

North floods worsen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Flood situations in Rajshahi and Naogaon deteriorated further inundating fresh areas in the last 24 hours while diarrhoea broke out in some places.

Two people, including a child, drowned in floodwaters at Mohanpur and two died of diarrhoea at Keshorehat of Rajshahi in last two days.

Some 50 meters of the town protection embankment at Ukilpara and Bangabania were breached flooding fresh areas in Naogaon. Most of the town is now under water.

Water Development Board sources said the heavy flow of water

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Family of Jamal gets abductors' fresh threat

UNB, Chittagong

Family of the abducted BNP leader and business magnet, Jamaluddin, yesterday received an anonymous letter informing that he is still alive.

Received by Chowdhury Farman Reza, elder son of Jamaluddin, abducted on July 24, 2003, the letter warned the family not to seek media attention and asked them to refrain

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Prayer Timing		
October 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

PM warns of tougher anticrime law again

UNB, Magura

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government would enact tougher laws, if necessary, to combat crimes in the interest of public safety and uninterrupted development of the country.

Citing instances of many other countries she said those countries enacted such stringent laws to control anarchic situation.

In an oblique reference to Awami League's activities, she said the opposition goes mad seen the flow of development under the present government, particularly its success in combating terrorism and expansion of education.

Khaleda, also the chairperson of the ruling BNP, alleged that the opposition is trying to create chaos in the name of political programme

to hamper the development activities.

She was addressing a public meeting at Arpara Ideal High School ground in Salikha upazila of the district.

The prime minister said her government launched the 'operation clean heart' to contain crimes after assuming power.

"Law and order improved remarkably and peaceful environment was restored in the country after the drive, but few days later they started unleashing terrorism to hamper the government's development and welfare activities," she told the audience.

Mentioning the formation and performance of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) the prime minister said people appreciated its anticrime activities.

Criticising the opposition's destructive activities like arson attacks on buses and thus killing people before hartal, setting fire to train, harassing people and looting shops during hartal, she said the opposition party does not want progress, welfare and prosperity of the country and its people.

"They also don't want the students carry out their studies in peaceful environment—their student organisation unnecessarily enforced strike at Dhaka University to destroy the peaceful academic atmosphere," the prime minister said.

"They want to cripple the nation," she said and urged the people to remain alert about that party.

Describing various development

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PHOTO: STAR

A team of Biman yesterday launches salvage operations of the F-28 aircraft that skidded off the runway of Osmani International Airport on October 8.

Move to salvage crashed F28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Biman authorities yesterday started preparation to salvage Biman's F-28 aircraft that skidded off the runway of Osmani International Airport with 79 people on board and crashed into a nearby canal bank on October 8.

A team of 11 officials from Biman Bangladesh Airlines' headquarters reached Sylhet yesterday and engaged workers for construction of a 170-foot long path of brick from the runway end to the accident site.

They dismantled about 100 parts like ATC transformer, T-Cass computer, tense cylinders, flap fairing, landing light assembling system from the craft yesterday.

There is no possibility of finding anything worth the use from the cockpit, as it had been badly damaged, said a Biman official at the site, wishing anonymity. The body of the aircraft will be of no use and some parts may be sent abroad for tests, he added.

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Power crisis to go on in Ramadan

Meeting of 2 ministries ends without solution

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The power, and energy and mineral resources divisions yesterday failed to thrash out a solution to meeting increased power demand during Puja and Ramadan this month.

Petrobangla refused to increase gas supply according to a Power Development Board (PDB) request

for meeting additional demand. The power officials have been directed to go for load management, a solution that the PDB officials said has proven to be ineffective over the years.

"The failure to finalise an effective plan to meet the increased demand would greatly worsen the existing power crisis," a PDB official

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4 US soldiers killed in Baghdad blasts

American force strikes rebel hotbeds

AFP, Baghdad

A total of four US soldier were killed in two separate bomb attacks in Baghdad overnight and early morning, the military said.

"An improvised explosive device detonated at approximately 4:50 am October 13, killing one Task Force Baghdad soldier in western Baghdad," it said in a statement.

Three other American soldiers

were killed when their convoy hit a roadside bomb in eastern Baghdad, the US military said, as US forces continued to hammer rebel positions in Iraq's Sunni Muslim hotbeds of Fallujah and Ramadi.

"Three Task Force soldiers were killed last night at approximately 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) in eastern Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated on their

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GRENADE ATTACK

One more suspect held

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One more person has been arrested and remanded for five days for his alleged involvement in the August 21 carnage on an Awami League (AL) rally.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested Akhteruzzaman alias Ata, 45, from his Alubazar house in the city Tuesday.

The CID yesterday took Ata to t h e

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14 lakh children born with heart defects

Health minister opens cardiac centre at BSMMUH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 14 lakh children survive congenital heart defects while about 20 percent of the people aged between 30 and 40 suffer from high blood pressure and 10 percent suffer coronary heart diseases in the country.

This was disclosed at the inaugural ceremony of the cardiac centre at

the Banghabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain speaking as the chief guest said, "Surveys show that an estimated eight people in every thousand of Bangladesh suffer from heart diseases related to rheumatic

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