off. Taking advantage of the situation, some unscrupulous people are secretly felling those and taking away the wood. The photo was taken recently.



PHOTO:
ANURUP KANTI DAS

INDIAN DYKE COLLAPSE

Dahagram-Angorpota people marooned

Flood situation in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Jamalpur worsens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Salmonirhat*

About 3,000 people at Dahagram-Angorpota enclave in Patgram upazila of Salmonirhat district have been marooned in flood water for the last four days as an Indian flood control dyke in Holdibari area in Jalpaiguri district of Paschimbanga collapsed.

Dahagram-Angorpota Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Habibur Rahman said, following the collapse, the flood water entered some villages of his union marooning the people.

The water from India entered the villages -- Abulbari Char, Barobari, Sarder Para, Munsi Para, Adorsho Gram, Mohim Para, Quadere Char, Kati Para, Syed Para, Guchchho Gram and Noyarhat -- of the union.

Talking to The Daily Star, the villagers said they faced a sudden flood and their homesteads were washed away by the upstream water.

Azizur Rahman, 55, of Barobari village, said, "The Indian dyke, only quarter kilometre away from us, collapsed due to onrush of water from the upstream on Wednesday morning."

The UP chairman also said the flood-hit people have been facing untold sufferings and most of them have taken shelter at safer places with their domestic animals.

The UP chairman distributed dry food among the victims.

Salmonirhat Water Development Board Executive Engineer Enayet Ullah said he was informed of the incident.

BSS from Rangpur reports, the flood situation deteriorated further as major rivers crossed the danger mark at more points along the Brahmaputra basin during the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday marooning over 7.5 lakh people.

The situation worsened due to continuous onrush of hilly waters from the upstream amid almost no rainfalls in the downstream during the period, officials in Water Development Board (WDB) said.

Sources in the WDB said the Dharla and Ghaghota were flowing above their respective danger mark (DM) by 18cm at Kurigram and 26cm at Gaibandha at 6:00am yesterday following further rises in their water levels.

Talking to the news agency, sources in Kurigram district administration said over six lakh people of 1,46,262 families were marooned partially or totally in 65 unions out of total 71 under all nine upazilas in the district.

During the current season, river erosions have affected 9,502 families and five persons including children drowned in flood waters so far in Kurigram, sources said.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer of Gaibandha Shah Alam said floodwaters inundated some low-lying areas in four upazilas again in the district where four people including babies drowned so far.

"After distribution of 491 tonnes rice and 15 lakh Taka so far, we have 15 lakh Taka and 500 tonnes rice and sought allocation of one crore Taka and 5,000 bundles corrugated iron sheets for construction of houses for erosion-hit families," he added.

In Jamalpur, with the increase of water level of the river Jamuna, flood situation slightly deteriorated in different areas of the district.

Water Development Board sources said during last 24 hours till yesterday Jamuna rose by 10cm and was flowing 44cm above danger level at Bahadurabad ghat point.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Office sources said six unions in Islampur upazila and four unions in Dewanganj upazila inundated completely by the fresh floodwater.

Due to the increase of water level fresh areas were submerged in two upazilas.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Islampur, Anwar Hossain Akanda said, 30 to 60 percent people of the six unions became marooned by the floodwater.

Exhibition on Mishuk Munier begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-day exhibition on the life and works of noted cinematographer and broadcast media personality Mishuk Munier will begin today in the capital.

Prof Anisuzzaman will inaugurate the programme at Dhaka Art Centre at Dhanmondi at 5:00pm, while Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury will light the 'mangal pradeep', said a press release.

The exhibition begins three weeks to the first death anniversary of Ashfaque Munier Mishuk popularly known as Mishuk Munier, a former chief executive officer (CEO) of ATN News.

Munier, who was also a teacher at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism in Dhaka University, died in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Ghior upazila in Manikganj on August 13 last year.

Filmmaker Tareque Masud and three others were also killed in the accident.

The exhibition will showcase Munier's photography and cinematography. It will remain open from 3:00pm to 8:00pm till July 31.

PADMA BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION Noted economists for self financing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must continue implementing the Padma bridge project with self financing, otherwise the delay will phenomenally increase the construction costs, said noted economists at a discussion yesterday.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) organised the discussion, "Padma Bridge, World Bank Roadmap and National Ability" at its office in the capital.

The project's lead financier, World Bank, scrapped its \$ 1.2 billion credit on June 30 on alleged corruption in the project.

One of the economists, Dr Binayak Sen, said of the \$ 2 billion required in foreign currency, the government could easily generate over \$1 billion issuing sovereign bonds targeting only 20 lakh of 80 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates.

Bangladesh could woo development partners for the remaining foreign currency and acquire the rest of the project costs, around Tk 7,000 crore, from local money, he said.

Prof MM Akash, Prof Shafiquzzaman, Prof Anu Muhammad, Shahidullah Chowdhury and CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan spoke at the discussion.



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CONSUMER RIGHTS VIOLATION 26 businesses fined Tk 2.53 lakh

UNB, Dhaka

National Consumer Rights Protection Department (NCRPD) in separate drives in Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barisal cities yesterday fined 26 businesses Tk 2.53 lakh for violating consumer rights.

An NCRPD team, led by Deputy Director Md Shah Alam, conducted drives in capital's Palashi Bazar, Lalbagh Fort Intersection bazar and Azimpur Orphanage area bazar.

The team fined seven different business establishments Tk 36,000 over various charges, instantly realising the amount from them.

Another team, led by NCRPD Deputy Director Abul Kashem, conducted a drive at Rikabi Bazar in Sylhet city and fined four businesses Tk 26,000 on various charges. The team instantly realised the amount from them.

A team, led by NCRPD Deputy Director Zubair Ahmed, conducted a drive at Bibirhat

under Panchlaish Police Station in Chittagong and realised Tk 130,000 as fine from three different businesses on various charges.

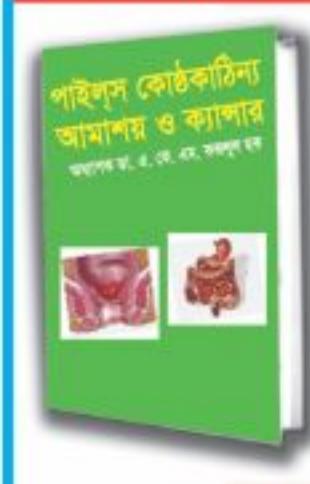
Another team, led by NCRPD Deputy Director Sukumar Chandra Kundu, conducted a drive at Saheb Bazar in Rajshahi city and realised Tk 9,000 from two businesses on various charges.

NCRPD Deputy Director Syed Rabiu Alam led another team and conducted drives in different parts of Khulna city. The team realised Tk 30,000 as fine from five business establishments on various charges.

In another drive, a team led by NCRPD Deputy Director Md Abdul Majid raided two different business establishments in Barisal city and instantly realised Tk 4,000 as fine on various charges.

Another team, led by Md Quamrul Hasan Ferdous, raided three businesses in Rangpur city and slapped Tk 18,000 fine on them for violating consumer rights, instantly realising the amount, says a PID handout.

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Road crash kills youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

A young bicyclist was killed as a truck hit him on Chhapaiaiawabganj-Sonamasjid land port highway in Dhopukur area of Shibganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Habiluddin, 27, son of Majuddin of Shibnarayanpur in the upazila.

Shibganj police said a Sonamasjid land port-bound truck knocked the bicyclist around 10:30am, killing him instantly.



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