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The rain in the capital yesterday inundates the Shanti Nagar intersection, right, triggering a traffic chaos. Students of schools and colleges take refuge, top left, on the central reservation near the intersection as they try to figure out how to get to school with the street flooded. In Motijheel, parked cars are seen in rain water.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Floods spread further

Situation to worsen in 13 out of 16 affected districts; at least 2.5 lakh families hit hard

STAR REPORT

The flood situation in at least 13 districts may deteriorate slightly as water levels of three major rivers are likely to increase in the next three days, prolonging the woes of several lakh flood-hit people.

According to a rough estimation of Disaster Management Department, over 2.5 lakh families have been affected by the floods that started in mid-August.

Even though the flood-hit people complained of inadequate relief efforts, the department claimed that

there was "sufficient" relief allocation to tackle the situation.

About Dhaka, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday said the rivers surrounding the city, with around 1.5 crore people, are swelling, but it sees little chance of floods in the capital in the next few days.

According to the latest bulletin of the FFWC at 6:00am yesterday, the flood situation of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Tangail, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Rajbari and Faridpur may "slightly

deteriorate" in next 48 hours.

Water levels of almost all the major rivers were rising while water level of the Brahmaputra, Jamuna and the Padma could rise in next 72 hours, it says.

The rise of water level in the Brahmaputra and the Teesta in India caused the Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Padma and the Teesta in Bangladesh to swell and this could deteriorate the situation "slightly", Ripon Karmaker, duty officer of the FFWC, told The Daily Star last night.

However, flood situation in three

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Test Vitamin A capsules before use

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday forbade the government to distribute vitamin A capsules among children without conducting any clinical test.

In a suo moto rule, an HC bench of Justice Hassan Arif and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman said the government could distribute vitamin A capsules only if those were found to be of standards in the clinical test.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Five more Rab men held over 7-murder

Arrestees tell court they were forced by superior officers to take part in the crime

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday placed five members of Rapid Action Battalion-11, arrested on Tuesday night, on an eight-day remand in connection with the sensational seven-murder in Narayanganj late in April.

The five told the court that they had been forced to get involved in the abduction and killing by their superior officers -- Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana -- who

had been arrested earlier, court sources said.

The five Rab personnel were Lance Nayek Hira Miah and Belal Hossain, constable Emdadul Haque, sepoy Abu Tayab and radio operator Arif Hossain.

Hira told the court that Maj Arif had forced him at gun point to dump the corpses in the Shitalakkhya river, according to the sources.

The sources said all five of them had played roles in the abduction and murder.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A family with their precious belongings moving to higher grounds wading through over knee-deep water at Char Shiberkuti in Lalmonirhat yesterday as flooding in the north continues to cause sufferings.

PHOTO: STAR

'BSF TO TRAIN BGB' 20-party slams govt

Fakhrul invites AL to face BNP on street

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday blasted the government for reaching an agreement with India to train Border Guard Bangladesh personnel by the Indian Border Security Force.

They also criticised the government's move to restore the parliament's authority to impeach Supreme Court judges.

The rally was organised as part of the opposition combine's three-day programme protesting the government's initiative to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

HC for judicial inquiry into baby stealing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing utter dismay over stealing of newborn babies from Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the High Court yesterday ordered conducting a judicial inquiry into the "entire incident" relating to the stealing of a baby from the hospital on August 21.

The court ordered the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka to assign a magistrate to enquire into the matter and to find out the loopholes in the security of the ward concerned of the hospital and the administrative failure to protect the child on that day.

Issuing a suo moto rule, the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman also ordered the police to provide protection to the parents of the missing child and to assist the magistrate in holding the probe.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Cops hunt for culprit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to trace the newborn stolen from Dhaka Medical College Hospital a week ago.

Several law enforcement agencies have been working round the clock to nab the culprits and recover the stolen twin boy, Sub-inspector Ferdous Alam of Shabbagh Police Station told this newspaper.

The police early yesterday raided different places in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING August 28		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4:30	5:05	
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:33	6:36
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the government is restoring parliament's authority to impeach Supreme Court judges with an intention to conceal its misdeeds?

Yes (82%)
No (18%)

TOTAL VOTES: 230

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid that quality of education in Bangladesh is yet to improve at the desired level?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

Life stirs in Gaza as ceasefire holds

AFP, Gaza City

Life in Gaza resumed some semblance of normality yesterday as a long-term truce took hold following a deal hailed by Israel and Hamas as 'victory' in the 50-day war.

Millions in and around the war-torn enclave enjoyed a welcome night of peace during which there were no strikes on Gaza, nor Palestinian rockets fired at Israel, the Israeli army said.

"We were able to sleep!" said a Gazan man, Alaa al-Jaro. "We had the best sleep

ever after the Israeli aggression ended."

The agreement, effective from 1600 GMT Tuesday, saw the warring sides agree to a "permanent" ceasefire which Israel said would not be limited by time, in a move hailed by Washington, the United Nations and top world diplomats.

Both Israel and the Islamist Hamas movement, the de facto authority in Gaza, hailed the ceasefire as a victory.

But commentators took a more realistic perspective. "A draw" was the headline in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Woman kills leopard with a sickle

AFP, Dehradun

A 56-year-old Indian woman is recovering in hospital after killing a leopard that attacked her as she tended her fields armed only with a sickle.

The woman told Indian broadcaster CNN-IBN that she battled with the leopard for half an hour on Sunday

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

