



The gangways at Hajipur, Mohipur and Kalapara ferry terminals on Patuakhali-Kuakata road have gone under water due to tidal surge yesterday. This photo was taken from Nilganj end of Kalapara terminal.

TIDAL SURGE IN PATUAKHALI DISTRICT

5,000 more families hit in 10 villages of 4 upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Ten more villages in four upazilas of the district got flooded due to tidal surge in the last two days, affecting over 5,000 families.

The villages are Balaikathi, Shehakathi and Badura in Patuakhali Sadar upazila; Syed Jafar, Katakali and Auliapur villages in Dashmina upazila, Kapabera and Mirzagaonj villages under Mirzaganj upazila; and Lebukhali and Pangashia village under Dumki upazila.

In Sadar upazila, a flood control dyke collapsed at Balaikathi village in Sadar upazila yesterday, inundating over 500 dwelling houses at three villages of the upazila.

At least 500 feet of a road connecting the 10 villages with the district headquarters collapsed into Shehakathi River at Balaikathi point in Sadar upazila. The lone mosque at Balaikathi village has also gone into the river.

Monoara Begum, 45, a housewife of Balaikathi village, said she couldn't

cook food for her family members for the last five days as their house has been flooded by tidal surge. A tin-roofed house owned by one Sufia Begum of the village was washed away.

Aman cultivation on over 2,000 acres of land has become uncertain as saline water damaged seedlings.

Tidal surge under the

impact of full moon continued the fourth day yesterday. Many flood-hit villagers have taken shelter at safer places as their houses have been submerged by two to three feet water.

Altaf Hossain Shah Alam, chairman of Balaikathi Union Parishad, has sought relief for the affected people of his union. He urged the

local administration to repair the dyke as soon as possible.

Contacted, Md Shafuiddin, acting executive engineer of Patuakhali Water Development Board, said they have already informed the higher authorities of the matter and sought fund for repairing the dyke.



Over 300 dwelling houses at three villages under Patuakhali Sadar upazila have been inundated following collapse of a flood control dyke at Balaikathi point in the upazila

Risky ride on train roof for want of carriages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A good number of passengers are traveling on train roof everyday, putting their lives at risk due to shortage of carriages on Lalmonirhat-Burimari route.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities are yet to take any steps to resolve the issue, alleged the victims.

"I often take ride on the train roof amid life risk for not having seat inside the compartment," said Ataur Rahman, a Patgram-bound

passenger from Lalmonirhat.

