

# Tidal surges hamper life in 6 villages

The coastal areas in Khulna's Koyra upazila remain waterlogged since Amphan hit two months ago

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Even two months after the cyclone Amphan, some six villages in Khulna's Koyra upazila are still under three to four feet of water, preventing villagers from returning to their homes and livelihoods.

Last week, this correspondent visited some of these villages in Uttar Bedkashi union, situated about 12 kilometres from Koyra Sadar union.

The lone road that connects the two unions is totally broken, so an alternative 20km route had to be used.

Showing the water on the inundated road, Abdul Satter, a local van driver, said daily tidal surge pushes saline water through the broken parts of the embankments along the rivers.

In some places, the three to five feet tidal waves spill over the embankments that have eroded over the years to a height of just two feet.

The villages become inundated in chest-deep salt water, which gets trapped and can hardly recede before the next high tide.

Roads and homesteads are slowly eroding, as the soil loses its compactness due to the waterlogging. "This has been going on every day during high and low tide since Amphan."

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A woman eats her meal, sitting on a stool on the flooded floor of her home, while her son eats on the bed. Due to poor drainage, rainwater has seeped inside many homes in Dakshin Rayerbag in the capital, causing immense sufferings to the residents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Brave cop saves lives of 3 kids

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

On Monday morning, police constable Atikur Rahman single-handedly saved three boys from drowning in the Hoja river of Rajshahi's Durgapur upazila.



For setting the 'rare example of humanity and bravery', Rajshahi Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Shahidullah rewarded Atik with a certificate and Tk 30,000 in cash at a simple function at the district SP's office yesterday.

Atik alone volunteered to rescue, while hundreds of people were watching the boys struggle in the strong currents, the SP said.

"We are proud of him; he has brightened our faces. We expect all police members to think like him and volunteer to establish humane societies across the country," the SP said, adding that the district

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# Floodwater inundates more areas

Erosion hits Tangail protection dam

STAR REPORT

Flood water has triggered erosion in some places, while fresh areas have been inundated in few regions intensifying public sufferings.

In Tangail, erosion hit on the Tangail town protection embankment at several spots in Sadar upazila due to huge current on the Pungli river, a branch of Jamuna.

About 20 meters stretch of the important embankment at Pachh Bethoir area under Gala union in Sadar upazila was damaged on Tuesday morning. Cracks were also created at several other places on the embankment.

If the important embankment is collapsed anyhow, the district town and a part of the adjacent Basail upazila will be flooded.

While visiting the spot, this correspondent saw the Water Development Board was trying to check the erosion on the embankment dumping CEO bags.

Imdadul Haque, a sub-divisional engineer of WDB in Tangail, who was supervising the works, told The Daily Star that the embankment was damaged due to

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

# Hundred injured in city clashes

July 23, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### PM ADVISED GALLBLADDER OPERATION

A medical investigation reveals that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been suffering from a stone in the gallbladder, according to a health bulletin issued today by the personal physician of the prime minister. To prevent recurrence of the pain owing to the stone, it has been advised that an operation should be undertaken at an early date. The prime minister, whose general health condition is absolutely normal, is quite fit for an operation, adds the bulletin.

**BCL INFIGHTING FOLLOWING ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
About 100 persons are injured in two separate clashes in the city today. The first clash took place at noon in the stadium area and the second one near Curzon Hall at about 6:00pm. Prominent among those who were injured are organising secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Abdur Razzaque MCA, former vice president of Ducusu ASM Abdur Rab and former central secretary of Ducusu Abdul Quddus Makhani. Three journalists, including two press photographers, were assaulted while covering the clash.

Bangladesh Chattr League today brought out a rally from Suhrawardy Uddyan as part of their programme of the three-day annual conference. The rally was passing through Bangabandhu Avenue with full-throated slogans in favour of Mujibbad and against foreign 'isms'. The Rab-Siraj group of Chattr League at that time was holding a discussion at Paltan Maidan. The activists from Paltan pandal raised slogan against Mujibbad and in favour of

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# Malaysia spares 27 Rohingyas from caning

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A Malaysian high court yesterday spared 27 Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar from caning, their lawyer said, setting aside a lower court's sentence following an outcry from human rights activists.

The Rohingya men were among 40 refugees convicted last month by a magistrates court on the northwestern island of Langkawi for entering Malaysia by boat without a valid permit. All 40 were also sentenced to seven months' jail.

Muslim-majority Malaysia has long been a favoured destination for Rohingya seeking a better life after escaping a 2017 military crackdown in Myanmar and, more recently, refugee camps in Bangladesh.

But Malaysia, which

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# Giant meteor shower 'hit Earth and Moon' 800m yrs ago

AFP, Paris



A giant meteor shower bombarded Earth and the Moon 800 million years ago with more than 30 times the force of the asteroid strike that killed the dinosaurs, new research showed Tuesday.

Japanese scientists examined images taken by the Kaguya lunar orbiter and found that an enormous asteroid -- at least 100 kilometres (60 miles) in diameter -- broke up and plunged into the Earth-Moon System, having a profound impact on life on our planet.

The probability of an asteroid that size hitting Earth is roughly once in 100 million years, and

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# Sabrina JKG convener, not chairman

Say detectives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday found JKG Health Care documents which showed that Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury was the convener of the organisation and not its chairman.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police, which is now investigating the case, said they will submit the charge sheet very soon in JKG's Covid-19 test report scam case.

"We did not find any

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 3 killed in 'gunfights' with law enforcers

STAR REPORT

Three suspects were killed in what law enforcers said were gunfights in the capital, Cox's bazar and Bogura early yesterday.

Company Commander Salauddin of Rab-1 said drug peddler Ripon Hawlader, 35, was shot dead during a "shootout" between gang members and officers in the capital's Dakshin Khan area around 1:30am.

Tipped off about the presence of suspects at Asian City Gate-2, Rab men raided the area and got shot at by the suspects.

The officers then retaliated, causing a "gunfight", Salauddin added.

Ripon got shot while the others fled, he said, adding that doctors declared him dead when he was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Ripon was accused in at least 16 cases, Salauddin claimed.

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Trucks are parked on the road in front of Jatrabari fish wholesale market in the capital, hampering traffic movement. The drivers park their vehicles there, even though it is not a designated parking area, and the authorities apparently could not care less. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# 'Unprecedented escalation' in US-China row

Beijing fumes as Washington abruptly orders it to close consulate in Houston

AGENCIES

Beijing yesterday reacted strongly after Washington abruptly ordered China to close its consulate in Houston and accused it of ramping up spying operations, dramatically escalating diplomatic tensions between the feuding superpowers.

China quickly vowed to retaliate as the two countries squabble over a slew of issues ranging from trade to the coronavirus pandemic -- and China's policies in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and the South China Sea.

Washington "abruptly demanded" closure of the Houston consulate on Tuesday, China's foreign ministry said, calling the move an "unprecedented escalation." The editor of an official Chinese media outlet said China had been given 72 hours to do so. A source said Beijing was considering shutting the US consulate in Wuhan in retaliation.

"We have directed the closure of PRC Consulate General Houston in order to protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus told reporters during a visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Denmark.

She added that under the Vienna Convention, states "have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs" of the receiving state, but there were no further details about the reasons behind the decision.

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