

FedEx
Express
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

24 HOURS PICK-UP!

Call: 9565114, 9883927 and 8827771 at Dhaka.

we live to deliver

CHANGHONG Color TV
"FAMILY" OFFER!

Model: H21C51
Model: G21C36

China's NO. 1 Colour TV
* One 56" Ceiling FAN Free with every Purchase of 21" Select CHANGHONG Models

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS
Tel - Dhaka: 8110163, 9882192, 9896285, 9569613, Bogra: 66215
Chittagong: 637669, 653758, Khulna: 720304, 723695

FREE TRANSTEC Ceiling FAN



Police club two men of a mob that tried to knock down a sluice gate in Sayedabad yesterday to let floodwaters escape to the other side. PHOTO: STAR

Cops clash with mob trying to open sluice gate at Sayedabad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police shot rubber bullets at and clubbed a mob trying to knock down a sluice gate to escape floodwaters at Sayedabad yesterday, injuring at least 17.

During the four-hour encounter two were bullet-hit and a police constable was injured too.

The bullet-hit are Qamrul, 6, and Suman, 23, a motor mechanic of Sayedabad. Constable Helal of Demra Police Station received injury during the incident.

Witnesses said several hundred residents of North Jatrabari, who had been trying to cut the sluice gate over Sutkhal, a stream passing by Jatrabari, over the last few days, gathered at the sluice gate site at 9:30am.

South Jatrabari people, who were guarding the gate round the clock

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Gaibandha farmers cry for seedlings

MORSHED ALI KHAN and REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

Having lost their livestock, food stocks and savings in the month-long deluge without any employment, desperate farmers in the char (shoal) areas of Gaibandha are now facing severe seedling crisis.

Scores of farmers in Khauchapara and Sardarer Char under Fulchhari upazila, about 35km off Gaibandha and across the Brahmaputra river, said now the floodwater is gone, but they are unable to sow anything as the deluge had devoured all their seedlings.

Most of these farmers are unable to buy seedlings on the open market, miles away from their localities,

as they had already exhausted their stocks of food and cash to survive the devastating flood.

In Sardarer Char, Jashmat Mondal, 55, who spent the whole month of flooding on a makeshift platform inside his home with his six children and wife, feared he would not be able to procure food for the lean period ahead if he did not have seedlings within a short time.

"If we sow seedlings now we'll harvest the paddy in January, otherwise we'll starve," he added.

"I want to go to Bharatkhal haat (weekly bazaar) this Saturday to purchase seedlings, but I do not have money even to pay for the transport," said Jashmat.

For 80-year-old Mohammad Abu Taher Munshi of Khauchapara, life's hardship continued to batter him at this old age.

He said local farmers were now simply pouring Ganjia (a fine Aman variety) seeds on the soft sediments deposited during the flooding. "What else can we do," asked Taher adding, "for us life has always been hard."

Taher, who has been living in the shoal for 20 years, said 500 families living in Khauchapara mainly grow kaolin, rice, jute and some winter vegetables.

Ziaur Rahman, a young farmer of Sardarer Char, said he had sown Aman seedlings on 10 katha of land, which was totally damaged in the deluge.

"As there is still water on my land,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Inflation may rise, GDP fall

ADB forecast on flood effect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inflation is likely to rise in the face of floods that have devastated Bangladesh's agriculture and transportation systems, Asian Development Bank (ADB) officials forecast yesterday.

"Inflation may rise as both agricultural production and transportation systems have been dealt a severe blow from the ongoing floods," said ADB economist Rezaul Karim Khan in a press conference to release the ADB's Quarterly Economic Update yesterday.

Industrial outlook for the current fiscal year has been clouded as the export sector, especially knit and ready-made garments (RMG) industry, has been hurt by the floods, said Rezaul.

But a significant recovery is likely if post-flood rehabilitation is launched in the right direction, according to Shibuchi.

He also stressed that the ADB is ready to offer post-flood rehabilitation assistance after a joint assessment of damage conducted by the donors and the government.

Answering to questions, ADB Country Director Toru Shibuchi said a continuation of the ongoing floods is likely to see a fall in GDP growth, as experiences from the 1988 floods showed.

Relations Division, on cooperation for post-flood rehabilitation," he stated.

The ADB had provided \$104 million in post-flood rehabilitation assistance to Bangladesh following the 1998 floods and \$68 million in 2000.

In the Quarterly Economic Update for the fourth quarter of FY04, the ADB has also observed that the revenue target for the current fiscal year is a 'little ambitious' and an 'increased collection drive and administrative efforts will be needed to achieve this target.'

"The law and order situation continues to remain a concern," it was mentioned in the update. "And there has been a number of incidents of law and order breakdown."

Teenager rapes 6-year-old girl in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A teenager reportedly raped a 6-year-old girl at Senbagh upazilla in Noakhali yesterday.

Selim Uddin, 15, son of Joyнал Abedin, forced the girl to a nearby pond when she was returning from school at around noon. He later violated her, police said.

Hearing the girl's scream, her family members rushed to the spot and found her in a critical condition. Sensing their presence, Selim left the spot, they added.

The girl was admitted to Noakhali General Hospital.

A case was filed with Noakhali Police Station. However, police failed to nab the culprit till 6:00 yesterday evening.

12,000 women workers abused in last 3 years, 37 killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 12,000 expatriate women were abused and 37 of them died from 2001 to 2003 in different countries, said the secretary of expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry.

Expatriate women, especially those engaged in household work, are subject to harassment and abuse, Secretary Dalil Uddin Mondol said while addressing a view exchange meeting at the National

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Sonargaon Museum in Narayanganj district floats on floodwaters. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Robbers hack truck driver, beat up helper in Demra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers hacked to death a truck driver, beat up his assistant and drove away their vehicle loaded with iron rods from the capital's Demra area yesterday.

A gang of four to five robbers jumped into the Bogra-bound carrier (Bogra ta-02-251) at Ashulia in the small hours. They later slaughtered its driver Shahjahan, 26, and punched helper Alamgir before gagging his face, police said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Seventy-year-old Abul Kashem gets a haircut aboard a boat yesterday at Panam city in Sonargaon, as the hair salon has gone under knee-deep water. PHOTO: STAR

Magistrate's double standards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a blatant exhibition of double standards, a magistrate kept a photojournalist under arrest for an hour yesterday but let the driver of a government employee drive away despite being charged with the same offence of not having driving licence.

A mobile court stopped a Daily Star photojournalist riding his motorbike at 2:00pm in front of Bangladesh Television Centre in Rampura yesterday as part of the random check of vehicles. The photojournalist was found guilty of driving his motorbike without a licence and fined Tk 300.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

No place to bury the dead

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON, back from Narsingdi

This is the worst time to die, if you live in Narsingdi Sadar Thana--because there is no dry ground to bury the dead in the eight square kilometres area on the bank of the river Meghna.

When Rawshan Ali of Balushair village died this week, his family found no land for his burial as the village graveyard had gone under six-foot water. They laid him to rest in Kalibaritek, a village four kilometres from Balushair.

Rawshan's son Riton Mia, who still is reeling under the loss, said, "It's so unfortunate for us that we could not bury him in our family graveyard. Now we wouldn't be able to visit him often."

As many as 720 villages of Narsingdi district have gone under water and remained disconnected from the district sadar for the last two weeks. About 100 people have taken shelter in the Balushair Primary School.

Jobeda Begum, 45, was crying sitting beside her 15-year-old son in the centre. "My son has been suffering from fever and diarrhoea for three days. I have not been able to get him drinking water and food, let alone medicine," said Jobeda, sobbing all along.

Mosharaf, a day labourer who is jobless now, narrated their plight at the centre.

"My wife and I can starve for long time, but not my children... when they cry for food, I wish I could die," said Mosharaf. "I don't want relief,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

10 addl judges appointed as HC judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday confirmed the appointment of 10 additional judges as judges of the High Court (HC) while another additional judge got six months extension.

Abdul Awal, Tariq Ul Hakim, Mizanur Rahman, Mir Hasmat Ali, Masuk Hossain Ahmed, Sarfuddin Chaklader, Syed AB Mahmudul Huq, Salma Masud Chowdhury, ATM

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

FLIGHT FIASCO One Biman staff suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Biman Bangladesh Airlines have suspended a ground service officer of Customer Service Directorate for mismanagement during a Dhaka-Saidpur flight on July 27 following a news item published in The Daily Star yesterday.

Besides, the authorities also served a show cause notice on the domestic station manager, said a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Diplomatic zones swamped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floodwaters have inundated the premises of a number of important offices and diplomatic missions as the devastating monsoon deluge has swamped nearly half of the capital and about two-thirds of the country.

More than two lakh flood-hit people have already moved to over 200 flood shelters set up by Dhaka City Corporation authorities and the flow continued yesterday.

Moreover, hundreds of people were still leaving their submerged houses and taking shelter at schools and other educational institutions and embankments and roads.

Flood situation in the capital remained unchanged yesterday as rivers around it including the Buriganga, Shitalakhya and Turag were still following above the danger level.

Boats side by side with rickshaws are plying the roads in many of the submerged city areas as motorised vehicles can no longer ply there.

The authorities have deployed army troops to save the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra embankment.

At least 10 diplomatic missions' premises and residences of diplomats have gone under ankle to knee-deep water.

The missions include the embassies of Nepal, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates in Baridhara and embassies of Egypt, Morocco and Palestine and the Indian Commission in Gulshan.

Floodwaters have also entered the residences of the Malaysian ambassador and resident representative of the International Monetary Fund in Baridhara, and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

SUIT & SHIRT

Sena Kalyan Bhaban, Suite - 1802

WESTECS®

Prayer Timing		
July 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

আমরা আছি আপনার পাশে সারা বাংলাদেশে

CITYCELL

DONATE YOUR USED CAR BATTERY FOR SAFE DISPOSAL

CALL 0771 541445, 812 2533
E-mail: recycle@rahimafrooz.com FOR FREE PICK UP

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY RAHIMAFROOZ