



## Roanu leaves thousands homeless

### Trail of devastation in coastal districts; govt yet to make full assessment of damage

STAR REPORT

Thousands of people have been rendered homeless in several coastal upazilas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Bhola as Cyclone Roanu has left a trail of devastation in its wake. Around one lakh houses were damaged and about 150,000 families were affected by the cyclone in the three districts, say government officials.

However, a full assessment of the damage is yet to be done, they added.

Upon their return home from cyclone shelters, many found their houses razed to the ground, belongings gone, crops ruined and fish farms washed away.

Banshkhali upazila in Chittagong is among the worst affected areas as several unions remained inundated with seawater rushing into the storm-battered villages till yesterday.

A 30-kilometre stretch of the 130km long embankment

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People trying to salvage belongings from their ruined houses at Premashia in Banshkhali upazila of Chittagong. Cyclone Roanu ravaged the coastal areas of the upazila, leaving seven dead and causing extensive damage to houses and crops. The photo was taken on Sunday.

## Large parts of embankment damaged in Banshkhali

### People living in fear of more floods

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, back from Banshkhali

People in the coastal areas of Banshkhali upazila in Chittagong fear of more floods ahead as cyclone Roanu had badly damaged large portions of an embankment.

Seawater was still gushing in through the collapsed portions of the embankment, marooning villagers, locals said.

They fear that the damage to the embankment would bring more miseries if it was not rebuilt before the rainy season.

According to Chittagong district administration, around 30km of the 130km-long embankment was damaged and 30 points of

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## IS attacks in Syria kill 148

### Seven near-simultaneous bombings target bus stations, hospitals, civilian sites in the coastal heartland of Assad regime

AFP, Beirut

More than 148 people were killed yesterday in bombings claimed by the Islamic State group in northwestern Syria, the deadliest attacks yet in the regime's coastal heartland.

Seven near-simultaneous explosions targeted bus stations, hospitals and other civilian sites in the seaside cities of Jableh and Tartus, which until now had been relatively insulated from Syria's five-year civil war.

The unprecedented attacks on strongholds of President Bashar al-Assad's regime came as IS faces mounting pressure in both Syria and Iraq, where

Baghdad's forces yesterday launched a major offensive to retake the jihadist-held city of Fallujah.

A hundred people were killed in Jableh and another 48 in Tartus to the south, at least eight of them children, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said they were "without a doubt the deadliest attacks" on the two cities since the start of the war.

IS claimed the blasts via its Amaq news agency, saying its fighters had attacked "Alawite gatherings" in Jableh and Tartus, referring to the minority sect from which Assad hails.

IS is not known to have a presence in Syria's

coastal provinces, where its jihadist rival and al-Qaeda's local branch Al-Nusra Front is much more prominent.

But IS is notorious for using deadly sleeper cells to attack its enemies.

"I'm shocked, this is the first time I hear sounds like this," said Mohsen Zayyoud, a 22-year-old university student in Jableh.

'IN THE HEART OF THE BATTLE' "I thought the war was over and that I could walk safely. But I was surprised to see that we're still in the heart of the battle," he said.

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IS-CLAIMED YEMEN BOMBINGS KILL 41 -- PAGE 8

## Nurjahan Begum no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lifetime of work dedicated to the emancipation of Bangalee Muslim women, came to an end yesterday as the editor and publisher of the Begum magazine, nonagenarian Nurjahan Begum, breathed her last.

A pioneer of women in journalism, Nurjahan had

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A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) yesterday shows flames billowing at the scene of multiple bombings in the city of Tartus. Inset, a Syrian firefighter extinguishes a blaze at the scene of the bombings.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pressure piles up on Salim Osman

### MP cancels press conference; local Hefajat now wants fresh probe into Shyamal's 'comments'

RASHIDUL HASAN

Controversial Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman, now under pressure from the Awami League as well as his own party, last night cancelled his press conference scheduled for today.

The lawmaker had planned to hold the press conference in Narayanganj this morning to defend his role in the public humiliation of schoolteacher Shyamal Kanti Bhakta.

A Narayanganj-based reporter told The Daily Star last night that Salim Osman's men sent text messages to local journalists, claiming that the press conference has been cancelled at the request of his party's central executive committee.

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## Shab-e-Barat observed

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, was observed in the country on Sunday night with due solemnity and religious fervour.

Muslim devotees spent the night offering special prayers, zikir, reciting from the holy Quran, holding milad and other religious rituals to seek divine blessings for peace and happiness for themselves and also for the wellbeing of mankind.

They visited graveyards of their relatives and Muslim saints and prayed to the Almighty for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

Muslims also distributed

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**TOP!**  
QUOTE

"No, because I think that it's important to recognise that in the midst of war, leaders make all kinds of decisions."

US PRESIDENT  
**BARACK OBAMA**  
TELLS NHK WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD APOLOGISE ON HIS HIROSHIMA VISIT FOR THE 1945 ATOMIC BOMBING

## Govt to keep watch on pro-Jamaat Peace schools

### Cabinet body decides after discussion on intelligence report

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government has asked the law enforcement agencies to keep a close eye on the network of Peace school and colleges across the country to see if they propagate in favour of militancy.

The decision came in a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order after it discussed an intelligence report on the operation of Peace schools, said meeting sources.

The meeting was held at the home ministry on Sunday, with Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu in the chair.

According to the report, around 27 Peace schools are being run in six districts by pro-Jamaat-e-Islami men. A part of their income was being spent on the party's organisational activities.

Although the school chain use the logo of Peace TV, an Islamic TV channel, no link of the TV station was found with the schools, it added.

The schools were being operated by a company named Invitos Peace Limited, with its Chairman Abu Zafar Muhammad Obaidullah, a former president of Chhatra Shibir, said the report.

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