

Apurba Lal Dey
passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

Apurba Lal Dey, a senior lawyer and father of Arun Bikash Dey, staff reporter of The Daily Star's Chattogram Bureau, passed away yesterday afternoon. He was 80.

He breathed his last at Chattogram Medical College Hospital around 4:00pm due to old-age complications and other health issues, said family sources.

He is survived by one son, one daughter, grandchildren, and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

He was cremated last night at his ancestral village in Bhatikhain under Patiya upazila of Chattogram.

**PRAYER
TIMING**
AUGUST 14
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Flood threat looms over the north

Chars, villages inundated as rivers swell

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 140 chars (river islands) and villages on riverbanks across 33 unions in 13 upazilas of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari have inundated as the Teesta is flowing above the danger level, according to the Water Development Board.

The Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers are also rising rapidly, though still flowing below danger levels, the

at Chilmari. The Dudhkumar measured 29.08 metres, 52 centimetres below the danger level, at Pateshwari point in Nageshwari, while the Dharla stood at 26.19 metres, 86 centimetres below the danger mark, at Bridge Point in Kurigram Sadar.

WDB Executive Engineer Amitav Chowdhury at Dalia in Nilphamari said all 44 gates of the Teesta Barrage remained open since yesterday morning. He warned that water levels may rise further as upstream flows continue.

Around 9:00am yesterday, the water level at the Teesta Barrage point in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat was recorded at 52.22 metres, seven centimetres above the danger mark.

At the same time, the Brahmaputra was at 22.17 metres -- 1.08 metres below the danger level

under control for now, but if heavy rainfall and runoff persist, it could become severe in the next two to three days."

Kurigram WDB Executive Engineer Rakibul Hasan said water levels in the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers have risen by 40 to 45 centimetres in the 12 hours to 6:00am yesterday.

Mozmuj Haque, a farmer from Char Gokunda in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said water entered every home in the village in the morning, forcing many to take shelter on roads. "Aman paddy fields have been submerged. If water keeps rising, it will be a devastating flood."

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The HRFB said these incidents constitute not only violations of domestic laws but also of Bangladesh's international human rights obligations. The forum warned that if such incidents are not immediately prevented, citizens' safety, judicial independence, and the rule of law will face extreme threats.

According to data from the human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 114 people have been killed in mob beatings across the country between January 1 and August 12 this year.

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