

Protect
Hatrjheel,
Panthalakunja
Demand activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement yesterday demanded the immediate cancellation of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway's link road from FDC to Palash, citing severe environmental damage.

At a press conference marking 100 days of protests, held at the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, activists and professionals warned that the project had already harmed Hatrjheel reservoir and Panthalakunja park.

They argued that its continuation would create an environmental and transport crisis in areas such as Kathalgan, Katabon, Nilkhel, Dhaka University, and Buet.

The movement called for an independent commission to investigate irregularities, SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Fire breaks out in Sundarbans again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Another fire broke out in the Teisher Chila-Shaplar Beel area of the Chandpai Range under the Eastern Sundarbans Forest Division, hours after the fire near Tepar Beel area under Kolomteji Camp had been brought under control.

Kazi Mohammad Nurul Karim, divisional forest officer (DFO) of the Eastern Sundarbans Division, said through a drone survey, a team of forest officials from the Kolomteji patrol outpost detected thick plumes of smoke rising from the new location yesterday morning.

Later, forest officials and local volunteers rushed to the site and began creating a fire line from 1:00pm.

This is the second fire that originated in the forest in two days, several kilometres away from Kolomteji where a fire broke out around 9:00pm on Saturday.

Zakaria Haider, deputy assistant director (DAD) of the Bagerhat Fire Service, said after receiving information, a total of five firefighting units from Bagerhat, Sharankhola, and Moreganj

are stationed on the banks of the Bhola River near the Sundarbans.

Once all preparations are complete, water spraying will begin as soon as possible, he said.

DFO Kazi Mohammad Nurul Karim also said, "With efforts from our forest staff and support from locals, we have successfully extinguished the fire in Kolomteji."

"Now, our teams have reached the newly affected site and are working on fire line cutting. Water spraying will commence as soon as possible using pumps," he added.

Earlier, a fire that broke out in Kolomteji Camp in Dhansagar forest station of the Sundarbans East Division was brought under control yesterday morning.

More than 100 local volunteers, along with forest guards and officials, worked through the night to contain the blaze, said Dhansagar Fire Station's Officer Bipuleswar Debnath.

Fire service teams returned to the site around 8:00am yesterday, while forest officials and local volunteers continued monitoring the area for any lingering embers to prevent reignition.



This area under the Tejgaon flyover has been turned into a warehouse where people from nearby areas store a variety of items including drums and jars. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TB prevalence high in Sylhet

Tea workers, children particularly affected

MINTUDESWARA, Moulvibazar

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major public health concern in Sylhet, with an alarming rise in cases among children, particularly in tea plantation areas, experts have warned.

According to the National Tuberculosis Control Programme's (NTP) Sylhet divisional office, child TB cases have surged in recent years, rising from 3.98 percent in 2021 to 8.66 percent in 2024.

Experts attribute this increase to overcrowding, poor sanitation, malnutrition, drug addiction, inadequate healthcare facilities, and a lack of awareness among underprivileged communities - factors that are especially prevalent in tea garden areas.

Dr Mohammad Noore Alom Shamim, assistant director (disease control) at the Sylhet divisional office of the Directorate General of Health Services, highlighted the severe overcrowding in tea worker settlements.

Some five to eight workers often share a single room, accelerating the spread of TB, said Nipen Paul, general secretary of the Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union's central committee.

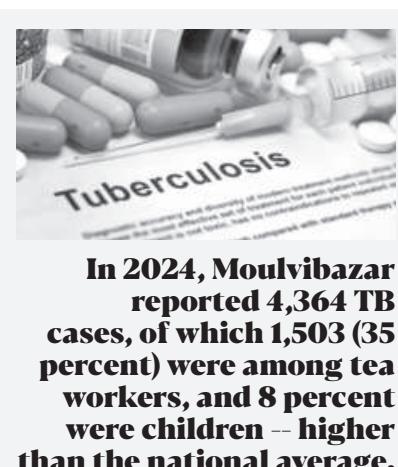
Dr Ratnajit Biswas, civil surgeon of Habiganj, said tea garden residents are particularly vulnerable to TB due to their living conditions. Special focus is being given to tea gardens under the TB control programme, with government and non-government organisations conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns.

He urged individuals to seek immediate medical attention if they experience TB symptoms such as a prolonged cough, coughing up blood, chest pain, shortness of breath, weight loss, fever, or night sweats. Poor living environments and malnutrition, resulting from economic hardships, are key contributors to TB among tea workers, he said.

Dr Md. Mamunur Rahman, civil surgeon of Moulvibazar, said TB testing and treatment services are being provided free of charge in the district, with X-ray screenings conducted five days a week.

Despite these efforts, TB remains highly prevalent, particularly among children. He noted that as TB spreads through the air, complete eradication is challenging.

Raihan Ahmed, acting project director of the HEED TB Control Programme-GFATM for Sylhet Division, identified Moulvibazar as one of the country's most vulnerable areas for TB, especially within tea gardens. Late diagnosis is a significant issue, with 65 percent of TB patients in Sreemangal, Kamalganj, and Kulaura upazilas being tea garden workers.



In 2024, Moulvibazar reported 4,364 TB cases, of which 1,503 (35 percent) were among tea workers, and 8 percent were children -- higher than the national average.

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Shahid Anwar, Sylhet divisional consultant for the NTP, said around 8 percent of diagnosed TB patients in the division are under 14. Children's lower immunity and close contact with infected adults make them more susceptible, he added, noting the difficulties in diagnosing TB in young children.

To improve detection, authorities plan to introduce portable X-ray machines in tea gardens, reducing the need for workers to travel to health complexes for screenings.

NCP IFTAR ROW SAD's Sylhet convener gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

Akhtar Hossain, convener of the Sylhet district unit of the Students Against Discrimination, got bail yesterday, hours after he was sent to jail over an alleged attack on an iftar party organised by the National Citizen Party in Sylhet.

Judge Sagir Ahmed of Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted the bail, said his lawyer Obaidur Rahman Fahmi.

Police arrested Akhtar from Ausha in Sadar upazila, said OC Monir Hossain of Shahporan Police Station.

Monir said Mahbubur Rahman Shanto, who was injured in the incident, filed a case on Saturday, against nine individuals and several unidentified persons. Following the complaint, police conducted a raid and arrested Akhtar Hossain as the prime accused.

The iftar event was held at a convention hall in the Arambagh area in Sylhet on Saturday where NCP central leaders were present.

The incident unfolded when Tasmin Zara, senior joint member secretary of the party, was delivering her speech on stage. At that moment, a group of SAD activists engaged in a heated exchange with NCP members.

While recording the scuffle, journalists faced resistance from party activists.

After the iftar, SAD activists again locked into a scuffle followed by a clash with NCP members where Shanto was injured.

A fire broke out around 9:00pm on Saturday near Kolomteji Camp in the Sundarbans East Division and was brought under control yesterday morning after an overnight effort by forest officials and over 100 local volunteers. Fire service teams and forest staff remained on-site to monitor for possible reignition.

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				Date: 17-03-2025
Memo No. 27.12.2637.225.02.015.24/512, e-Tender Notice (LTM)				
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for Procurement of following Electrical Line Construction/ Up-gradation Works. Tender submission deadlines are mentioned below:				
e-Tender ID	Description of Works	Online (e-GP System) Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Document Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
1086424	Installation of 9.76 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 5.140 KM LT to HT & 5.355 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Dhaka PBS-4 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD-W-196-3-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 09:00
1086423	Installation of 9.79 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 5.06 KM LT to HT & 5.402 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Dhaka PBS-4 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD-W-196-4-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 09:15
1086422	Installation of 8.417 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 6.921 KM LT to HT & 4.930 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Dhaka PBS-4 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-195-1-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3Ph	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 09:30
1086421	Installation of 7.353 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.100 KM LT to HT & 5.608 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Dhaka PBS-4 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-195-2-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 09:45
1086420	Installation of 7.613 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.006 KM LT to HT & 5.728 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/W-260-3-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 10:00
1086419	Installation of 7.60 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.199 KM LT to HT & 6.029 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-259-5-Ins-LT-HT and HT 1P-3Ph	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 10:30
1086417	Installation of 6.179 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 8.244 KM LT to HT & 5.970 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-262-2-INS-LT-HT and HT 1P-3Ph	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 11:00
1086415	Installation of 7.012 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.378 KM LT to HT & 5.947 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-262-1-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3Ph	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 11:30
1086414	Installation of 7.826 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 5.752 KM LT to HT & 6.556 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-261-1-INS-LT-HT and HT 1P-3Ph	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 12:00
1086412	Installation of 7.735 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 6.987 KM LT to HT & 5.750 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-261-2-INS-LT-HT and HT 1P-3Ph	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 12:30
1086411	Installation of 7.526 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.159 KM LT to HT & 6.061 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-260-5-Ins-LT-HT and HT 1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 13:00
1086410	Installation of 6.769 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.843 KM LT to HT & 5.646 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-260-2-INS-LT to HT and HT 1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	15-Apr-2025 15:00	16-Apr-2025 13:30
1086409	Installation of 7.697 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.168 KM LT to HT & 5.384 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-260-4-INS-LT to HT-HT 1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	16-Apr-2025 15:00	17-Apr-2025 09:00
1086408	Installation of 7.18 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.46 KM LT to HT & 6.252 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-259-4-Ins-LT to HT and HT-1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	16-Apr-2025 15:00	17-Apr-2025 09:15
1086407	Installation of 7.221 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.215 KM LT to HT & 5.739 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-260-1-Ins-LT to HT and HT 1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	16-Apr-2025 15:00	17-Apr-2025 09:30
1086406	Installation of 7.039 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.393 KM LT to HT & 6.046 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-259-3-Ins-LT-HT-HT 1P-3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	16-Apr-2025 15:00	17-Apr-2025 09:45
1086405	Installation of 6.554 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 4.659 KM LT to HT & 5.387 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-262-5-Ins-LT-HT and HT 1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	16-Apr-2025 15:00	17-Apr-2025 10:00
1086404	Installation of 5.802 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 7.539 KM LT to HT & 5.413 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at Narayanganj PBS-1 under MCE(DMD) Project. Sub-Package: MCEP/BREB/DMD/W-262-4-Ins-LT-HT and HT 1P to 3P	25-Mar-2025 15:00 (BST)	16-Apr-2025 15:00	17-Apr-2025 10:30
1086403	Installation of 5.796 KM Insulated Conductor, Conversion of 6.099 KM LT to HT & 6.204 KM HT 1ph to 3ph line along with testing commissioning etc. at			