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SHAH CEMENT

No respite for flood-hit people

Country braces for second spell of flood as water level of all major rivers rising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water level in all major rivers started to rise again yesterday, only two days after the initial flood water began to recede.

As a result, nearly two million people from 15 flood-affected districts mostly in the northern and northeastern parts of the country will suffer for another 10 to 12 days, having just recovered from a 10-day flood, experts say.

The Surma, Kushiyara and Jadukata rivers in Sylhet and Teesta and Dharla rivers in north Bengal are flowing above the danger level, according to the Flood Forecast and Warning Centre (FFWC).

Water level in the Brahmaputra and Jamuna would also increase in the next 24 hours, the centre informed, making a similar forecast about the Ganges.

Citing the mathematical model of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Indian Meteorological Department, FFWC said Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh and adjoining areas of West Bengal may experience heavy rainfall in the next 72 hours.

This year an early spell of flood started on June 26 and lasted for 10 days.

The regular flooding started yesterday and would last at least for another 12 days, experts warned.

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A car struggles to get off a damaged portion of an inundated road in Sunamganj town's Nabinagar area yesterday. A part of the road caved in due to strong currents of water from the Surma river, which has started flowing above the danger level since Thursday afternoon. Some low-lying areas of the town are going under water, causing floods.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'GUNFIGHT BETWEEN GANGS' Murder, rape accused killed in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A notorious criminal, accused in at least seven cases including of murder and rape, was killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of drug peddlers in Cox's Bazar early yesterday, said police.

The dead is Syed Ahmed alias Guraputu, 28, of Isulughona area in the town, said Syed Shahjahan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station.

On information of a "gunfight" between two groups of drug peddlers, police went to the Jhauban area near Motel Shaibal in the early morning, said the OC.

Sensing police presence, the criminal left the area and the law enforcers found a person in severe condition sustaining bullet injuries, the police official said.

Doctors at Cox's Bazar general Hospital declared

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FOREIGN STUDENTS California to sue Trump admin over visa policy

AFP, Los Angeles

California is suing US President Donald Trump's administration over its policy threatening the visas of foreign students whose courses move online due to coronavirus, officials said Thursday.

The lawsuit to be filed by the state's attorney general comes as Trump pushes for the country's education facilities to reopen even as virus infections continue to spike, particularly in the south and west.

"The Trump Administration's unlawful policy... threatens to exacerbate the spread of COVID-19 and exile hundreds of thousands of college students studying in the United States," said a statement announcing the suit.

On Monday, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said foreign students enrolled in fully online programs for the fall semester would not be allowed to enter the country.

The measure was seen as a move by the White House to put pressure on educational institutions that are adopting a cautious approach to reopening amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.

But California State University -- a plaintiff in the suit -- is among those

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Six months of remarkable success

July 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S FIRST SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE

During the six months in office, a very brief period considering the grisly antecedents, the present government under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has attained remarkable success in all fields. On the international plane, the government has secured recognition of over 77 countries including four permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

During the six months, Bangladesh has secured membership of a number of international bodies such as IMF, World Bank, UNCTAD, WHO and ILO.

At home, the government has introduced massive programme of nationalisation that includes banks and insurance companies, jute, sugar and textile industries, abandoned property, concerns having capital of more than Tk 15 lakh and major part of foreign trade.

The most spectacular achievement is that the government has been able to maintain a stable law and order situation following an unprecedented crisis caused by a devastating war.

The government has also successfully brought back around 1 crore refugees from India and rehabilitated them within the shortest possible time. Other government measures which deserve special mention are fixation of the minimum wages at Tk150 per month and the maximum ceiling at Tk 2000 per month.

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2 arrested for raping minor girl

STAR REPORT

Two people were arrested on charges of raping a minor girl in Mymensingh yesterday.

In another incident, three people were held for holding a village arbitration over a rape incident, while a female quack was held for giving medicine to abort the girl's pregnancy in Noakhali on the same day.

In Mymensingh, police held two people, including an eighth grader, in connection with raping a class-V madrasa student and recording the incident on mobile phone in Bhaluka.

One of the arrestees is Atiqul Islam, 21, of Paragaon Gouripur village in Bhaluka.

On Thursday night, the victim's father lodged a case against the two with Bhaluka Police Station.

Quoting the case statement, Bhaluka Police

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Scientists find 'stream' of stars in our galaxy



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have found a whole stream of stars in the Milky Way - which appear to have come from somewhere else.

The discovery of the cluster of stars, known as "Nyx", could be an indication that a dwarf galaxy merged with the Milky Way, leaving behind evidence in the form of the newly discovered stars.

Researchers found the cluster as they were looking at the movements of stars and dark matter through our galaxy, in the hope of understanding where they came from and where they are going.

As they did so, researchers were looking for clusters that were moving together as they sailed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

AMAZON FOREST Deforestation increases by 25pc in Brazil

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon increased by a record 25 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2020, according to official data released yesterday.

Some 3,069 square kilometers (1,184 square miles) were affected by deforestation, the highest figure since data has been collected beginning in 2015, the country's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) said.

June, which marks the start of the dry season and fires, also hit a record with 1,034 square kilometers of deforestation, an increase of nearly 11 percent.

Brazil has been criticized by a number of countries and environmental groups over large-scale deforestation and fires that ravage the world's largest rainforest during the dry season.

Vice President Hamilton

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'Member' of militant outfit held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) claimed to have arrested an active member of banned militant outfit Hizb-ut-Tahrir in Dumuria area of Khulna early yesterday.

The arrestee is Humayun Kabir, 23, according to a statement of ATU.

Based on information, an ATU team conducted drive in Vandarpara area of Dumuria around 3:00am and arrested Humayun, reads the statement.

ATU team also recovered five Jihadi books, NID card, a cell phone and two SIM cards from his possession.

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Salesmen sit idle at a shop at Benarasi Palli in the capital's Mirpur as there is no buyer turning up. Shop owners said sales of sarees have almost dried up since they opened their outlets ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr in May after the Covid-19 lockdown. They blamed poor sales mainly on cancellation of wedding ceremonies and people's fear of going out amid the pandemic. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

COVID-19 TRANSMISSION WHO releases new guidelines

Stops short of confirming the virus spreads through air, calls for more evidence

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization has released new guidelines on the transmission of the novel coronavirus that acknowledge some reports of airborne transmission of the virus that causes Covid-19, but stopped short of confirming that the virus spreads through the air.

In its latest transmission guidance, the WHO on Thursday acknowledged that some outbreak reports related to indoor crowded spaces have suggested the possibility of aerosol transmission, such as during choir practice, in restaurants or in fitness classes.

But the WHO said more research is "urgently needed to investigate such instances and assess their significance for transmission of Covid-19."

The report follows an open letter from scientists who specialise in the spread of disease in the air - so-called aerobiologists - that urged the global body to update its guidance on how the respiratory disease spreads to include aerosol transmission.

Based on its review of the evidence, the WHO said the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 spreads through contact with contaminated surfaces or close contact with infected people who spread the virus through saliva, respiratory secretions or droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings.

The new guidelines do, however, suggest people should

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