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Chiefs of the three services called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban yesterday. —PID photo

Flood situation worsens

From page 1 district yesterday due to flood, caused by torrential rain and onrush of hill waters. Ten of the victims were identified as Maimuna Khatun, 15, Mohammad Fakir, 45, and Abdul Majid 13, of Fashikhali, Shafi Alam 25, Mansur Ahmed 25, Thanda Mia 16, and Akbar Ali 28, of Shakermohammad Char, and Aytun Nahar 14, Joygun Bibi 45, and Badul Alam 13 of Chiringa. One could not be identified immediately.

All of them died either by drowning or in wall collapse. Chokoria Pura Administrator Advocate Shamsul Islam informed that out of 60,000 kutcha houses in the thana, some 3,000 were damaged completely and about 50,000 partially. Road communication in the thana was completely snapped due to the flood. Nine people were killed in landslide in Bandarban district. Of them, six of a family were killed at Daulatmasterpara in Lama thana and three of another family at Kalaghat in the sadar.

Three children drowned in Swardi thana of Pabna, one girl was killed in wall collapse in Rangunia thana of Chittagong and a middle-aged man drowned in flood water in Shahjadpur of Sirajganj district.

The low-lying areas of Rajshahi city have been submerged following incessant rain. The inundated areas, include Rajshahi Betar Bhaban, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) office premises, police line, Lakhimpur, Bhatapara, Seraol and Tikapara. Official sources said about two hundred digital telephones of Rajshahi city were disrupted. Normal life in Rajshahi city has been paralysed due to rain.

The low-lying areas of six thanas of Kushtia district went under water due to incessant rain that caused further swelling of Ganges and Gorai rivers. All roads of the town were submerged. Waters from both the Ganges and Gorai submerged low-lying areas of Daulatpur, Bheramara and Kumarkhali thanas.

The Ganges rose by 46 cm at Harding point while the water level of Gorai at Gorai Rly Bridge marked a 50 cm rise. Erosion by the Ganges took an alarming turn in four unions of Daulatpur. The unions are: Ramkrishnapur, Chilmari, Maricha and Philipnagar. The Gorai also started eroding parts of the Kumarkhali town.

In Rangpur the low-lying areas in four thanas were inundated by flash flood caused by incessant rains in last few days, official sources said. The flood water poured into Nohali, Kachaya, Alambiditor, Mohipur, Salapak, and Mandrine areas in Gongachara thana, making at least 2,000 people confined in their home-steads.

About a thousand villagers were severely affected in Kaunia and Pirgachha thanas as many houses went under water. Some areas of Rangpur town went under knee-deep water. Flood situation in Debidhar thana of Comilla district aggravated in last 24 hours, rendering thousands of people marooned, official sources said yesterday. The district administration started evacuating the people from flood-hit Sadar, Subil, Jafarganj and Fateyabad unions of the thana. Other flood-affected thanas are: Daudkandi, Homna, Muradpur, Burchikang and Chandania.

Meanwhile, the embankment on the Gumi river across Burchikang thana was breached at four points at Gobindpur, Shempur, Baraia and Mithilapur.

Gaibandha

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: The vast areas of Gaibandha district have been inundated due to incessant rain. Some areas of Gaibandha pourashava went under knee-deep water. Road communication between Gaibandha-Sunderganj and Gaibandha-Balashi may be snapped at any time.

Feni

Flood situation in Feni further aggravated as low-lying areas of 13 unions in four thanas were submerged due to continuous downpour and onrush of hill water. Feni-Parshuram railway and road went under three-foot water as the rivers Muhuri was flowing above the danger mark. Agriculture Extension Department sources said standing crops and seed-beds on 5,000 acres of land and fish in the ponds were washed away by the water. Many kutcha houses were collapsed.

The affected unions are — Chittonia, Fulgazi, Box Mahmud, Darbarpur, Munshirhat and GM Hat in Parshuram thana, Pathannagar, Mohamaya, Radhanagar and Gopal in Chhagalnaiya, Chardarbarh and Charchandia in Sonagazi and Kazirbagh union in Sadar thana.

