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**Erosion takes serious turn in Kushtia**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 19: Flood situation in Kushtia remained static but erosion by the river Ganges took a serious turn at the Daulatpur point.

Ganges has eroded 22 villages, 5 border outposts, 30 educational institutions, 50 mosques and 28 bazars so far. Erosion has also devoured 10 kilometre flood protection embankment and made the lives of about 18 thousand people in three unions miserable.

Twelve villages of Ramkrishnapur union under Daulatpur thana have been totally devoured. The villages are Mohammadpur, Charukuri, Talpatty, Thotapara, Charpara, Insanagar, Alinagar, Munshiganj, Khoribona, Kardirpara, Bogmari and Sonatala.

About 10 thousand people of these villages have taken shelter in safer places including the embankment. Most of them are living under the open sky with no relief materials from any quarters.

Six villages of Philipnagar Union have also been badly affected by erosion. The villages are Uttar Philipnagar, Islampur, Farashanga, Keru Dover Char, Nadibharat and Uttar Bahirchar.

Four villages of Maricha union have been totally devoured and the villages are Natun Char, Purardiar, Hachener Char and Mullukpur.

Meanwhile, flood situation in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts may continue to improve while it may inundate more areas in Dohar and Nawabganj of Dha.

A Flood Information Centre bulletin said the Brahmaputra continued to fall at all points and the Ganges registered rise at upstream points during the last 24 hours.

The rivers in the Meghna basin recorded rise and fall while in South Eastern Hill basin marked fall.

Four rivers — the Ganges at Bhayakul, the Surma at Kanaighat, the Kushiya at Amalshid and Sheola and the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar — were flowing above their respective danger marks.

BSS adds: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today directed the authorities concerned to reconstruct the damaged part of Mujib Embankment along the River Jamuna in Pabna.

The Foreign Minister visited the flood affected areas of Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Dinajpur and other parts of the North Bengal.

**Shop looted in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 19: At least seven people were injured when a group of armed terrorists attacked a grocery shop at Khatunganj last evening and looted about Tk two lakh and a colour television.

The armed group came in autorickshaws and started firing. They also beat the employees of the shop with iron rods, police said.

The terrorists decamped with the booties in the same vehicles. The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College hospital.

**Garments workers**

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In another meeting yesterday with Abul Hossain in the chair, 10 trade union bodies formed Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad in order to gear up the agitation.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of the International Textile Garments Leather Workers' Federation Neil Kearney expressed his deep shock at the death of garments workers in a fire on Tuesday.

In a condolence message, he also hoped that the authorities concerned would take immediate steps to protect the labourers from such incident in future, said a press release.

**Ctg jail**

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and the jail authority did not ring the Pagla Ghanta (red signal) as the incident was a small one. The prisoners, who are involved in the clashes will face 'internal trial', he said.

But, Chittagong Metropolitan Police sources said 11 prisoners and five jail guards were wounded in the clashes during which they heard the sound of Pagla Ghanta.

There are some 3,487 prisoners in the jail against the capacity of 747, sources said, attributing the incidents to indiscipline, lack of facilities and accommodation.

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**Jamuna Bridge BRAC to implement compensation project**

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) will implement a project 'Compensating the Erosion and Flood Affected Persons' as per an agreement with the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA), reports BSS.

The area covered by the arrangement stretches from 8-kilometer upstream to 10-kilometer downstream of the Jamuna Bridge including both the mainland and the chars, said a BRAC press release yesterday.

The three-year project is designed to identify the land and the people to make proper arrangements for paying compensation to those who have lost or likely to lose their land, houses, structures and sources of income due to possible erosion in the area caused by river training and construction of the Jamuna Bridge.

Twenty out of 49 spans of bridge have already been constructed and BRAC is using satellite images to monitor the behaviour pattern of the river including the rate and places of erosion.

**WHO official murder: None arrested yet**

By Staff Correspondent

Police were yet to arrest the persons involved in the killing of a WHO official at Mizmizi in Siddhirganj Thursday.

Siddhirganj police, who were investigating the case said yesterday the murder was pre-planned. However, they could not find out the motive behind the crime.

Saifuddin Mahmud, 35, a programme support officer of the WHO, sustained bullet injuries when gunmen shot him at Mizmizi, about 20 kilometres from the city, Thursday night. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

According to police, the gunmen fired on the WHO official soon after he boarded his car to return to his residence at Malibagh in the city.

Police said, they have questioned a number of people in this regard. The brother of the victim has filed a murder case.

**BNP candidates**

From page 1

Dal workers to foil government conspiracies through agitation, flouting the AL government for 'killing' some 150 members of his party and resorting to 'repression' on the people, the BNP secretary general said.

The country is now passing through a state of lawlessness. Terrorists have held the attempt to destroy the BNP has led to people's... government anarchy in the country.

Calling the AL a fascist party, he alleged the party has re-established fascism in the country and it has been isolated from the people due to its repressive activities, inefficiency, failures autocratic attitude and services to its foreign masters.

"The government has lost public confidence while making abortive attempts to damage BNP's image", he said.

Mannan Bhuiyan also charged the government with 'destroying' the youth community, the main force to rise against its 'tyranny', and urged his party's youth activists to foil all intrigues in this regard.

Chaired by Juba Dal President Mirza Abbas, the meeting was also addressed by Barqatullah Bhulu MP, Goyeshwar Roy, Badruzzaman, Khairul, Mozammel Hossain Alal, Sajju Kamal and Kowzar Ahmed.

**AL demands**

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groups, parties and pious people to build resistance against the 'anti-state, and anti-religion' elements.

It strongly condemned the "attack" on the Thursday's inaugural function of a 15-day programme organised by Islami Foundation at the mosque premises.

Calling it subversive, the meeting observed that the fundamentalist and anti-liberalist forces had disgraced Islam, and also the President of the Republic.

Presided over by acting President of Awami League Amir Hossain Amu, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury, AL Joint Secretary Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Abdul Momen and Mozaffar Hossain Paltu.

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An Eid-e-Miladunnabi procession in the city Friday. — Star photo

**Miladunnabi observed**

From page 1

across the country held day-long programmes. The programmes included 'Jasne Juluse' processions, milad mahfil, waz mahfil, Qurankhwan, seminar, discussion, special prayer and munajat and blood donation.

A milad mahfil was held at Bangabhaban in the afternoon in observance of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi. President Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the milad mahfil.

In the capital, several 'Jasne Juluse' processions were brought out from different parts of the city and paraded the thoroughfares. The biggest 'Jasne Juluse' procession of the country was brought out in the morning at the port city of Chittagong under the auspices of Anjuman-e-Rahmania Ahmedia Sunnia from Khanka-e-Kaderia Taibiya at Sholoshahar.

In the capital, Anjuman-e-Rahmania held a discussion meeting at the High Court Darbar Sharif premises. Among others, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam attended the discussion.

Anjuman Asadia Nuria Shahabia held a discussion meeting followed by a blood donation programme at Mirpur Darbar Sharif. State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf was present. A 'Jasne Juluse' procession was also brought out.

Anjuman Rahmania Mainia Majibhandaria held a seminar at Mirpur Section One. Later, a 'Jasne Juluse' procession was brought out under the auspices of the organisation.

Ahle Darbar Sharif brought out a 'Jasne Juluse' procession from the High Court Mazar premises while another was brought out by Anjuman Ashekan Mostafa (SM) and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat from Kamalapur Railway Masjid premises.

BNP's front organisation, Jaiyatabadi Olemia Dal, held a discussion meeting at its central office at Purana Paltan. The party's central office was illuminated on the occasion.

A discussion meeting followed by a milad mahfil was held by the Jatiya Party's Kalabagan central office after Asr prayers.

**Murtaza murder**  
**Trial of Zardari, 18 others begins**

KARACHI, July 19: A Pakistani court here today started the trial in jail of Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, and 18 other accused in the Murtaza Bhutto murder case, reports AFP.

The accused have been charged with involvement in a conspiracy that allegedly led to the assassination of Murtaza.

**Hun Sen rejects ASEAN mediation**  
PHNOM PENH, July 19: A peace mission aimed at resolving Cambodia's political crisis failed today when defiant coup leader Hun Sen flatly rejected outside mediation, reports AP.

His refusal to accept a peace proposal by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which would have required him to share power — brought the initiative to a halt.

**Asia Cup cricket**

From page 1

falling to a rash stroke early in the innings before the Sri Lankans ran away with the game after they were nine for two in the third over.

Tendulkar now finds himself under intense pressure amid media speculation that the Indian selectors will not hesitate to hand the captaincy back to his predecessor Mohammad Azharuddin if the decline is not halted.

Azharuddin, 34, was dropped from the team for the Independence Cup at home in May due to poor form — but he turned the tables on his detractors with an unbeaten top-score of 81 against the Sri Lankans.



A Roundtable on 'Dhaka University on the Threshold of 21st Century', organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the Bhorer Kagoj, was held at the CPD office in the city yesterday.

**Politicisation blamed**

From page 1

more effective. DU VC A K Azad Chowdhury said that when society is controlled by a market economy, one should not expect much from the universities.

Opposing politics by students, he said, the regeneration of Dhaka University could not be stopped unless there was change in society itself.

JU VC Amirul Islam Chowdhury emphasised on changing the selection process for the appointment of a vice chancellor and the students' admission system.

Khan Sarwar Murshid suggested immediate reform of the 1973 University Ordinance and pointed out that the society did not need consensus at all levels but only among the two main political leaderships. "But politicians do not want to understand that," he said.

Shamsul Haq said that the weakest part of our education system was examinations. Students learn to recite answers, not meanings. He further noted that all students wanted to study the few job oriented subjects like economics, BBA or English.

**Khaleda visits 2 mazars in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, July 19: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia visited Amanat Shah Darbar Sharif and Moju Shah Bhandar Sharif here today, reports UNB.

Begum Zia flew into the port city in the morning and straight went to the Darbar Sharif of Hazrat Amanat Shah (R) in Kotwali area. She offered *fateha* and presented a *gilap* there.

The BNP Chairperson later went to Bhandar Sharif of Moju Shah, another spiritual leader, at village Bhengura in Boalkhal thana, about 20-kilometres off the city.

**Constable recruitment test Aug 6**

By Staff Correspondent

The written test for recruitment police constables is scheduled to be held on August 6 throughout the country. About 3500 constables will be recruited.

According to official sources, the test will include physical and medical examinations.

The test will be held on the scheduled day at every police lines of the districts.

**Bangabandhu murder**

By Staff Correspondent

Various socio-cultural organisations in separate statements yesterday, appealed to President Shahabuddin Ahmed to constitute a special tribunal for trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The organisations include, Nari Mukti Andolon, Garments Sramik Kendro, Bangladesh Jubo Unnayan Parishad, Bangladesh Ganotantrik Nari Andolon, Tofazzal Hussain Manik Mia Parishad, Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity and Mehediganj Unnayan Parishad.

**JS probe body**

From page 1

charges but hinted that the prosecution did not produce adequate documents to prove the alleged misdeeds of the accused.

Shima Chowdhury was allegedly raped by four policemen at Raoozan police station in Chittagong on August 7 last year. She died in jail custody on February 7 this year.

An 11-member parliamentary committee, headed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, was formed in February last year amidst demands from different women's organisations for exemplary punishment to those involved in the incidents — rape and murder. It was scheduled to submit the report 'as soon as possible'.

However, the members of the parliamentary body has so far visited Raoozan areas twice and talked to many people concerned.

**JRC talks begin**

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A 13-member Indian team was led by its Minister for Water Resources Sis Ram Ola. The two sides were assisted by senior officials of the foreign and water resources ministries and technical experts of their respective countries.

Today, the officials of the two sides are expected to meet in the morning to wrap up the talks and finalise the minutes, the sources said.

The JRC was apprised of the need to carry out scientific studies for finding the reasons for shortfall in the flow of water to Bangladesh side of the Ganges. The Joint Committee (JC) of India-Bangladesh set up earlier as per provision of the Indo-Bangladesh treaty, recently recommended conducting detailed studies to identify causes of shortfall of the Ganges water in

Bangladesh side. The JRC meeting also deliberated on flood management, flood forecasting and broad aspects of river basin development, it was learnt.

Talking to newsmen about the outcome of the meeting, Water Resources Secretary Dr A T M Shamsul Huda said that "considerable progress" was made in the discussions yesterday and that the talks will continue today.

About the subjects covered in the deliberations, he said, "Implementation of the provisions of the Ganges water treaty, the Teesta river issue and other relevant matters came up for discussions." He said that the issues were discussed "in a cordial atmosphere."

Mentioning that substantial progress has been made at the meeting, Dr Huda attributed the delay in holding the JRC meeting to absence of a needed political atmosphere. He said the long delay of seven years had also led to accumulation of several problems. He was, however, happy to note that "substantial progress has already been made in the talks."

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak is due to meet the press today, where the outcome and more details about the meeting are expected to be known.

**2 Khulna BCL leaders arrested on charge of burglary**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 19: Kotwali police arrested Anwar Hossain, ex-vice president and Subrata Kumar Samaddar, joint secretary of city BCL on a charge of burglary in the store room of 'Islami Ummah' at Natun Bazar on July 14.

A case against them was earlier filed by the store officer of Islami Ummah. According to FIR, the BCL leaders, along with five others had stolen valuable goods worth over Tk 20 lakh.

The two were arrested after the recovery of some stolen goods from their possession.

**Car import**

From page 1

Earlier, the HC in February this year had declared illegal the assessment of import duty and sales tax on reconditioned cars on the basis of value based on Clear Report of Finding (CRF) and invoice given by importers. The 'Yellow Book' published in Japan was the basis of determining the value of a reconditioned car. Taxes and duties were imposed on the basis of 'Yellow Book' value.

However, the new ruling of the HC has reverted to the system of taxation on 'invoice value' given by importers which had cost the exchequer Tk 1000 crore because of under-invoicing. This was disclosed by Attorney General K S Nabl during arguments on two writ petitions brought by importers in February.

NBR officials now fear that unless the new dispute, is disposed of quickly, the government will face great loss of revenue as cars are now being released on 'invoice value'.

Even if the government wins the case, it will never be possible to realise the extra duties because in most cases the names, addresses and TIN of importers are not mentioned correctly, said an official. "The government should take up this case on a priority basis to avert another jeopardy in tax collection."

Every year, the country imports about 10,000 reconditioned cars. But the NBR does not have funds to expedite these cases, the sources said.

Car owners in Dhaka were found confused regarding the new order. They said a huge number of cars are now being released through under invoicing.

"Such frequent change of orders is bringing uncertainty and hampering business practices," said a car importer on condition of anonymity. "We prefer a uniform system throughout the year."

**Bus service opens**

From page 1

Narayanganj. In a bid to offer better service, a number of bus owners over the last few years introduced 'nonstop' services promising to reach destinations on time. Initially, the services were very popular. The fixed fares and scheduled arrivals convinced majority of the commuters that the services were good. But they started to complain when the buses touched stoppages in the schedules.

The Urban Transport Project, which aims at improving private bus services under strict supervision of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), recommended development of a number of routes including Narayanganj-Dhaka route.

The inaugural ceremony of the bus service today will be attended by, among others, Alhaj Makbul Hussain, president of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, Maj Gen (Retd) K M Shafiqullah, S M Akram, A K M Shamsul Osman, Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan, and Segupta Yasmin — all MPs — and Communications Secretary Rezaul Hossain and BRTA Chairman A N Hussain.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who had promised that the IRA-aided Sinn Fein party could enter negotiations on Northern Ireland's future in September, 1996, in exchange for a new IRA truce, welcomed the move as "good for the people of Northern Ireland and for the people of Britain."