

Did you know? Aswan Dam refers to two dams in Egypt. Today the name refers to the High Dam, which is the newer of the two. The former cataract and the Old Aswan Dam is about 1,000 kilometres (620 m) (686 kilometres (426 mi)) up-river and south-southeast of Cairo. The new Aswan High Dam is further 4 kilometres (2.5 m) upriver from the older dam.



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Diarrhoea outbreak escalates further

City-dwellers see no respite from stinky, dirty water supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamila, 30, was lying on a bed at the city's International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B). She was suffering from diarrhoea.

She came from the city's Nandipara. She complained that the water supplied by the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is stinky and dirty.

"I couldn't boil the water due to gas crisis," said Jamila adding that many of her neighbours had also been admitted to ICDDR, B.

Like Jamila, a huge number of patients through ICDDR, B every day from city's Mirpur, Khilgaon, Rampura, Badda, Mohammadpur, Demra, Narayanganj and other places.

The number is increasing every day. The highest number of patients admitted on Sunday was 1008.

Dr Azharul Islam Khan, head of the Short Stay Unit, said during this period last year the high frequency of patients didn't persist long.

"It was only one day when the number of patients crossed 1020. Otherwise it was more than 800. But this time more than 900 patients are coming for quite a long time," he said.

On an average, more than 40 patients seek treatment at the hospital everyday, which is quite double the number of the 1st week of March, he said.

By 6:00 pm yesterday a total of 716 patients sought treatment at the ICDDR, B.

Most of the patients coming to the hospital are from low-income group and they complained that the water supplied by the Wasa is smelly and black.

"For the last one and a half months the water has been dirty. Despite repeated complaints, Wasa hasn't taken any measures in this regard." Said Liza who lives at city's Adabor area at Mohammadpur.

She informed that three members of her family are suffering from diarrhoea.

Wasa sources, however, claimed that 87 percent of the water supplied by Wasa is collected from underground which is clean.

Wasa's main challenge now is to meet the demand of the city people and through its 31

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Parents from even outside the capital are now showing up at the ICDDR, B at Mohakhali with their children as diarrhoeal diseases continue to spread in the capital and across the country. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

MARRIAGE REFUSAL

Man stabs himself to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man yesterday committed suicide at his former female colleague's house in the capital's Maniknagar as she declined to marry him.

Deceased Moniruzzaman, 25, of Magura was an employee of a private firm. He stabbed himself in his abdomen in presence of the girl and her parents and his elder brother, who was with him, on Monday around 10:30pm.

Monir was immediately

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Indian Maoists kill 75 policemen

Blow up vehicle carrying reserve force in Chhattisgarh

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Maoists yesterday ambushed and shot dead 75 Indian paramilitary and policemen in the dense jungles of Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh in one of the deadliest attacks on the forces.

The incident took place between 6am and 7am last morning when nearly 80 personnel comprising Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and state police were returning after clearing a road blocked by Maoists.

Dantewada Superintendent of Police Amresh Mishra said Maoists first blew up a vehicle carry-

ing the CRPF personnel near Chintalnartarmeta village in the district and immediately opened heavy fire from a nearby hillock.

The CRPF team had been camping in the interiors of Tarmeta jungles for the last three days as part of a combing operation, Mishra said.

Bodies of the 73 personnel have been recovered from the site of the attack suspected to have been carried out by about 1000 Maoists Viji said.

The Maoists planted Improvised Explosive Devices, which blew up an anti-mine vehicle killing the lone occupant, the driver. This was followed heavy exchange of fire between the

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WATER CRISIS

Army to help Dhaka Wasa from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army personnel will officially be tasked with helping Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority ease the persisting water crisis in the capital from today.

The government decided on March 29 to engage troops to cooperate with Wasa from April 1, but a request from army headquarters to the LGRD ministry and Dhaka Wasa postponed the engagement.

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Ecneec okays river saving scheme

Mirpur-airport flyover project also approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved two projects of Tk 1,972 crore to free five rivers in and around Dhaka of pollution and illegal occupation and conduct capital dredging of the rivers Jamuna and Dhaleswari.

Ecneec also okayed a project to build a 3km flyover from Mirpur-12 to Hazrat Shahjalal (R) International Airport at a cost of Tk 192 crore.

The Ecneec meeting approved seven projects, including the three, worth Tk 2,840 crore with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

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Night load shedding in alternate hrs

STAR REPORT

A power generation unit of the Ghorashal Power Plant which was shut down following fire in its substation Monday afternoon, resumed operation at 3:00pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, the authorities concerned have decided to reduce load shedding at night to one hour.

Load shedding for alternate two hours during 11:00pm-6:00am period will be reduced to one hour, a power division source said.

But in daytime, two hours' load shedding will continue.

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Marooned people try to salvage whatever they can after an embankment, inset, in Gunari of Dakop upazila in Khulna fails. A huge number of people in this area, who were hit by cyclone Aila, now have to endure another devastation.



Aila victims brace for the worst

PM sits today for solution

WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Khulna

With the monsoon approaching, thousands of residents in cyclone Aila affected coastal districts of Khulna and Satkhira are facing destitution again, as major breaches in flood protection embankments are yet to be repaired.

The Aila survivors fear a serious human catastrophe by permanent inundation of a vast swath of the region during the monsoon due to rising water level, let alone another cyclone lashing the area before the embankments are repaired.

The National Disaster Management Council is scheduled to meet today, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to find a solution.

Newer breaches in the ring embankments already caused inundation of many villages, marooning thousands of people.

"Fear of death haunts us every moment. We lost everything in the cyclone. If the embankment is not repaired soon, our very existence will be at stake," lamented Dulal Mandal of Kamarkhola village in Dakope upazila of Khulna.

"I moved my shack twice, and don't know where to go if the shack goes under water again," he added.

"We have been dying here for over 10 months with saline water all around, no house, no work, nothing left for us... we are helpless," said Porimol Roy of Gunari village of the same upazila.

The government deployed the army to expedite the embankment repair work, after WDB's pace of work had proven to be too slow.

The villagers apprehend that a large portion of the repaired embankments will also give in to rising water level during the monsoon, as they claim the repair work was shoddy.

The villagers and officials of local administrations blame negligence of WDB and its contractors, and their corruption for the delay, and

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First verdict in BDR mutiny case today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A special court of Bangladesh Rifles fixed today to deliver the first verdict in any BDR mutiny case, against 29 jawans of the 25 Rifles Battalion at Panchagarh Battalion Headquarters.

After completion of arguments from the defendants and prosecutors yesterday, the

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Politics, business behind graft

Says ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Gulam Rahman yesterday said the nexus between politics and business is a major factor behind corruption at the upper class of the society.

About corruption in the lower tier of the society, he said it is being encouraged due to the link between politicians and local goons.

The ACC chief made the remarks at a roundtable on Corruption Free Bangladesh, Present Reality and Citizens' Concern organised by Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan), a platform for civil society members, at Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

It is time that the country's politics should observe a change in its trend, he noted.

Politicians and political parties have to reduce their dependency on businessmen and industrialists, as they are the ones who fund the parties to run all the political activities. That public funds can be raised where general people will have more involvement in different activities of the party of their choice, he maintained.

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AL men fell 11 trees at Baufal school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A group of ruling party activists cut down and took away 11 trees from Kachua Dalima government primary school in Baufal upazila in the district on Monday.

Witnesses said eight to 10 Awami League supporters, led by Alauddin Member, went to the school and started cutting down the trees.

Alauddin, a local leader of Awami League and former union parishad member, said they need the trees to renovate a mosque of the village.

Sources said three Indian berry trees, and mahogany and rain trees were chopped down, four of each, aged

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think police only plainclothes police officers in front of girls' schools can solve the teasing problem?

- Yes (33.0%)
- No (65.9%)
- No Comments (1.1%)

Total votes: 451

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's decision to extend the term of the Speedy Trial Act by two years for effective and fast dealing with crimes is a correct decision?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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Issuance of Certificate of Origin (C.O.) by BGMEA

Upon request from BGMEA, the Ministry of Commerce has authorized BGMEA to issue Certificate of Origin (C.O.) among its member units for all countries excepting members of European Union vide notification no. বাম/র-১/রনী-৬/২০০৯/৮০ তারিখ ২১/০৩/২০১০.

BGMEA will start issuing Certificate of Origin (C.O.) from 10 April 2010 in favour of export oriented garment industries.

It may be mentioned here that a separate desk has been installed under customs branch for issuance of Certificate of Origin (C.O.)

Secretary General