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Country sees record rainfall in 9 months

It contributed to lengthy flood this year, hampered agricultural production; experts point to global warming

MOHAMMAD AL MASUM MOLLA

In a shift from the usual weather pattern, the country has witnessed around 50 percent more rainfall in the first nine months of this year, compared to the average rainfall in the corresponding period during the last 30 years.

This is a result of global warming and has implications for the country's agricultural production, said experts.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), an average 363.621 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the country between January and September.

The average rainfall recorded in the same period during the last 30 years was 246.155mm, shows Met office data.

Due to excessive rain, the country has also experienced the second longest spell of flooding this year since 1998, when the floods stayed for 63 days. This year, the duration of the floods was 61 days -- from July 27 to September 30.

Experts say the massive rainfall this year was due to a warm air mass, which is a consequence of global warming.

"Global warming is a reason. More heat means more vapour and more rain. The weather is becoming unpredictable and at the same time, uncertainty is increasing," said Professor Emeritus Ainun Nishat of Brac University's Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research.

He said the Bay of Bengal is becoming warmer than ever before.

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Wearing PPE, a staffer of the capital's Mugda General Hospital takes sample from a woman for Covid-19 test. The woman, Rupali Begum, along with her child came from Noakhali for her surgery, but doctors asked her to get tested for coronavirus before the operation. Meanwhile, hospital sources said the number of people wanting to get tested there has increased lately.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Four of a family killed in B'baria road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Four members of a family, including a child, were killed and three others injured when a truck hit two other vehicles at Syedabad in Kasba upazila yesterday.

Citing witnesses, Abdur Razzak, sub-inspector of Khatihata Highway Police Station, said the truck heading towards Cumilla lost control after hitting a car coming from the opposite direction around 4:15pm. The truck then crashed into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and fell into a roadside ditch, he added.

Three died on the way to Brahmanbaria General Hospital, while another died on the way to a hospital in Dhaka. They were passengers of the CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

The injured are car driver and passengers and they were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

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SUBSTANDARD EDUCATION

Pvt medical college shut in Rajshahi

225 students have to be shifted to other colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The health ministry ordered suspension of student admission at Shah Makhdum Medical College in Rajshahi because of the "poor state of education".

Deputy Secretary Badrun Nahar of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in a letter on November 2 asked the principal of the private college to suspend admission from the 2020-21 session.

In another order, Badrun asked the Health Education Division to transfer the college's students to other private medical colleges affiliated with Rajshahi Medical University.

In March last year, ministry officials visited Shah Makhdum Medical College following allegations of violations of the Private Medical College Establishment and Management Policy 2011.

The team of officials made a set of recommendations to improve the college. Another team of ministry officials in a later visit found that the recommendations had been ignored, says the last week's order.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Recognition will bring peace in subcontinent

November 7, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDO-BANGLA TALKS

A brief joint press statement issued at the conclusion of the Indo-Bangla talks held in Delhi notes that both sides are in complete agreement that the first step towards normalisation of relations and establishment of durable peace in the subcontinent is the recognition of existing realities. It also deplores that a large number of Bangladesh nationals are still being held in detention in Pakistan as political hostages in increasingly worsening conditions and are being prevented from returning home. During the talks a number of bilateral matters are discussed.

The situation in Southeast Asia and the role of different countries towards the subcontinent are also discussed.

REPATRIATION OF 300 BANGALEES

The repatriation from Pakistan of nearly 300 stranded Bengalis through the good offices of the International Committee of Red Cross is expected to start from November 13, 1972.

UN DELEGATES HAPPY

With the passage of the constitution in the record time of nine months after liberation and the announcement of the date of general elections, Bangladesh has set up an example of political

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Girl arrested for 'hurting religious sentiment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage girl has been arrested in the capital's Mirpur for "hurting religious sentiments" through social media.

Sajedul Islam Sajal, senior ASP of Rab-4, told The Daily Star that they arrested Ishrat Jahan Reilly, 19, in Darussalam area around 8:00pm on Thursday.

"She has been posting provocative posts about religion for a long time through her seven Facebook IDs, two Facebook pages and a Twitter account," said the Rab official.

After her multiple Facebook IDs became inactive, she opened new IDs and ran religious incitement campaigns, the official claimed, adding that screenshots of those contents have been seized.

A case is being filed under the Digital Security Act.

Dinosaurs travelled across oceans!



CNN ONLINE

Fossils of a duckbill dinosaur have been discovered in Africa, leading experts to believe the species once traveled hundreds of kilometers across oceans to reach the continent.

The new dinosaur, Afnabia odyseus, a member of the plant-eating duckbill dinosaur family, was discovered in rocks in a mine in Morocco, dating back some 66 million years to the end of the Cretaceous period.

Though some duckbill dinosaurs could reach up to 15 meters (49 feet) long, experts say that Afnabia was comparatively tiny, measuring the size of a pony at three meters (10 feet).

Experts were puzzled at how the dinosaur ended up in Africa, which was an island continent and completely isolated by deep sea during the Late Cretaceous.

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Birangana Parul Rani laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Birangana Parul Rani died of old-age complications at her house



in Barguna's Patharghata upazila town on Thursday night. She was 90.

She left behind two sons and two daughters. Her husband, Manohar Mistry, was a martyred freedom fighter and son Manmath Ranjan Mistry is a freedom fighter.

The upazila administration completed the burial with state honours at 10:00am yesterday.

Patharghata Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sabrina Sultana, Patharghata Police Station Officer-in-charge Shahabuddin and MA Khaleq, deputy commander of Upazila Muktijoddha

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Gang-rape victim raped again in Lalmonirhat

STAR REPORT

A schoolgirl, who was allegedly gang-raped about a month ago, was raped again in Lalmonirhat on Wednesday.

In Noakhali, police on Thursday night arrested a man over the attempted gang rape of his former wife.

Police said the 16-year-old schoolgirl from Kaunia upazila of Rangpur recently went to visit her sister in Keratari village of Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila.

She was staying alone at her sister's house on Wednesday afternoon. At

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 7
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:55 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:15
JAMAT 5:30 1:15 4:15 5:34 7:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A woman learns self-defence techniques from an instructor during a training session at MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram city. A platform named Inspire Chattogram arranges the training for women in the port city twice a week at the stadium and Halisahar BDR Math. So far, 417 women have registered for the training programme called Self-defence Survival Art. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Covid cases hit new record in US

Over 120,000 infections recorded in last 24 hrs; Italian regions enter lockdown

AFP, Washington

Coronavirus cases hit new records in the United States as swathes of Italy returned to lockdown yesterday with the resurgent pandemic continuing its march through Europe.

The US recorded a third day in a row with deaths above 1,000, while more than 120,000 infections were reported -- smashing a daily record set the day before, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

More than 9.6 million people have been infected and 234,000 have died in the United States so far during the pandemic, by far the highest tolls globally.

The figures comes as US President Donald Trump, who survived a bout with Covid-19 in October and insists the virus will "disappear," was fighting for his political life with vote-counting from Tuesday's presidential election still ongoing.

In Europe, the World Health Organization's regional director Hans Kluge said Covid-19 was surging on the continent as its 11.6 infections put it above Latin America and the Caribbean's 11.4 million.

"We do see an explosion... in the sense it only takes a couple of days to have over the European region an increase of one million cases," he told AFP.

Countries across the continent are imposing new lockdowns, with Greeks facing stay-at-home orders from Saturday.

Experts say Italy is already in the grip of a second wave,

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