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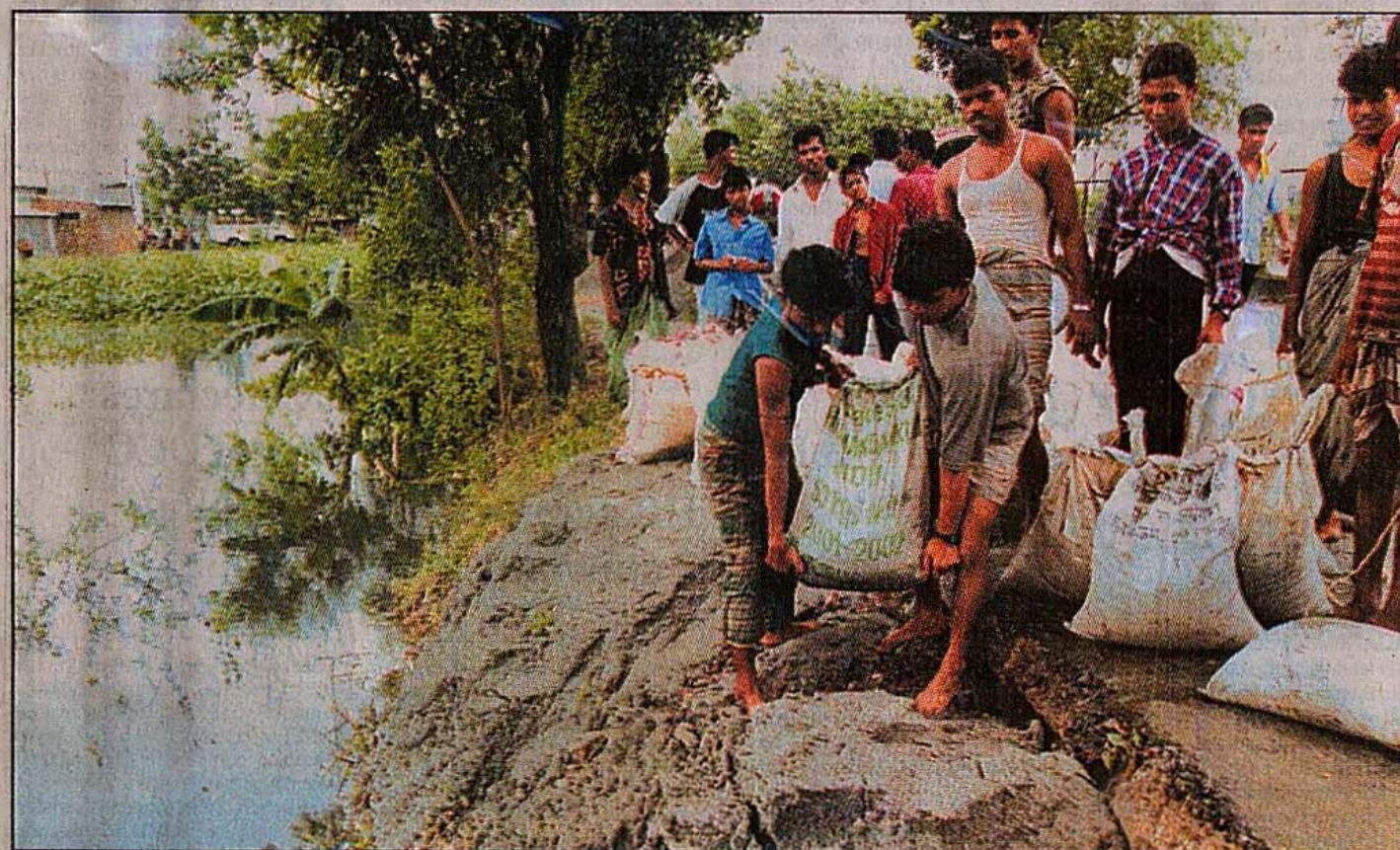
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Workers of the Power Development Board throw in sandbags to plug cracks at the Paite area in Demra yesterday.

Two more cracks in DND dam plugged

Property developers, siltation on river beds put embankment at stake

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) flood protection embankment developed two more cracks yesterday to be plugged on an emergency basis to the relief of about a million people living on its southern side.

Earlier on Sunday, a cave-in was detected in the embankment and sealed as torrential rain and rolling waters from the upstream sent all rivers around the capital, excepting the Buriganga, into spate crossing the danger mark.

Experts and engineers noted rapid depletion of flood plains around the capital caused by property developers and deposition of silt on river beds are increasing the pressure of flood waters on the DND dam, making it vulnerable at some points.

The authorities together with local people are keeping a close watch on the vulnerable points and have dumped sandbags to strengthen the embankment used as a thoroughfare.

Water Development Board (WDB) engineers said the DND and other embankments protecting the city are being increasingly threatened as the huge volume of water that rushed down flood plains, rivers and canals in the past now directly hits the embankments. This is happening mainly because miles after miles of flood plains and water retention points on the city's periphery have been filled up.

"Despite warnings from the environmentalists and experts, and even enactment of a law to protect the low-lying areas, the filling up continues. If the authorities do not take prompt steps to earmark areas as flood plains, the entire city will be threatened in the near future," said a senior engineer.

Rapid deposition of silt in rivers aggravated the problem, he mentioned.

WDB Chief Engineer Kazi Golam Mustofa pointed out deposition of silt in rivers increases whenever flow of floodwater is obstructed at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal due to deposition of silt and emergence of islands. High tide in the sea then sends river waters rolling back and swelling further.

In this context, an expert noted, "Billions of cubic meters have to be

CTG ARMS HAUL Court accepts charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge here yesterday accepted the charge sheet in country's biggest ever arms haul case and suggested departmental action against the first investigation officer (IO) and rectification of flaws detected in the charge sheet.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Fazlul Karim also ordered a supplementary charge sheet to be submitted within the next 30 days and fixed August 12 as the date for hearing of the case.

The court held the first IO of the case the then Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Karnaphuli Police Station Ahadur Rahman, responsible for release of three trucks without any magisterial orders and for missing some vital information and evidences. It suggested departmental measures (demotion or discharge, if required) against Ahadur Rahman, also the plaintiff of the sensational case.

The court also issued arrest warrant against the absconding accused and ordered attachment of

DHAKA-10 BY-POLLS Army official looks to HC for ducking court appearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lone army officer among four top government officials facing contempt charges for violation of court order for army deployment in Dhaka-10 by-polls will seek exemption from appearing in the High Court (HC) in person.

Lawyer of the four said the rest -- Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Home Secretary Omar Farooque and Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Huq -- will appear in court.

Acting Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division at the Prime Minister's Office Brigadier General Iftakhar Rasul will appeal to the HC division bench of justices Wahhab Mia and Zinat Ara that asked him to appear before it on July 24 for exemption.

On July 12, the bench asked the four to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court after Bikalpa Dhara candidate Abdul

Suicide bombing kills 10 in Iraqi police post

Senior defence ministry official assassinated

REUTERS, Baghdad

A suspected suicide car bomb blew up outside a police station in southwestern Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 10 people, wounding dozens and leaving a tangled wreckage of burned out cars and destroyed buildings.

A senior Iraqi defense ministry official has been assassinated near his home in southern Baghdad, in the latest of a string of attacks on Iraqi officials, a ministry spokesman said.

In a seemingly accelerated campaign of violence, the latest in a series of car bomb blasts in Baghdad and across Iraq has seen insurgents target Iraqi police, National Guardsmen and senior members of Iraq's new government.

US Army Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Salter said between 10 and 15 people were killed and more than 40 wounded in the attack, which he said was probably carried out by a suicide car bomber.

He said the blast may have been exacerbated by a fuel truck parked nearby, but didn't say whether it was directly employed.

Health Ministry officials said their latest figures showed at least eight people were killed and 52 wounded in the attack.

Reuters Television pictures showed flames still licking at the wreckage of several destroyed cars nearly an hour after the blast, and smoke rising into the air from smoldering buildings.

Bystanders gathered up the scattered body parts of the dead, filling several boxes with bloody remains. There was a large pool of blood on the street and a deep crater from the blast.

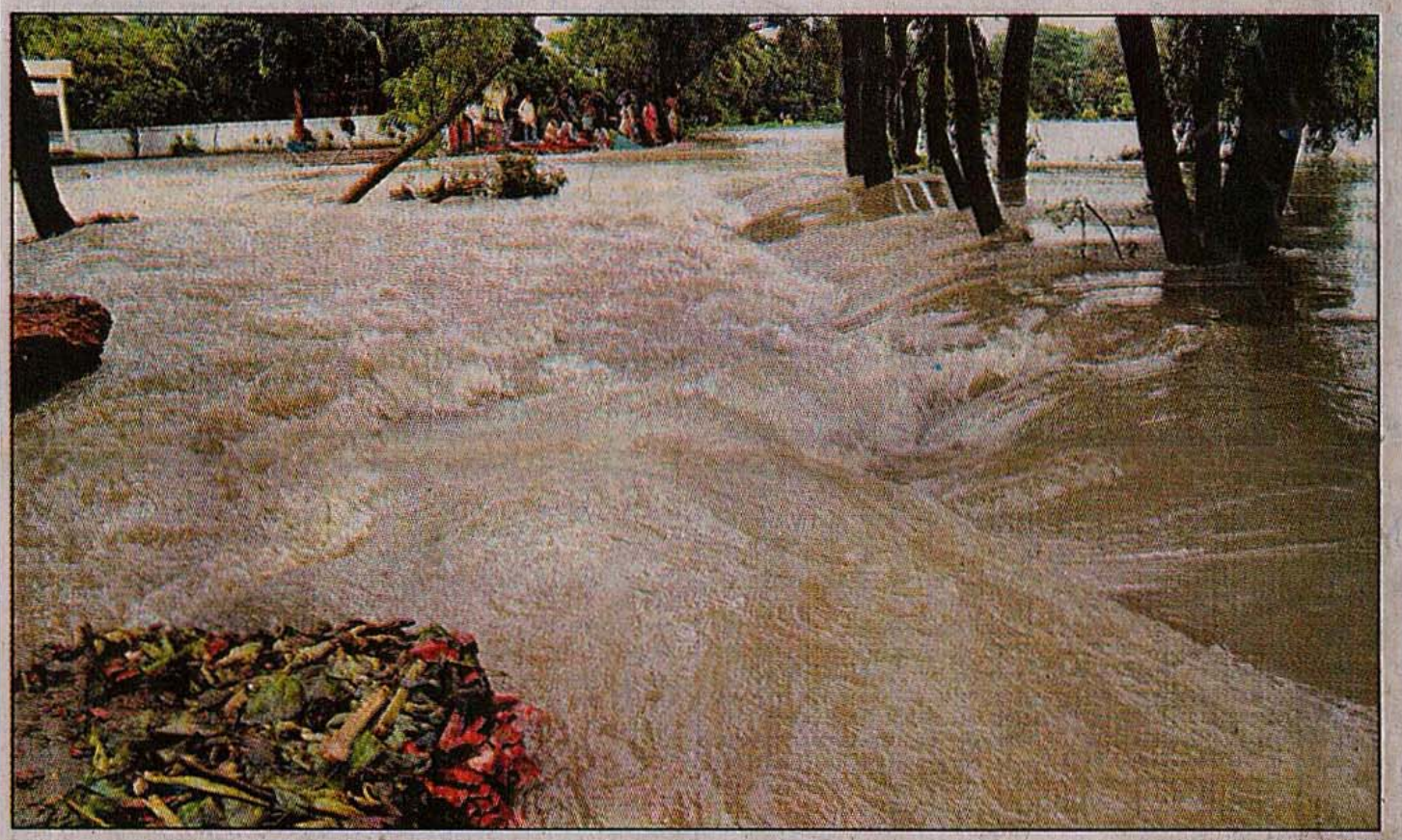
The attack occurred shortly after 8 a.m. (0400 GMT), as many people were arriving at work. Car workshops across the road from the police station took the brunt of the blast, witnesses said, and several people working there were killed.

"Those who were standing in the open were killed. Those who saw it were killed," said car shop worker Laith Abdel Karim.

It is the latest in a series of suicide car bomb attacks in recent days. A car bomb outside the headquarters of the US military and the Iraqi interim government in Baghdad last week killed 11 people and wounded around 30.

Another blast last week outside an Iraqi National Guard garrison 200km northwest of Baghdad killed 10.

A suicide bomber also tried to assassinate Iraq's justice minister on Saturday, killing five of his bodyguards.



The road link to Munshiganj snaps after gushing floodwaters blow away the road in Shatgharia village in Louhaganj yesterday. Villagers blamed the damage on faulty road construction.



Fish farmers in Kazla area in Demra raise a bamboo fencing to save fish amid a rise in water levels triggered by monsoon rains and water overflows.

1 more robber at Lalbagh lynched

Body of 'Golakata' Mujibar lies at DMCH morgue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more alleged robber was killed in mob beating in Lalbagh in the early hours of yesterday raising the lynching death toll in the locality to four within hours.

After lynching three -- Kala Jamal, Monir, and Chan Mian alias Chandu -- and injuring as many at around midnight, several hundred locals took out a procession in the area. On their way, they found Tahidul Alam Tuhin, an accomplice of the three, and beat him dead at about 3:30am.

Locals said the gang was engaged

Buet Hall Sickness Authorities still to detect reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even after five days, a probe by authorities of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) into abrupt sickness of about 500 students failed to identify the reason behind the water-borne diseases.

The authorities collected water sample from four dormitories -- Sher-e-Bangla, Dr MA Rashid, Ahsan Ullah and Nazrul Islam Halls -- on July 14 following allegations that students fell sick drinking polluted water.

In a bid to prevent the spread of diseases, the authorities cleaned up overhead water tanks on July 13 and have provided all the Buet dormitories with boiled drinking water.

Vice-chancellor of Buet Dr Alee Murtaza told The Daily Star that they have found no substantive contamination in the collected sample water, which is similar to the supplied water of Dhaka city.

The sample was sent to the ICDDR,B (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh) yesterday for a test whether the water contains the germs Typhoid, he added.

Buet authorities repeatedly

BTTB cellphones to hit market by Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is all set to implement major telecom projects like Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB)'s mobile-phones and installation of submarine cable.

"We spent almost two and a half years on completion of the procedural matters. The procedural delay was beyond expectation...we spent a lot of time grappling with bureaucratic and legal tangles, but now we are on the road..." said Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haque.

Talking to a group of reporters at his Secretariat office yesterday, he said the long-awaited BTTB mobile-phones are expected to hit the market by December and some 2.50 lakh phones will be up for grabs in the first phase. The state-run telecoms agency plans to offer some 10 lakh mobile connections.

"We have already opened LCs (letters of credit) and are expecting the equipment for mobile phone to arrive soon. The BTTB mobile-

Man cashes in on in-law's death sentence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Abdus Sattar's death sentence in the Yasmin rape and murder case has put in tatters the life of his 18-year-old daughter Salma Akhter who is facing a divorce threat from her in-laws.

Constable Abdus Sattar, Sub-Inspector (SI) Mominul Islam and police-van driver Amrita Lal Day await execution at Rangpur Central Jail next month.

Yasmin, 14, was raped and murdered in Dinajpur in 1995, an

JCD men make money on admission woes

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)'s government college units in Dhaka have allegedly taken money from many students seeking admission to honours first year classes and influenced college authorities into getting them admitted.

Sources said the leaders of ruling BNP's student wing did the shady business to admit the students, who were on the waiting list or failed to qualify, in complicity with some teachers, officials and employees of the colleges.

During the rule of previous Awami League government, leaders of its student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were also involved with making money from the admission seekers, the sources mentioned.

JCD General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal however said he requested the authorities of Dhaka College and

Prayer Timing

July 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation.

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