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Marooned inside DND

Lack of pumps, blocked drainage, encroachment extend inundation

RAFIUL ISLAM

Since the spell of torrential rain a few days ago, tens of thousands of people have been marooned within the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment area due to a clogged drainage system.

Even though four days have gone by since the rain stopped, most houses and establishments there are still under knee- to waist-deep water as channels to drain the water to a nearby river are blocked at several places.

Locals blame unplanned houses and buildings in the wetlands, illegal encroachment of low-lying areas, insufficient water pumps to remove water and lack of regular cleaning of the drainage canals for the situation.

The authorities concerned, however, said they did not have adequate pumps to handle so much water.

While visiting the DND area, this correspondent found the canals clogged by overgrown grass, water hyacinth and garbage. At places these had become dense enough to stand on.

All roads, schools, mosques and other establishments in the area are now under knee-deep water. The streets are under water too and rickshaws and auto-rickshaws cannot ply anymore. People use boats for movement.

The residents of Wapda (Water and Power Development

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Roads and residential areas got waterlogged following the last few days' heavy rainfall at Delpara in Fatullah, Narayanganj. Although miserable, life still goes on -- people go to workplaces wading across the pool of water. Some kids, however, have fun trying to catch fish that flowed into the alleys from nearby ditches. The photos were taken yesterday.

AL-BADR LEADERS MUEEN, ASHRAF

Trial to be held in absentia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday decided to hold the trial of "Al-Badr leaders" Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan in absentia.

The two are accused of being involved in the killing of bright minds of the country at the fag end of the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman

Miah and Judge Md Shahinur Islam decided to go for trial in absentia, as its attempts to have the accused in court had failed.

The court on May 2 issued arrest warrant for them and later asked them to show up at court through newspapers.

Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan are living in London and New York. They were, according to post-liberation newspaper reports, two of the most wanted

criminals accused of killing the bright minds of the country.

Yesterday, the tribunal also appointed two Supreme Court lawyers -- Abdus Shukur Khan and Salma Hai Tuny -- to defend the fugitives.

Mueen-Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman's case would be the second case to be tried in absence of the accused. The trial of expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad, AKA Bachchu Razakar, was also

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NIZAMI'S LAWYER

Tribunal irked by shoddy absence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Motiur Rahman Nizami's senior counsel Mizanul Islam was absent at International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Sunday. His colleagues informed the court he was suffering from chicken pox.

Surprisingly, Mizanul appeared before the tribunal yesterday, although he was supposed to be in quarantine if he was really suffering from the pox.

The judges expressed discontent over the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

STOCKMARKET CRASH

BB to create fund for small investors

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The central bank yesterday decided to set up a refinancing fund to compensate small investors hit hard by the stockmarket crash.

The fund will be made with the government's profits from Bangladesh Bank in the current fiscal year, a senior official said, referring to an outcome of a meeting of BB board.

BB has estimated that its profit by the end of this fiscal year will rise to Tk 4,000 crore, up from Tk 2,500 crore in the previous fiscal year.

The size of the fund has not been finalised yet though the finance ministry asked the banking regulator to make a fund to the tune of Tk 1,266 crore.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



'Beardvertising' the next big thing?

METRO, UK

Beard growing enthusiasts could soon be raking in the cash should this fuzzy thinking advertising concept take off.

Aside from keeping your face warm and looking cool (sometimes), your bushy beard could also help boost your bank balance.

Beardvertising has been tipped to become the 'next big thing' in advertising and involves using a willing participant's epic facial hair as mini billboards.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

It's time to act now

Says Mozena on RMG fire safety

STAR REPORT

US Ambassador Dan W Mozena said yesterday Bangladesh stood at a critical juncture and it had to make a choice between becoming a preferred brand or a tainted one.

If Bangladesh chose to be a preferred brand, he said, it had to ensure that workers' deaths in incidents like the Tazreen fire and Rana Plaza collapse never took place again and factory fire safety and soundness of the buildings

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

WEALTH REPORT CASE

HC clears way for Mahmudur's trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for continuing the trial of a corruption case against daily Amar Desh's detained acting editor Mahmudur Rahman.

It did so by vacating its earlier order that had stayed the case proceedings.

On June 13, 2010, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against him with the capital's Gulshan Police Station for not turning in wealth information.

Earlier on April 19 that year, the ACC issued a notice asking him to submit his wealth statement within seven days.

Following a petition by Mahmudur, the HC passed the stay order on September 28, 2010, and also issued a rule upon the ACC to explain why the case proceedings should not be quashed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think government should allow registration of trade unions in the garment sector and amend labour laws?

Yes

(76%)

No

(24%)

TOTAL VOTES: 207

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government would be able to bring back Tarique Rahman through Interpol?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

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PRAYER TIMING

May 28

Fajr

4-05

4-40

Zohr

12-45

1-15

Asr

5-00

5-15

Maghrib

6-43

6-47

Esha

8-05

8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

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