

# More areas flooded

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Information Centre said in a bulletin yesterday.  
Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: Three more unions in the district were submerged yesterday raising the total number of affected unions to 35. The freshly inundated unions are Mahmudpur, Satgram and Dhupara—all under Arahazhar thana.

At least nine children and a 40-year-old man were killed in flood-related incidents in different unions in Arahazhar and Bandar thanas during the last three days.  
The river Shitalakshya marked a further rise by one cm yesterday and was flowing 15 cm above the danger level.  
According to DC Office sources, so far 10,000 houses, 100 km of roads and 40 bridges and culverts were damaged in the district in the floods.  
The folk museum at Sonargaon came under threat as two breaches developed in Narayanganj-Narsinghdi Agrani Irrigation Project embankment yesterday.  
Local people stopped leakage of water through the breaches by putting sand-bags on those. They alleged that no other steps were taken as yet.

# FM: Serb invaders

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pared together with other willing nations in facing the challenge. He said the challenge of Bosnian Serbs must be met with the force of arms. He said, "We call on all nations to act immediately so that the Security Council can take appropriate steps to save Bosnia."  
He said, "The Bosnian Serb invaders in Srebrenica must be pushed out by force of arms. UN peacekeepers held hostage must be released forthwith. All civilians held in detention by Bosnian Serbs must be freed."

He further said that the supply of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia must have free access to all areas of Bosnia including Srebrenica. Expressing the need for expansion of UNPROFOR and its reinforcement he said it should be given the kind of striking capability that is needed. He said there is need for equipping the UNPROFOR with the kind of armament that the situation demands.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent adds: Mostafizur Rahman earlier yesterday said he had made request to the Myanmar government for an opportunity to meet pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi during his forthcoming visit to that country.  
"I would definitely like to meet her, however briefly it may be," the Foreign Minister said while making an unscheduled appearance at the weekly press briefing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan was conducting the routine briefing.

The Daily Star learnt that the Foreign Minister's proposed visit to Yangon would take place from August 2 to 6.  
Responding to a question on Myanmar and India, Mostafiz said, "We will always endeavour to maintain a special relationship with our neighbours. It is enshrined in the constitution and is a cornerstone of our foreign policy."

Replying to another question if Bangladesh would seek transit facility to China through Myanmar, the Foreign Minister replied: "Why not? It may be possible in this age of co-operation."  
Asked about the 25-year treaty with India, he said, there was nothing for him to add as the Prime Minister

# SC hearing begins

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sence of MPs and vacation of seats as per the Constitution.  
The Court had earlier notified eight leading lawyers to get their opinion on the issue. They are: SR Pal, Barrister Ishfaq Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Khandaker Mahub Uddin Ahmed, Rafiqul Haq, SC Bar Association President T H Khan, government-appointed lawyer Barrister Ashrarul Hossain and the Attorney General.

Dr Kamal, one of the framers of the country's Constitution, said that the issue could be settled under Article 67(1)(b) of the Constitution and 178(3) of the Rules of procedure of Parliament which clearly stated the provisions on the matter.  
During his more than one hour submission since 11:45 am, Dr Kamal cited examples from the supreme courts of USA, India and Canada. He said in 1793, the US Supreme Court declined to give advisory opinion on a reference made by president George Washington.

Earlier, when the court began the hearing at 9:10 am, Barrister Ashrarul Hossain elaborated different points mentioned in the Presidential reference.

He said that the boycott of Parliament sessions which started on March 1, 1994 should not be construed as absence within the meaning of Article 67(1)(b).  
A Member of Parliament can seek leave of absence from the House if he falls sick or he needs to go abroad for a long time or for any other personal reason, he pointed out.  
"The absence which crippled parliament was not contemplated in Article 67(1)(b)," he said, adding, "The absence was made purposefully to make Parliament ineffective, so the 'absence' should not be construed as 'absence' within the meaning of the relevant Article."

Forty two unions out of a total 65 in the district have been affected by flood as the rivers Naf, Matamuhuri and Bakkhali are flowing above danger levels.  
Waters from the Bay surged in Shahpuri island, a union under Teknaf thana while three cross-dams in Kutubdia and Maheshkhali islands were washed away. WDB's embankment at Barbaghia Bazar in Chokoria thana was also damaged partially.

The district experienced 149 mm rain fall yesterday, the local met of fice said.

The overall flood situation in Sirajganj remained static yesterday. However, one woman Ramiza Khatun, 22, drowned while taking bath at village Hazipara and while another man, Salimuddin, 26, died of snake bite at village Kollid both in Tarash thana.

According to a bulletin of the Flood Information Centre, flood situation in the northern districts and in Jamalpur and Mymensingh districts will continue to improve.

But, the situation may deteriorate in Manikganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Chandpur and Shariatpur districts.

Our Correspondents from Rajshahi and Gaibandha reported that the overall flood situation in the two districts improved further yesterday as waters keep receding from the affected areas including the district headquarters.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia distributing relief material among the flood affected people of Daulatpur and Shibhalaya thanas of Manikganj district yesterday. — PID photo



Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina walking on a road in Shibchar bazar during her visit to flood-hit Madaripur district yesterday. — AL photo

# Ershad produced in court

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was submitted to the CMM court today during hearing by the CID investigators. But no new accused was mentioned in this supplementary chargesheet. The head of CID investigation team Abdul Kahar Akhand was also present in the court at that time.

Defence lawyers including Sirajul Haq Idris, Mridul Guha and others praying for bail in favour of Ershad, argued that the chargesheet had no basis about his involvement in the murder of Manzur.

Though Ershad was accused of killing in the chargesheet, there is no mention of it in the FIR, the defence lawyers argued. "Our client has been implicated in a series of cases including that of Manzur murder only for political motives as Ershad may sweep in the next election and come to power again."

Ershad already proved his popularity by winning from five constituencies in the last election though he remained confined in the jail, the defence lawyers argued.

They also argued that Manzur had organised a mutiny in Chittagong in 1981. But he fled from Chittagong cantonment later when the then government made announcement over radio and TV that if anybody could catch Manzur—dead or alive—would be rewarded with Taka 5 lakh.

Besides, the case was started after 14 years of the murder, by Abul Mansur, the brother of Manzur, the defence lawyers said. They also said "we are seeking bail for our client Ershad so that he can talk freely with his lawyers. Moreover, he is an ex-President. He will not flee and we are ready to furnish adequate security in exchange of bail."

Mridul Guha said that Manzur was killed by Subedar Malek being lured by government's announcement of reward. During the argument, he dwelt on "political aspects" and at that time the CMM stopped him saying "this is not political platform".

Vehemently opposing the bail prayer for Ershad, the AC (prosecution) said sufficient facts

and evidences are available in the chargesheet against the principal accused Ershad in support of his involvement in the Manzur murder.  
"It was a cold-blooded murder and the dead body of Manzur was not handed over to his relatives" the AC said adding "Manzur was killed in army custody at the telephonic order from Ershad given through Brigadier Aziz (another accused, now dead) in a bid to suppress the mystery behind assassination of President Ziaur Rahman".

When allowed to speak Ershad informed the court that it was the decision of the then President, Justice Abdus Sattar to place Manzur in army custody to hold court martial.

"The President gave me commendation at that time for doing a very effective and good job," Ershad said. "Manzur was not a child and he himself made announcement on radio that he took power" Ershad also said adding "everybody had hatred for Manzur and nobody came to collect his body at that time". "Last of all, I want to tell a small thing—if I was autocratic and a fallen president, why steps had to be taken to hold a court at the airport instead of taking me to Chittagong court building" Ershad said. Nearing a cream-colour full-sleeve Safari Ershad was found smiling all along.

Earlier Lt Col Kamal Uddin appeared before the court.  
Advocate Ibrahim Majumder prayed for bail in favour of Kamal saying that there was nothing in the FIR about involvement of his client in the murder of Manzur.

Opposing Kamal's bail the AC (prosecution) argued that he (Kamal) was directly involved in the murder and evidences are there in the chargesheet. After the murder, Kamal wanted to know from Emdad whether the work was done and why such a delay, AC quoted from the chargesheet.

When allowed Kamal said "I want justice I have all regards for law".  
The lawyer of Major Emdad today placed a fresh petition for bail but it was rejected. The hearing over, Ershad and Kamal Uddin were flown back to Dhaka by the same helicopter at 1:40 pm. Ershad waved to the people from inside the helicopter.

Earlier, the CMM sat in his court at 10:30 am at the court building as usual and after taking up the Manzur murder case, announced the court be shifted to the airport VIP lounge to hear it.

The journalists who already obtained passes from the CMM and the lawyers involved were allowed to attend the court at the airport where entry of other people was fully restricted during functioning of the court.

Ershad was accompanied by police and other security people.  
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Meanwhile, a few workers of Jatiya Party staged a demonstration

# Ershad produced in court

in the court building premises in the morning. A large contingent of police was also posted at the court building today to ensure security.  
Meanwhile Chittagong City unit of Jatiya Party at a press conference at the local Press Club alleged that Ershad had been implicated in the Manzoor murder case as part of a conspiracy by the BNP government.  
Addressing the conference, JP President member Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury said thousands of people thronged the CMM court braving the inclement weather, but the government shifted the court to the airport to avoid the people's wrath.  
"It's a victory for Ershad as well as the people," he told the newsmen.  
Chowdhury also demanded of the government to free Ershad from the Manzoor murder case.  
The press conference, was attended, among others, by the city unit President Jahangir Alam and central JP members AKM Shamsul Huda and Nila Chowdhury.

# Extortionists stab 3 cops in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, July 16: Three policemen were stabbed, one of them seriously when they attempted to apprehend some extortionists in the Chashara railgate area of the town this evening.  
Constables Shah Alam and Sarawad and Habilar Jahangir Alam went there in response to a call at around 6:30 pm. They were attacked as they tried to stop some toll collectors, who were intimidating shopkeepers in the vicinity.  
The extortionists, numbering three or four, attacked the policemen with sharp weapons and escaped. The injured were admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital. Seriously injured Shah Alam was later shifted to the DMCH.

# 3 die in city

By Staff Correspondent  
At least three persons died and another seven injured in different incidents in the city yesterday, police and hospital sources said.  
A private car dashed a passerby, Moharjan, in front of the Kishalaya School At Tajmahal Road in Moham-madpur at about 8:30 am while an autorickshaw ran over a one-year-old girl Asia at Demra on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Both of them expired at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).  
Milon, 16, son of Abdus Salam of Banagram was electrocuted yesterday noon.  
Six labourers were injured while a truck carrying empty bottles and glasses overturned at Bijoy Smrati in the city yesterday.

Meanwhile, toll collectors severely beat up a tannery worker at Hajiribagh confining him into a nearby chb. Saiful Islam, 30, was earlier dragged out from his house which the attackers also ransacked. Saiful was admitted to the DMCH.

# PM assures all out help for flood victims

MANIKGANJ, July 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia today extensively visited the worst flood-hit areas of the district and assured her government's all out assistance for the victims, reports UNB.  
During the seven-hour trip on board a mechanised boat, the Prime Minister distributed huge quantity of relief materials among the flood victims in the most remote and inundated areas of Aricha, Teota and Langerhat in Shibhalaya thana and Charkatari, Bachamara and Baghunia unions in Daulatpur thana.  
While distributing relief, Begum Zia said: "I have come to see your condition and to stand beside you on your days of suffering."  
She told the people that the government had sanctioned adequate relief materials for the flood victims and advised them to face the calamity with courage and fortitude.  
In Charkatari, Bachamara and Baghunia in Daulatpur thana, most of the areas were inundated and houses washed away. A large number of people are passing their days on boat.  
The mechanised boat carrying the Prime Minister halted at a number of places where people were living on 'machans' and on rooftops in their submerged houses. She distributed relief among them.

# Waive loans of flood-hit farmers: Hasina

MADARIPUR, July 16: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today urged the government to waive loans of flood-hit farmers and give them new agri-loan, reports UNB.  
Farmers have lost everything, including standing crops, in the flood water and they should be provided with soft term fresh loan, she told crowds in the flood hit Madaripur and Munshiganj districts.  
On the third day of her tour to flood-hit districts, Hasina visited Mawaghat, Harjanajat Ferry Ghat, Kathal Bagicha, Banglabazar, Panchchar, Ariakha Ferry Ghat, Simulia and Shibchar Sadar.  
Hasina reached Shibchar Sadar by a trawler in the afternoon to see for herself the condition of the people there. She walked through knee-deep water in Shibchar bazar area and enquired about the prices of the essentials.  
Addressing a rally there, Hasina criticised the Prime Minister for wasting huge money for helicopter fuel when lakhs of people were marooned by the flood and passing their days without food and shelter.

# Flood-hit people gherao Chowhali TNO office

SIRAJGANJ, July 16: Several thousand flood affected people today gheraoed the TNO office of Chowhali protesting misappropriation of relief by a UP chairman, reports UNB.  
The flood victims demonstrating in front of the office alleged that chairman of Omorpur UP Abdul Baset Talukdar sold 18 metric tons of wheat in blackmarket.

# 2 brothers to die

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sons on April 1, 1993 at about 6:30 pm while they came out from a hotel at Purbha Banda Dhakpara of Golam Bazar in Keraniganj thana.  
Abdul Aziz died on the spot while Mokter Hossain succumbed to stab injuries on way to hospital. They were killed out of enmity.  
During the trial, the prosecution examined 11 witnesses, including one eye witness, to prove that it was a pre-planned murder.

# Govt-MQM talks

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clashes.  
Officials said today's negotiating session focused on efforts to restore peace to violence-plagued Karachi where around 2,000 people have died in political and sectarian troubles in the past 18 months.  
This was the third round since Tuesday of talks between the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing the large Urdu-speaking Mohajir community.

# STOL service

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companies who got licence for operating the STOL service in domestic routes in private sector.  
Inaugurating the flight, the state minister termed the formal launching of the STOL service a great success as the government was trying to introduce the service for last three years.  
"The STOL service will make air-communications easy and speedy in a riverine country like ours where construction of roads and their maintenance is costly," he said.

# Strike at RU

RAJSHAHI, July 16: A general strike called by the Chhatra League (K-C) was observed today on the Rajshahi university campus, reports UNB.

# The Midnight File

# 90 US commandos in Pakistan for joint exercise

ISLAMABAD, July 16: A group of 90 US commandos have arrived here for a joint military exercise with the special services group of the Pakistan army, said semi-official news agency PPI today. The exercise code named 'Inspired Venture' would continue till August 15 in various parts of the country, reports Xinhua.

# Deadline to kill hostages expires today

# Kashmir police make contact with rebels

SRI-NAGAR, July 16: Kashmir police have made 'indirect' contact with Muslim guerrillas holding five abducted western tourists a day before a deadline for their threatened killing, a senior police official said today, reports AFP.  
Contact was established, he said, between a team of police negotiators and the Al-Faran group which has claimed responsibility for seizing two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian.  
The Al-Faran released two colour photographs of the captives here today. One showed them sitting inside a hut and the other standing in hilly terrain with a glacier and pine trees in the background.  
The captives, who were dressed in heavy woollens and sported stubble, appeared in good health but were surrounded by 10 armed militants in the photograph taken outdoors.  
The police official told AFP that the team would begin talks with the abductors before the expiry of a Monday evening deadline set by the rebels for the release of 21 jailed Al-Faran militants.  
Another report says: At least three people were killed and 25 injured today when a bomb exploded in a popular hill resort, police said.  
No rebel group has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

# Appointment

Mohammad Ali, Executive Director of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority has been appointed as the secretary of the newly formed Jamuna Bridge Division, says a PID handout.

# Transport strike in Sherpur from today

SHERPUR, July 16: The district Transport Workers Union today called a non-stop transport strike in all routes of the district from tomorrow protesting attack on its leaders at Sherpur bus terminal today, reports UNB.  
The union leaders alleged that the lessees of the terminal attacked them as they refused to collect toll through transport counters.

