



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

A man tries to collect drinking water from a tubewell in calf-deep floodwater in Paroirchak area by the Sylhet-Fenchuganj road in Dakshinsuram upazila yesterday. As floodwater is slowly receding in many areas across Sylhet division, sludge is beginning to float up, rendering many houses and areas still unworthy of returning to.

PADMA BRIDGE

The ones who opposed it are enemies of state

Observes HC at hearing on rule over forming a probe commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has observed that those who opposed the Padma Bridge construction are enemies of the state and the nation, and they must be identified.

"The Padma Bridge is a national asset and our pride. If there was no conspiracy, why the financing for the bridge construction was stopped? Those who are against the Padma Bridge and such development are enemies of the state and the nation, and must be found out," the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo said yesterday.

The bench made the observation during the hearing on a five-year-old suo motu (voluntary) rule on formation of an enquiry commission to identify the "culprits who made up false stories" about a corruption conspiracy involving the bridge project.

Earlier in the day, Khurshid Alam Khan, counsel for the Anti-Corruption Commission, told the HC that the commission had filed a case in 2012 against seven government officials, including former Bridges Division secretary Mosharruf Hossain, on charges of corruption in the project.

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Floods take heavy toll on education

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Floods in the north-eastern region are taking a heavy toll on education with at least 5,000 primary and secondary schools in 18 districts closed down.

Either the buildings of these schools were completely inundated or water has started invading their premises, education officials said.

They added that many school buildings are also now being used as shelters for the flood-affected people.

Classroom activities were suspended at 4,000 primary and 917 secondary schools and were partially affected in 102 secondary schools in 18 districts till Sunday, according to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.

After a two-year school closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students in flood-hit regions, many of them SSC and HSC candidates, will now suffer from learning loss once again.

The DSHE and the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) offices have been working on a detailed account of the damages caused by the flood to educational

institutions.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Muhibur Rahman, acting director general of DPE, and Prof Nehal Ahmed, director general of DSHE, both assured that schools that faced damages would be repaired as soon as the situation improves.

After a two-year school-closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students in flood-hit regions, many of them SSC and HSC candidates, will now suffer from learning loss once again.

Field level officials said many students also lost their textbooks after floods hit their homes, while many are not being able to study as they are having to move to shelters.

Mehedy Hasan, a student living in Sunamganj municipality's Nabinagar, lost all his books in the flood.

His father Abdus Samad said, "I went to bookstores to buy more books for him but I found those

too have been damaged by the floodwater. Now, he is not being able to prepare for his exams."

Jafar Iqbal, the headmaster of Purba Pakerkhal Govt Primary School in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila, said, "The school has been turned into a shelter where 400 people are currently living.

"Until the school reopens, I cannot say how many students' books were damaged. But I contacted the education officer, who assured me that new books will be allotted for the students."

Prof Moshizuzzaman, member of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, said, "We will replace the textbooks of flood-affected students according to the demands made by the authorities concerned."

Districts in Sylhet and Rangpur divisions have been facing devastating floods for several days.

DPE sources said class activities at 4,000 primary schools in 17 districts are now suspended and the flood has affected at least 4,300 primary schools.

Nasima Begum, deputy director of DPE Sylhet division,

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Security tightens on Padma Bridge

Aggrieved bikers cause tailbacks

SAJJAD HOSSAIN, Munshiganj

On the second day of vehicles plying the Padma Bridge yesterday, the authorities beefed up surveillance to smooth out traffic.

Police set up a checkpoint ahead of Mawa toll plaza in Munshiganj to bar motorcycles from crossing the bridge.

Besides, law enforcers and army personnel continued patrolling the bridge throughout the day to prevent car parking and walking on the bridge.

Defying the government's ban, over 50 motorbikes gathered near the toll plaza around 7:30am and tried to cross the bridge.

As police intercepted the bikers, they argued with the toll plaza staffers for around half an hour, leaving other vehicles stuck on the expressway and creating around a one km tailback.

Security personnel then drove them away and the situation became normal.

Taking their bikes on pickups, many motorcyclists were seen crossing the bridge.

In another incident, over 50 motorbikes tried to cross the bridge around 4:00pm as they did not get ferries after waiting for a few hours at Shimulia ferry terminal.

Sergeant Sohel Hasan of Mawa traffic police outpost said more than 500 motorcycles were sent back in the morning. Then they crossed the river by ferries.

There is a police patrol team on the main

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Teacher dies after student beats him with cricket stump

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar



A teacher who was beaten up with a cricket stump by a student two days ago died from injuries at a local hospital early yesterday.

Deceased Utpal Kumar Sarkar, 35, was a lecturer of political science at Haji Yunus Ali School and College in Ashulia's Chitrasail area. He served the institution for about 10 years.

The teacher breathed his last at Savar Enam Medical College and Hospital around 5:15am, said hospital sources.

The assailant, a 15-year-old SSC examinee of the school, has been absconding since the attack.

Principal of the college Saiful Hasan said, "Like every year, we hosted tournaments for girls' cricket and boys' football. On Saturday, a girls' cricket match was going on at the playground."

All of a sudden, a student hit Utpal with a stump beside the field around 2:00pm and fled, he added.

The teacher, also the chairman of the disciplinary committee of the institution, was rushed to Enam Medical College Hospital.

Assem Kumar Sarkar, brother of the deceased, said the student hit Utpal as he took disciplinary actions against him over stalking girls. "I urge the prime minister and the education minister to look into the murder and ensure fair trial."

Assem filed a case with Ashulia Police Station

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Scientists find way to grow plants in dark



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have created a method of artificial photosynthesis to grow plants without sunshine in an advance that could lead to new ways to grow food on Earth – and possibly one day on Mars.

Over millions of years of evolution, photosynthesis has developed in plants as a way to turn water, carbon dioxide and the energy from sunlight into plant biomass and the food we eat.

But researchers, including those from the

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