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Flash floods inundate parts of Mymensingh

Teesta flowing above danger level; Brahmaputra-Jamuna, Ganges-Padma rising

STAR REPORT

The water level of the Teesta was above danger-level in Lalmonirhat yesterday while flash floods hit low-lying areas in Mymensingh, submerging acres of land and villages, and affecting the lives of thousands of people.

An onrush of upstream water from India, together with heavy rain caused the water level to rise in these districts, officials said.

Meanwhile, water-logging due to lack of dredging disrupted crop cultivation in over 1,000 acres of land in Pabna's Sujanagar, said locals.

In a bulletin, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said water levels of the country's main rivers -- Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma -- were increasing and might continue to rise for the next 72 hours.

Teesta's water level at the Teesta Barrage Point in Hatibandha upazila was flowing 20 cm above the danger-level (52.60 metre) since morning, said officials.

It rose due to heavy rain and upstream water from India, said Muhibul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of Lalmonirhat Water Development Board.

"There is a fear of an untimely flood as the Teesta water level is continuing to rise," he added.

Chars and low-lying areas along the river were inundated while Aman seedbeds and other crops were submerged in many areas.

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Water rushes through the Teesta Barrage over the danger level at Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat yesterday. Water levels of several other rivers in the country are also rising.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

RIDE-HAILING SERVICES BRTA allows registered cars to run

Restricts bike due to pandemic

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has decided to allow only enlisted motor cars and microbuses to operate under ride-sharing service providers.

However, no motorcycle would be allowed to operate under the service for now due to health safety reasons, officials said.

If the decision is implemented, only a few vehicles would be able to provide ride-sharing services as the number of cars and microbuses that were enlisted is below 300, officials of BRTA and service providing companies said.

"We will send letters to all ride-sharing service providers in this regard within tomorrow [Sunday]," Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The development came

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COVID-19 TREATMENT

13 ICU beds for eight districts!

Rangpur division needs more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Only 13 ICU beds have been allocated in Rangpur division to treat critical Covid-19 patients -- three in Dinajpur and 10 in Rangpur -- leaving the six remaining districts to do without.

Two additional ICU beds are reserved for doctors affected by Covid-19 in the division, while 20 others have been kept for non-Covid-19 patients. All these beds are in public hospitals.

There are no ICU facilities at all in government-run hospitals in the other six districts -- Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, and Gaibandha -- let alone those dedicated for critical Covid-19 patients who may require ICU support.

In total, 1,292 hospital beds are available in 58 upazilas of these eight districts. Of these, 837 are dedicated for Covid-19 patients in isolation wards.

According to the data of the Rangpur divisional office of the Directorate General of Health Services, the 837 beds include 251 in Rangpur, 50 in Kurigram, 96 in Lalmonirhat, 110 in Dinajpur, 50 in Panchagarh, 100 in Thakurgaon, 80 in Gaibandha, and 100 in Nilphamari.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Bangladesh is not a small country'



Bangabandhu receives salute from Jatiyo Rakkhi Bahini on June 21, 1972.

June 21, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S INTERVIEW WITH THE TELEGRAPH

In an interview with London-based newspaper The Telegraph, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says that Bangladesh is now a reality and Pakistan should accept this reality for its own sake. He further says that it does not matter to him whether Pakistan recognises Bangladesh or not. Pakistan is no less eager to get recognition from Bangladesh, adds the PM.

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NON-MPO TEACHERS

Tk 5k grant for each of them likely

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and REJAUl KARIM BYRON

The government is going to provide financial assistance to over two lakh non-government school and college teachers and staffers, who are outside the purview of the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme, aiming to minimise their financial hardship caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many non-MPO teachers and staffers have not received any salary since the government closed down all educational institutions on March 17 to stem the novel coronavirus contagion.

Considering their hardship, the education ministry sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office last month seeking an allocation for providing a one-time grant to the non-MPO teachers and staffers within June. The PMO

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Robotic sloth to play role of conservationist



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Atlanta Botanical Garden will be using a robotic sloth to save some of the world's most endangered species.

The sloth robot, called Slothbot, hangs in trees to monitor animals, plants, and the environment. It's capable of monitoring temperature, weather, and carbon dioxide levels.

It was built by the robotics engineers at the Georgia Institute of Technology and uses solar panels to power itself.

Much like the slovenly actions of the real animals, Slothbot moves slowly along a 100-foot cable strung between two trees.

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Over 4,000 armed forces men, family members infected

BSS, Dhaka

A total of 4,253 armed forces members and their families have tested positive for Covid-19, an Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) press release said yesterday.

Last week, 713 members of the forces tested positive for the novel coronavirus and eight retired armed forces members died of the

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 21

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Man killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab in EPZ area of Chattogram city early yesterday.

The identity of the 25-year-old deceased could not be known immediately.

Sohel Mahmud, senior assistant director of Rab-7, said one of their teams went to the area on information that a consignment of yaba was being smuggled there.

Rab members spotted five youths getting up from the sea and asked them to stop. Sensing Rab presence, the youths opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he claimed.

After the "gunfight" ended, a body was found lying on the ground.

Rab also claimed to have recovered 1 lakh pieces of yaba pills, one foreign pistol, a light gun (LG) and six round of cartridges from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the Rab claims.

The body and evidences were later handed over to police, the Rab official said.



Vehicles clog the Rokeya Sarani in the capital yesterday as metro rail construction work resulted in almost halving of the road width there.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

Brazil, Europe pass bleak milestones

WHO warns of 'new and dangerous phase' as virus spreading fast

AGENCIES

The coronavirus pandemic has passed grim milestones as Brazil confirmed one million infections and Europe chalked up more than 2.5 million cases yesterday as the World Health Organization warned of a "new and dangerous phase".

Death tolls in Colombia and Mexico also made grim reading -- passing 2,000 and 20,000, respectively -- as the virus tightened its grip in the Americas.

Although the spread has slowed in Europe, it is still the worst-affected continent -- almost half of its 2.5 million cases being registered in Russia, Britain, Spain and Italy, according to an AFP tally yesterday.

The continent is easing its way out of strict lockdowns that have caused crippling economic damage, but the WHO warned against giving in to isolation fatigue.

The virus has now killed more than 460,000 people and infected 8.6 million worldwide.

A vaccine remains months off at best despite several trials, and scientists are still making daily discoveries about the virus, its symptoms and the extent to which it may spread before being identified.

'STILL SPREADING FAST'

Brazil reported a one-day record of nearly 55,000 infections on Friday, becoming the second country to pass one million cases after the United States -- the only country with higher numbers of deaths and cases.

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