# Single trade union

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general to the industries and to national development," the meeting noted.  
The meeting was organised by Asian and Pacific Regional Organisation (APRO) of the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the largest labour organisation having 33 million members worldwide.  
Takashi Izumi, General Secretary of the Singapore-based ICFTU-APRO, informed the reporters about the outcome of the two-day meet and presented the statement of the trade unionists.  
While deploring recent liberalisation, the meeting observed that in the name of globalisation of free market economy, unequal trade agreements have created a threat to the very existence of industries of Bangladesh.  
Least developed countries, it added, came virtually under the claws of transnational and multi-national companies.  
The leaders in the meeting did not oppose the introduction of new and advanced technology as part of economic reforms and industrial restructuring, but was unwilling to accept it without a "human face" to the development.

Creating appropriate social safety-nets for the displaced workers, including re-education, re-skilling and re-training for alternative employment, were the points which came up for discussion in the meeting.  
Also for overcoming the work related problems, the meeting demanded of the authorities to reactivate and make effective tripartite consultation among the workers, the employers and the government.  
As workforce become a major exportable, the trade unionists requested the government and the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures for fair treatment to migrant workers at home and abroad.

The meeting also called for making some immediate amendments to the existing trade union and labour laws.  
Local coordinator and Executive Board member of ICFTU-APRO Nazrul Islam Khan and ICFTU-APRO Director Gordon McCall were present during the press briefing.

Eskandar Ali, Shah M Abu Zafar, Nurul Islam, Wazedul Islam Khan, Mukhlisur Rahman, Shariatullah, Pratapuddin Ahmed, Abul Bashar, Abdullah Sarker, Shirin Akhter, Roy Ramesh Chandra and Belayet Hossain Mazumder attended the meeting.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি সাবসিডিয়ারী কোম্পানী)  
জরুরী ফোনঃ ৮৬০৫৫০, ৮৬০৫৫১, ৮১১০১৭, ৮১২১০৫-৪২১

**ভূয়া গ্যাস মিটার অপসারণকারী চক্র হইতে সাবধান**

বিভিন্ন সূত্র হইতে অভিযোগ পাওয়া গিয়াছে যে তিতাস গ্যাসের কর্মচারী পরিচয় দিয়া কিছু দুষ্কৃত চক্র আবাসিক গ্রাহকদের আর্থগণা হইতে মিটার খুলিয়া আনিতেছে এবং ইহার বিনিময়ে অবৈধভাবে অর্থ গ্রহণ করিতেছে।  
এই ব্যাপারে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে গ্রাহকদের আর্থগণা হইতে একমাত্র কোম্পানী কর্তৃক মিটার অপসারণ করা হয় এবং এই ব্যাপারে কোন অর্থ পরিশোধ করিতে হয় না।  
এতএব, "তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর" বৈধ পরিচয়পত্র প্রদর্শন ছাড়া কোন গ্রাহক তাহার আর্থগণায় কাহাকেও গ্যাস মিটার অপসারণ করিতে, মিটার রেমোট্রের বা লকউইংককে মোরামত বা পরিবর্তন করিতে দিবে না। অনাথায় ইহাতে পতাতিত হওয়া ছাড়াও মারাত্মক দুর্ঘটনা ঘটিতে পারে, যাহার দায়দায়িত্ব গ্রাহককেই বহন করিতে হইবে।  
এই ধরনের ঘটনায় যে কোন সন্দেহজনক ব্যক্তিকে দেশের প্রচলিত আইন অনুযায়ী নিকটস্থ পানায় সোপর্দ করিতে এবং প্রয়োজনে কোম্পানীর জরুরী গ্যাস নিয়ন্ত্রণ শাখায় অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন/আঞ্চলিক অফিসে জানানোর জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাইতেছে।  
সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন এবং গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের ব্যামোলা এড়াইয়া চলুন।

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-৫/৯৫-৯৬  
ডিগ্রেশন-১৭৩০৩১-১২/৭  
জি-১০৮৯