

## Floods recede

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Overall flood situation in capital Dhaka and elsewhere in the country is improving steadily and likely to improve further as all the major rivers are flowing well below their respective danger levels.

The Brahmaputra-Jamuna registered further fall at all points. The Ganges-Padma registered fall at all points. The rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins observed rise & fall.

Out of 85 monitoring stations, 18 points recorded rise, 50 points recorded fall and 1 point remained steady of which 6 points are flowing above danger level during last 24 hours.

There was no remarkable rainfall in the last few days, but monsoon is active over the country and light to moderately heavy rainfall were experienced at many places during the last 24 hours.

There has been a spell of hot weather in the entire Rajshahi division during the last week that remarkably dried up the inundated areas. Official sources said a drought like situation is prevailing in many places in country's north-western region.

## Govt official killed in city road mishap

UNB, Dhaka

A government official was crushed under a speeding bus on Dhaka-Mirpur road opposite NIMCO office in Kalyanpur Monday night.

The dead is Mohammad Abdur Rakib, 55, assistant information officer of Sunamganj.

Son of Ijtat Ali of Tarpinagar in Sunamganj Sadar Upazila, Rakib was attending a training course at the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMCO).

Police said the accident took place at about 9:30pm when Rakib was crossing the road after Esha prayers at Darussalam Mosque.

NIMCO authorities filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

The body of Rakib was taken to his village home for burial yesterday.

Rakib left behind his wife, three sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and colleagues.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam and Information Secretary Nazmul Alam Siddiqui in separate messages expressed deep shock at the tragic death.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## Munshiganj

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tion at Faridpur, the river Padma devoured more than 700 home-steads during the last three days in Decree Char Union of sadar upazila. They said the erosion of Padma along the Decree Char Union was getting serious day by day.

Hajidangi Munshi Dangi, Amtalar Hat, Gendua Mollar Hat, Balir Dangi, Beparidangi and Rahimer Dangi - all small villages of Decree Char - have already gone into the river. The erosion of Padma has also endangered Kazem Matbarer Dangi, three-kilometre from the district town, officials said.

Local administration has deployed over a dozen vehicles in the erosion affected areas to shift the displaced families to safer places. Arrangements have also been made to remove the bricks of HBB road and dismantle the electric poles in the area, now facing the threat of erosion.

Land Minister M. Shamsul Islam, Water Resources Minister Maj (Rtd) Hafizuddin and State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha yesterday visited the erosion affected Louhajang Upazila.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf earlier visited the flood-hit area of North Channel, Decree Char and Char Bhadrasan upazila and distributed relief goods among the affected people.

## Policewomen withdrawn

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said another source. Earlier, each team of two worked from 8:00am to 12:00 noon in the first shift and from 3:00pm to 7:00pm in the second.

No official announcement was made as they were withdrawn temporarily, the DMP commissioner said.

"We did not withdraw them under political pressure, nor did they perform poorly," he said.

In the first week of July, Moulana Azizul Haq, leader of the Islamic Oikya Jote, an ally of the ruling coalition, demanded withdrawal of women traffic police.

The DMP commissioner said the women traffic members were facing problems as there were no toilets near their duty points.

"Besides, there were no separate sheds to protect them from heat and rain," he said.

Asked whether there was any possibility of increasing their number when they are brought back to duty, the DMP commissioner answered in the negative.

The first batch of women traffic police was posted at eight city crossings on June 8 after completion of a short traffic control training course.

## 1 killed in Ctg road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One was killed and another injured in a road accident at Padua Dargah crossing in Lohagara thana Monday.

Mohammad Zahed, 30, son of Sahab Miah of Kashempara in Bandarban, died on the spot when a speeding pick-up smashed the bike he was riding from behind at 11:30pm and injured his friend Helal who was seated in the back, witnesses and police said.

Helal was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

They were returning to Bandarban from Amirabad, police said.

Locals seized the pick-up but its driver escaped.

## Syngenta director killed in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of a multinational firm died and the driver of the car was injured in an accident in Mymensingh yesterday.

A Mymensingh-bound bus collided with the private car of Jatindranath Saha Chowdhury, 60, technical director of Syngenta Bangladesh Limited, killing him on the spot and injuring the driver Kabir Hossain, 35, near Trishal on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at 9:30am, witnesses said.

However, the bus fled the scene. Kabir was admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Chowdhury's body was taken to his village home at Gafargaon for burial.

No case was filed till filing of this report at 6:30pm yesterday.

## Clarification

FROM PAGE 1

the information that North South University is the only university which has started construction work on its permanent site is not correct. In fact, IUB started the construction of its permanent campus at Basundhara in 2002.

IUB has already completed the piling and ground development work, and is now processing the work of further construction, it added.

## Laloo

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any other related question.

"One must know that any other question could also crop up and the minister must come prepared. One must apply one's mind," he said amidst laughter in the House.

When Sethi said the decision to supply water from Bihar to Bangladesh was taken during Deva Gowda's regime, of which he was a supporter, Yadav remarked "I was not consulted" and this agreement should be cancelled.

## Jungle bandits

FROM PAGE 1

A police officer, asking not to be named, said they found the spent rifle shells bearing the marks of the Bangladesh Ordnance Factory in and around the marketplace.

Local people have complained that police did not make a serious attempt to prevent looting of the shops.

The Additional DIG of the Barisal Range, SP of Pirojpur and other senior officials visited the spot.

Abdullah Al-Azad Chowdhury, SP of Pirojpur, said police were helpless in the face of the robbers' superior firepower.

Police could not arrest any one in this connection till the writing of this report yesterday evening.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presides over a meeting at her office yesterday to review the progress of activities of different ministries and departments.

# Crisis looms as Cambodia poll result rejected

REUTERS, Phnom Penh

Cambodia's opposition and royalist parties have said they reject the ruling party's claim of victory in a weekend poll, saying the election was flawed.

The rejection by the Sam Rainsy Party and royalist FUNCINPEC increases the risk of fresh political turmoil in the Southeast Asian nation because it would leave Prime Minister Hun Sen without key supporters to form a viable coalition government.

"We don't recognise the result of the election as proclaimed by the ruling CPP (Cambodian People's Party) through the state-controlled or CPP-controlled media in the past days," opposition leader Sam Rainsy told a joint news conference with FUNCINPEC yesterday.

Both parties called the vote unfair and referred to allegations of vote-buying on the eve of Sunday's poll and intimidation of voters in rural areas by CPP officials.

"FUNCINPEC cannot accept these kinds of irregularities so will not for any case accept the result," said party secretary-general Prince Norodom Sereyuth.

The royalist party, which was the junior partner in a Hun Sen-led coalition before polling day, said that relationship was now at an end.

Both parties said Hun Sen's CPP, by announcing its victory prematurely, had undermined the author-

ity of the National Election Committee and exposed flaws in the electoral process.

Full and final results are not due until August 8, but while election organisers battled on Monday to retrieve ballots from far-flung corners of the jungle -- in some cases by elephant -- pro-PP media proclaimed Hun Sen the winner.

The CPP has denied accusations of irregularities and the United States and other observers have expressed overall satisfaction with the conduct of Sunday's poll, a rare success for the fledgling democracy in its long, often violent journey back from the horrors of the 1970s Khmer Rouge genocide.

Arguments over ballot irregularities and confusion over the result threatened to unleash a rerun of the violence that followed national polls in 1998, when a dispute over results led to mass protests in the capital in which several people died.

Official National Election Committee results showed Hun Sen well ahead with 50 per cent of votes -- but based on counts from only 44 per cent of districts.

Translating this into seats in the 123-member parliament involves a complex mathematical formula, but both the CPP and its arch-enemy, the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), project Hun Sen will fall short of the two-thirds majority needed for outright control.

Political horse-trading or the intervention of the aging and revered King Sihanouk, a figure of national

reconciliation and unity, has brokered such deadlocks in the past but only after mass protests and bloodshed.

Hundreds of riot police, including elite "flying tiger" commandos armed with AK-47 assault rifles, have been deployed across the capital in preparation for any possible trouble.

Observer groups delivered broadly positive verdicts on the poll, possibly opening the door for millions of dollars of extra aid for what remains one of Asia's poorest nations, reliant on international donors for about 60 per cent of government revenue.

"We feel in general the electoral process was quiet and smooth except some violence, such as shooting in the air (in the eastern province of Svay Rieng)," said Thun Saray, head of the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (Comfree).

The United States, which has been playing close attention to the fledgling democracy, said late on Monday it was generally pleased with the electoral process.

"The election campaign featured less political violence and greater opposition access to the media than in previous elections," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

The verdict from European Union monitors on Wednesday will be closely watched as the benchmark for overall credibility.

## Bhola town flooded as dam breached

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Meghna, entering through breaches in Bhola Town Protection Embankment yesterday, flooded the low-lying areas of the town and its outskirts.

The river and its branches have also flooded villages of Hizla, Muladi, Mehendiganj and Sadar upazila under Barisal District and marooned thousands of people.

Administrative and other sources said, the headquarters of the island district Bhola is seriously endangered as the river of Meghna made its way into the Town Protection Embankment after washing away certain parts of it.

At any moment, the ring and main band of the embankment may wash away. In that position, not only the Bhola town but also the total island district would be seriously endangered, they added.

At the South Saidpur area of Daulatkhan upazila about one-kilometre long newly constructed embankment of WAPDA has been washed away by Meghna. Certain areas in Borhanuddin upazila are also endangered by the erosion.

Different socio-cultural and political organisations are regularly bringing out processions and holding rallies on the issue of the protection of Bhola town and island. Minister of Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan, Water Resource Minister Major (rtd) M A Hafiz and other local leaders have

emphasised on the execution of a long-term master plan to protect Bhola town and district.

## Three outlaws held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were arrested at Shaheed Hadis Park here yesterday afternoon.

The arrestees are Touhidul Islam, 34, of village Halda and Rabiul Islam Palash, 30, of village Chandrini Chawk in Koira upazila and Hafizur Rahman, 36, of village Noakati in Dumuria upazila.

Police said the PBCP cadres are accused in several murder cases filed with Koira, Paikgacha and Dumuria police stations.

According to a source in the special branch of district police, a large number of outlaws belonging to PBCP and NBCP have taken shelter at different places of Khulna city. They are moving in the guise of rickshawpuller, fish seller, vegetable vendor, old newspaper buyer and autorickshaw driver, the source added.

Meanwhile, the joint forces on Monday night raided houses of Shaikh Helaluddin, MP, JP central leader and former MP Alhaj Abul Hossain and Secretary of Dumuria upazila BNP Khan Ali Munsur.

## Waqf land

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disposal of cases was submitted at yesterday's meeting.

The committee also discussed about the Baitul Mokarram market. It was told that 70 per cent of the shopkeepers at the market did not pay rent as per law, causing a loss of at least Tk 70 lakh a year. The meeting recommended steps to end the practice.

The meeting was also informed that a Tk 28 crore project funded by the Saudi government was taken up to beautify the Baitul Mokarram mosque.

Chairman of the committee Delwar Hossain Saidee chaired the meeting. It was attended by committee members Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan, also state minister for religious affairs, Kazi Shah Mofazzel Hossain Kaykobad, Mufti Moha-mmad Wakkas, Shah Mohammad Ruhul Qudus, Matur Rahman and Mohammad Sahiduzzaman.

## BTTB cellphone

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look controversial," said a senior BTTB official when approached.

Though the litigation is going to delay the process, the BTTB remains optimistic to launch the much-expected project by June next year, said the official, preferring not to be named.

The BTTB had floated a tender for the 250,000 GSM (global system of mobile communications) cell phone network in August, 2002, in which Ericsson (Sweden), Siemens (Germany), Nortel (Canada) and Motorola (America) along with four Chinese vendors -- Huawei, CMEC, ZTE and China Putian -- participated.

Nearly Tk 600 crore has been earmarked in the concept paper for the project. Funds will be mobilised through selling telecom bonds to the money market. The capital cost for the project will be finalised on completion of evaluation on the financial bids by the technically qualified vendors.

The number of the BTTB cell phone will be raised to one million in phases.

## 1 killed, 70 hurt in gas cylinder explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

One got killed and 70 others were injured as a gas cylinder exploded at a tannery factory at Shamajia fish trade centre under Charfashion upazila yesterday afternoon.

Police and witnesses said Abul Kashem, operator at Jhama Ice Mills, died on the spot.

Of the injured, 30 were hospitalised and the rest given first aid.

The gas cylinder exploded with a big bang, blowing up the roof of the tin-shed factory. The blast also caused a fire.

Fishermen, boatmen and children, who queued to collect, suffered burn injuries.

