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# More rain, more sufferings

## Many areas in city waterlogged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As torrential rains drenched the country for the second straight day yesterday, many parts of it went under knee-deep water, causing misery for people.

Many farmers have been affected badly by downpours as their croplands have submerged. Road communications were disrupted at some places due to waterlogging.

During the day, the Dhaka Met office recorded six millimetres of rain in the capital. Kutubdia experienced the highest rainfall of 88 mm in the country.

The weather situation, said a Met office official, might improve from today (Saturday).

Incessant rains have hit the normal life in parts of the capital.

"Twelve hours have passed since the rain stopped, but my house is still under knee-deep water," said Rahela Akhtar, a resident of Gendaria.

She could not cook any meal since Thursday as her gas stove remains submerged. Over the years, it has become a regular occurrence during the rainy season, she added.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Boarding and disembarking of vehicles on ferries were delayed at Paturia and Daulatdia ferry ghats as heavy rain made the pontoons of the ferries slippery, said Bidyut Kumer Saha, manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation.

Passengers suffered long tailbacks at the ghats due to slow movement of ferries.

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A home in the city's Matuail area goes under knee-deep water yesterday as heavy rainfall during the last few days inundates low-lying areas of the capital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## Nazrul's birthday today

UNB, Dhaka

The 114th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated across the country today in a befitting manner.

The government and various socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

## AL leaders doubt BNP's talks intent

### Party high-ups say dialogue, hartal cannot go simultaneously

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League (AL) is doubtful about BNP's sincerity regarding the dialogue on a poll-time government, as the main opposition is still demanding a caretaker government comprised of unelected people.

According to AL insiders, the much-talked-about dialogue is expected to be held on the formation of the interim government with elected representatives, not on the non-partisan caretaker government.

AL Joint Secretary General Mahbubul Alam Hanif said, "When the prime minister had called for a dialogue, BNP gave 48 hours to thwart the government using Hefajate-Islam. Now they have urged the government to sit for a dialogue but at the same time called hartal which is contradictory."

A top policymaker of the ruling party said, "Until BNP say that it is ready to accept the poll-time government comprised of elected people, we will assume that it has no interest in dialogue and we will not proceed with it."

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## PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE WITH US

## Focus on security, trade, labour issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The second US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue will begin in the capital tomorrow, focusing on the expansion of security, trade and development ties between the two countries.

Issues related to labour, regional connectivity, climate change, counter terrorism and food security will come up during the dialogue.

The dialogue will also assess the US-Bangladesh partnership and discuss how it can be strengthened with a strategic direction and highlighting the shared values.

US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy R Sherman will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit to attend the dialogue.

Sherman will head the US delegation while Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque

will lead the Bangladesh side at the discussion, according to the foreign ministry officials.

US Assistant Secretary of State for the Office of Commercial and Business Affairs Jose W Fernandez, who arrives in the capital today, will also join Sherman.

The dialogue will be held following the signing of a joint declaration on "Bangladesh-US Partnership Dialogue" on May 5 last year in Dhaka during former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit.

The first dialogue was held in Washington DC on September 19-20 last year.

Partnership Dialogue is the premier forum for further expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation on bilateral and regional issues, including development, civil society and governance, trade and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 7

## FEAR OF LANDSLIDE

## 50 families relocated from hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong district administration yesterday relocated around 50 families from hill slopes to pitched tents on Railway Kuarpar ground in the port city's Tiger Pass area.

MAH Humayun Kabir, additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Chittagong, informed reporters about the relocation.

He said 90 tents had already been set up, and another 410 tents would soon be pitched in the city's Tiger Pass, Akbar Shah and Beltali Ghona areas.

Brac, a non-government organisation, was providing the tent residents with toilet facilities, while the Chittagong City Corporation with electricity and water, he added.

The administration has started setting up tents to protect

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

## Commuter trains hit Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The much-awaited commuter trains known as Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMU) are set to hit the tracks in Chittagong today.

Railway Minister Md Mujibul Hoque will inaugurate two DEMUs at 11:00am at Chittagong Railway Station, said Md Mizanur Rahman, deputy director (public relations) of Railway East Zone.

Of the two, one named "Chittagong Circular Train" will ply across the port city every day and the minimum fare is Tk 15, said railway sources.

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PHOTO: FILE

Diesel Electric Multiple Unit trains begin their official service from Chittagong Railway Station yesterday.

## Obama restricts use of drones

### Says US to use drones when they are only option

CNN ONLINE

Drone strikes are a necessary evil, but one that must be used with more temperance as the United States' security situation evolves, US President Barack Obama said Thursday.

America prefers to capture, interrogate and prosecute terrorists, but there are times when this isn't possible, Obama said in a speech at the National Defence University in Washington. Terrorists intentionally hide in hard-to-reach locales and putting boots on the ground is often out of the question, he said.

Thus, when the United States is faced with a threat from terrorists in a country where the government has only tenuous or no influence, drones strikes are the only option -- and they're legal because America "is at war with al Qaeda, the Taliban and their associated forces," Obama said.

While he has considered a special court or independent oversight board, those options are problematic, so he plans to talk with Congress to determine how best to handle the deployment of drones, he said.

The nation's image was a theme throughout the speech, as Obama emphasised some actions in recent years -- drone strikes and Guantanamo Bay key among them -- risk creating more threats. The nature of threats against the United States have changed since he took office -- they've become

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## SYLHET CITY POLLS

## BNP's Ariful gets party backing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP central committee member Ariful Haque Chowdhury has outsmarted three other contenders in winning party backing for the upcoming Sylhet mayoral race, party sources said.

Arif along with three other BNP aspirants was called to the party chairperson's office in the capital Thursday night as the previous effort of Vice-Chairman Shomsher Mobin Chowdhury, who was sent to Sylhet last week

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PRAYER TIMING			May 25
Azan	Jamaat		
Fajr	4-05	4-40	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-40	6-45	

Source: Islamic Foundation

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the Amnesty International that the government failed to settle indigenous people's claims over land in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and protect their rights?

Yes

(75%)

No

(25%)

TOTAL VOTES: 165

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government's decision to install a filter in the internet gateways of the country would hamper free flow of information?

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