Sylhet

People of at least 30 villages in Jaintapur and Companyganj thanas of Sylhet district were marooned by flash flood and crops and seed-bed in vast areas damaged. Road communication between Goainhat and Sylhet remained cut off since Friday. However, water started receding at Goainhat Sadar though flood situation in Jaintapur and Companyganj remained unchanged. Meanwhile, stone and sand collection at Jalong, Sreepur, Ballaghat and Ferryghat areas remained suspended for the last three days, leaving a huge number of workers jobless.

Lease of Buriganga ghats protested

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has "illegally" leased the ghats on Buriganga river under Keraniganj thana to a private party, allowing "unauthorised" toll collection there, leaders of the Illegal Toll Collection Resistance Committee of Keraniganj claimed at a press conference here yesterday. The leaseholder is collecting toll at an exorbitant rate much more than the fixed rate, the leaders of the Resistance Committee alleged and demanded cancellation of the lease by August 6. Otherwise, a strike will be called in Keraniganj thana, they said.

The lease was given secretly with effect from July 1 without public tender, Nazmul Hasan, a leader of the Committee said "Under the Port Act, the authorities can not make such a decision as the ghats are not khas lands. Those belong to individuals. The leasing was totally unauthorised," Nazmul, a lawyer, claimed. "We will seek legal action if necessary, against the illegal lease by the BIWTA," said Anul Huj, another leader of the Committee. Golam Mawla, Director, Port and Traffic of the BIWTA, when contacted said tender was invited before leasing the ghats to Haji Md Fazlul Karim. He, however, could not give details.

BA flight

From page 1 long-haul intercontinental flights scheduled to leave Heathrow on Saturday, and half of its short-haul domestic and European flights. British Airways could not specify when it will be fully operational, but managers are hoping for some time early in the week.

Ershad goes to KSA tomorrow

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad leaves for Riyadh tomorrow for a medical check up, reports UNB.

Ershad, who was freed from jail on bail earlier this year, will perform Umrah during his stay in Saudi Arabia, said a party press release. He will be accompanied by party leaders Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kalkobda MP, Golam Moshih and Habibur Rahman.

Six bogies of Teesta derail

JAMALPUR, July 12: Six bogies of Dhaka-bound Teesta inter-city train derailed near Dewanganj here today, but none was reported injured, says UNB. Railway sources attributed the derailment to weakening of rail tracks due to incessant rain. They said the Teesta that had departed from Bahadurabad Ghat with 14 bogies escaped a major accident due to its slow movement. The train with rest eight bogies restarted its journey to Dhaka at 4 pm, two hours after the incident. However, local locomotive staff had put the derailed bogies onto the tracks before the relief train reached the spot.

Hartal

against Palestinians and Islam. The resolution said this meant an intriguing behaviour had not only hurt the religious beliefs and sentiments of the Muslims, but also angered and perplexed all conscious people of the world. All Muslims of the world including Bangladesh would resist this sort of intrigue, he said quoting the resolution. The resolution had described the intrigue as an attempt to disrupt the ongoing peace process in the Middle East. Zillur said Bangladesh had always supported the protection of just rights of the Palestinians and the establishment of an independent Palestine state. He said the hartal call could not be supported after the adoption of a resolution in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The proposed hartal would only increase the suffering of the people in the country, but it would not affect the Jews, he added. Zillur said the people could not support this politically motivated hartal. He said the BNP's support to the hartal had also astonished, surprised and angered the people and urged the concerned quarters to withdraw the hartal.

5 beaten to death

telling them before his death that their scooter's way was blocked by another vehicle. Explaining Alam's statement, a police official told The Daily Star that something wrong might have occurred between the two vehicles before the scooter of the victims was stopped. Alam was also quoted by police as saying he and others came from Zinzira under Keraniganj thana and were going to Narayanganj town for 'outing'. Alam also gave his present address at south Jatrabari. The SP of Narayanganj, HM Nuruddin, told The Daily Star at night "Going for outing at this odd hours and braving heavy downpour do not reflect any good intention on the part of the victims."

The police official, after visiting the area, said they found the mud-stained bodies of the five victims, four naked, lying in stagnant water besides the road. The scooter was found badly damaged, with signs of attempt to burn it, he added. None was arrested in connection with the killings and Fatullah police was going to initiate a case in this regard, the duty-officer at the thana said at 9:30 pm.

Assam flood situation worsens further

GUWAHATI, July 12: The flood situation in Assam has taken a turn for the worse today with the surging waters engulfing Cachar district of Barak valley thereby taking the total of flood-hit districts this season to 10, reports PTI.

Official reports received here said that the southern Assam district of Cachar was in the grip of flood with all the rivers flowing above the red mark and inundating vast areas of Rangpur and Kalbari Char near Silchar town forcing the people to leave their hutments. The river Runki has submerged large areas under Dholai forcing the affected people to take shelter in the educational institutions in Silchar town.

One killed in bomb explosion

A young man was killed in a bomb explosion at a village under Savar thana on Friday night, reports BSS. Savar police said Mohammad Aminur Rahman, 23, of Tetuljora village died on the spot when some thieves hurled several bombs at the villagers who were chasing them. The thieves were fleeing with the booties. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Dacoity in city house

Dacoits looted money, gold ornaments and other valuable worth about Tk 1.29 lakh from a house on Sher-e-Bangla Road at Dhanmondi in the city Friday night.

Police said a gang of about eight armed men exploded cocktails in front of the house of one Shahidullah Khan at about 10 pm. They forcibly entered the house and started assaulting the family members. Later, they broke open an almirah and took away Tk 60,000 in cash and other goods. A case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana but none was arrested till last night.

Electronics traders to observe token strike tomorrow

Traders of electronics, electrical and sanitary materials in the city will observe a one-hour token strike tomorrow to protest imposition of VAT on the items they deal in, report UNB. They will also stage sit-in demonstration in front of their markets from 3 pm to 4 pm, said a press release of Bangladesh Bashohae Sangathan Samannay Parishad. The Parishad decided to go for the strike at a meeting held at Nawabpur with its convener Anwar Hossain Khan in the chair yesterday.

Gold seized

The Customs surveillance team at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday seized 17 gold bars from a homebound passenger, reports BSS. A customs official said the passenger flew here from Singapore by a Biman flight this afternoon. He was identified as Islam.

Saudi meat reaches Mongla

BAGERHAT, July 12: Some 26,200 pieces of meat donated by Saudi Arabia reached the Mongla port here today, reports UNB.

The Captain of the meat-carrying vessel MV Orions handed over the donation on behalf of Islamic Development Bank to Divisional Commissioner of Khulna SM Shamsul Alam at a simple ceremony.

PM leaves

Minister for Health Dr M Amanullah, chiefs of the three services, dean of the diplomatic corps Shahata Zarah, German Ambassador in Dhaka Bruno Weber and high government and military officials were present at the airport to see off the Prime Minister.

CSE turnover exceeds

From page 1 helpful for transparency and accountability, the experts said. According to the four-phase modernisation plan to make CSE the country's model stock market like the Bombay Stock Exchange in India, the CSE is about to begin its second phase introducing a screen-based trading system to be extended to the nationwide online telecom network for real time trading. "From the beginning, we were very much aware of our aims and objectives, and were sincere to the investors' interests, keeping maximum transparency in all purposes... to achieve our goal and fulfill the commitment," said Syed Mahmudul Haq, a founder member of CSE, during the briefing. CSE's third phase programme is aimed at installing a central depository system from June 1998 and its final dream, to start regional and global trading, by December 1998.

Painting looted by Nazis returned to owner after 55 yrs

PARIS, July 12: A French museum has returned to its owner a valuable oil painting by cubist Albert Gleizes that was stolen by Nazi occupiers during World War Two, museum officials said today, reports Reuter. Didier Schulman, a curator at the Pompidou Centre, said Francois Warin, grand-nephew of art collector Alphonse Kann whose collection of 2,000 works was looted in 1942, recovered the 1911 "Landscape" last week.

