



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ
The footbridge built for comfort of passers-by near the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital goes under ankle-deep water after rain due to a lack of proper drainage.

AL team meets US under secy

Discusses law and order, electoral reforms
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of Awami League (AL) yesterday met US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Nicholas R Burns and discussed among others its demand for electoral reforms and the governments' failure to arrest the decline of law and order.
"We share the views that Bangladesh has immense potentials but rampant corruption, rising extremism, and absence of good governance under the present government are hindering the progress," Saber Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star after the meeting at the residence of US
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EU unionists, buyers warn of export loss in 6 months

Ask govt, RMG exporters to ensure workers' safety, salary, good working condition
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's apparel exports to Europe may shrink if the safety measures in factories and good working conditions are not ensured within the next six months, a leading EU garment workers' federation and some European buyers warned yesterday.
They asked the government to address all the compliance issues including the workers' safety and salary packages to retain the market in the European Union (EU), the

single largest export destination for Bangladesh products.
Safety measures in 99 percent of the garment units are not up to the mark, they observed and asked the government to bring the owners of Spectrum Sweater Industries under full legal coverage to improve the image of Bangladesh garments in the EU.
European buyers are increasingly raising questions why they should continue to source garment products from a country that is not maintaining ethical practice in

production, they told Jute and Textiles Minister Shajahan Siraj.
During the meeting with the minister, the workers' federation leaders and buyers informed him about the grim picture of Bangladesh's garment sector as portrayed in the European media after the Spectrum factory collapse in Savar in April.
Neil Kearney, general secretary of Belgium-based International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF) and
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AL human chains today to protest FY06 budget

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Awami League (AL) will form human chains across the country for an hour today to press home their 13 suggestions for the proposed national budget and in demand for the resignation of the coalition government.
The main opposition party will also hold public meetings at eight places on Wednesday as part of the same programme, before enforcing a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 30.
The route of today's human chain in Dhaka from 4pm to 5pm covers Pallabi, Mirpur, Asad Gate, Russell Square, Science Laboratory.
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Road crashes kill 7

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Seven people were killed and 19 others injured in four road accidents in Mymensingh, Feni and Chandpur yesterday.
A Jamalpur-bound truck from Dhaka careered across the road and hit a roadside tree on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Trishal upazila, Mymensingh, leaving one man dead on the spot.
Five others were injured and two of them died at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital.
A passenger bus skidded on the Dhaka-Sherpur highway and fell into a roadside ditch, killing one person and injuring 10 others at Bagunda in Phulpur upazila, Mymensingh.
In Feni, a Chittagong-bound covered van collided head-on with a
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DND people still live in waterlogging danger

ABDUL KADER
Over a million people living inside Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) Embankment will experience a serious waterlogging this monsoon too as no effective measures were taken yet to drain rainwater out of the area.
The authorities concerned have yet to clean the drains and canals and when most of the farming land, locally-dug mini-drains, and some walkways inside the DND area are already filled with water due to rains at the beginning of the Bengali month Ashar, the first month of the monsoon.
Besides, unplanned urbanisation in the area continues unabated

like every other year, making waterlogging almost inevitable.
At the end of last year, the DND area reeled under water for more than two months, and it is by far the longest period of waterlogging since the habitation started in the area two decades ago.
The locals blamed the two-month long waterlogging mainly on unplanned and indiscriminate urbanisation that includes illegal grabbing of drainage channels and canals.
The DND dam was constructed between 1962 and 1968 as an irrigation project to make the land cultivable for three harvests a year. The area inside the dam stretches

over 56.79 square kilometres. Out of total 5,679 hectares of cultivable land, 85 percent has already been used for constructing houses, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) sources.
In six to eight months since the immediate past rainy season, the authorities took no steps to avert a recurrence of the last year's unprecedented waterlogging.
Recently, Narayanganj district administration had taken up a drive to evict illegal structures on the drainage canals. But it had to be stopped, giving in to the pressure from an influential quarter, said sources.
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41 rescued from being trafficked

UNB, Jessore
Police have rescued 41 people including 22 women and children from being trafficked to India and arrested a trafficker from the district bus terminal.
Acting on a tip off, a team of police raided the terminal and rescued the victims from a bus on Thursday. The police have also arrested a trafficker, Nogen, in this connection.
The victims, all hailed from Moksdepur upazila in Gopalganj, said the traffickers were taking them to India with a promise of good jobs.
The police have also seized Tk 21,000 from them.

ALPP meets today on comment against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meets today at the Jatiya Sangsad to determine protests about the comments against Sheikh Hasina by ruling alliance lawmakers during budget discussion.
Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid told The Daily Star the AL on Wednesday will stage protest inside the JS building against the new budget and indecent comments about the party chief Sheikh Hasina.
The ALPP meets today at 11:00am to discuss the nature of the protest inside the JS building, Shahid said.

Suicide bombers kill 31 in Iraq

AP, Mosul
Two suicide bombers killed at least 31 people in two separate attacks on a police station and outside an Iraqi military base in northern Iraq yesterday, the US military said.
The first attack happened at a police headquarters in Mosul, killing 13 policemen and two civilians and wounding six more, said US Army Capt. Mark Walter, a spokesman in Mosul. Earlier reports put the death toll at six.
Less than two hours later, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a parking lot outside an Iraqi army base, killing 16 and wounding seven more, Walter said. Almost all the victims were civilian workers arriving at the site, he said.
Also Sunday, gunmen killed police Col. Riyad Abdul Karim at his apartment in eastern Baghdad's Mashtal neighborhood, police Lt. Col. Hassan Challoub said. Karim was assistant police director of emergency services in the capital's Rusafa district, which encompasses the eastern side of the Tigris River.
Near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, a suicide car bomb struck an Iraqi

police convoy near a checkpoint, wounding four police officers, police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadr said. Insurgents have routinely launched deadly attacks in Kirkuk with the apparent aim of creating ethnic tension among the Kurdish, Sunni, Shia and Turkmen population.
The Mosul attack came a day after a suicide bomber trailed by five cars loaded with armed insurgents slammed into a wall outside the home of an Iraqi special forces police officer in the Sunni triangle city of Samarra, killing at least nine
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SC stays HC verdict on RU recruitment

UNB, Dhaka
The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks the operation of Saturday's High Court verdict that had upheld the temporary injunction by lower court on the controversial appointment of 546 class three and four employees by Rajshahi University in April last year.
The stay order came upon a petition moved by AF Hassan Ariff, counsel for the university, before chamber judge Amirul Kabir Chowdhury as he preferred leave to appeal against the HC verdict.

Omar gives Tigers something to bowl at

STAR SPORT DESK
Opener Andrew Strauss set his sights on a century and England set theirs on a place in the July 2 NatWest Series final as they chased 209 to beat Bangladesh at Headingley on Sunday.
Strauss and his opening partner Marcus Trescothick put on 99 together and Andrew Flintoff added 22 and Vikram Solanki 8 before

falling on 151-3 after 28.5 overs.
And when 32 overs completed, England were 167 for 3 with Strauss batting on 78 and Kevin Pietersen on 11.
Earlier, all-rounder Andrew Flintoff took four for 29 as the hosts held Bangladesh to 208 for seven.
Flintoff's performance got England back on track after a shoddy start in a match Bangladesh
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Youth held for email threats to blow up embassies remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday remanded the youth arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for sending email threats to two embassies, American Center and Rab headquarters on Saturday.
Police took Hasanul Haq to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka seeking a five-day remand. The court however granted remand for two days.
The arrestee had earlier told the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) during primary interrogation that he used the name of Nazrul Islam, an NGO official, to put him in trouble.
Nazrul used to tease one of his sisters and he tried to teach him a good lesson, Hasanul explained.
Rab intelligence men nabbed Hasanul from his Jakir Hossain Road house in Mohammadpur in the capital.
He had sent emails to the embassies of Japan and the Netherlands
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Prayer Timing		
June 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-57
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation