

Flood situation in 2 districts worsens

The Jamuna and the Bangali in Bogra rose abruptly and crossed danger marks on Saturday submerging a vast tract of crops while erosion took a serious turn in Sirajganj and Gaibandha districts, reports UNB.

Nearly 30,000 people have been affected with their houses going under water in 15 villages of Kazipur and Sadar upazilas in Sirajganj district with further rise of the Jamuna. Water Development Board said in Dhaka.

Flood waters have entered the Health Complex and the Union Parishad office of Kazipur Upazila as the Jamuna rose 8 cm during the last 24 hours.

WDB is trying to rebuild 400 feet of flood protection embankment at Simla village, which has been damaged by onrush of waters. Local people fear that the embankment may be washed away if the river continued to rise.

The affected people of the area, mostly day-labourers, have taken shelter on the old embankment between Kazipur and Sonali Bazar.

Erosion of river Jamuna, the Teesta and the Ghaghot in Gaibandha district has threatened flood protection embankments in the Sadar, Fulchari and Sunderganj upazilas.

In Bogra, the swelling Jamuna flooded 40 villages in

Shariakandi, Dhunat, Sherpur and Gabtali upazilas and damaged standing crops like Aus paddy and chilly in vast areas, officials and villagers said.

River Jamuna and Bangali, both recorded well below danger marks on Friday, swelled sharply and was now flowing 7 cm and 77 cm above their respective flood levels.

The Brahmaputra, maintaining a steady rise over the past few days, eroded nearly 300 feet of the flood protection embankment near Nabadhari bridge. Gushing waters of the river also damaged Dhigalkandi bridge in Shariakandi Upazila.

With cessation of rainfall, flood situation in greater Sylhet has showed signs of improvement, but the Surma at Sunamganj and Kanaighat and the Kushiara at Sheola and Amalshi were still flowing above their respective danger levels.

Flood Forecasting Centre here informed that the Surma was flowing 12 cm above its flood mark at Sunamganj and 40 cm above at Kanaighat. The Kushiara was flowing 19cm above the danger level at Sheola and 54 cm above at Amalshi, the centre said.

District Relief Officer of Sylhet told UNB over telephone that the rivers in the district were receding fast as there had been little rainfall during the last two days.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting the damaged ammonia plant of the Ghorasal Urea Fertiliser Factory on Saturday. —PID photo

Ghorasal explosion

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three to four months, she said. Meanwhile, the government Saturday formed a high-powered committee led by Prof Iqbal Mahmud of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for overall investigation of the explosion and other related matters. Two other members of the committee are: Habibur Rahman, Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment, and Dr Shah Mohammad Farid, Additional Secretary of the Industries Ministry. Prof Iqbal Mahmud was also a Minister during BNP rule earlier. The committee will submit its report in two weeks.

Earlier, an eight-member probe body was formed with the Managing Director of the Zia Fertilizer Factory as its head to investigate the incident. Meanwhile, two more explosion victims of the Ghorasal Urea Fertilizer Factory died Saturday at the Dhaka Medical

College Hospital raising death toll in the accident to 10.

Zakir Hossain (25) and Fazlur Rahman (30) succumbed to their injuries caused by burns and inhalation of toxic gas, doctors at DMCH said.

Five others admitted to DMCH after being injured in Wednesday night's explosion were shifted to Holy Family Hospital Saturday.

Eight people were killed instantly and 50 others injured when an ammonia plant installed by a Japanese Company in the Ghorasal Factory exploded during test Wednesday night.

Among eight injured Japanese experts, two were undergoing treatment at the Green Eye Hospital in the city. Six others were under the treatment of the Japanese physicians at the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka.

According to a BCIC source, another Japanese expert who was also injured in the accident left Dhaka for Japan.

Eid shopping

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Shopkeepers have put on display a variety of spices, ghee (butter-oil) pilau rice and other items in front of their shops to attract buyers.

Surprisingly, the prices of most grocery items have remained relatively stable in the city markets. Only the price of milk powder has recorded a significant rise.

The price of the best quality kaligira pilau rice has remained the same as of last Eid's at Taka 22 per kilogram. However, prices of onions, dried chillies, garlic, ginger, turmeric and a few other items recorded a Taka 2 to Taka 3 rise per kilogram after the budget announcements.

Dried chillies are selling at Taka 70 per kilogram, ginger at Taka 24, garlic at Taka 34 and turmeric at Taka 40 per kilogram.

Soyabean oil is selling at Taka 37 per kilogram. However, a 3.5 kg container of soyabean oil is selling at Taka 150.

We can attain self-purification by doing good: Shahabuddin

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has said we could achieve the glory of true Muslim if the ideals of altruism and service could be injected in all of us in the spirit of Eid-ul-Azha in this grief and poverty-torn society, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the holy Eid-ul-Azha Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, while conveying his Eid greetings to the nation, said, the holy occasion again appeared carrying divine glory of highest sacrifices for demonstrating full allegiance to Almighty Allah.

The President said, the historical basis of Eid-ul-Azha, one of our main religious festivals, is the unfettered source of inspiration for every religious-minded Muslim.

He said, the holy occasion teaches us that the real way lies on sacrifice and not on sensual pleasures for emancipation and getting nearness to Almighty Allah.

Justice Shahabuddin said, we could attain self-purification through devoting ourselves to doing good to others and we could attain the respect of a true Muslim by carrying out our due responsibility towards the society.

The holy Hajj performed during the Eid-ul-Azha helps establish the universal appeal of Islam, the religion of humanity through cementing brotherhood and equality of mankind.

Khaleda's call to take firm pledge to serve society

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday called for taking a firm pledge to serve society and the country, being inspired with the great ideals of Islamic brotherhood and sacrifice, reports BSS.

While conveying her Eid greetings to the countrymen in a message on the eve of the holy Eid-ul-Azha, Begum Zia said sacrifice, unity and fraternity are the teachings of Islam. "We must follow these teachings in our private and social life," she observed.

The Prime Minister said the historic background of Eid-ul-Azha was to make supreme sacrifice to achieve the proximity of Almighty Allah, the merciful.

Begum Zia called upon all to pray to Almighty Allah so that we can serve the people, the country and the nation by adhering to the path shown by him.

She also conveyed Eid greetings to all the Muslims of the world. "Let the holy Eid-ul-Azha bring happiness to all", she said.

Hasina's call to establish happy society

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and chief of Awami League Sheikh Hasina on Saturday called for establishing a happy and exploitation free society keeping forth the teachings and significance of the holy Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

"The eternal call of the Eid for equality will be fruitful if crores of poor people can share their happiness with the affluent," Sheikh Hasina said in a message.

Sheikh Hasina said Islam teaches us to keep away from corruption, exploitation, bribing, atrocities, lawlessness and other social vices and to create a society full of happiness and equality.

She said Bangabandhu had wanted to establish a society based on the ideals of Islam providing basic needs for the people but the difference between man and man was now spreading after he was killed.

Referring to the people affected by the history's worst cyclone recently, Sheikh Hasina said the happiness of Eid was now a nightmare to them in the face of rising prices of essential items.

Heavy rainfall in northern, coastal areas likely

By Staff Correspondent

The northern part and the coastal areas of Bangladesh are likely to experience moderately heavy rainfall during the next three to four days. The central part of the country is likely to have variable skies with one or two showers every day during the period.

Azizul Hossain, Deputy Director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department told The Daily Star that the south-west monsoon was weak over Bangladesh for some days. Thus there was a recess in rainfall and the day temperature continued to rise.

He said that a low was spotted over east central bay on Saturday. The low is expected to turn into a depression within a couple of days before crossing to Orissa coast in India.

Angry crowd blocks road as 2 killed in accident

MANIKGANJ, June 22: Angry people barricaded transports, including a minister's car, after a villager and his son were killed in an accident at Tepra bus stand on the Dhaka-Archa highway today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a speeding minibus from Dhaka hit Habibur Rahman (30) and his son Jewel (7) of village Tepra from behind while riding a bicycle.

Habit died on the spot while his son succumbed to injuries at Shibalaya health complex.

After the accident, local people stopped the minibus and damaged it. Five passen-



A cattle market in the city. Prices are higher, but the rush of buyers is no less. —Star photo

Eid-ul-Azha

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In separate messages on Saturday the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia conveyed their Eid greetings to the people.

In his message Justice Shahabuddin called for upholding the ideal of service to others in the spirit of Eid-ul-Azha.

Begum Khaleda Zia urged the people to take a vow to dedicate to the welfare of the society by being imbued with the Islamic ideals of fraternity and sacrifice.

All national newspapers and magazines have brought out special supplements, articles and features on the significance of the holy Eid. Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television are putting up special programmes.

By Saturday temporary sacrificial animal markets sprang up all over the country.

In Dhaka City a total of thirteen such markets were opened. Supply of animals was good. Price of cattle was slightly higher than last year's and goats were cheaper, said some city dwellers.

Movement of both pedestrians and vehicular traffic in city streets became thin by Saturday as a large number of people left for their village homes to celebrate the Eid with relatives.

The three inter-district bus terminals at Gabtali, Mohakhali and Saidabad, the Kamalapur Railway Station, and the Sadarghat inland water transport terminal experienced a heavy rush of passengers.

The main Eid-ul-Azha congregation in the city will be held at the National Eidgah at 7.30 am on Monday.

Besides, four congregations will be held at the Baitul

Mukarram Mosque at 6.15 am, 7.30 am, 8.15 am and 9 am.

In case of inclement weather the main Eid congregation will be held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque instead of the National Eidgah.

Other Eid congregations in the city will be held according to the following timings:

7.30am — Dhanmondi Eidgah Maidan, Dhaka University play ground, Mohammadpur Residential Model College Maidan, Kataban Mosque, Magbazar Kazi Office Mosque, Kazipara Jaame Mosque, Lalbagh Masjidur Gafur, Uttara Islamic Education Society Jaame Mosque, East Rampura Salam Bagh Jaame Mosque.

8.00 am — Rajarbag Police Lines Mosque, Lalbagh Shahi Mosque, Jamea Islamia, Nakhalpara Baitun-nur Jaame Mosque, Jute Research Jaame Mosque.

8.15 am — Kataban Mosque. 8.30 am — Dewanbagh Pak Darbar Sharif.

9.00 am — Rajarbag Police Lines Mosque.

England avoid follow-on

Sports Reporter

West Indies were Zero without loss when stumps were drawn in their second innings after dismissing England for 354 runs at the Lord's on Saturday.

Robin Smith, who was 148 not out, was the hero of England team which struggled the whole day yesterday to avoid a follow-on.

Bad light stopped the third day's play 10 minutes before time and England resume batting with today being no rest day.

The Midnight File

Home-made liquor kills 26 in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, June 22: Poisonous home-made liquor has killed 26 people and sent 65 others to hospital in the west Indian city of Ahmedabad, police said today. At least five of those who drank the illicitly-brewed spirits have lost their sight, a police spokesman said, reports Reuter.

Winnie Mandela in court again

JOHANNESBURG, June 22: Winnie Mandela, who is already under threat of a six-year jail sentence, was back in court here briefly Friday. Mrs Mandela, the wife of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, and other ANC supporters were in a Johannesburg magistrate's court on charges of obstructing traffic and resisting arrest, reports AFP.

Rao's first step

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Venkataraman in New Delhi on the same day that the northern state troubled by Sikh separatism was originally due to go to the polls, PTI said.

Malhotra reportedly told the President the postponement announced Friday by the Election Commission had demoralised administrative and security forces officials in Punjab.

Official sources said that Malhotra had a 20-minute meeting with Venkataraman and that he had sought a meeting with Narasimha Rao.

Railway track blown up

Saboteurs blew up a stretch of railway track in a bid to disrupt train services in Punjab as nine more people died in the northern state, where polls set for Saturday were postponed because of Sikh separatist violence.

Kashmir governor summoned

India's new government summoned Kashmir's chief administrator to New Delhi Saturday for discussions on the bloody Muslim secessionist

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Sirajul Haque

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thought it was important to clear his position in order to remove any confusion that might arise regarding the nature of the case, the defence of the accused and the role of the lawyers particularly his own.

Sirajul Haque said that he was facing some practical difficulties in conducting the case because he was not allowed to meet his client since the judgement on first case.

He said that a prior discussion with the client was essential in a case of this nature, because without it a lawyer could not find out when, how and at what cost the articles and money were acquired.

He said that the lawyers should be allowed to meet their client and his wife, which should be immediately granted and arranged by the government.

He said that after the arrest of Ershad's brother-in-law Mustafizur Rahman, he found it difficult to contact Ershad or his wife and as such he failed to prepare his arguments to proceed with the case.

He said there would be no alternative but to express his inability to continue defending Ershad if he was not allowed to meet Ershad.

When asked he replied in the negative that Mamata Wahab Ershad's sister-in-law was helping him in this case.

He said that he could not talk with Ershad from a distance of six feet as was allowed by the jail authorities.

He further said that the accused has been continuously alleging non-provision of adequate facilities in the jail, in a room without ventilation and other basic necessities.

When asked if he verified whether the statement of his client was true or not, Sirajul Haque said that the Attorney General had visited Ershad at the instruction of the Court and asked the jail authorities to take necessary measures to provide adequate facilities to Ershad.