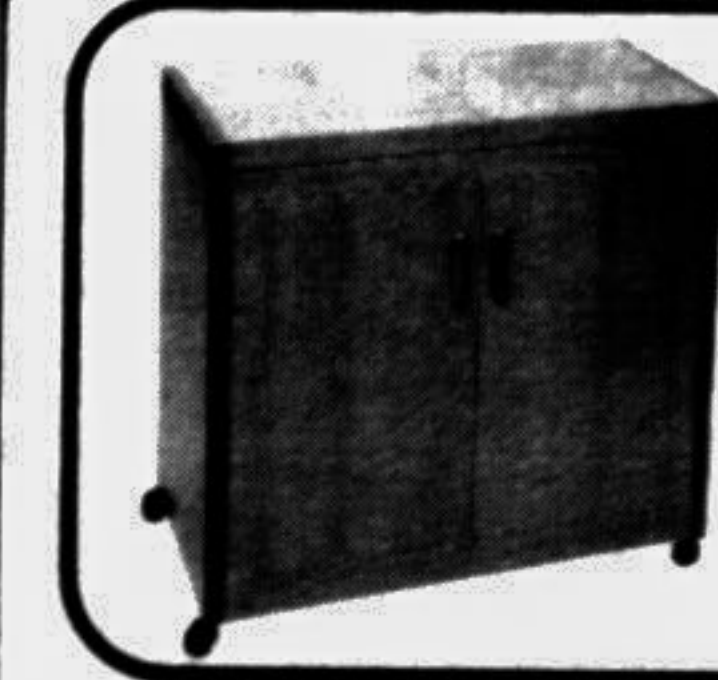
The work, worth more than one million US dollars was from Germany after the war. When no one stepped forward to claim them, they were temporarily entrusted to state-run museums, these artworks are known as MNR (National Museum Recovery). Warin first learned of the Gleizes work in a book by journalist Hector Feliciano, "The lost museum," which traces the fate of many works confiscated by the Nazis. While researching his book, Feliciano found "Landscape" listed in documents of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR), a Nazi government branch that supervised the confiscation of artworks in France. Feliciano said that after snatching the painting the Nazis brought it to Paris Jeu de Paume Museum where they stocked confiscated artworks.

Truck owners, drivers demand action against extortionists

Truck owners, drivers and workers demanded immediate steps to restore law and order for safe movement of transport carrying goods across the country, reports UNB. Truck Owners Association, Truck Drivers-Workers Federation and Transport Agency Owners Association at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday expressed concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in highways of the country. Association leaders said at least 11 goods-laden trucks had been looted at different points in last three months while more than a thousand robberies were committed in last one year.

Samad Azad

minister she cannot delegate power to any person during her absence from the country. The prime minister will maintain constant contact with her secretariat in Dhaka. Besides, her principal secretary will keep her informed of the national affairs from Dhaka regularly, the sources said.



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8 arrested for ransacking office of Korean co in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 12: Eight persons were arrested early today for their alleged involvement in ransacking the office of a Korean company on July 7, reports UNB.

In separate raids, police arrested them from the railway colony in the district town and from Dhamkol village in Kamarkhand thana after a case was filed by Sam Whan Company. On July 7, arrested persons ransacked the office of the company that is constructing the approach road of Jamuna Bridge at Naklia village in Kamarkhand thana, police said.

Ten people were injured during melee, including site engineer JR Kim. The arrested were identified as Abdur Rahim, 22, Reza, 20, Babu, 19, Shaiful Islam, 21, Abdul Alam, 20, Rafiqul, 19, Shah Alam, 22 and Hazrat Ali, 20. All of them were sent to jail.

Nasir arrested with arms in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 12: A special force of Raajan police arrested a notorious criminal with two firearms from a bus near Noapara police camp this evening, reports BSS. Police sources said the team intercepted a bus and arrested Nasir from the bus with a foreign-made rifle loaded with 20 bullets and another gun loaded with six bullets.

