

Preserve forest, protect lives

Says Raja Debasish Roy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

"As indigenous people's lives in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) depend on forest, we have to save our forests," Chakma Circle chief Raja Barrister Debasish Roy said at CHT Village Common Forest (VCF) Conference in the town.

"If we destroy the forest, we will suffer more." With the slogan "Save forest, conserve forest", the daylong programme began around 10:00am at Rangamati Cultural Institute yesterday.

Local non-government organisation Zabarang Kallyan Samiti, Taangya and Humanitarian Foundation jointly organised the programme supported by CHTDF-UNDP.

Brihiso Ketu Chakma, chairman of Rangamati Hill district council, inaugurated the programme.

Nirupa Dewan, former member of National Human Rights Commission, Remliana Pangkhua, member of Rangamati Hill district council, Goutam Dewan, president of Chittagong Hill Tracts Citizen Committee (CHTCC), Susmita Chakma, senior advocate of Rangamati court, Biblap Chakma, delegates of UNDP-CHTDF, and environmentalist Sudatta Bikash Tanchangya were present at the programme with Thoi Aung Marma in the chair.

At least 150 VCF activists from different upazilas of three hill districts attended the programme.

Later, a new committee was formed with 15 members under the title of Chittagong Hill Tract Village Common Forest Network (CHTVCF Network).

Strike fair deal with India to save Padma

Speakers tell Chapainawabganj human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Speakers at a human chain on the bank of the Padma in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila yesterday demanded that the government strike a fair deal with India to ensure equitable share of the water flow to save the river.

They also demanded adequate measures to dredge the major river.

Environment activists and people from all walks of life joined the hour-long human chain organised by Save the Nature Chapainawabganj, on the bank of the Padma river at Bakherali of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila around 11:30am.

Once a mighty river, the Padma has turned too narrow due to siltation for decades following construction of Farakka Barrage by India, speakers said at the rally.

The Padma, entering Bangladesh from Pankha point under Shibganj upazila, sees gradual decline in flow as withdrawal of water in the upstream through the barrage reduces water in the Ganges river system.

Most of the Padma riverbed areas now look like a virtual desert.

Siltation has led to alarming decline in the navigability of the



Save the Nature Chapainawabganj forms a human chain on the bank of the Padma river yesterday with a call to save the river from the impact of the Farakka Barrage built by India.

PHOTO: STAR

Padma that shifts its main channel every year, posing a serious problem for locals.

Indian authorities suddenly discharge water during the monsoon, triggering floods and river erosion.

If the river ultimately dies, it

will bring serious consequences on the ecological balance and the environment in the country, the speakers said.

Porpoises and gharials were once available in the river, but the animals are disappearing fast due to

drastic fall in water flow, they said.

They urged the government to strike a fair deal with India to save the Padma.

Rabiul Hasan, chief coordinator of Save the Nature Chapainawabganj, presided over the rally where Shahidul Huda Alok and Foyzal

Mahmud, its coordinators, Golam Mostofa, president of Chapainawabganj Press Club, journalists DM Talebun Nabi and Anwar Hossain, social activist Rafique Hasan Bablu and teacher Soibur Rahman spoke.



Saiful Islam Rony pulls a rickshaw in Laxmipur Sadar upazila to support his family. Right, he poses for a photograph with his mother and two minor sisters at his maternal grandfather's house in the same locality recently.

PHOTO: NURUL AMIN



SCHOOLING ELUDES RONY

The 11-year-old boy pulls rickshaw to support family

NURUL AMIN, Noakhali

Saiful Islam Rony's dream to be a teacher faces a serious setback as the 11-year-old boy has to pull rickshaw to support himself, his mother and two sisters.

Woe befell the family after Rony's father Babul Hossain, a painting worker of Char Ruhita village under Char Ruhita union of Laxmipur Sadar upazila, fell from the house roof and died two years ago, said Rony's mother Hosne Ara Begum.

"Finding no other way, I returned to my parents' home along with three children -- Rony, four-year-old Maisha and two-year-old Tonni.

"Rony started helping his maternal grandfather in selling green coconuts. But the work did not

bring much money and he started pulling rickshaw. Now we are living in a dilapidated shanty at a corner of my father's house," she said.

