

Two children killed, two hurt in Ctg landslide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two 11 year old boys were killed and two others critically injured in a landslide inside the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in Anwara upazila of Chattogram on Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Rohan, son of Abdur Rahim, and Mohammad Misbah, son of Mohammad Imran. They were residents of Ward-8 in Bairag union, said Tayebur Rahman, inspector at Anwara Police Station.

The incident occurred around 10:00am in the Eidgah area of Paschimpara when a group of boys sought shade from the heat near a hill.

A portion of the slope suddenly collapsed, burying four children under the debris.

The injured children, both aged 12, were first taken to Anwara Upazila Health Complex and later transferred to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment.

Quoting locals, police said the boys had been playing in a nearby field inside the KEPZ before moving toward the hill for shelter. As they rested in a crevice, part of the hillside gave way.

Eye witness Mohammad Imran said, "They were sitting near the hill when it suddenly collapsed on them. Villagers rushed to the spot and rescued them."

Puja Mitra, doctor of Anwara Health Complex said the two children were already dead when they arrived. The others have been referred to CMCH, she added.



White herons try to catch fish in this waterbody in Rajshahi. Numerous canals and ponds in the district have dried up over the years, leaving very little fish for the birds to feed on. The photo was taken from the Chanduria area of Tanore upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

TELMACHHARA FOREST Water crisis drives wildlife to human settlements

MINTU DESHWARA

Facing an acute water shortage, wild animals in Telmachhara Forest, located in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj, are flocking to artificial water reservoirs near human settlements.

Due to the ongoing dry season, animals are gathering at an artificial reservoir in front of the Telmachhara Forest Office. Some are even venturing into nearby localities in search of water, making them vulnerable to poachers.

Locals say many animals, driven by thirst, are taking significant risks to survive.

Telmachhara forest, adjacent to Satchari National Park, is home to a diverse range of wildlife, but the scarcity of natural water sources during the summer months poses a severe threat to their survival.

Mehedi Hasan, beat officer at the



Telmachhara Forest Office, said the forest spans 1,626 acres, most of which is high and hilly terrain.

As a result, water does not accumulate anywhere. In some areas, rainwater has mixed with soil and sand, filling natural depressions. This has worsened the crisis, as there is no water where it normally should be. Even

though there were a few days of rain recently, all the water has dried up," he added.

Md Anisur Rahman, in charge of the Sreemangal Meteorological Observatory, said the region usually receives 81mm of rain in April. While the tally for April this year has not been compiled, there has been less rain this year compared to previous years.

Sadiqur Rahman, a staff member at the Telmachhara office, said plans are underway to create a pond under the initiative of the divisional forest officer to solve the water crisis.

Contacted, Jamil Mohammad Khan, assistant conservator of forests for the Habiganj and Moulvibazar area, said they have received an application to build a pond for the animals. It has already been forwarded to higher authorities.

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Breathing life into bamboo

The flute makers of Sreemoddi



MASUK HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

In the village of Sreemoddi under Cumilla's Homna upazila, the melodious craft of making bamboo flutes has quietly persisted for generations.

It is estimated that at least one-third of all flutes produced in Bangladesh originate from this small village. Around 40 families are engaged in this time-honoured tradition.

Made entirely from natural materials, these flutes have earned both national admiration and international acclaim.

The roots of this tradition trace back nearly a century, when two individuals – Kokil Das Boiragi and Din Bandhu – migrated from India and introduced flute-making to the village. Initially, they produced 50 to 100 flutes by hand, selling them door-to-door, often playing the instruments themselves to attract buyers, according to locals.

Today, the tradition thrives with contributions from the elderly, women, and even school-going children. Women typically take part in designing, drilling, washing, drying and colouring the flutes.

The preferred material is "muli bamboo" (Melocanna baccifera), a tropical species native to the region.

Based on the harmonium scale, flutes are made in varying lengths, up to four tones (roughly 20 inches), and include three to seven holes. The village produces eight varieties of flutes, including the Tota, Aar, Been, Balloon,

Classical, Aristocratic, Mohan, and Natural flutes.

Jatindra Chandra Biswas and his wife Rina Biswas are widely regarded as the most skilled flute makers in the village.

Explaining the 13 to 14 stage process, Jatindra said the bamboo is first cut into shape and dried in the sun. The outer skin is removed (except in the case of the Aar flute) and patterns are etched into the surface using clay and fire. Holes are made using pointed iron rods and coal.



For Tota flutes, the mouthpiece is crafted from the wood of the Mandar tree. The final steps include marking the holes, smoothing the surface with sandpaper, and cleaning and painting before packaging.

Flute maker Ratan Sarkar said the raw bamboo is typically sourced from Chattogram.

Homna Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ksemalika Chakma said the craft of Sreemoddi's flute makers is a part of Bangladesh's cultural heritage and deserves support.

"If the craftsmen express interest, we are willing to offer loans on easy terms to help expand the industry," she said.



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Woman stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her son-in-law in Mymensingh's Muktagachha upazila on Thursday.

Fozila Khatun, 45, was from Harirampur village. Quoting family members, Mohammad Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station, said Fozila's son-in-law Monir Hossain stabbed her in the abdomen while she tried to save her daughter Ruma during an altercation around 2:00am. She was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead. Police sent the body to MMCH for autopsy. No case was lodged yet, said the OC, adding that Monir is on the run.

2 children drown in Narsingdi pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Two children drowned while bathing in a pond in Sonakura village under Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi on Thursday.

The deceased are Soha Akter, 10, daughter of Abul Kashem of Sonakura village, and her cousin Habiba Akter, 9, daughter of one Babul, said Shibpur Police Station OC Md Afzal Hossain.

According to family, Habiba had come to visit her uncle's house and went to bathe in a nearby pond with Soha. They drowned shortly afterward. Family members rushed them to Shibpur Upazila Health Complex, where the doctor declared them dead.

Elephant calf dies at Dulhazra Safari Park

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An elephant calf, rescued from the hills of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, died at the Dulhazara Safari Park in Chakaria on Thursday.

Manjur Ahmed, in charge of the park, said the calf died of a viral infection.

The frail calf was brought to the park around four months ago after its mother died during childbirth in the remote Teknaf hill area. The calf fell ill early Thursday and died at the park's isolation centre later in the day, said park authorities.

Manjur said the calf lacked the immunity it could have gotten from its mother's milk, adding that a medical team was taking care of the animal.