



PHOTO: STAR

A drug addict openly injects drug into his vein, while others prepare for their turn on the footpath near Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

Fresh areas flooded in Satkhira, Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floodwaters rolling from upstream India yesterday swamped fresh areas in five upazilas of Satkhira and one in Jessore inundating more roads, homesteads, educational institutions and damaging standing crop and shrimp farms while the situation in four other flooded upazilas in Jessore improved slightly. Many of the over three lakh marooned people are facing acute crisis of food and drinking water, requiring urgent relief operation, reports received from our correspondents in the two districts said. Bangladesh-India rail link still remained snapped as thousands of affected people took shelter on the rail tracks. Export-import through Benapole land port resumed yesterday after several days as floodwater receded from the port area. Our Satkhira correspondent reports flood situation further deteriorated in Kalaroa, Sadar and Tala upazilas as the rivers Kapotakkha

and Betraboti continued to overflow their banks. Surging waters from the two rivers have inundated roads, crops and homesteads and marooned over two lakh people in the three upazilas. Batkemari bridge at Ofapur in Kalaroa upazila yesterday went under two-foot deep water snapping vehicle movement on Ofapur-Jugikhali road. At least 25 villages in Deara, Jugikhali, Kushodanga and Joynagar unions in Kalaroa upazila have been inundated. The villages include Kashiadanga, Khetrapara, Singlal, Baidyapur, Pakuria, Daluipur, Narayanpur, Mathpara, Bamondanga, Baidyapur, Manik Nagar, Basantapur and Jalalabad. At least 12 villages in Lafsa Balli and Jhhowdanga unions in Sadar upazila and more than 20 villages in Tala upazila are now under water. More than 2,500 families have taken shelter on Deara Nathpara road, Khordo-Deara road,

Ghoshpara-Jankha road, Rajnagar embankment, Shipnagar embankment and at Deara primary school, Girls' high school and madrasa, Par Kumira primary school and Satkhira BSUC estate. In Kalaroa, standing aman crop on around 4,200 hectares and more than 5,000 kutcha houses have been damaged. Surging waters have washed away fish worth about Tk 18 crore from fish farms and caused damage to 21 schools and 11 madrasas, locals said. Our Jessore correspondent reported that flood situation started improving yesterday in Chowgachha, Manirampur, Sharsha and Jhikorgachha upazilas but deteriorated in Keshobpur upazila. Jessore-Satkhira road via Keshobpur went under water yesterday. Meanwhile, reports said floodwaters have also swamped parts of Magura and Kushtia districts.

Delhi throws down insurgent gauntlet to Dhaka again

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Home Secretary Dharendra Singh has claimed Indian insurgents are operating from Bangladesh -- an allegation Bangladesh has repeatedly denied -- although he said there is no Bangladeshi insurgent group operating in the Indian territory. Singh suggested there could be no comparison between the magnitude of the problem of "Indian insurgents operating from Bangladesh" and the alleged anti-Bangladeshi elements operating from Indian soil. "Bangladeshi fugitives hiding in India could be some political activists but they are not of the same calibre of well-armed Indian insurgents in the neighbouring country," he told reporters here on Wednesday evening.

"The magnitude of the problem of Indian insurgents using the neighbour's territory against India is far more in our country as compared to Bangladesh," said Singh, who led the Indian delegation at the home

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Huda vows sedition case for road block

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday threatened to take stern legal actions against opposition political activists involved in damaging state property in the name of political agitation. "Sedition cases according to clause Ka under section 124 will be filed against those who give rail, road-blockade programme to topple an elected government," Huda said

addressing a function at Kamalapur BRTC bus depot. He asked the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) to file criminal cases against those who were found involved in setting the state owned vehicles on fire. He also ordered them to file money suit and submit property seizure petition against those who provoke setting fire on state properties. BRTC Chairman Taimur Alam

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BNP lawmaker Taher passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Ruling BNP lawmaker AKM Abu Taher died last night at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. He was 72. He was suffering from liver cirrhosis, said an official handout. Taher, also an industrialist and the chairman of National Bank, left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was elected member of the

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Italian aid workers slain in Iraq

British hostage pleads for life; 3 GIS killed in attacks, 2 US soldiers charged with premeditated murder

AFP, Baghdad

Kidnappers in Iraq claimed early yesterday to have killed two Italian aid workers being held hostage, as fears grew for a British hostage after a video on an Islamist website showed him pleading for his life. In northern Iraq, a US soldier was killed in an attack on a patrol in the city of Mosul, while another American soldier died in a roadside bomb attack in Tikrit, hometown of ousted president Saddam Hussein, the US military said. Another US soldier was killed and four others were wounded in a Baghdad car bombing, the US military said yesterday. "One Task Force Baghdad soldier died and four others were wounded when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at about 4:30 pm (1230 GMT) on September 22 near a traffic

control point in Baghdad," the statement read. The blast followed a morning Baghdad car bomb attack that claimed the lives of at least seven people and wounded 54 others outside a recruiting centre for the Iraqi national guard. An official with Iraq's North Oil Co. (NOC) was gunned down by assailants yesterday near the northern city of Mosul, said Iraqi police. "The gunmen drove up and opened fire on the official as he was on his way to work, and then they fled," said Colonel Muzahim Ibrahim of Mosul's police. Sana Yussif was deputy to the regional director of the NOC who himself escaped an assassination attempt three days ago. In Rome, sources close to Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told the

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PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of the party presidium at Sudha Sadan in Dhanmondi yesterday.

RU initiates more controversial recruitment

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi University authorities have initiated process of yet another controversial recruitment, this time, of four teachers at law and justice department despite strong objection from the faculty dean.

Appointment of the four teachers on ad hoc basis awaits approval of the vice chancellor as the department chairman had already recommended their applications following a departmental planning committee meeting.

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SYLHET BLAST

Nunu Miah gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

SM Nunu Miah, an expatriate Awami League leader, who was arrested for suspected links with August 7 blast, was granted bail yesterday. The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Sylhet passed the order. Sylhet Central Jail authorities, however, were yet to release him, as the necessary formalities could not

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Hamid accuses Sircar of acting like a party man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid yesterday once again accused Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar of behaving like a party man and said he acts like a cabinet minister of the government. "The honourable speaker frequents the Prime Minister's Office like other cabinet ministers which is unprecedented for the guardian of Jatiya Sangsad," Hamid said in a statement. The statement referred to some recent press interviews of Sircar and observed that Sircar delivered untrue information. "We, the members of the main opposition, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting ahead of the 13th session of parliament demanded a discussion on the August 21 grenade attacks under Provision 62 of Rules of Procedure,

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\$55m scheme for water supply to arsenic-hit areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year water supply project involving \$55 million for the arsenic-affected areas will be launched soon, official sources said yesterday. Under the project titled Bangladesh Water Supply Programme Project (BWSPP), 500

villages worst affected by arsenic will be in phases supplied drinking water through pipeline. The municipal areas will also come under the project through implementation of improved and expanded water supply systems. The government and the World Bank signed an agreement in June

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Partha's bail bid rejected

Sent to jail along with 3 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Saibal Saha Partha and three others, detained for suspected links with the August 21 grenade attack, were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. The three others included Abdur Rahman, Habib alias Hannan and Badsha. Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza passed the order at 5:30pm when they were produced before the court on completion of a five-day remand. In the forwarding report, the investigation officer claimed to have gathered important information from the accused. He said they were still verifying the information. The defence submitted two petitions-- one for bail and the other for steps to shift Partha to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

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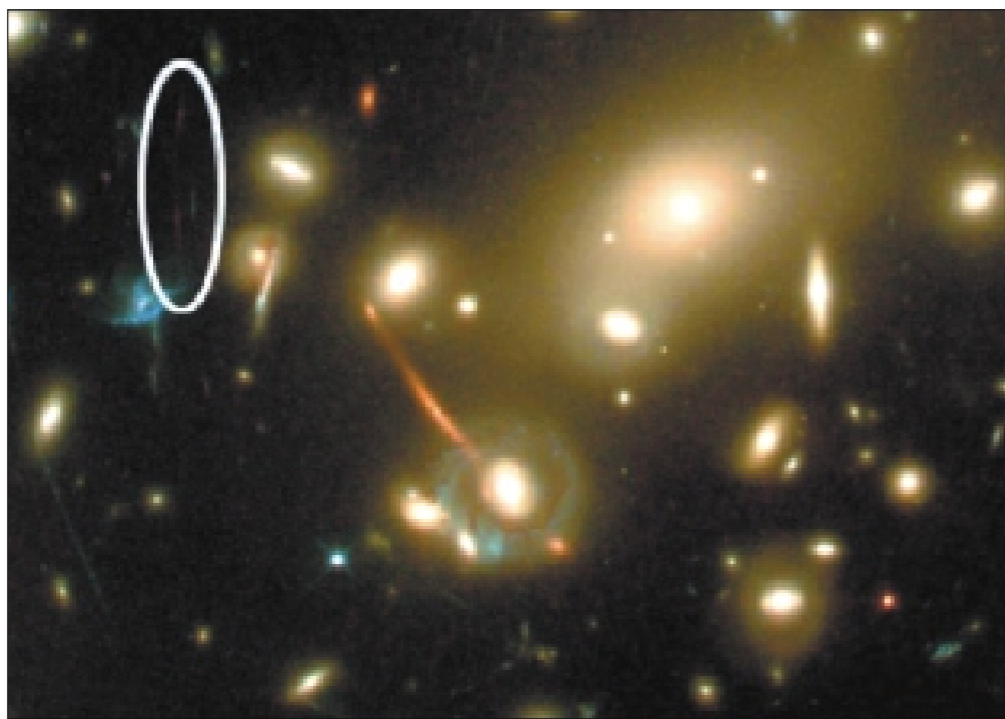


PHOTO: NASA

Glimpse of glittering galaxies caught in lenses of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Hubble's deepest shot is a puzzle

BBC ONLINE

Scientists studying the deepest picture of the Universe, taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, have been left with a big poser: where are all the stars? The Ultra Deep Field is a view of one patch of sky built from 800 exposures. The picture shows faint galaxies whose stars were shining just a few hundred million years after the Big Bang. But the image's revelation that fewer stars than expected were being born at this time brings into question current ideas on cosmic evolution.

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Prayer Timing		
September 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation