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City drenched in downpour

Water-logging makes it difficult to commute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many parts of the city remained submerged under water for hours yesterday amid heavy rainfall from the morning exposing the capital's poor drainage system.

The water logging caused immense sufferings to commuters, especially office-goers and students in the morning, as traffic congestion resulted in huge tailbacks on city streets.

"It took me an hour and a half to reach my office at Farmgate from Adabar in Mohammadpur," said Ilias Ali, an official of a private firm.

"I had to change a three-wheeler I boarded as it could not make way through the water. I took a bus and yet, I got partially drenched," Ilias told The Daily Star.

The most affected areas were Shewrapara, Mirpur-10, Shantinagar, Khilgaon, Jatrabari, parts of Pallabi, Rajarbagh, East Rajabazar, Karwan Bazar, Panthapath, Shahbagh and other low-lying spots.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department recorded 29 millimetres of rainfall in Dhaka city from early morning to 12:00 noon yesterday.

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) claimed that though some areas were submerged under water, the rainwater receded in a short time.

"In some localities the water might have taken longer to recede. That is because the water level in rivers is high right now and so it takes time for the rainwater to recede," said

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Mud, potholes, water logging, construction and construction materials have turned the Outer Circular Road near Mouchak unbearable. Yesterday's rain just made the busy street of the capital a death trap.



PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Owner of Pinak-6 sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

A Munshiganj court yesterday sent the owner of sunken Pinak-6 to jail and fixed Monday for remand hearing.

Louhojang police produced the owner, Abu Bakar Siddique, before Munshiganj Judicial Magistrate Harun-or-Rashid and prayed to the court to take him on seven days' remand.

After fixing Monday for remand hearing, Harun-or-Rashid sent Abu Bakar to jail.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Abu Bakar from his relative's house in

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Jabbar's war crimes trial starts on Sept 7

Five charges framed against the ex-JP lawmaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed five charges against former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Jabbar, who was chairman of Mathbaria Peace Committee in Pirojpur in 1971, has been charged with murder, mass killing, looting and forced conversion committed during the war.

After framing the charges, the tribunal fixed September 7 for starting the trial with opening statements and examination of prosecution witnesses.

The accused had allegedly played a key



role in the formation of Razakar Bhahini and had led the force in committing crimes in Mathbaria.

Chairman of the three-member tribunal Justice M Enayetur Rahim said they went through the formal charge, evidence and documents and found strong prima facie case against Jabbar.

The tribunal chairman then read out the charges.

According to the indictment order, Jabbar along with his accomplices forcefully converted 200 Hindus of Phuljhuri to Islam in the last week of May 1971.

On October 6, 1971, Jabbar and his cohorts detained 37 people of Angulkata

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MONEY LAUNDERING BNP leader Mosharraf charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission on yesterday pressed charges against BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain in a case filed in connection with siphoning off over Tk 9.53 crore to the United Kingdom.

ACC Director Nasim Anwar, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet

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BNP spent 3 times its income last year

Submits internal audit report to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's expenditure on different party activities in 2013 was three times its income in the year, according to an audit report submitted by the party to the Election Commission (EC).

The party's annual income was Tk 76,05,761 while its expenditure was Tk 2,27,00,362, said the report.

After an extension of the deadline by two weeks, a four-member delegation led by BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday submitted the report to the EC's Acting Secretary Sirazul Islam.

"Our main source of income was donations from party leaders and activists while the money was spent over meetings, processions, rallies and other such party programmes," Rizvi told reporters after submitting the report at the EC Secretariat in

the capital.

Replying to a query on the party's higher expenditure as against the income, he said the money was arranged from the party fund.

BNP's income last year reduced significantly compared to 2012. The party's income and expenditure in 2012 stood at Tk 1,79,12,231 and Tk 2,26,93,143 respectively.

The monthly contributions and donations from party leaders and activists could not be collected properly as they remained too busy in different anti-government movements, Rizvi told The Daily Star yesterday.

All the registered parties have to submit their annual audit reports certified by a registered chartered accountant firm within July 31 of the following year, according to

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A bus sideswipes another bus near Malibagh level crossing in the capital in their race to pick up more passengers and get ahead yesterday. Such fender benders are so common and intentional that there is hardly any bus on the streets without the scars of these tussles.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

It goes against charter, RTI

TIB criticises some sections of National Broadcast Policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some sections of the newly formulated National Broadcast Policy conflict with the constitution, democratic norms, human rights and the Right to Information Act, Transparency International Bangladesh said yesterday.

Alleging that the policy has some provisions intended to control the electronic media through curbing its freedom of expression, the anti-graft watchdog also demanded that the policy be amended to address the concerns of stakeholders and media people.

It called for the formation of an independent and neutral broadcasting commission of international standard immediately to oversee the implementation of the policy.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman made the observations and suggestions at a press conference at a city hotel a week after the government published a gazette notification on the policy despite widespread criticism by media outlets,

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Renewed Gaza truce holds

AFP, Gaza City

Millions in Gaza and southern Israel yesterday enjoyed a welcome extension to a temporary truce despite a rocky start which saw a flurry of rocket fire and air strikes.

Negotiators in Cairo brokered an 11th-hour extension to an existing truce by another five days to allow for continued negotiations on a long-term ceasefire in a conflict which has killed 1,962 Palestinians and 67 people on the Israeli side since July 8.

The Israeli army said six Palestinian rockets struck Israel during the night, including three after the new truce

came into effect at midnight.

Israeli warplanes hit back with four air strikes, Palestinian security officials told AFP, saying the skies fell silent at around 3:00am (0000 GMT).

"An agreement to extend the ceasefire for five days has been accepted by both sides to allow more time for negotiations," an Egyptian foreign ministry statement said.

Palestinian chief negotiator Azzam al-Ahmed said the delegations had reached "agreement on many points" concerning the lifting of Israel's eight-year blockade on Gaza but needed more time to settle a number of remaining disputes.

Israel confirmed its acceptance of the Egyptian proposal and its security cabinet was meeting to discuss it further late yesterday.

Israeli negotiators and various members of the Palestinian delegation have left Cairo for consultations with their respective bases.

A Palestinian source said the Palestinian delegates were not expected to return to Cairo before tomorrow night.

Speaking to reporters in Gaza City, Hamas politburo member Khalil al-Haya said there was "still a real chance of reaching an agreement", but only if

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Plane nosedives as pilot asleep!

Jet Airways flight averts accident

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A flight of India's Jet Airways from Mumbai to Brussels with around 280 passengers on board descended 5,000 feet while overflying Turkey last week with the pilot asleep and the co-pilot busy on an iPad.

Both pilots of the country's largest private carrier have been suspended by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

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