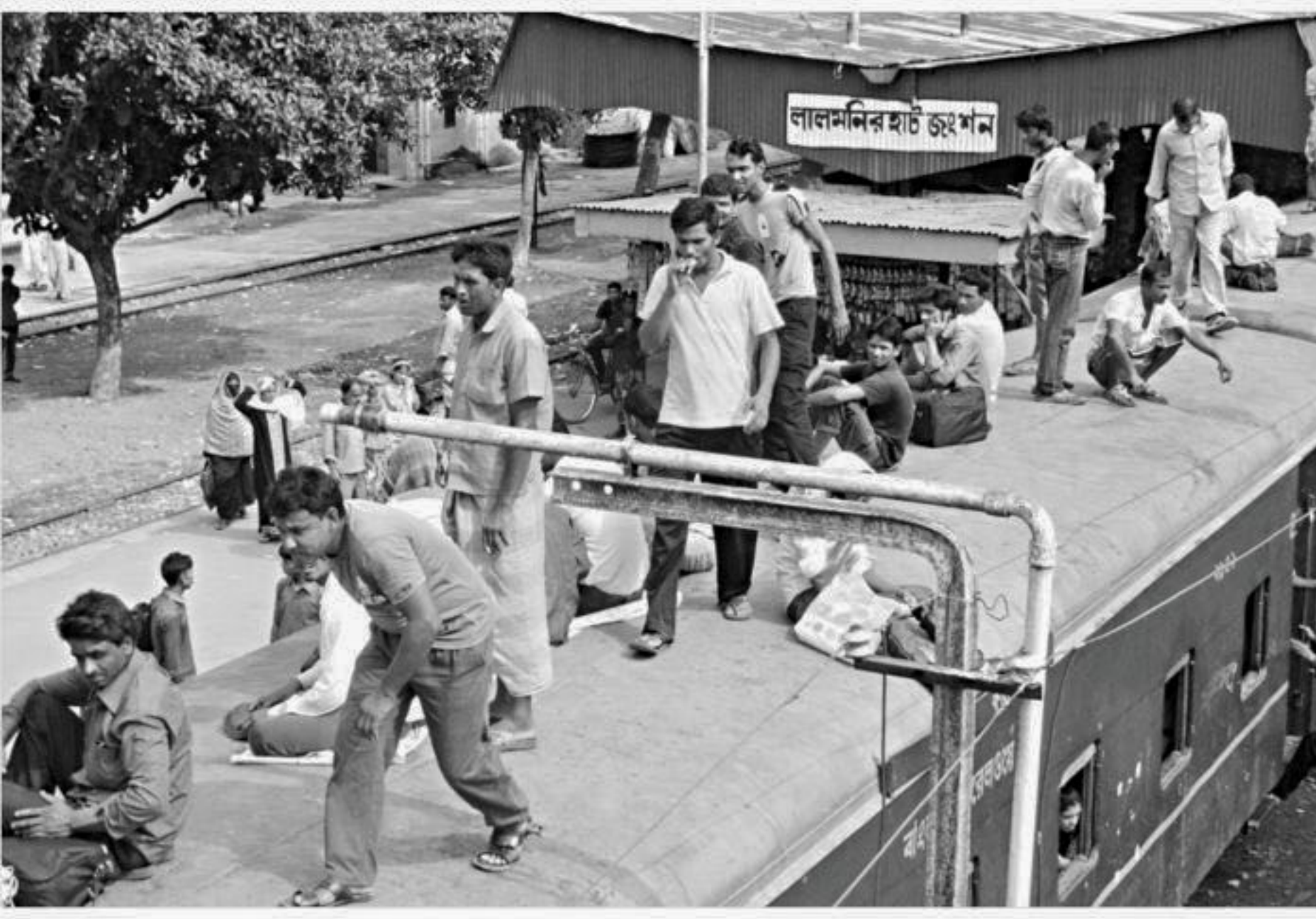
"I know very well that it is a risky ride but I've no alternative to traveling on the train roof," said another train passenger, Bashir Uddin, 45, of the same area.

Four pairs of train ply Lalmonirhat-Burimari route regularly. Only three carriages are installed with each train which have too little capacity to meet the requirement, said Lalmonirhat Railway Train Vehicles Control

Room sources.

Contacted, Lalmonirhat Railway Station Master Dewan Mohammad Nizam Uddin said it is necessary to install at least five carriages with each train to make the journey easy and comfortable.

Assistant Traffic Superintendent of Lalmonirhat Railway Division of West Zone Railway Sazzad Hossain said it happened as no additional carriages were available in the railway at the moment.



People often ride on the train roof putting their lives at risk due to shortage of carriages on Lalmonirhat-Burimari route.

Prime accused in Ekram murder case freed on bail

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury Minar, the prime accused in Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque killing case, was freed on bail yesterday.

Local BNP leader Minar secured bail from High Court on July 15. The court order reached the district jail at around 2:20pm yesterday and he walked out of the jail at 2:35pm, said jailer Didarul Alam.

A team of the Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Minar, the lone named accused in the case, from a house in Kachukhet area near Dhaka Cantonment in the capital on May 27.

Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque, 45, also the president of the upazila unit of Awami League, was shot and burnt to death in his car in Academy area in Feni town on May 20.

Rezaul Haque Jasim, brother of the slain upazila chairman, filed a murder case with Feni Model Police Station the same day, accusing Minar and 30 to 35 unnamed people.

Police have so far arrested 31 people. Of them, 16 gave confessional statements before the court.

Bumper yield may not always be a boon

Farmers in Nilphamari feeding jackfruits to cows for want of buyers

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Good yield of jackfruit fails to make farmers in the district happy as they have to sell the item at throwaway prices this season.

This year farmers in the district got 7500 tonnes of jackfruit from 963 hectares of land while it was 6260 tonnes last year, said sources at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Timely rainfall contributed to the bumper yield, they said.

As the jackfruit yield is very high, the supply to market in greater than demand and it has led to price fall of the popular fruit, said Hamidul Huq, a jackfruit wholesaler of Sakamacha Bazar in Nilphamari.

"Other jackfruit producing areas of the country also saw good yield this season and so, traders from other districts are not interested to buy the fruit from here," he added.

Atiqur Rahman, a jackfruit farmer of Angarpara village in Sadar upazila, said, "I usually get 1000-1200 jackfruits in a year from my orchard of 20 jackfruit trees and earn Tk 12,000-14,000 from there as average selling price stands at Tk 12 per piece."

