

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

|               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| DHAKA         | MYMENSINGH    | CHITTAGONG    | SYLHET        | RAJSHAHI      | RANGPUR       | KHULNA        | BARISAL       | COX'S BAZAR   |
| H 32.5 L 27.2 | H 32.8 L 26.9 | H 33.2 L 25.4 | H 34.0 L 26.0 | H 35.9 L 27.2 | H 35.1 L 26.7 | H 34.8 L 27.0 | H 33.4 L 27.0 | H 32.2 L 25.8 |

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Mymensingh, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am, Met office said.



Rains have made this already ravaged road almost impassable. It was last repaired four years ago. Since then, the bitumen surface has worn away and large potholes were created, making rides bumpy and risky. Almost all the stretch of the 6km road from Kumargaon in Sylhet sadar upazila to the airport is like this. Though this road connects Kandigaon, Jalalabad, Mogalgaon, Hatkhola and Khadimnagar unions and is the only route to newly constructed Sylhet jail complex and the marine academy, authorities have always neglected it as evident from the picture. At times, local people, transport owners and Awami League leaders also organised programmes calling for its renovation, but nothing worked. On this road, not only riding vehicles is difficult, but mishaps have become a regular phenomenon. The photo was taken in Sonatala bazar area on Thursday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# FLOOD, RAINS LEAVE ROADS DEVASTATED

MINTU DESHWARA and DWOHA CHOWDHURY

## SYLHET DIVISION

People going to visit Tanguar haor first come to Sunamganj town. Then they take an auto-rickshaw or motorcycle to Tahirpur upazila, which is 35km away. But nowadays the travel would not be as easy as before -- the road has been devastated.

Following the recent spate of floods and heavy rains, the roads of the three districts of Sylhet division have been badly damaged.

The worst affected of them all is Sunamganj, the land of haors. At least three places of the road from the district headquarters to Tahirpur were either washed away or damaged. An alternative road via Sachna bazar was also badly hit -- around a 100-metre section was washed away due to the onrush of floodwater, halting vehicular traffic.

"Many roads have become unfit for use now," said Munem Mia, an auto-rickshaw driver in Tahirpur. "Accidents may happen anytime due to the damaged parts."

A resident of Tahirpur, Burhan Uddin, said, "Many parts of the road and bricks were washed away with floodwater. The earth was also gone."

He said a complete picture would come when the floodwater receded. However, people have to suffer a lot if the damaged parts are not repaired immediately.

Before Anwarpur bazar, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has started rebuilding a portion, which was washed away altogether.

During a recent visit, workers were seen dumping sand, sandbags and shoring up the two sides with bamboo to make the road fit for use by vehicles.

However, motorcycles have started plying the road on a small scale, said locals.



The local authorities repairing a portion of the 35km Sunamganj-Tahirpur upazila road, part of which was washed away with floodwater. The photo was taken on Thursday.

Talking about the condition of the Sunamganj-Tahirpur road, motorcyclist Shoyeb Mia said the devastation was causing immense sufferings to passengers and drivers. "It is also very risky to drive over the broken parts."

Executive Engineer of RHD in Sunamganj Shafiqul Islam said, "We are working to reconnect all the broken roads and fixing the damaged parts to make the roads usable before upcoming Eid."

Commenting about the ravaged roads, he said, "Some roads need bigger projects for reconstruction. We are working on a few of the roads and have plans to initiate a tender process for the rest."

According to surveys by the local administrations, recent flood and rains have damaged more than 1,000km of roads across Sylhet division -- 425km in Sunamganj, 327.19km in Moulvibazar, and 306.19km in Sylhet district.

They also give a few figures of the estimated damage but the total amount would be available after the floodwater fully recedes.

Citing the estimated damage at Tk 20 crore, Executive Engineer of RHD in Sunamganj Shafiqul Islam said, "We've asked for funds."

Kamrul Islam, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Moulvibazar,



The severely damaged Sylhet-Sunamganj highway following the recent spate of heavy rains, at Gobindaganj bazar in Sylhet. The photo was taken on Thursday.

said, "Around 186km of roads were damaged, and the loss was calculated to be Tk 34.51 crore."

On the other hand, the Moulvibazar RHD suffered a loss of Tk 66.71 crore due to 141.13km of damaged roads.

While RHD manages the national highways, LGED takes care of the rest of the roads.

According to local administrations, after the flood and extreme rains, the ravaged roads have put the residents of at least 800 villages in the three districts in serious trouble. Their daily life as well as business is being hampered.

In Moulvibazar, five of the seven upazilas were badly affected.

Kishor Roy Chowdhury Moni, vice-

chairman of the district's Juri upazila, said flood had damaged most of the roads, and made them risky. "At some places, the broken part became a few feet deep. In some areas, the mud roads were completely gone."

In Sylhet, LGED will soon start the repair work.

ASM Mohsin, executive engineer of LGED, Sylhet, said Beanibazar was the worst hit among of the eight affected upazilas of the district due to flood. "Extreme rainfall also caused devastation."

He said the initial repair work would start soon. "The amount of money needed for repairing the roads, however, was yet to be determined."

## Animal feed rotting at port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Imported animal feed, worth TK 50 crore, are rotting at warehouses in Benapole land port as the Department of Livestock Services all of a sudden came up with an order demanding no objection certificate (NOC) from importers.

The department on July 1 issued a notice only to the Benapole port stating that importers must obtain NOC before bringing any animal feed into the country.

As a result, some 40 importers got into a fix as they already imported animal feed following customs law which does not require NOC if an importer pays full tax, said Motiar Rahman, chairman, land ports sub-committee, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ltd.

Mofizur Rahman Sazan, president, Benapole Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents' Association, said the livestock department should reconsider its order.

About the sudden order, Joydev Kumar Singh, Sharsha upazila livestock officer, said they did not know the reason behind it.

## PM to visit flood-hit Gaibandha, Bogra today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit Gaibandha and Bogra today to



see the condition of the flood-affected people of the two northern districts.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said the prime minister will first pay a visit to Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha in the morning and distribute relief materials among the flood victims and saplings among the flood-hit farmers on the Gobindaganj Upazila Parishad premises.

Later, the prime minister will exchange views with political leaders, local elites and government officials working for flood management at the Gobindaganj Upazila Parishad Hall Room.

In the afternoon, she will visit Sariakandi upazila of Bogra and distribute relief materials to the flood victims as well as saplings to the flood-hit farmers at Sariakandi High School playground.

She will later exchange views with political leaders, local elites and government officials involved in flood management at Sariakandi Degree College Hall Room.

The prime minister will return to the capital in the afternoon.



A Buddhist monk holds a copy of a volume of Buddhists' holy book the Tripitak that was published in Bangla for the first time. Its launching ceremony was held yesterday at Rajban Bihar in Rangamati. Sreemat Pragnyalankar Mahasthabir, chief of the Bihar, and Chakma Queen Yen Yen unveiled the cover of the holy book. PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

## Road crash kills Indian, injures 6 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

An Indian was killed and six Bangladeshis were injured in a road accident in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore yesterday.

The deceased, Swapan Ghosh, 43, son of late Netai Ghosh, hailed from Motiganj village of West Bengal, India.

The accident occurred when a bus ramed an oncoming private car on Benapole-Jessore highway in Navaron area of Jhikargachha upazila, said Afjal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Navaron highway police.

The victims were in the Benapole-bound private car, he said.

Police took the injured to Jessore Medical College Hospital while the body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Swapan was returning home after visiting Bangladesh, said police.

## Renewable energy in agriculture stressed

BSS, Rajshahi

Some grassroots farmers at a discussion on Thursday mentioned that substantial and sustainable use of renewable energy can be an effective means of protecting life and environment.

They viewed time has come to transform the existing power supply depended irrigation system into solar power based one to lessen the gradually mounting pressure on electricity in the vast Barind tract.

Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK), a collective initiative for participatory research, policy advocacy and campaign, organised the discussion at its Tanore Resource Centre in Rajshahi.

Farmers, public representatives and government and non-government officials attended the discussion titled, "Renewable Fuel

Services: Problems and Solutions".

The farmers opined that protection of environment and natural resources with promotion and usage of renewable energies is crucial for protecting climate and life.

They viewed there is an enormous scope of reducing the gradually mounting pressure on fossil fuel through boosting use of renewable energies in both rural and urban areas.

Time has come to protect the natural resources including the wetlands and water bodies for restoring green atmosphere.

All concerned should work together for building awareness about a judicious use of fossil fuel and ending its misuse. Besides, the issue of converting the irrigation system into solar power-based one should be taken into consideration immediately, they added.