



GANGA-JAMUNA FEST OPENS

Living legend Soumitra Chatterjee and his play grace Dhaka stage

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THE SHORES OF EUROPE

In the wake of refugee crisis, article sheds light on the West's hypocrisy

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HILLARY EMAIL ROW

Ex-US secretary of state admits she didn't "stop and think" about email system

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Double disaster in the making

Plagued by waterlogging, capital to face water crisis if floodplains not protected

TAWFIQUE ALI

The city dwellers will have to face a severe water and drainage crisis in near future unless the wholesale destruction of floodplains and wetlands ceases immediately, experts have warned.

"We are definitely heading towards a disaster in terms of availability of safe water and a good drainage system as the rivers around the capital are already polluted beyond treatment and choked up because of land grabbing," said Country Representative Md Khairul Islam of WaterAid Bangladesh.

In June last year, the government gave the go-ahead to three housing schemes -- Jolshiri, Prottyasha and Bashundhara Residential Area (partial) -- on flood flow zones, said Rajuk sources.

Just around two months later, the housing and public works ministry approved some private housing projects that led to

destruction of over 8,000 acres of flood flow zones and farmland.

Khairul said 672 deep tube wells of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) currently pump 80 per cent of 230 crore litres of water required to meet the capital's daily demand while the rest is met with treated water.

That apart, Dhaka University, Pikhana headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh, Dhaka Cantonment and some private individuals meet their demand independently by using over 2,000 deep tube wells, he added.

Wetlands and floodplains are vital rain-water catchment areas to recharge ground water. They also contain surface water and check urban flash floods caused by monsoon downpours, said the WaterAid official.

Indian cities like Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata survive on ground water and harvested rainwater simultaneously, mentioned Khairul.

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Land grabbers fill up a portion of the floodplains of the Turag near Ashulia Landing Station. The destruction of Dhaka's floodplains is one of the reasons for waterlogging which troubles the capital even after a light rain.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Arab countries doing nothing

WASHINGTON POST ONLINE

The world has been transfixed in recent weeks by the unfolding refugee crisis in Europe, an influx of migrants unprecedented since World War II. Their plight was chillingly highlighted on Wednesday in the image of a drowned Syrian toddler, his lifeless body lying alone on a Turkish beach.

A fair amount of attention has fallen on the failure of many Western governments to adequately address the burden on Syria's neighbouring countries, which are struggling to host the brunt of the roughly 4 million Syrians forced out of the country by its civil war.

Some European countries have been criticized for offering sanctuary only to

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Austria, Germany open borders to refugees

Struggling Hungary opts to bus out refugees; 4,000 reach Austria; Germany gets first 450 of 10,000 expected shortly

REUTERS, Hegyeshalom/Vienna

Austria and Germany threw open their borders to thousands of exhausted migrants yesterday, bussed to the Hungarian border by a right-wing government that had tried to stop them but was overwhelmed by the sheer numbers reaching Europe's frontiers.

Left to walk the last yards into Austria, rain-soaked migrants, many of them refugees from Syria's civil war, were whisked by train and shuttle bus to Vienna, where many said they were resolved

to continue on to Germany.

German police later said the first 450 of up to 10,000 migrants expected yesterday had arrived on a special train in Munich from Austria. Austrian police said over 6,000 had entered the country with more expected, highlighting the continent's worst refugee crisis since the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

Germany can cope with a record influx of

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ACT URGENTLY: TULIP, 2 OTHER BRITISH MPS TO CAMERON -- PAGE 2

TOP QUOTE

"I'm very saddened to hear that households and businesses of the Hindus are being attacked and grabbed in some areas. We just cannot allow it to continue in an independent country."

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MINISTER
SYED ASHRAFUL ISLAM
AT JANMASHITAMI PROCESSION IN THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY

WATERLOGGING IN DHAKA Solution only in free rivers, canals

Experts, mayors want coordinated body; political will questioned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital may face a much worse flooding in future than what it suffered last week if canals and floodplains are not reclaimed soon, cautioned noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury.

"Powerful realtors" have earth-filled the flood flow zones and water retention areas, conservation of which was a major decision in the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka, said Chowdhury, who headed the technical expert committee on the DAP adopted in 2010.

"It is not irreversible if the government truly intends to resolve the city's waterlogging," he said at a discussion on waterlogging in the capital. Bangla daily Prothom Alo

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Refugees arrive at the Austrian-Hungarian border station of Hegyeshalom, Hungary. Hundreds of exhausted asylum seekers streamed into Austria yesterday reaching the border on buses provided by Hungary.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Patients' horror from medical error

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY from Dili, Timor-Leste

Health services are not as safe as they could and should be. Patient safety has become a major healthcare concern these days. As interventions are becoming complex with time, patients are more at risks of medical errors.

The case of Musrat Jahan, barely four months old, is a glaring example of this. Her tiny body has undergone two surgeries

already and will require a couple more.

She was born on May 19 at Rajshahi's Islami Bank Medical College Hospital with imperforate anus, meaning her anus had no opening through which stools leave the body. According to Mozammel Haq, the physician who operated on her, the baby also had "excessive water" in one of her kidneys and her colon did not properly develop.



Musrat with burn marks on her body. A victim of unsafe healthcare, the toddler is now writhing in pain at a Rajshahi hospital.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

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