"This year I got around 1500 jackfruits but a few traders visiting my orchard offered only Tk 4-5 per piece," he added.

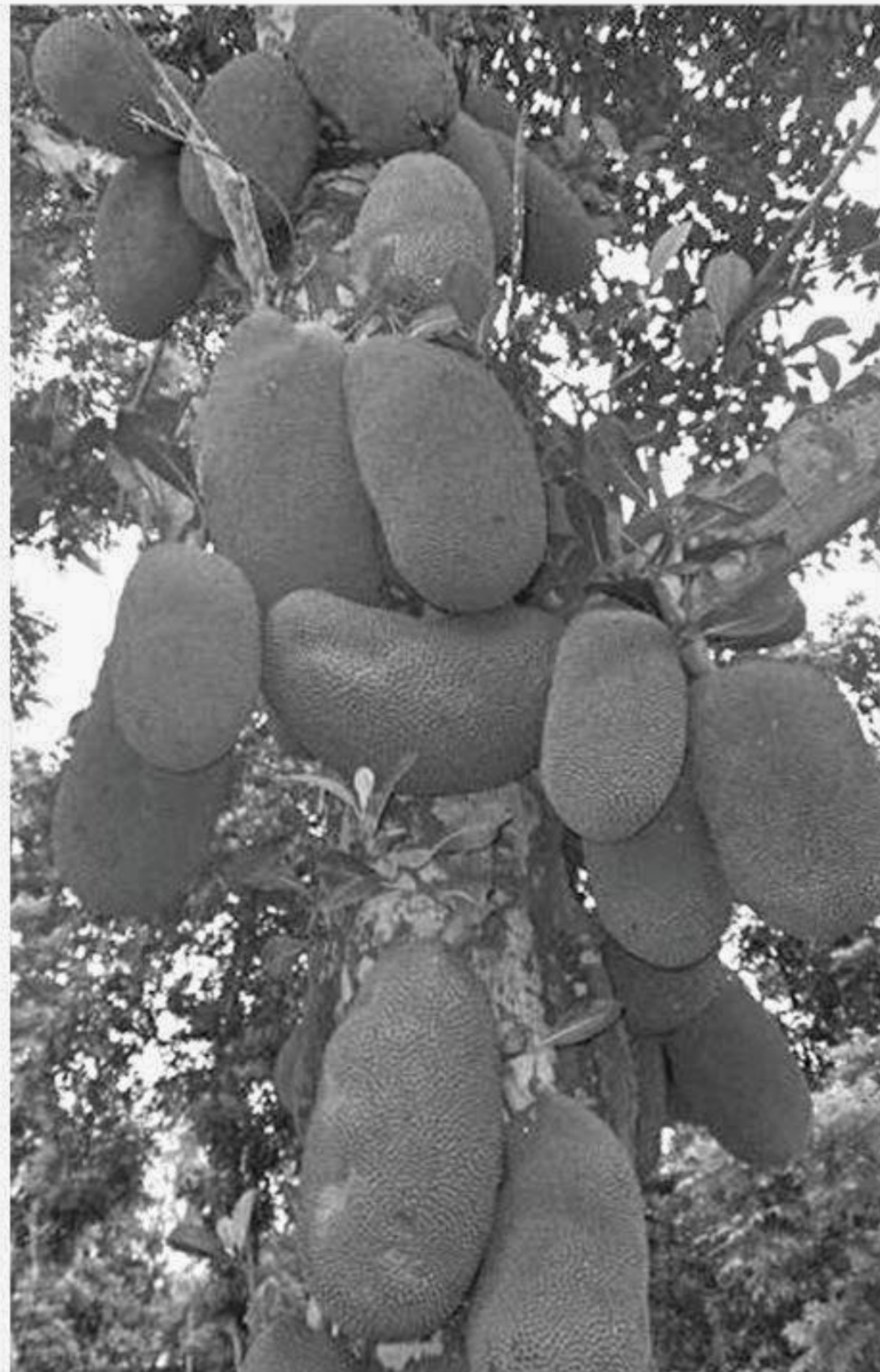
Visiting different markets including Bhobaniganj, Tenganmari, Mirganj, Barovita, it was found that

farmers brought good amounts of ripe jackfruits but there were a small number of customers who offered low prices for the fruit.

"I brought ten jackfruits to Barovita market and could sell six pieces only. I will have four other jackfruits fed by my cow as there is no way to preserve the perishable item," said farmer Tayeb Ali of

Monthona village in Kishoreganj upazila.

SM Sirajul Islam, deputy director of DAE in the district, said, "Jackfruit cultivation needs only putting required amount of fertiliser for good yield. Farmers are not getting good prices as production is higher than demand this year. To save the farmers from incurring losses, jackfruit juice factory can be



Nilphamari saw a bumper yield of jackfruit this season, only to frustrate the farmers due to low price in the district.

Dykes in three Khulna upazilas in bad shape

UNB, Khulna

The flood control embankment covering three coastal upazilas--Koyra, Dakope and Paikgachha--of the district is now in a very bad state for want of repair.

With the on-going monsoon, the embankment lies under the risk of collapse at any moment due to pressure of flood water or tidal surge from the nearby rivers causing inundation of vast areas.

Sources at the office of the Water Development Board (WDB), Khulna, said about 58 kilometre stretch of the 336 km embankment in the three disaster-prone upazilas remains in dilapidated condition.

Of the vulnerable portion of the dam, 35.74 km is in Koyra while 19 km is in Dakope and 3km in Paikgachha upazila.

Talking to this correspondent, locals said many

villages might go under water during the rainy season as the vulnerable points of the embankment were not repaired.

Holding a section of people responsible for making the dyke vulnerable, local WDB officials, said some influential people installed pipes in the embankment in Koyra, Dakope and Paikgachha to pump saline water from the river into their shrimp enclosures.

However, they said though the mindless act had weakened the dyke, the WDB authorities were yet to take any steps to save the dyke from major damage.

Apart from that, sources concerned said built in the sixties to protect coastal people from floods and tidal surges, the embankment itself got damaged as natural disasters hit it on several occasions.

engineer of WDB-2 Mujibur Rahman said they were carrying out repair work at vulnerable points of the dam under their own finance.

However, he acknowledged that it was not possible for them to repair the whole embankment due to financial constraint.

"Reconstruction of the dyke will begin in next September under the World Bank's finance through which it will be made stronger with raised height," he said.

Asked about unauthorised installation of water pipes through the dyke, Deputy Assistant Engineer Anwar Hossain of WDB, Dakope, said he had already removed all the pipes from the embankment during a drive three months back.

He claimed that there were no pipes in the embankment at the

Jubo League man held on killing charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police yesterday morning arrested a local Jubo League activist on charge of killing Heaven Chowdhury, joint convener of Nabiganj upazila unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The arrestee Anjob Ali, 34, son of Moyna Mia of Rajabad village of the upazila, is a thana-level activist of Jubo League.

Police arrested Anjob from Rajabad village of the upazila headquarters around 7:00am, said Liakot Ali, officer in-charge of Nabiganj Police Station.

An altercation occurred between two rival groups—one led by Kashem and the other led by Parvez, over forming a new BCL committee at Nabiganj Degree College on February 24.

At one stage, both the groups equipped with sharp weapon attacked each other in Notun Bazar area, triggering a clash that left two people injured.

Critically injured Heaven Chowdhury was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College from where he was shifted to Apollo Hospitals in the capital, following deterioration of his condition.

Heaven died while undergoing treatment at the hospital on February 28.

Mokbul Hossain, father of the slain BCL leader filed a murdered case accusing 150 people, naming five people, including Anjob Ali with the police station.

Police produced Anjob before a court yesterday afternoon that sent him to jail.

Nepali student drowns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A Nepali student of Jahurul Islam Medical College in Bajitpur upazila drowned in a lake at the college campus early yesterday.

The deceased Rajan Para Juli, 25, son of Krisna Prashad Para Juli, a Nepali national was a fifth-year student of MBBS of the college and resident of Majedul Islam Hall.

Police said Rajan went missing from his dormitory on Wednesday night. His fellow students spotted his floating body in the lake adjacent to his hall yesterday morning and informed police.

Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Kishoreganj Modern Hospital for an autopsy.

Subrata Kumar Saha, officer in-charge of Bajitpur Police Station quoted the deceased's fellow students as saying that Rajan might have drowned in the lake as he did not know how to swim.

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Application Deadline (MBA & EMBA) : Wednesday, August 6, 2014
 Admission Test (MBA) : Friday, August 8, 2014 at 10.30 am
 Admission Test (EMBA) : Friday, August 8, 2014 at 10.30 am
 Form Sale : All days of the week from 10 am to 8 pm (except from 25/07/2014 to 02/08/2014)

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