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Floods spread to fresh areas

2 drown in Jamalpur; ferry services interrupted

STAR REPORT

More villages and croplands were inundated and over 200 families displaced due to river erosion and an increase in water levels of the Teesta and other rivers in Lalmonirhat, Jamalpur and Netrakona yesterday.

Meanwhile, strong currents in the Padma interrupted ferry services on the Mawa-Kawrakandi route, causing severe traffic congestion and leaving many stranded on both ends for hours.

At least 40 villages in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat were flooded as the Teesta was flowing above the danger level.

The low-lying areas of these villages went under water due to onrush of water from upstream, leaving at least 4,000 people marooned, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

The Dharla river also swelled but was still flowing a centimetre below the danger level at Kulaghat point in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

"We are keeping open all 52 gates of the Teesta Barrage due to heavy currents from upstream," said Mahbubur Rahman, executive engineer of the WDB at Dalia.

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A passenger holds the handlebar while the rickshaw puller pushes the vehicle in ankle-deep water at Agargaon in the capital yesterday. The street has been under water for over a week and no government agency has done anything about it.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Ambassador at a loss

Diplomatic circle shocked

REZAUL KARIM

The diplomatic community in Dhaka is irked by an unprecedented court summons on the Korean ambassador to Bangladesh in a clear violation of the Vienna Convention.

Last month's summons, however, was cancelled within two weeks earlier this month and the

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Israeli strikes kill 3 Hamas commanders

UN urges resumption of talks; 27 more killed in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City, United Nations

Three senior Hamas commanders and four children were among 27 Palestinians killed in Gaza yesterday as Israel stepped up air strikes on day 45 of the bloody conflict.

The UN Security Council meanwhile on Wednesday urged Israel and the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table to quickly agree on a lasting truce in Gaza.

In a unanimously adopted statement, the

15-member council "offered full support to the Egyptian initiative and called upon the parties to resume negotiations to urgently reach a sustainable and lasting ceasefire."

The statement, drafted by France, was agreed after negotiations in Cairo teetered on the verge of collapse.

The measure fell short of a full resolution, but diplomats signaled they would be ready to move toward a stronger response if

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Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A leader of the outlawed Sarbhabara Party was killed yesterday afternoon at Shilundia Bazaar of Babuganj upazila in Barisal in a "shootout" with the Rapid Action Battalion.

The victim identified as Abdul Jalil alias Kana Jalil, 49, was second-in-command of Sarbhabara Qamrul group in the region.

Captain Abul Bashar,

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ABDUCTED 2 DAYS BACK 14-month-old baby rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police yesterday rescued the 14-month-old baby abducted during a robbery, rape and murder incident in Nilphamari town on Tuesday.

They also arrested three people in this connection in Rangpur and one in Nilphamari.

The criminals stormed the Thanapara home of Mirza Nur Mohammad Beg and Shirin Jahan on Tuesday and raped their house help Sumi Akhtar, 15. They then killed her and robbed the house of valuables.

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DAVID BERGMAN
Contempt charge hearing begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday started hearing arguments on

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PRAYER TIMING		August 22
Fazr	4-30	5-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Magrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Hajera Khatun breaks down in tears at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday over the coffin of her son Faruk Khan, who was killed in a construction site accident on Monday in Malaysia.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Back home dead Bodies of 3 Bangladeshis brought from Malaysia

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

He has little time to mourn the loss. His family has him now to take up the responsibility his elder brother had been bearing until his sudden death.

Only four days have gone by since 35-year-old Faruk Khan died in an accident at a construction site in Malaysia and his brother Rubel Khan is now readying himself to join on Sunday Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, the company Faruk was working for.

The ticket to Malaysia had already been purchased and necessary staff arranged for packing before Rubel received the shocking news.

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BID TO OUST PAK GOVT Imran Khan calls off talks with govt

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani opposition politician Imran Khan yesterday called off talks with the government aimed at ending protests seeking the fall of the prime minister, which have unnerved the nuclear-armed nation.

Khan and populist cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri have led followers protesting outside parliament for the past two days demanding Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif quit.

Talks to end the standoff -- which began a week ago with "long marches" from the eastern city of Lahore -- started on Wednesday but made little headway.

Khan insists the May 2013 general election, won in a landslide by Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N party, was rigged, despite independent international observers judging it free and credible.

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We Mourn



We deeply mourn the sad demise of Mohammad Mosarraf Hossain, adviser to chairperson of BNP, Ex-MP, Feni-3, Managing Director of Bay Eastern, Ex-President of BGMEA & BAIRA.

On behalf of Hosaf Group of Companies.



High Tower
9, Mohakhali, C/A, Dhaka-1212

'Suicide tourism' on the rise

AFP, Paris

A total of 172 "suicide tourists" travelled to Switzerland in 2012, double the 2009 number, to die with medical assistance -- a practice prohibited

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think that Bangladesh government's concept of cluster villages would help save agricultural land?

Yes (37%)

No (63%)

TOTAL VOTES: 205

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government's move to prepare 32 sets of question papers for every subject in public examinations would help stop question leaks?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

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On behalf of the Management and Employees of **Chemlube Ltd.**

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