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Dhaka rivers to get lifeline

Tk 945cr project work starts next month to keep them flowing round-the-year

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Water in the capital's river system -- the Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakhya rivers -- will flow unceasingly in three years, said Humayun Kabir, chief engineer (central) of Water Development Board.

The inspiring news came with the launching of Tk 945 crore Buriganga River Restoration Project, in which about 62 kilometres of New Dhaleshwari, Pungli, Bangshi and Turag rivers in the upstream would be dredged to restore the ceaseless flow with the Jamuna.

A stretch of 162.5 kilometres between Dhaka and New Dhaleshwari offtake, almost half a kilometre downstream of the Bangabandhu

Bridge, would be restored to maintain flow in the river system of the capital round the year.

"We have floated tender for the first-phase dredging of 62 kilometres and hope to start the work by December 11 this year and complete it in three years. The government has already given Tk 80 crore for the project," Humayun Kabir, also the project director, told The Daily Star.

The idea is to keep the branching point of the New Dhaleshwari flowing round the year and divert at least 245 cubic metres of water per second into the city's river system. A sluice gate would be built at the Jamuna confluence to contain floods, which will ensure water flow

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Devotees, some with their young children, pray at one of the Eid-ul-Azha congregations held at Baitul Mukarram national mosque. See more on page 5.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid-ul-Azha, one of the two major religious festivals of the Muslims, was celebrated across the country on Wednesday amid religious fervour, spirit of sacrifice and festivity.

Affluent Muslims celebrated the day by sacrificing animals in remembrance of the sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), who was instructed by almighty Allah to give up his dearest son Hazrat Ismail (AS) in a test of faith.

Most families sacrificed goats or bulls, although some wealthier families slaughtered dumbas and camels. The sacrificial meat was shared with relatives and the poor.

Eid prayers were held at mosques and Eidgahs in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Khaleda urges all to join 'movement'

Calls herself 'homeless'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the Eid day said her party will soon launch a movement against the government to save the country, urging all to join in.

She made the call on Wednesday at a reception programme held in honour of diplomats, eminent citizens and leaders of different political parties on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha in the city.

"The government has failed in all sectors. People have no confidence in this government. They are ineffective and incompetent.

"No country can run like this. People are passing a hard time," she said at the Ladies' Club at Eskaton urging all to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Crackers thrown into CJ's house

Jubo Dal, JCD chiefs among 5 sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed a case implicating four leaders of the main opposition and a son of an opposition leader in Thursday night's Molotov cocktail explosions in the chief justice's official residential compound, according to a senior officer of the Ramna Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Ramna Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shibli Noman however did not confirm that the five were implicated in the case.

Two Molotov cocktails exploded on the premises of the official residence of Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque in the capital's Kakrail area on Thursday night after those were hurled into the compound.

Ramna police filed the case in the first hour of yesterday implicating Moazzem Hossain Alal, president of main opposition BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal; Habib-un-Nobi Khan Sohel, president of the party's volunteers' front Jatiyatabadi Swachchhasebak Dal; Barrister Nasir Uddin Asim, BNP chairperson's human rights affairs secretary; Sultan Salauddin Tuku, president of BNP-backed student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal; and Akhter Hamid Paban, son of BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain, said the senior officer of DMP Ramna Division.

On condition of anonymity, the senior police official said many others might also be implicated in the case later, following

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Road crashes kill 45

Highways turn into death traps during Eid holidays

STAR REPORT

At least 45 people were killed and scores of others were injured in road accidents across the country during the Eid holidays.

In Pabna, five people were killed and 30 injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Baokola in Atgharia upazila Thursday.

The deceased are Shafiqul Islam Mintu, 25, conductor Alope Chandra, 36, Nirmala Ribennu, 60, Nargis Khatun, 35, and her daughter Anita, 16.

The bus heading towards Ishwardi from Bhangura fell into the ditch around 9:00am after the driver lost control over the steering wheel, our correspondent reports from Pabna.

Three people died on the spot while two others died in a hospital.

Our staff correspondent in Bogra reports: Five people died when a bus reared a number of motorbikes at Silimpur in Bogra town Thursday night.

The deceased are: Nafis, 25, Masud Rana, 27, Israfil, 23, Wazed Hossain Bappi,

23, and Lalin, 22.

Sub-Inspector Nazrul Islam of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital police outpost said the accident happened around 11:00pm when a bus heading for Thakurgaon hit the motorbikes.

Five of the riders died on the spot while the others sustained minor injuries, he added.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee the scene.

In Comilla, five people were killed and 15 injured when a bus collided with a microbus at Kalakochua in Burichong upazila on Eid day. The identity of the deceased could not be known, UNB reports.

Local sources said the microbus heading for Laxmipur and the bus going towards Daudkandi collided on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway leaving the five microbus passengers dead on the spot around 5:30pm.

Eight bus passengers and seven other microbus passengers were also hurt.

The injured were admitted to different

local hospitals.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent reports: At least four people were killed and three others injured on Kishoreganj-Bhairab Highway at Achmita in Katiadi upazila Thursday.

Police and locals said the accident happened around noon when a bus heading for Bhairab collided head-on with a pick-up truck, killing school-goer Jalal Uddin, 14, on the spot.

Six injured of the pick-up were rushed to Bazitpur Zahirul Islam Medical College Hospital in critical condition where driver Md Shahabuddin, 22, Jyotsna Begum, 26, and an unidentified woman aged around, 30, succumbed to their injuries.

In Magura, three people, including a couple, were killed when a bus rammed a human haulier on Magura-Jhenidah Highway at Sachani around 4:00am Wednesday.

Driver of the human haulier Obaidul and passengers Zafar Biswas, 60, and his wife Rabeya Khatun, 50, died on the spot, reports our Magura correspondent.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

Threat of Movement Ashraf gives BNP two options

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has no alternative to passing the "no-confidence" proposal in parliament to overthrow the government before its tenure expires, said Awami League General Secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday.

In democratic practice, a political party has the right to demonstrate against the government and we respect that. I think, everybody should place their demands before the people abiding by the law as neither the government nor the opposition is above the law," he told the media while visiting the construction of Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover in the capital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Marriage at last for Prince William, Kate

AFP, London

Kate Middleton blushed with shyness the first time she set eyes on Prince William, but she is now months away from marrying him in a fairytale wedding watched by the world.

They met as university students in a quiet Scottish town, moved in together, fell in love and soon became one of the most talked-about couples on the planet.

Both 28, the second in line to the British throne and the commoner daughter of a wealthy businessman have had a relationship that has endured for eight years and overcome the huge pressures surrounding them.

It has survived the strains

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Stalkers kill elderly man on Eid day

Attacked after he protested harassment of his granddaughter

STAR REPORT

Stalkers strangled an elderly person for protesting the harassment of his granddaughter on Eid day in Kurigram.

The victim, Abdus Sobhan, 74, of Noleya village under Bhurungamari upazila of the district, was killed by two local youths, Mostafa, 20, and Ripon, 24, said Sobhan's family members and villagers. The incident happened Wednesday morning when he protested stalking of his granddaughter Rujina Akhter Rupa, a student of Kishaloya Bidya Niketon, near their house.

Police arrested Mostafa's father Nur Islam and Ripon's mother Rahima Khatun and is hunting the two killers.

Teachers and students of the school yesterday morning brought out a procession in

Bhurungamari town, demanding arrest of the killers.

Lawmaker of Kurigram-1 (Bhurungamari-Nageswari) constituency AKM Mostafizur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Habibur Rahman and Superintendent of Police Mahabubur Rahman visited the spot on Thursday and assured the victim's family of proper action.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Bhurungamari Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday that the victim's nephew Majnu filed two cases-- one for murder and another for stalking-- accusing six persons, Ripon, 24, Mostafa, 20, Ripon's mother Rahima, father Kaysar Ali and wife Selina Khatun, and Mostafa's father Nur Islam.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Farid Gazi passes away

STAR REPORT

Ruling Awami League lawmaker and veteran freedom fighter Dewan Farid Gazi died early yesterday at the city's Square Hospital.

He was 86.

Gazi, a member of Awami League Advisory Council and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Primary and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

'Eviction' Huda blames Khaleda's counsels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's counsels made a mistake by not seeking a stay on the High Court order, and it eventually led to her "eviction" from the cantonment house, party's Vice-chairman Nazmul Huda yesterday said.

Huda, a two-time member of Khaleda's cabinet, also said calling a countrywide hartal just two days before Eid-ul-Azha was wrong.

He was talking to reporters at his Dhanmondi residence.

Slamming the former prime minister's counsels, he said it was their lack of fore

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

3 murdered, 2 beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five persons were killed in separate incidents in the capital and its suburbs during the three-day Eid holiday.

A group of unruly youths beat up a 73-year-old retired bank official, Mahfuzul Haque Khan, for protesting their gathering in front of his house in the city's North Bashabo around 10:40pm on Wednesday.

Mahfujul, a cardiac patient, became unconscious under the impact of physical assault.

He was rushed to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases where the attending physicians declared him dead.

A murder case was filed accusing seven persons in this connection, said Aziz Shafi, sub-inspector (SI) of Sabujbagh Police Station.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested one of the accused in the case.

The arrestee is Rusia Begum, 55, an alleged drug peddler of the area, said Rab officials.

Law enforcers recovered slaughtered body of an unidentified young woman from a bush near army training camp in Savar on Thursday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

4 flats looted during Eid vacation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars stole valuables from four flats of a building while the residents were on Eid vacation and a gang of robbers looted a house at gunpoint in the city's Sutrapur on Thursday night.

Locals and police sources said a gang of thieves stole valuables from flats of Abdur Razzak and Hossain Miah on the ground floor and two others flats of bank official Nur-e-Alam and printing businessman Mujibur Rahman on the first floor of a building of 14/27- Abhay Das Lane.

They entered the building between midnight and

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The Daily Star
MOVED TO ITS OWN PREMISES

The Daily Star is happy to announce that it has shifted its offices to its own premises at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

In addition to our old telephone numbers 8124944, 8124955, 8124966 our new telephone numbers are 9102973, 9102974, 9102975, 9102976. Our Fax numbers remain unchanged: 8125155, 8126154 (News) & 9144332 (Advertisement), and our website is the same as before: www.thedailystar.net.

We request all concerned to kindly take note of the above and contact us only at the new address.

On this happy occasion we thank our valued readers, advertisers, patrons and well-wishers for their unstinted support which, we trust, will continue in the days to come.

The Daily Star
Management