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FLOOD SITUATION

Southwest suffers due to tide, rain

STAR REPORT

Vast swathes of coastal land in Khulna division have been flooded due to high tide and heavy rainfall, while rivers in the north saw a slight rise in water level yesterday.

However, people of southern districts in Barishal division heaved a sigh of relief as water levels of the rivers there started coming down yesterday noon.

"Major rivers of the upper Meghna basin in the north-eastern region are showing a rising trend, which may continue for the next 24 hours," said a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

"The flood situation in low-lying areas of the southwestern and south-central coastal regions may improve significantly over the next 24 hours," said the bulletin released at 9:00am yesterday.

Meanwhile, light to moderate rain is likely in most places of Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions today, Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecast.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur in Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions, the forecast said yesterday.

Meanwhile, water levels in many of the rivers in the Ganges basin in the northern region were recorded to be rising again yesterday due to an onrush of floodwater from upstream hilly catchment areas, reports BSS

Water levels increased at 16 points, receded at 13 points

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A rickshaw puller trying to retrieve his vehicle that tumbled with the passenger due to a pothole on the waterlogged road in front of the capital's Bangabazar. After a brief rainfall, some 20-25 people get injured in such a manner. The road has been in a dilapidated state for the last four months but no repair work has been done.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

PAPIA'S ARMS CASE

Court frames charges, bins bail plea

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against expelled leader of Jubo Mohila League Shamima Nur Papiya and her husband Mofizur Rahman in an arms case.

Papiya and Mofizur, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka read out the charges to them.

Before that, the tribunal rejected their bail petition submitted by their lawyer and fixed August 31 for beginning trial of the case.

On June 29, Sub-inspector Arifuzzaman at Rab, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the couple to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

In the charge sheet, the IO said 12 people have been made witnesses, the charges brought against

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

BNP likely to join local govt polls

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP is likely to take part in the upcoming local government elections and the by-polls for parliamentary seats "if the situation returns to normal."

Party's standing committee members recently held a meeting virtually and decided to "think positively" about participating in the polls.

The party did not take part in the last four by-polls "due to flood and the pandemic."

Meeting sources said initially the party leaders were divided over participating in the polls, but they later agreed to join "for the sake of democracy."

"We discussed that boycotting the election is not a sustainable solution. So, we have to participate, no matter what is the result," said a standing committee member, wishing not to be named.

He also said they would not contest the polls if the pandemic and flood situation does not improve.

"We are yet to make any decision but observing the whole situation," said Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP secretary general.

Since the detection of the first

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Resist Pak manoeuvres, Dhaka urges UN Council

August 24, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

RECOMMEND ADMISSION TO WORLD BODY

The Bangladesh Government today asks the Security Council to pronounce "speedily and favourably" on its application for membership of the United Nations, "resisting the unjustified manoeuvres" of Pakistan to block its entry. It urges the Council that it should recommend Bangladesh's admission as a member of the world body "in the larger interest of fulfilling the objectives of the United Nations Charter and in the interest of peace and stability in the sub-continent."

In a four-page letter the Bangladesh government charges the Pakistan authority with raising irrelevant matters and making misleading statements with the sole purpose of delaying the admission of Bangladesh to the UN.

On the eve of the consideration of the application of Bangladesh for UN membership by the Security Council, Pakistan has insisted that Bangladesh does not qualify for membership of the world body as long as the Security Council resolution of December 21, 1971 is not implemented.

AMBASSADORS' MEET PUT OFF

The Bangladesh envoys' conference scheduled to be addressed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



72pc hospital beds lying vacant

1,973 more infected; 34 die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although people are dying with Covid-19 and new cases are being detected everyday, over 72 percent of hospital beds for the infected patients are vacant across the country, according to officials.

About two-thirds of the beds have been consistently remaining unused for over a month.

With 1,973 new detections yesterday, the total number of active cases rose to 1,15,507.

Only 4,248 of them were undergoing treatment in hospital beds and 335 were in ICUs as of yesterday, according to the health directorate data.

The government facilities have a total of 15,255 general and 545 ICU beds for Covid-19 patients.

Meanwhile, the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Cliff collapse reveals 313m-yr-old fossil



CNN ONLINE

Finding fossil footprints at the Grand Canyon in US isn't particularly unusual. The expansive stretch of red rock is home to an array of formations containing preserved remains of the past.

But a discovery made by a geology professor turned out to be a bigger deal than he could have imagined: what he stumbled upon were the oldest vertebrate fossil tracks ever found at Grand Canyon National Park -- about 313 million years old.

Geologist Allan Krill, a visiting professor from Norway at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), came across a boulder marked with set of fossil footprints while on a hike with students in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Naogoan-6, Dhaka-5 by-polls on Oct 17

Pabna-4 on Sept 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday announced the dates of by-polls to three parliamentary constituencies -- Dhaka-5, Pabna-4 and Naogoan-6 -- amid coronavirus pandemic.

The date to by-polls in Pabna-4 constituency was set for September 26, while October 17 was set for

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 24

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:33 8:00
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:36 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

India to probe every border killing

Says foreign secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has assured Bangladesh that it will carry out an investigation into why border killings were taking place despite the Indian government's decision to bring those down to zero, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said.

He made the comment at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Citing a recent meeting with his Indian counterpart Harsh Vardhan Shringla in Dhaka, Momen told the committee that Shringla assured him that he would discuss the border killing issue with the high-ups of the Indian government.

"The foreign secretary told the meeting that Shringla [during his meeting with Momen] said that despite the Indian government's policy to bring down border killings to zero, it was still taking

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Water rushing towards Pratapnagar union in Satkhira's Assasuni upazila after a dam collapsed due to heavy pressure of water on Thursday. The dam was damaged during cyclone Amphan, but authorities took no steps to repair it in the last few months. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

S Korea ramps up virus curbs

Australia wrestles with 2nd wave; India tops 3m cases

AGENCIES

South Korea ramped up coronavirus restrictions yesterday to try to contain a growing outbreak, as many countries around the world battled worrying surges in infections.

The pandemic has killed more than 805,000 people globally, and continues to unleash destruction with areas such as Western Europe, Australia detecting spikes in infections not seen for many months.

Infections have soared past 23 million globally, and some countries are still facing their first waves -- such as India, which crossed three million cases yesterday.

South Korea, which had largely brought its outbreak under control, tightened curbs to try to contain a new, growing cluster of cases.

"The situation is very grave and serious as we are on the brink of a nationwide pandemic," warned Jung Eun-kyeong, chief of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nightclubs, karaoke bars and beaches have been closed, with tight restrictions on large gatherings and religious services, after hundreds of infections were linked to Protestant churches.

Face masks made mandatory in the capital Seoul's public areas from midnight.

Lockdowns, social distancing and face masks are among the few options available to governments with no effective treatment or vaccine available yet.

India, which imposed one of the world's strictest lockdowns, has relaxed it over recent weeks to help ease the pressure on its reeling economy.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2