Thirty people were admitted to the local upazila health complex and Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Rescue operation by police and local people was hampered as toxic gas spread in the area after the blast.

## Ctg int'l airport

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source added.

Airport sources said international tender, floated earlier, will be opened tomorrow. Thirteen companies of countries including Japan and Thailand have accepted the tender schedule.

The international airport was opened here in 1998. Overseas Development Assistance of Japan provided Tk 500 crore loan for the completion of the project.

## City bus terminals

FROM PAGE 1

Kali Mondir and Fulbaria bus terminals yesterday morning and afternoon.

Three people, including a teenage boy, were released after interrogation and the rest were produced before court.

"The crackdown will continue until all listed criminals are arrested," said the DMP commissioner. Asked whether they would carry out any raid on Gabtoli bus terminal, he said, "We don't have many complaints of extortion or harassment at the terminal."

Huda also said, "We might act quickly and stop extortion successfully if the victims filed specific cases."

The forces will be changed frequently to ensure that extortionists do not develop any link with them, said another source.

Leaders of the bus owners and workers associations left the terminals keeping their offices closed after the crackdown was launched. Some workers at the terminals alleged that the forces picked up some innocent bus staffers and garage workers.

The leaders were extorting several lakhs of taka from each terminal in the name of their associations and influential people

## Humayun Kabir

FROM PAGE 1

posed during pronouncement of the summary of the 67-page verdict that made the punishment of the two fugitives effective from the date of their surrender or arrest.

Neighbours of Humayun took out a procession on the court premises yesterday before the judgement, shouting slogans for death penalty to the killers.

The Criminal Investigation Department submitted a chargesheet against the three on June 4, 2000 after the victim's younger brother Enamul Kabir filed a murder case with the Dhamondi Police Station.

The court framed charges against the three on November 27, 2000 and the trial began on January 29, 2001.

Advocate AFM Abdul Wadud and Advocate Mahbub Ahmed were appointed to move on behalf of the complainant, while

## 10 indicted in Bijoy Shil murder case

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Police on Monday submitted charge sheet against 10 people in the sensational Bijoy Shil murder case.

The accused are former chairman of Shibpur Union Nazrul Islam Monsur, his wife Monwara Begum, son Kamrul Hasan Polash, daughter Razia Sultana Jonaki, brother Abul Hossain, Yunus Miah, Nandendra Chandra Chowdhury, Sachindra Chandra Chowdhury, Parameshwar Koppali and Rajkumar Koppali.

Investigation Officer M Shajahan submitted the charge sheet after five months' investigation.

Police already arrested Nazrul Islam, Monwara Begum and Razia Sultana Jonaki but could not arrest Polash, the main accused.

## Kashmir

FROM PAGE 1

tipped to win but which most now agree were rigged. The fighting has since left at least 38,000 people dead, or more than 80,000 according to separatists.

Kashmir is held in part by India and Pakistan and claimed in full by both. The arch-rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

India accuses Islamabad of funding and arming Kashmiri militants, a charge denied by Pakistan. Islamabad says its renders moral, political and diplomatic support to the "just cause of Kashmiris for self-determination."

## City bus terminals

FROM PAGE 1

They were blamed for their part in the extortion spree.

"They have links with local criminal gangs and get a share from them," alleged a ticket seller at Mohakhali bus terminal.

Leaders of Bangladesh Jatya Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation, Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity and transport owners, workers and passengers welcomed the crackdown and called for a permanent step to end extortion in the transport sector. They also demanded similar steps at all terminals across the country.

## Gram Sarkar

FROM PAGE 1

Parishad on August 2.

Meanwhile, a non-government organisation named Swasthita Union Parishad Advocacy Group has launched a movement against formation of Gram Sarkar. It is organising UP chairmen and members and has already formed 26 district committees.

The organisation will hold a rally in the capital before the formation of Gram Sarkar starts, its Convener Abul Hossain Chowdhury said yesterday.

## Humayun Kabir

FROM PAGE 1

Advocate Ehsanul Haq Samaji was the defence lawyer.

Meanwhile, the mother of Humayun Kabir, who lost the ability to speak after her son's murder, left drops of tears in happiness, hearing the judgement yesterday.

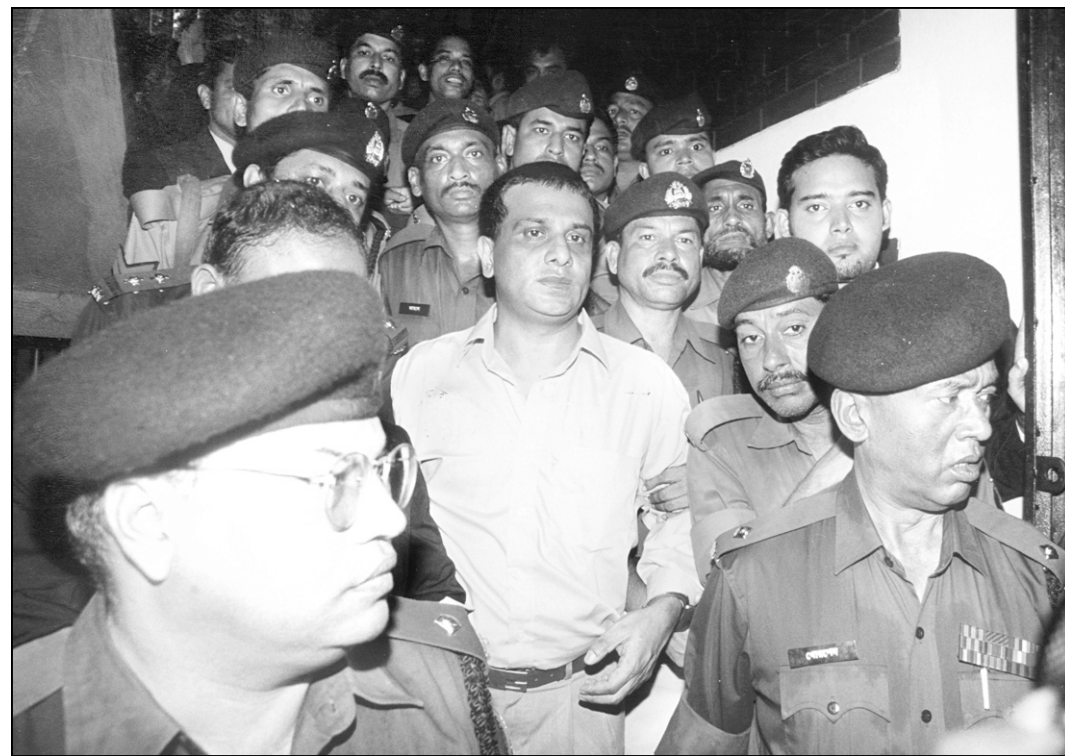
"My mother does not speak, but tears that were rolling down her cheek proves that she is happy," said Enamul Kabir, younger brother of Humayun over phone.

He said prior to the illness, she always told them that she would be happy if the killers were sentenced to death.

## Three customs

FROM PAGE 1

authenticity of the court order and allowed the businessman to go without paying import tax, causing the government a loss of Tk 94.34 lakh.



Police take Faisal Alam Ansari to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a court sentenced him to death for killing Humayun Kabir, an engineer.

# White House won't declassify Sept 11 report

AP, Washington

The White House, facing a crucial meeting Tuesday with Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, refused to declassify part of an intelligence report on possible links between individuals in the Saudi government and some of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

Declassifying 28 pages of redacted material, as has been requested by the Saudi government and some members of Congress, would "compromise our national security and possibly interfere with the investigation of the events of Sept. 11," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

The decision came against a background of controversy over whether officials in Saudi Arabia had connections with the terrorists.

But McClellan told reporters, "Based on the recommendation of senior intelligence and law enforcement officials, the committee's request to declassify an additional 28 pages was denied."

"The material included in that section in question contains information about ongoing investigations, counter terrorism operations

and sensitive sources and methods," he said.

"The administration is aggressively pursuing every person or every shred of evidence relating to the attacks of Sept. 11," McClellan added. "There is an active, sensitive and ongoing investigation under way involving individuals from many countries. We cannot and will not compromise our ability to bring those involved to justice."

"The government of Saudi Arabia has asked that additional portions of the inquiry report on 9-11 be declassified. And we understand their concern," McClellan said. "But we cannot agree to that request at this time because of ongoing investigations and our national security interests."

Graham had said that releasing the report would "permit the Saudi government to deal with any questions which may be raised in the currently censored pages, and allow the American people to make their own judgment about who are our true friends and allies in the war on terrorism."

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