

PHULBARI HEALTH COMPLEX

Lone ambulance vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Failing to avail ambulance service for transferring a seriously injured patient to another hospital, aggrieved relatives of the patient vandalised the lone ambulance of Phulbari Upazila Health Complex on Wednesday night.

The incident took place around 8:30pm on Wednesday when the driver of the ambulance was away and the vehicle was parked on the health complex premises.

Mohammad Mizan, 28, from Madilahat village in Phulbari upazila, was brought to the medical facility along with two others, who sustained injuries in a head-on collision between two motorbikes in Bhagalpur Bazar area in the upazila earlier in the evening, said police.

The other two accident victims are Siddiqur Rahman, 55, and his wife Kamrunessa Parul, 40, hailing from the same village in the upazila.

When doctors asked Mizan's relatives to urgently transfer him to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, they requested the ambulance driver over phone to help them transfer the patient.

The relatives of the patient became upset after the driver refused to entertain their repeated requests and they vandalised the vehicle before leaving the health complex with their patient.

Contacted, Enayetullah Nasim, a doctor at the health complex, said the windshield and window glasses of the ambulance were damaged.



Rainwater submerges the hanging bridge over Kaptai Lake in Rangamati, compelling the authorities to suspend movement of people on the bridge.

PHOTO: STAR

Floods wash away Tk 9cr fish in Sylhet division

Rangamati hanging bridge submerged by rainwater

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Floodwater has washed away fish worth Tk 9 crore from 2436 ponds in Sylhet division while rainwater has submerged the hanging bridge over Kaptai Lake in Rangamati.

Persistent heavy rain and onrush of water from upstream have swelled local haors and rivers in Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sylhet districts, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rain have washed away fish worth Tk 9 crore from the ponds on 356 hectares of land in the four districts, said Sultan Ahmed, deputy director of the Department of Fisheries in Sylhet division.

Of the districts, Sunamganj was severely hit by the floods this year.

Fish of 1169 ponds have been washed

away by the floodwater, causing a huge loss to hundreds of farmers in 10 upazilas of Sunamganj.

The affected fish farmers claimed that the loss would be over Tk 5 crore, said Sunamganj District Fisheries Officer Aminul Haque.

Fish of at least 336 ponds in Biswambharpur, 286 in Sadar, 41 in Derai, 77 in Chhatak, 23 in Dharampasa, 20 in Tahirpur, 71 in Jagannathpur, 134 in Dakkhin Sunamganj, 68 in Jamalganj and 113 in Dowarabazar upazila were washed away by floodwater.

Farmer Helal Mia of Salukabad union in Biswambharpur said his pond was the breeding ground of carp fish.

The fish worth Tk 30,000 were washed away by floods, he said.

Jahangir Kabir of Sreepur area in Tahirpur upazila said fish of his pond on 10 acres of land were washed away by

floodwater. The market price of the fish was Tk 11 lakh.

Bishwambharpur Upazila Fisheries Officer Mehedi Hasan Bhuiya said they sent a list of affected fish farmers to the authorities concerned.

Bishwambharpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Samir Biswas said the government will give financial support to enlisted destitute farmers.

In Rangamati, the hanging bridge over Kaptai Lake in the district has been inundated with rise of water level in the lake, compelling the authorities concerned to suspend movement of all the tourists and local people on the bridge from Tuesday, reports our correspondent.

Heavy downpour and an onrush of water from upstream led to the rise in water level. Srijon Bikash Barua, manager at Rangamati office of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC).

The bridge goes under water during the rainy season every year, he said.

Considering public safety, BPC and local administration suspended movement over the bridge from Tuesday evening, said the manager.

Around 1,200 people of about 175 families living on Dewanpara Island in Kaptai Lake near the bridge are stranded as it is their only link with the mainland.

In the absence of water transport, they cannot even go to the market, said locals.

"We have been facing a lot of problems after the bridge was closed. Now we have managed an engine boat for daily movement and the students are facing a lot for the movement of 200-foot-long waterways," said Suman Chakma, 35, a resident of Dewanpara village.

The bridge will reopen after renovation of the bridge and decrease in water level, said the official.

BCL distributes saplings among students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders yesterday distributed 2,000 saplings among students of different schools and colleges in Nasirnagar upazila.

The saplings were distributed at a three-day fruit tree fair jointly organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and upazila administration on the upazila parishad premises.

Nasir Uddin Rana, convener of the upazila unit BCL, and Sharifuzzaman Chowdhury Sumon, joint convener of the unit, took initiative to distribute the saplings among the students.

Nasirnagar Upazila Parishad Chairman Rafi Uddin Ahmed and Deputy Director of DAE Abu Naser, among others, were present at the sapling distribution programme.

Lightning kills 2 in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two people were killed and at least five others injured in separate incidents of lightning in Ghatail upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Shahadat Hossain, 35, of Noboratnabari village, and college student Mohammad Roni Miah, 20, of Modhya Korna village under Jamuria union in the upazila.

Locals said a thunderbolt struck Shahadat while he was fishing in a pond nearby his house amid rain around 4:00pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

On the other hand, a streak of lightning struck Roni while he was returning home after playing football at a village field. He died on the spot.

Barkal, Jurachhari without power for 13 days

Around 15,000 people of Rangamati's two upazilas have been suffering immensely

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Around fifteen thousand residents of Rangamati's Barkal and Jurachhari upazila have been suffering immensely without power supply for the last 13 days.

The outage has been disrupting day-to-day activities including services at hospitals and offices in the upazilas.

Sobuj Kanti Majumdar, executive engineer of Power Development Board (PDB) in Rangamati, said the power disruption was caused on July 6 morning when at least 50 electric poles in Kaptai upazila were damaged and 100 kilometres of power line breached in Bilaichhari and Jurachhari upazilas by landslides triggered by days of heavy downpour.

Electricity supply in Kaptai upazila was restored five days later and in

Bilaichhari upazila on Wednesday night. They were now working on restoring power in Barkal and Jurachhari, he added.

Locals however said aside from disruption due to extreme natural calamities, five to six days of power outage in the upazilas of Rangamati are quite frequent after rain. Even after the power is restored, they face outage again within 10 to 15 minutes.

They also alleged that the local PDB staffers do not pay heed to their complaints.

Ashabrata Chakma, a resident of Jurachhari upazila, said power was resumed three times, only for 10 to 15 minutes each time, in the last ten days.

Due to the frequent power cuts, it has been difficult for them to sleep at night in severe heat, he said, adding

that supply of water also stopped due to the power outage and they could not communicate with anyone as their phone batteries went dry.

Rasel Chakma, an eighth grader at Bhubonjoy Government High school, said students like him were also suffering as they could not study at night without electricity.

Sobuj Kanti, the PDB executive engineer, said it is difficult to maintain the network of electrical lines over hundreds of kilometres through remote hilly areas when each of Barkal, Jurachhari and Bilaichhari upazilas has only one temporary staffer (lineman) to maintain the lines.

He also said they were trying to restore electricity in Barkal and Jurachhari upazilas despite inadequate resources.



This house at Kholpatua village in Barguna's Bamna upazila is now locally known as Laowai Bari (beggars' house) as 26 people, dependent on begging for years, live at the facility constructed by a non-governmental organisation after super cyclone Sidr ravaged vast areas of the southern region in 2007. Inset, a few of the professional beggars move about, seeking alms from people in the area.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



Like many other places in Noakhali's Hatiya, a upazila comprising an island between the Bay of Bengal and the Meghna, this marketplace faces extinction as the mighty river has turned furious during the ongoing monsoon. Locals have demanded adequate steps to protect large areas of the coastal island where protection embankments, hundreds of acres of croplands, and a few schools and cyclone centres went into the riverbed during the last few years.

PHOTO: NURUL AMIN

Boy's eye badly damaged in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The right eye of an eight-year-old schoolboy was badly damaged in an attack allegedly by a drug addict at Dakkhin Chatolgaon village in Kulaura upazila yesterday.

The victim is Rabbi Mia, son of rickshaw puller Mansur Ali of the village, and a Class III student of Alalpur Government Primary School.

Mansur Ali said when Rabbi was watching TV at their house in the afternoon. All of a sudden, drug addict Abdul Ahad entered the house and hit Rabbi in the right eye with a bamboo stick and fled the scene.

Rabbi was rushed to the upazila health complex and then shifted to Sylhet MAC Osmani Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened.

Dr Zakir Hossain of the health complex said Rabbi's injury is so severe that it might be permanently damaged.

Quoting locals, Sub-inspector Abdur Rahim Jiban of Kulaura Police Station said the accused is a drug addict. He used to attack local people to collect money.

FF FARUK MURDER CASE

Deposition of another witness recorded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday recorded deposition of a prosecution witness in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case.

So far, 18 out of total 23 prosecution witnesses gave their statements before the court.

Judge Rashed Kabir of 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Tangail recorded the deposition of the witness, Dr Mozammel Hossain, then medical officer of Tangail General Hospital, said Tanvir Ahmed, court inspector of Tangail.

Defence counsels later cross examined the witness. The case's main accused Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, former Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency, and six others, among total 14 accused in the case, were at the dock during the proceedings, Tanvir added.

On January 18, 2013, Tangail AL leader Faruk's bullet-hit body was found near his College Para residence in the town.

Three days later, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Sadar Police Station, accusing unidentified criminals.

The case, initially investigated by police, was later handed over to Detective Branch of police in Tangail.

Charge sheet in the case was submitted on February 3, 2016. Charges were framed against the accused in September the same year. Three of the 14 accused are in jail while four, including Rana, are currently on bail. Seven others, including three younger brothers of Rana, are still on the run.