Rony was a Class III student of Char Ruhita Government Primary School when his father met the tragic death. Afterwards, his schooling discontinued as he had to work as the family bread earner at such a tender age.

The boy wakes up very early in the morning and goes out with the rickshaw. In the evening, he returns home with daily food items like rice, lentil and vegetables.

Rony once dreamt of becoming a teacher after completing higher studies. He also dreamt that his sisters would one day become doc-

tor or police officer.

"But now such dreams seem a mere luxury as I am struggling to survive with my mother and two sisters. Once I used to go to school with books in hand but now I carry passengers to schools on my rickshaw," Rony said.

Still Rony keeps his school books under the seat of the rickshaw. Whenever he gets time he reads those.

Kabir Patwari, chairman of Char Ruhita union parishad, said, "If Rony wants to continue his study, the union parishad can make arrangement for his study free of cost. But we do not have any arrangement to provide household expenses for the family."

7 JMB suspects on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A Chapainawabganj court yesterday granted three days' remand for seven Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) suspects for three days each.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Abdus Salam granted the remand when police produced them before the court seeking ten days' remand for each.

Nachole Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Fisiruddin, also the investigation officer, said police filed a case under the Anti-terrorism Act on May 12.

Police arrested the seven during drives in the district on 10, 11 and 12 May.

The JMB suspects are Harun Or Rashid, 25, and Kamal Uddin alias Sarkar, 32, of Guthoil village, Nasim Reza alias Shahin, 20, of Berachoki village and Mohammad Firoj, 22, of Shrirampur village in Nachole upazila, Mohammad Babu, 22, of Shibnagar-Kathapara and Azizul Haque, 38, of Raghobpur village in Shibganj upazila and Abdul Hakim, 20, of Debingara-Fatapara village in Sadar upazila of the district.

GAIBANDHA JATIYA SRAMIK LEAGUE

Row over new committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A scuffle broke out between rival groups after announcement of the new committee of Jatiya Sramik League's Gaibandha unit on the Shaheed Minar premises yesterday.

As soon as the leaders of the central committee declared the new committee, the deprived factions vandalised chairs and equipment.

Leaders and activists of two panels -- one led by president aspirant Haider Ali and general secretary aspirant Asaduzzaman, and the other by president aspirant Mohammad Ali and general secretary aspirant Jamilur Rahman -- brought out a procession demanding cancellation of the new committee. The protesters held a meeting on Gaibandha Press Club premises.

Three panels of Sramik League Gaibandha unit committee were submitted before the council, but the central leaders did not consider the other panels, speakers said. The central committee formed the new committee with Khairul Islam as president and Sudhansu Kumjar Roy as general secretary without any support or vote, they added.

They also threatened to go on non-stop agitation if the new committee is not cancelled.

A discussion was held in the first session of the council.

JSI central president Sukur Mahmud, labour and manpower secretary of central Awami League (AL) Habibur Rahman Siraj, Parliament Whip Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, MP, president of Gaibandha unit of AL advocate Sayed Shams-ul-Alam Hiru, general secretary Gaibandha unit AL Abu Bakker Siddique, Gaibandha Municipality mayor Shah Masud Jahangir Kabir Milon and vice president Sramik League Aminul Huq Faruk spoke on the occasion.

Ban on mango harvest till May 25

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The district administration has imposed a ban on mango harvest till May 25 in the district, famous for quality tasty varieties of mango.

The decision came in a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Mahmudul Hasan in the chair at his conference room on May 4.

Monjurul Huda, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Dr Saifur Rahman, deputy director of Horticulture centre, Nachole upazila Chairman Abdul Kader, representatives of Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry and mango traders were present.

Stern action will be taken in case of any violation of the decision and use of any harmful chemical on mangoes, meeting sources said.

Although the harvest will start on May 25, different dates have been fixed for different varieties of mangoes considering their ripening nature, said DD Monjurul.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Several big billboards were damaged in Charmatha area of Bogra town in Monday's storm. Right, damaged maize field in Ranishankoil upazila of Thakurgaon.

Man dies, crops damaged in storm

STAR COUNTRY DESK

An elderly person was killed, 12 people were injured and a huge quantity of crops damaged as nor'wester with hailstorm lashed Bogra and Thakurgaon on Monday.

Our Bogra correspondent said the elderly man was killed as a billboard fell on him, 12 people were injured and crops and mangoes damaged during the nor'wester with hailstorm around 8:30pm on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Abdus Sattar, 70, of Choto Kumira in Bogra Sadar upazila. Sattar had a small shop in the Charmatha inter-district bus stand area of the town.

Weather Office sources said the storm hit the district three times on Monday night and 94 mm of rain was

recorded.

Police referring to the hospitals' information said one was killed and the injured were given first aid. Several electric poles were uprooted and connections snapped, the police added.

Mansur Rahman, a farmer in Shajahanpur upazila, said the hailstorm mainly damaged ripe crops and mangoes.

Agriculture official Pratul Chandar Sarkar said the nor'wester hit Sadar, Shibganj, Sherpur and Shajahanpur upazilas of the district.

Meanwhile, storm accompanied by hailstorm damaged a huge quantity of crops, houses and trees in Ranishankoil and Haripur upazilas of Thakurgaon on Monday, reports our correspondent.

Many electric poles were uprooted,

disrupting electric supply till yesterday afternoon.

The storm that started around 5:00pm lasted 25 minutes, damaging crops, including boro, maize, vegetables and jute.

Agriculture officials said the storm affected boro paddy on 1,790 hectares of land, aus on 620 hectares, maize on 590 hectares, vegetables on 98 hectares, jute on 265 hectares and banana on five hectares of land in Ranishankoil upazila.

In Haripur, storm damaged boro paddy on 300 hectares, maize on 200 hectares, jute on 15 hectares and vegetables on five hectares of land.

At least 3,718 houses were damaged in Haripur upazila and about 2,000 houses in Ranishankoil.

Institute of Business Administration (IBA)

MBA Admission Test

58th Batch, Full time (Session 2016 - 2017)

MBA Admission Test (2016-2017) of Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, will be held on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 10:00 am.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have at least a Bachelor Degree in any field of study. The minimum qualifying point is seven (07) for all applicants. The points are calculated as follows:

SSC and HSC or Equivalents

SSC GPA/Div	HSC GPA/Div	O-Level GPA*	A-Level GPA*	Points Earned
>= 3.5/1st	>= 3.5/1st	>= 3.0	>= 2.5	3
>= 2.5/2nd	>= 2.5/2nd	>= 2.5	>= 2.0	2

* Letter grades of O-Level and A-Level subjects are converted into grade points as follows: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2 and D = 1. Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated by averaging the grade points of the best five grades (including mathematics) for O-Level and the best two grades for A-Level.

Candidates with third division or GPA of less than 2.5 in SSC or HSC or GPA of less than 2.5 in O-Level or less than 2.0 in A-Level examinations will not be eligible for application.

Grade below D in any subject in O-Level or A-Level is not acceptable.

Bachelors and Masters Program

Certificate/Degree	GPA / Division / Class		
	>=3.5/1st	>=3.0/2nd	>=2.5/3rd
Bachelor Degree (Pass)	4	3	2
Bachelor (Hons. /4 yr.)	5	4	2
Masters	1	1	1

For all other foreign certificates/degrees, equivalence is determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, the applicants are not allowed to sit for the admission test.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application must be submitted online by June 13, 2017. For detailed application procedure, visit the website at www.iba-du.edu or iba.registrationbd.com

Application fee is Tk. 1000/- (including service charge).

For further information contact the MBA Program Office (Room # 216, 1st floor, IBA) or call at 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on any day except Friday.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The test has two components: Written Test and Interview. The Written Test component evaluates applicants' aptitude in Language, Mathematics, and Analytical ability. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above areas to pass the Written Test and appear at the interview.

An applicant with foreign nationality with minimum 75 percentile in GMAT may be exempted from the Written Test. However, he/she will be required to appear at an interview.

Mobile phone, calculator or any other electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the Examination Hall.

Director

Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka, Dhaka - 1000