Haque said that during the first case against Ershad he was allowed to talk to him and there were no problems. He said that the Attorney General had arranged all facilities to talk to his client.

About the judgement on the arms case he said that he would make a Writ petition to the superior court for the ends of the justice for which he collected the certified copy of the case yesterday.

He said that the arms case would not amount to moral turpitude, rather it was a technical offence but the present case on amassing wealth would be a case of moral turpitude if it was proved in the court.

On his acceptance of the arms case against Ershad, Advocate Sirajul Haque said that his profession was service-oriented and that legal practitioners were committed not to deny such assistance irrespective of caste, creed and political belief.

He said that in 1982 he also defended BNP ministers and workers in the Martial Law

Best medicare

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rashal Urea Fertiliser Factory on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Begum Zia gave this instruction at a meeting with the concerned high officials of the factory when she visited the premises to see the extent of damage and ongoing repair work there.

The Prime Minister also instructed the officials to ensure more compensation for the families affected by the accident.

Industries Minister Sham-sul Islam Khan, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mian, State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda, local MPs Moin Khan and K J Hamida Khanam and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) Chairman Ne-faur Rahman attended the meeting.

Begum Zia also had a meeting with the CBA leaders of the factory, who pointed out different problems to her. She assured them of all possible help to solve the problems.

The leaders, who attended the meeting, included CBA President Abul Kalam Bhutyan and General Secretary Sirajul Islam.

The Prime Minister talked to the Additional Chief Chemist Abu Taleb and Chemist Azharul Islam of the

Yeltsin

From Page 1 Col. 5

that they spoke about the July 15-17 economic summit in London of the world's seven largest industrialised countries.

Gorbachev is to join the leaders as soon as they adjourn their official sessions to present his case for massive Western aid to bail out the failing Soviet economy.

Fitzwater said Bush discussed the need to conclude the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, that would reduce long-range nuclear weapons in superpower arsenals by 30 per cent.

The two sides are trying to work out remaining differences on the treaty in order to hold a Bush-Gorbachev summit in Moscow. Fitzwater said the two men discussed the possibility of a summit but that "no specific dates were discussed."

The summit now looks likely to be held in late July or later.

In Moscow, the official news agency Tass reported the telephone conversation, saying both leaders stressed positive elements in superpower relations — particularly in disarmament talks vital to organising the forthcoming summit.

Tass said Bush gave Gorbachev "his impressions" of his talks with Yeltsin on current efforts in the Soviet Union to work out a union treaty setting out relations between Moscow and the 15 Republics. It gave no details.

Gorbachev also said he was looking forward to a "useful dialogue" with the G-7 leaders in London.

The Soviet leader, Tass said, "stressed the increasing tendency towards consensus in society and constructive cooperation" in Soviet public life.

factory who had risked their lives at the time of the accident to check further aggravation of the situation.

Begum Zia highly commended them for their courage, sincerity of duty and feeling for the fellow workers and said their services would be recognised through rewards.

Earlier Begum Zia went round the accident spot and saw the extent of damage. She also talked with the workers present there and enquired about their welfare.

The officials said a six-member committee has been constituted to coordinate the treatment of the injured who were admitted into different hospitals in the capital.

Visits the injured

Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday went to Holy Family Hospital to see the persons who were injured in the accident at Ghorasal Urea Fertiliser Factory on Wednesday.

The injured persons who were earlier admitted to different hospitals in the city were transferred to the Holy Family Hospital at the instruction of the Prime Minister. Begum Zia gave the instruction when she visited the Ghorasal Urea Fertiliser Factory Saturday afternoon.

Begum Zia visited all the 18 injured persons and talked to them. The Prime Minister also talked to the family members of the injured persons and assured them that the injured had been transferred to Holy Family Hospital to provide with best available medicare.

The Prime Minister also talked to the attending physicians including the Director of the hospital Dr Ashekur Rahman who informed her that 14 injured persons were recovering fast and hoped they would be cured soon. Only one of the injured persons now admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Industries Minister Sham-sul Islam Khan, Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP and labour leader A K M Nazmul Islam accompanied the Prime Minister.

IDA loan

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the 600 million dollar Fourth Population and Health Project. IDA will also contribute 67 million US dollars to the 95 million dollar LPO Transportation and Distribution Project.

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK, and the EEC are the co-financiers of the project.

The LPO Transportation and Distribution Project, the sources said, will reduce Bangladesh's dependence on imported energy by setting up LPO (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) construction facilities, a pipeline and two bottling plants.

The project will arrest further deforestation in ecologically sensitive northern areas of the country by providing household energy at a cheaper cost.

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