Nasir has been wanted in several criminal charges including murder, dacoity, abduction and hijacking. He was taken to police custody.

3 Sarbahara men held in Khulna

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, July 12: Dakope thana police last night arrested three activists of "Sarbahara Party" from a house at Chan-nirchawk village and recovered a gun from their possession. The arrested persons were identified as Monmohan Roy, 35, Pabon Sardar, 30, and Shibaapada Roy, 28. Police said they are involved in several crimes.

IU VC

From page 1 here since July 9, maintaining contact with the officials of the university. The VC returned to Kushtia on July 9 after discussing the overall situation of the university with the Education minister in the capital.

DEPZ factory

From page 1 ation said the authorities had shut down the factory illegally. The leaders of the federation claimed that the company was not giving the workers their due facilities like wages and workers' cards.

At a rally at Nabinagar on the Dhaka-Aricha highway, they demanded early reopening of the factory. A BEPZA official said, BEPZA would sit with the workers and the Youngone leaders Sunday to solve the problem. UNB adds: Authorities of the Korean company, Yang Wan Hightec Ltd, announced the factory closed as unruly workers demonstrated in front of it and put barricade on Savar-Kaliakur road. Two platoons of police rushed to the spot, cleared the road and facilitated movement of vehicle traffic.

College teacher

From page 1 The motive behind the attack could not be known immediately. However, police said, a gang of about seven snatchers entered the shop at about 1:30 pm. They fired on Taposhi as she started screaming and hit Bhupati who tried to hold one of the attackers. None was arrested till last night. Dhanmondi police were investigating the incident.

AG office lawyers

From page 1 when contacted yesterday acknowledged having known about the WB recommendations for improvement of the judicial system and for his office but said his office is yet to get those recommendations. Under the existing rules of business, the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs is the processing ministry for the office of AG.

Delhi won't scrap Prithvi missile programme

NEW DELHI, July 12: Indian Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav said today plans for a long-range missile were on and that a surface missile slammed by the United States will not be scrapped, reports AFP.

The United Nations of India today quoted Yadav as saying India had not shelved a project to build the ballistic missile "Agni" (fire), which has a range of 2,500 kms and can carry a one-tonne nuclear warhead. The Agni has been launched three times since February 1994 on an experimental basis.

The defence minister also said the surface to surface Prithvi (earth), with a range of 250 kms would not be scrapped despite protests from Washington that it could fuel an arms race in South Asia. "If the Prithvi missile has been developed, it is not meant for keeping in a showcase in a museum. But we will take our own decision on the timing and location of deployment when the time comes, depending on our threat perception."

Madrasah student kidnapped in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, July 12: A Madrasah student has been kidnapped from Khulna town. Mujahidur Rahman Babu, 12, — a student of Goolkhal Madrasah at Khalishpur, was kidnapped from the campus this evening.

The kidnapers have demanded ransom from his parents by tomorrow night otherwise he will be killed, police said quoting family sources. A case has been registered with Khalishpur thana.

Envoy to China

From page 1 this year, it is reliably learnt. Farooq Sobhan is likely to be appointed an investment adviser to the government with a special status after his retirement. A top official close to the Prime Minister's office said, "We would like to make use of his expertise by retaining his involvement in the government after his retirement."

Armed Forces

From page 1 as road communication in the region was cut off due to heavy rains. As soon as the road communication resume, relief materials would be sent to the affected areas. The release said that "Trishark" boats had been kept standby to conduct relief activities in Bandarban, Kaptai and Rangamati. The Navy ships are also ready to join the relief operations.

চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে মালামাল/কন্টেইনার হ্যান্ডলিং কাজে স্বাভাবিক গতিশীলতা বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ জরুরী ব্যবস্থা হিসাবে সাপ্তাহিক ছুটি ও বন্ডের দিনসহ দিন-রাত ২৪ ঘণ্টা মালামাল ডেলিভারী প্রদানের পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছে।