

Flash flood in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Torrential rainfall triggered flash floods in the lowlands of the port city and its surrounding areas.

Normal life was frozen as the sufferings of the people mounted.

The Meteorological Office here recorded 211 millimetres (mm) of rainfall in the past 24 hours till 3:00pm yesterday.

The Met office sources said the downpour continued due to monsoon winds, and they forecasted more rainfall for the next few days.

Meanwhile, the flash flood gripped Bakalia, Chawkbazar, Katalgonj, Muradpur, Sholoshahar, Halishahar and the Agrabad areas in the city.

Police quoted witnesses saying the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway at the Sakhania point had

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AL sets eye on revamping

REAZ AHMAD

The Awami League (AL) is set to take up some important agenda to revamp the party after Wednesday's meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC).

Besides the call for a general strike on August 15 and fixing of the strategy on the Pakistan president's visit to Bangladesh, the main opposition party at the ALCWC meeting will focus on some other important issues believed to shore up its countrywide network, sources said.

Recently, Acting AL President Abdus Samad Azad told The Daily Star that he would convene the AL sub-committee's first meeting on amendments to the party constitution.

The sub-committee headed by Azad is one of the three the AL constituted last month as part of its preparation for the central council on December 22 to 23.

The sources hinted that the AL would create five more posts of organising secretary to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

The party thinks one organising secretary in each of the six administrative divisions will be able to work better to expand the organisational network.

The AL boasts 70 district-level units and nearly 500 thana committees.

In the absence of AL President Sheikh Hasina, Azad is scheduled to chair Wednesday's meeting of the 67-strong ALCWC.

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AL leaders to meet Pak president during his visit

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League leaders will meet Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf during his visit to Bangladesh beginning July 29.

AL Acting President Abdus Samad Azad said as per state protocol a party delegation will call on him and discuss matters relating to mutual interest and regional issues.

Samad said his party is yet to officially inform about the exact date and time of the meeting.

He said though the tension between India and Pakistan over the disputed Kashmir has reduced to a

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Cop, Jubo Dal man killed in car crash

Victims alleged to be escorting van carrying phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two people were killed and two others injured when a car they were riding collided head on with a truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway Saturday night.

The dead are Detective Branch (DB) of Police constable Razzak, 45, and Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activist Tony Faruk, 35. Khanpur Union Jubo Dal President

Barkatullah and Jubo Dal activist Tipu Sayeed were critically injured in the accident. They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

It is alleged that they were returning from Comilla to Narayanganj after 'buying Phensidyl', an illicit drug, from black market. The police constable was travelling with them in the car allegedly to provide safety.

The sources further said two cars were used for the purpose; one was

carrying the victims while the other the illicit drugs. The car with the drugs left the place of occurrence immediately after the accident.

However, asked by newsmen why the policeman was accompanying the Jubo Dal activists, Narayanganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Shafiqul Islam claimed that he was known to them and that

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PHOTO: STAR

Business along the city's Bangshal Road remains virtually suspended for over three weeks now, thanks to pipe installation and maintenance work by the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

Two 'muggers' nabbed in cashier killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested two muggers who allegedly killed cashier Ali Arshad of Korona Associates and snatched Tk 3 lakh from him at Dhanmandi in the city on Tuesday.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police of the Dhaka Metropolitan of Police (DMP) raided a residence at Nawabganj Road at Lalbagh and arrested the muggers, Mosharraf Hossain and Jahangir Hossain, aged 27 each.

The detectives spotted the muggers with the help of the surveillance camera of the Standard Chartered Bank at Dhanmandi road No. 2 from where the Arshad withdrew the money. The DB said the two arrested had admitted to have mugged and killed the cashier.

According to the DB, they arrested Mosharraf and recovered Tk 18,500 and following quizzing Mosharraf, they also nabbed Jahangir. Having interrogated Jahangir, the detectives raided different areas of the city and recovered another Tk 14,200.

Ali Arshad, 52, was mugged and killed at around 10:30 in the morning on his way to the New Market from the Standard Chartered Bank on the day.

Ashraf and Shakhawat Hossain, a colleague of Ashraf, went to the bank and withdrew Tk. 2.5 lakh. They were also carrying Tk 50,000 on their person.

As they were passing the Bell Tower, five young men stopped and asked them to hand the money over. Upon refusal, the muggers stabbed Ashraf indiscriminately until he collapsed and took away the money. The gang left the spot taking the bag. Ashraf died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Shawqat's bail petition rejected

UNB, Shariatpur

The district court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Col (rt) Shawqat Ali, Awami League MP, accused in Delwar murder case.

After hearing his counsel and the prosecutors for about two hours, District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ruhul Amin Khandoker rejected the bail petition at 5 pm.

Delwar Hossain Kazi, 25, was shot dead allegedly by the supporters of Shawqat during a clash on the day of filing nomination papers for the last October 1 elections.

Two separate cases were filed in connection with the death of Delwar. After inquiry, CID submitted charge sheet against Shawqat and his men on April 4. But he refused to appear before the court and moved the High Court that granted him anticipatory bail. The court also asked Shawqat to surrender before the trial court by July 23.

Shawqat appeared before the judge's court with a bail petition on July 13. Fixing July 21 for hearing on the petition, the court sent Shawqat to jail hajot.

Road accidents kill nine in Bogra, Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least nine people were killed in two road accidents in Sirajganj and Khulna yesterday.

Of them, six were killed in Bogra and the rest three in Khulna. Our correspondent from Sirajganj writes: Six people were killed when a Chapainawabganj bound private car collided with a Dhaka bound BRTC bus on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at nearby Chandaikona-Bogra Bazar under Sherpur upazila of Bogra district at 10:30am yesterday.

The dead were identified as Fariduddin, 43, an officer of the National Bank Limited (NBL), his wife Momtaz Begum, 35, son Zubaer Ahmed, 8, maidservant Nihaler Ma, 45, her son Nodi, 4, - all passengers of the car - and car driver Masud, 24.

Police said the accident occurred when Fariduddin, who was transferred recently from the Sirajganj branch to the Chapainawabganj branch of NBL, was on his way to Chapainawabganj along with family members in his car to take up his new responsibility.

Police seized the bus and the car. A case has been lodged with Sherpur Police Station.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: Three people were killed and eight others feared dead when a minibus carrying 20 passengers skidded off the road and fell into a roadside pond at Adampur of Terokhada upazila yesterday morning.

The dead bodies of three victims identified as Montaz Sheikh, 35, Wadud Biswas, 38, and Abdul Kader, 45, were recovered yesterday evening.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the bus plunged into the deep pond when the driver lost control of his vehicle. The ill-fated minibus could not be salvaged till 7:00pm yesterday despite efforts by fire brigade and local people.

Nine passengers, however, managed to scramble out of the sunken bus through its windows.

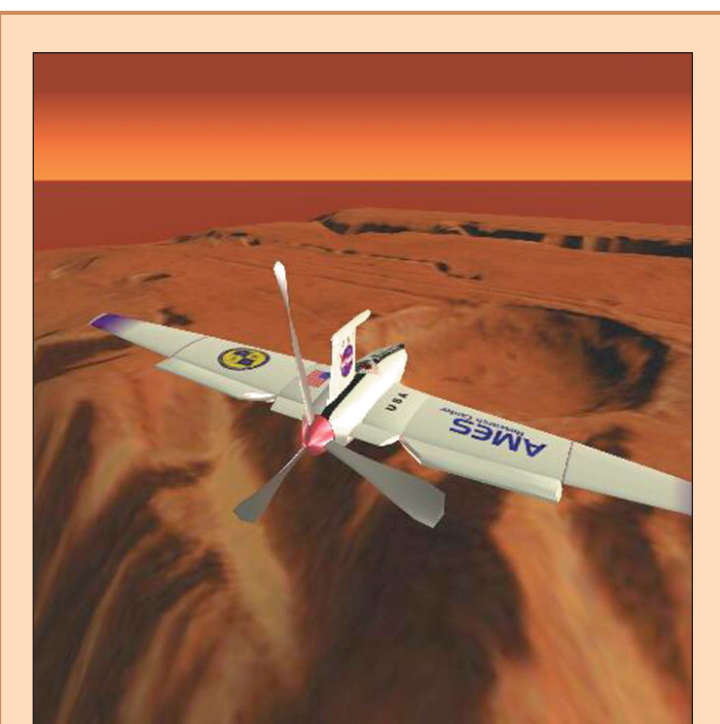


PHOTO: AFP

Flight fantastic

An undated handout picture released by NASA's Ames Research Center shows an artist's impression of a proposed Mars plane. Scientists are flying robot planes over a desolate region of the Canadian Arctic as a rehearsal for the future aerial exploration of Mars. The three UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) have a 17-metre wingspan and are equipped with on-board cameras. They are being used to see whether unmanned aircraft can obtain better pictures of Martian geology and landscape than spacecraft.

Trade talks with Nepal next month

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Nepal are expected to hold official level trade talks in Dhaka next month.

An official source said yesterday the talks, to be attended by the commerce secretaries of the two countries, will review the bilateral trade and evolve ways and means to increase the trade volume.

They will also take stock of the issues affecting the growth of trade on bilateral track, the source said.

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'Hoodlum' beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged hoodlum, beaten at a village in Savar on Saturday night, died at the thana health complex there in the early hours of yesterday.

Identity of the victim, aged about 22, could not be known.

Another young man, Siraj, seriously beaten in the same incident, is in critical condition at the hospital.

Savar police said that Siraj along with some hired goons attacked the residence of one Abdur Rashid at Denda village.

Local people chased the gang, caught Siraj and the unidentified young man and beat them mercilessly.

The two were admitted to Savar thana health complex where the unidentified youth died. The body has been sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Tk 4 lakh snatched in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A gang of armed miscreants took away Tk four lakh from a businessman in the city yesterday.

The incident took place at around 12:45 pm when Kawzar, a businessman, was returning home after drawing the money from a bank near Sylhet Government Girls College.

A gang of 10 armed men swooped on Kawzar, beat him mercilessly and snatched away the money.

Kotwali police admitted the incident.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 22		6-47 pm
July 23	5-23 am	

Prayer Timings		
July 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-57
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation