



An ode to the selfless pillars of life



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Urinary tract infections: facts you must know



- Flood situation may deteriorate in Sylhet div
- Four million in distress
- Sylhet, Sunamganj have no power
- Healthcare services halted as hospitals submerged
- Rail and air communications snapped
- Drinking water and food shortage
- Banking services halted



An aerial shot of parts of Mallikpur in Sunamganj. Flood water has inundated most of the area and parts of the Sunamganj-Sylhet highway, from top left to the bottom left of this photo. The photo was taken around 3:00pm yesterday with a drone.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJIB KHAN

#### COMMUNICATIONS WITH SYLHET

## Air, rail gone, road too may go soon

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

If the flood worsens, Sylhet could become unreachable via roads within a day or two. Air communication had already been snapped and train services were stopped yesterday. Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday suspended operations of all trains to and

from Sylhet Railway Station as most of the lines there went under flood water.

Officials said some trains are now travelling up to Moglabazar and Maijgaon stations, while the rest are running up to Kulaura station in Moulvibazar. Maijgaon station is two stations before Sylhet station.

Road communications between Sunamganj and the rest of the country are already cut off and Sylhet may be in a similar situation as most of the major roads, including national highways

in the two districts, have already been inundated.

"There is a concern that Dhaka-Sylhet road communications may be snapped within a day or two if the water level continues to rise," said Fazle Rabbe, additional chief engineer (Sylhet zone) of Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

About 80-90 percent of around 350km road under the RHD in Sunamganj has already gone under water.

Meanwhile, rail communication with Mohanganj upazila in Netrakona with the rest of the country was also severed yesterday after a part of a railway bridge got swept away.

Heavy rain and onrush of water from upstream in India's northeast have

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#### STAR REPORT

The flood in the Sylhet division has deteriorated dramatically in the past 24 hours, with the situation heading towards the most devastating in recent memory.

As much as 72 percent of the division is now submerged on the back of Wednesday's torrential rainfall in the north-eastern districts and flash floods in upstream India's Meghalaya and Assam, where record-breaking rainfall was recorded.

Some 64 upazilas of 10 districts have been hit by the flood, said Md Enamur Rahman, the state minister for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Communications have snapped, power supply have been cut off, and medical services suffered disruptions in most areas. People are struggling to get food, drinking water and shelter, report our correspondents.

"We are surviving on dry food for the last two days. If we don't get food relief, we will die soon," said Jahanara Begum, a resident of Sunamganj's Dhamapasha upazila. Her family has taken shelter at a primary school building near her home.

Sunamganj has been the hardest hit by the flood.

Since Thursday, the district has remained inaccessible from other parts of the country. It has been without electricity for the last two days, which led to the collapse of the mobile network in the region and left mobile phones without charge.

As a result, the people stranded there are unable to contact anyone to rescue them.

About 40 lakh people are estimated to be marooned, according to Muhammad Mosharraf Hossain, the divisional commissioner.

And the situation is expected to get worse, as per yesterday's bulletin from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

There is a possibility of medium to heavy rainfall in some places of the northern and north-eastern regions of the country along with adjoining states of Assam, Meghalaya and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal of India in the next 72 hours, it said.

Subsequently, the flood situation in the Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona districts may further deteriorate in the next 24 hours.

"As a result, the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, the Ganges-Padma, the Surma, the Koshiyara, the Teesta, the Dharla, the

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**There is a possibility of medium to heavy rainfall in some places of the northern and north-eastern regions of the country along with adjoining states of Assam, Meghalaya and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal of India in the next 72 hours.**

## Floods hit 5 dists in North, 15 more at risk

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

With vast areas in five northern districts already inundated over the past two days, 15 more districts are feared to soon be hit by the floods caused by heavy downpour and onrush of water from the upstream.

The districts that may witness flood are Jamalpur, Bogura, Sherpur, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Tangail, Manikganj, Pabna, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Faridpur, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Munshiganj, and

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