

Rainwater plagues port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Almost a third of Chittagong city has been crippled by rainwater due to heavy downpour over the last two days since early Thursday.

Streets, shopping centres have gone under knee-deep water, and houses were flooded, causing untold sufferings to the city dwellers.

The waterlogging, as earlier, was widely blamed on poor sewerage system of the port city.

Meanwhile, a man died yesterday as he came in contact with a live electric wire buried under the knee-deep rainwater in Chawk Bazar Kitchen Market.

The deceased was Manik Debnath, 45, a tailor and resident of Abu Colony in Chawk Bazar area.

Manik's shell-shocked widow Nipu Debnath did not know her husband would never return home and be dead only in 30 minutes after he stepped out of the doors to buy some fish and vegetables from the kitchen market.

Manik was the only bread earner of his five-member family, including his wife and three young children between two and 10 years of age. He had been rescued and taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital soon after the electrocution, but he was already dead on the way.

Meanwhile, Chittagong sea port was advised to hoist cautionary signal no-3 and the river ports to hoist cautionary signal no-2, said Shariful Newaz Kabir, deputy forecasting officer of Chittagong Divisional Met Office.

The Met office has recorded 277 millimetres of rainfall in the last 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday, he told The Daily Star.

The intensity of the downpour will reduce but the raining may continue for the next 24 hours till this morning, according to the Met office forecast.

Yesterday, vehicles hardly plied the submerged streets at Bakalia, Muradpur, Bahaddarhat, Badurtala, Kapashgola, Katalganj, Halishahar, Agrabad, Boubazar, Dewan Bazar, Oxygen More, KB Aman Ali Road, DC Road, Bayezid area, Bara Dighir Par, Prabartak intersection, Mehedibag and Chawk Bazar.

Heavy disruption of traffic movement in Muradpur and Bahaddarhat intersections caused immense suffering to travellers to and from Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and different upazilas of Chittagong.

Flooding of houses and shops in the areas only aggravated people's suffering.

A man dies as he came in contact with a live electric wire buried under the knee-deep rainwater in Chawk Bazar Kitchen Market

the drainage management.

"Despite many limitations, the CCC is working to address the waterlogging problem of the city," said Bijay Kumar Chowdhury, a councillor and chairman of the CCC standing committee on waterlogging. The city corporation cannot continue many of its development works due to fund constraint, he said.

"Chittagong is a hilly area and hence the drains are blocked through earth washed down with rainwater from the hills making the task of drainage management even more difficult." It is not possible to clear the sewers instantly with the present manpower of the city corporation, he said. Under present rules, it is not possible to appoint more staff either, he added.

The councillor said the city corporation alone could not address the problem. Rather it will require coordination among Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Chittagong Development Authority and the CCC, he said.



Heavy rainfall for the last two days creates waterlogging in the low-lying parts of Chittagong city, causing disruption in the everyday life of the city dwellers. The photo was taken in Muradpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

The poor drainage system has failed to remove the rainwater, which eventually overflowed and entered a number of houses and shops in those places.

Keshab Nath, a laundryman, was seen bailing out water from his shop in DC Road area. All of the clothes at his shop got drenched in the muddy water.

A student of Chittagong College and resident of Katalganj area, Ripa Ahsan had to wade through knee-deep water to go to her coaching centre.

She expressed her disappointment at the poor drainage system and repeated waterlogging of the port city. "The authorities seem to have turned a blind eye to our sufferings," Ripa told The Daily Star.

A resident of Halishahar area, Dipak Chowdhury echoed Ripa and questioned the role of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) regarding its steps to solve the persisting waterlogging problem.

"The city corporation is blind to our sufferings. The CCC officials are not sincere enough to address the problem," said Dipak, who was walking in the filthy sewage water, to buy some emergency medicines.

Activities at Chittagong Port were also hampered by the torrential rain. Unloading of 22 bulk cargo ships at the outer anchorage was stalled due to the rain, said Jahurul Kadir, an official of Chittagong Port Authority.

Although the city dwellers blamed the city corporation for the waterlogging, the officials were playing their old record regarding



Indian President Pranab Mukherjee with a delegation from Bangladesh led by Chairman of think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue, Prof Rehman Sobhan, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PIB, INDIA

Teachers living 'miserable' lives

Discussions marking World Teachers' Day told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers in Bangladesh are living 'miserable' lives and their socio-economic conditions, compared to those living in other South-Asian countries, are poor, said speakers at programmes in the capital marking World Teachers' Day yesterday.

Providing the country's students world-class education requires a world-class salary structure for teachers, they said.

The day was celebrated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization this year with the slogan "Take a stand for teachers!"

The remuneration issue, addressed in National Education Policy, the main guideline for the country's education, remains unimplemented, said Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad, co-chairman of the policy's formulation committee.

He was addressing a views exchange meeting organised by Amar Odhikar Campaign in Cirdap Auditorium.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Bangladesh Reading Association organised a two-day "National Conference of Teachers 2012" while Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association organised a discussion and Bangladesh Teachers Association (Bashar-Salam) held a seminar.

Discussions at the programmes demanded that the government formulates a separate pay scale for teachers and upgrades the job status of primary school principals to second class gazette officer.

They said teachers should not engage in activities not consistent with education.

Fake Indian notes seized in Naogaon

Two arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel seized a huge amount of counterfeit Indian currency worth Rs 10 lakh and arrested two persons in this connection from Adda Bazar in Niamotpur upazila of Naogaon yesterday.

The arrestees were Shafiqul Islam, 38, son of Taizuddin, and Durul Huda, 30, son of Abdul Kuddus of Namotala village, under Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team from Railway Colony camp of Rajshahi conducted a drive in Adda Bazar area at noon and arrested the two men from a sweetmeat shop there named "Adarsha Mistanna Bhandar", said Rab sources.

Rab personnel recovered 500 fake Rs 1,000 notes and 1,000 fake Rs 500 notes from the duo's possession when they were trying to sell the fake currency, Rab sources added.

Schoolboy murdered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy was killed by miscreants at Joarsahara in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was Yousuf Ali, 17, a student of class X of Adarsh Biddiyapith at Kalachandpur.

Rickshaw pullers along with Yousuf engaged in an altercation with three local miscreants who were demanding tolls at Yousuf's father's rickshaw garage around 1:00am, said the victim's maternal uncle Mohor Ali, quoting the rickshaw pullers.

At one stage, the miscreants hacked Yousuf with sharp weapons, he quoted.

Yousuf was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to Rashmoni Hospital where he died around 5:00am.

Bhatarai police said the extortionists went to the garage to gamble money with the rickshaw pullers that triggered the dispute.

INT'L OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS 2 Bangladeshis win bronze



Bristy Sikder



Dhananjoy Biswas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi students bagged bronze medals in the 24th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) hosted by Italy in Lake Garda from September 23 to 30.

The worldwide competition's tasks are of algorithmic nature with contestants of high school level having to show basic IT skills such as problem analysis, design of algorithms and data structures, programming and testing.

Out of 600 points, Dhananjoy Biswas, a student of Chittagong College, scored 219, securing the 89th position, while Bristy Sikder scored 169, securing the 143rd position.

Bristy stood first among the female participants, said Prof Kaikobad of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, adding that Dhananjoy had attained the silver medal in the 53rd International Mathematics Olympiad for the first time in the country's history.

Four students are usually sent by each of the participating countries in the annual competition. This year Dhananjoy, Bristy, Nafis and Mahi took part from Bangladesh.

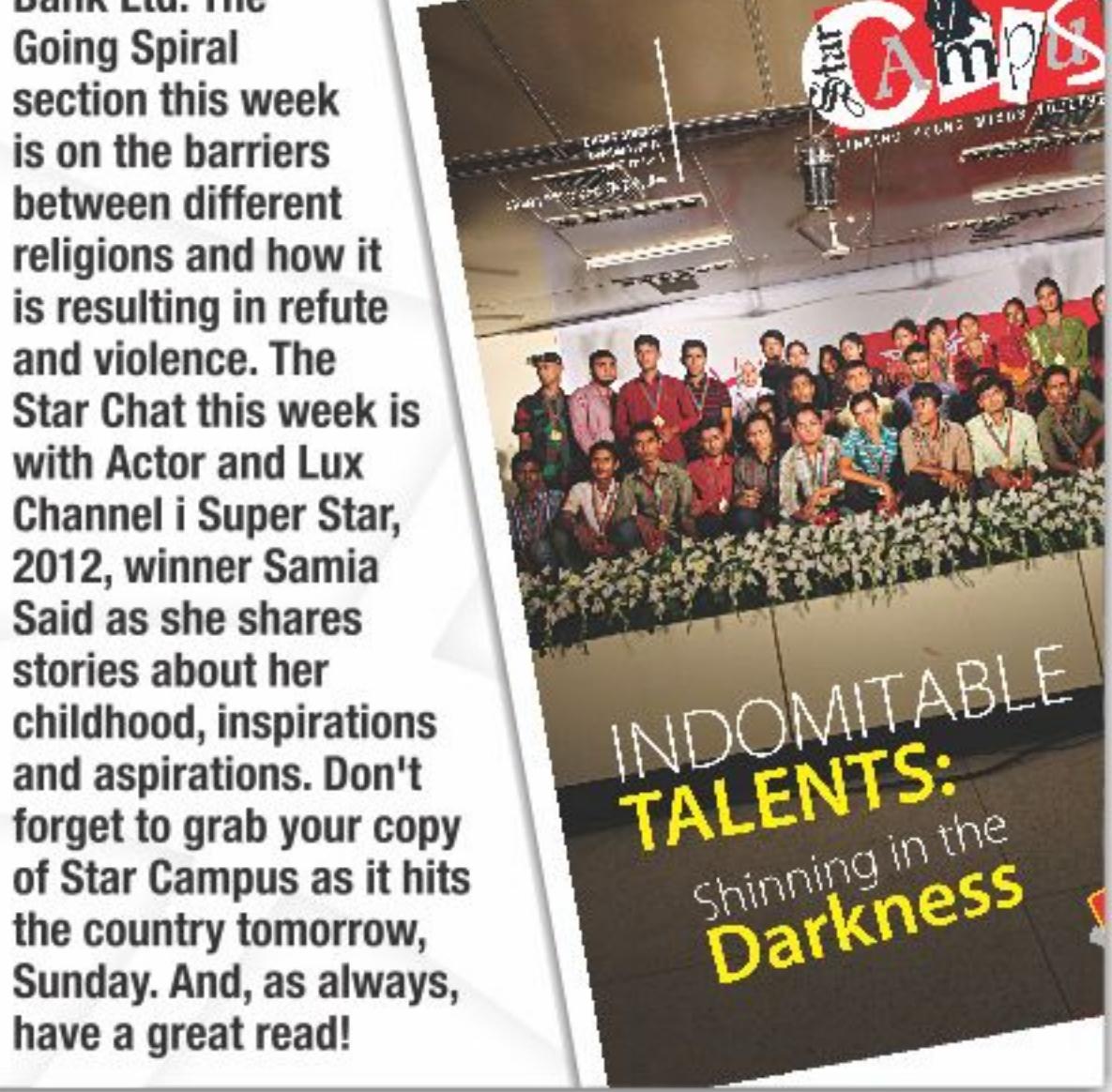
Bangladeshi students first participated in the IOI in 2006 and Bangladesh Informatics Olympiad Committee has been organising Informatics Olympiad in the country since 2004 to develop programming skills of high school students.

IOI, one of the International Science Olympiads and proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, was first held in Bulgaria in 1989.

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This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has an array of exciting articles for the readers this week. The Spotlight is on a special scholarship given out to underprivileged students of SSC and HSC by Prothom Alo Trust and BRAC.

Bank Ltd. The Going Spiral section this week is on the barriers between different religions and how it is resulting in refutation and violence. The Star Chat this week is with Actor and Lux Channel i Super Star, 2012, winner Samia Said as she shares stories about her childhood, inspirations and aspirations. Don't forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!



DNCC to set up three new cattle markets before Eid

UNB, Dhaka

The city authorities have decided to lease out three new temporary cattle markets at the northern part of Dhaka for facilitating the trade of sacrificial animals ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

The Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) will host temporary cattle markets at Uttara Sector-11, Baridhara Block-J and Eastern Housing Maath at Mirpur Section-6 in addition to the permanent cattle markets at Gabtali and six temporary ones, officials said.

DNCC chief estate officer Md Fasiullah told the news agency that the authorities until October 8 have finalised the leasing out of four temporary cattle markets at Agargaon at Tk 1.15 crore, Kakoli Railway Station at Tk 0.52 crore and Khilkhet-Banarupara Residential Area at Tk 0.42 crore.

The leasing out of five other markets under the DNCC at Polytechnic Institute Playground, Taltola Bus Stand, and in the newly selected areas will be completed soon, he added.

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