

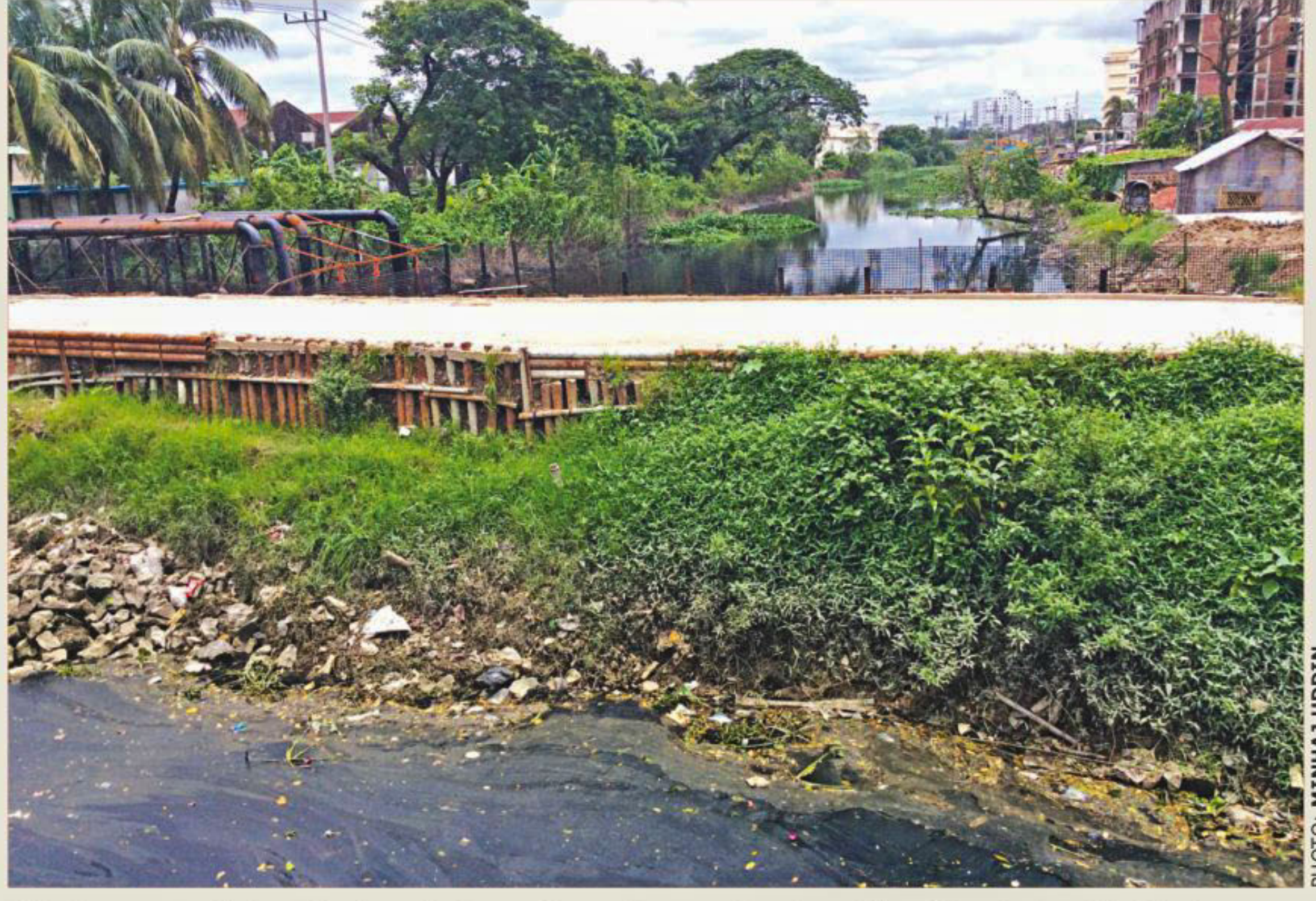
WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.1 L 25.3	H 32.0 L 26.8	H 32.0 L 24.2	H 32.8 L 26.2	H 30.0 L 25.5	H 31.8 L 25.9	H 32.0 L 25.4	H 30.7 L 25.6

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am. Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Ishwardi and the lowest 24.2 degree Celsius in Sylhet & Netrakona.

Solution breeds new problems

Ctg dam built to end waterlogging triggers flood in other areas



This dam across Moheshkhal was built to mitigate the waterlogging crisis of Agrabad and Halishahar areas but residents of ward nos. 37 and 38 of CCC allege that it's creating waterlogging problems in their areas.

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

A year ago Chittagong Port Authority built a dam across Moheshkhal in Chittagong city to ease the waterlogging problem of Agrabad and Halishahar areas caused by rain and tidal water. Although it largely solved the waterlogging problem in Agrabad CDA, Halishahar, Chotopul, and Boropul areas, a new problem arose as the initiative brought misfortune upon residents of South Middle Halishahar area in ward no. 37 and 38 under the CCC, who are now experiencing flood for the obstruction of the canal's natural water flow, according to the

alleged residents. "For the last three days people cannot come out of their houses due to knee to waist-deep water on the road nor stay inside as water has entered the low lying areas," complained Azhar Mia of Munsipara. "Some are even putting bricks underneath their bed to increase its height. We have never experienced such flooding before," he alleged. "While returning home on Friday we found that the roads were filled with murky water and had to wade through it," said Kamrul Hossain, a resident of Maizpara and principal of Holy

Locals said floods occur two to three times a month; on each occasion, tidal water floods the locality twice a day and water remains stagnant for at least three hours. People of the affected areas also went to dismantle the dam on May 21 this year and had a clash with the police, leaving a few injured, said Zahedul Islam, assistant commissioner of CMP (court zone). Locals under the banner of "Ward 37 and 38 Conscious Citizens' Society" also presented a memorandum to CPA demanding to remove the dam on July 13, but to no avail, said Morshed Alam, convener of the committee. CPA Member (Planning and Administration) Zafar Alam, however said, "The accusation that the dam is the only reason behind the flooding is not correct."



Locals wade through ankle-deep murky water in Adarshapara, one of the affected areas.

residents. The 120 feet long and 30 feet high dam was built near Port Republic Club in September last year on Moheshkhal, the second largest natural canal system in the port city. Areas south to the dam that never saw waterlogging and flood, are now experiencing flood during a tidal surge in the canal this year,

Kids Grammar School. Several others, including Swarup Dutta Razu of Hindupara echoed. Residents of Adarshapara, Hindupara, Munsipara, Sheikhpura, Dhuppara, Ishan Mistrir Hat and Eshak Depot, where flood is occurring during full and half-moon every month, demanded its removal.

"The increase in tidal surge or siltation of the canal might be the reason. As people are killing the canal by dumping waste and encroaching upon it, we are facing these problems. We have to return the canal to its original condition," he said. He said the demand of removing the dam was also not logical. "A team of the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology is working on a design of a sluice gate (tidal regulator), which would help to reduce their sufferings," said Zafar, adding, "Hopefully we would get the design next week." Khairul Alam, joint secretary of Greater Agrabad and Halishahar Waterlogging Mitigating Committee, said waterlogging problem in their areas was largely solved after the dam was built. But it was not a permanent solution, he said, acknowledging the waterlogging problem of the new areas. "We want a solution that would reduce waterlogging in all the areas," he stressed.

India moves for Agartala-Akhaura railway link

Central minister to lay foundation stone July 31
OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu will lay the foundation stone of Agartala-Akhaura rail service on July 31 to connect India's northeastern part with Bangladesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will simultaneously flag off the broad gauge train service between New Delhi and Agartala from the national capital, Tripura Transport Minister Manik Dey told reporters in Agartala. India would bear the entire project cost. New Delhi is keen to establish the rail link as it would connect West Bengal and Tripura through Bangladesh. The 1,700 km distance between Agartala and Kolkata through the "Chicken Neck" (a narrow tract of land) near Siliguri would be reduced to 350 km if passengers from Agartala could move through the neighbouring country. The 15-km route is expected to boost trade between the two countries.

Paturia-Daulatdia ROUTE Truckers raise allegation of ferry ticket scalping

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

With the ferry shortage persisting on Paturia-Daulatdia route and vehicles waiting longer periods on both sides of the Padma River, some people are taking money from truckers at the Paturia end to help them jump the queue, several truckers alleged yesterday. Truck driver Sorhab Ali said he reached Paturia on Thursday afternoon but many truckers in line behind him had already crossed the river. He added that those who were giving extra money were getting the ferry tickets. Another trucker, Shah Alam, said he could not buy the ticket because he refused to pay an additional Tk 1,000. The price of the ticket was Tk 1,060, but some brokers asked for Tk 2,000, he alleged. Truck driver Biltu Hossain said he was asked to give Tk 2,500 for a Tk 1,460 ticket. Two other truck drivers Shaharul and Abdul Khalek raised the same allegations, while speaking of the untold sufferings they were facing due to long waits. Assistant General Manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Aricha office Jilur Rahman denied the allegation of taking extra money from the truckers. He said passenger buses and trucks carrying perishable items were getting priority to board the ferries, so it was taking longer for other trucks to cross the river. A huge tailback was created on

Wednesday noon at Paturia in Manikganj and Daulatdia in Rajbari after six ferries out of the 18 operating on the route went out of order. Later one was renovated and joined the fleet, but it barely mitigated people's sufferings. Moreover, strong currents are forcing the ferries to take twice as long for each trip, said Mohiuddin Rasel, manager (commerce) at Aricha office of BIWTC. He said



A long tailback on the road leading to Paturia terminal in Manikganj yesterday.

the number of vehicles crossing the river every day was reduced to half due to the ferry shortage and strong currents. An estimated 4,500 vehicles make the crossing daily. Meanwhile, thousands of passengers from 17 south-western districts of the country, heading for Dhaka, were experiencing immense sufferings due to the tailbacks.



Visitors look at photos at an exhibition at Gallery Twenty One on Satmasjid Road in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday, marking the 91st birthday of national leader Tajuddin Ahmad. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque inaugurated the month-long event on the day, which will remain open from 11:00am to 4:00pm every day.

Pabna pro-AL leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Swechhasebak League leader was shot dead allegedly by his rivals in the ruling Awami League at the bus terminal in Pabna town last night over establishing supremacy in the area. Md Amin Uddin, 28, was publicity secretary of Pabna poura unit of the pro-AL organisation. A gang led by Md Shahidur

Rahman, organising secretary of the dissolved committee of the poura unit of AL, attacked Amin while he along with his associates was gossiping, said Amin's close aide Md Sagor Hossain, also an activist of Swechhasebak League, who claimed to have witnessed the incident. The attackers also hacked Amin, he said, adding that he narrowly escaped the attack with minor injuries. "It was a

pre-planned attack." Md Abdulla Al Hasan, officer-in-charge of Pabna Police Station, said they raided the town residence of Shahidur Rahman who had been on the run since the incident. Shahidur's nephew Rana, 25, was detained for interrogation, he added. The specific reasons behind the murder can be ascertained after investigation, said the OC.



Passengers hang precariously from a crammed bus while a few try their luck to squeeze inside. This has become a regular scene in the capital especially during the afternoon when students and home-goers swarm these buses, which may lead to a serious accident anytime. The photo was taken at Farmgate yesterday.

Billboards will not be allowed in Ctg city

Says CCC mayor
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin yesterday told a "citizen dialogue" that the corporation would not allow anyone to install any billboard in the city. "When CCC was evicting billboards from different areas in the city in last January, many people criticised the move, saying that it would allow some other people to install the billboards. But it was not true," said the mayor, adding, "I can assure you that none will be allowed to install billboards in future." Local Bangla daily the Suprabhat Bangladesh held the dialogue at its Studio Hall in the city, marking the completion of the mayor's one year.

Jamiyatul Ulama

FROM PAGE 3 acceptable... You cannot make the khatib act like a cuckoo." The platform of Islamic scholars arranged the conference to protest the recent terror attacks around the world including those at Gulshan and Sholakia. Its president, Delwar Hossain Saifi, presided over the programme. Following the two terrorist attacks in Bangladesh, the Islamic Foundation on July 14 requested the mosques across the country to follow the sermon to be delivered at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque during Juma prayers, as an effort to create awareness against terrorism and militancy. Following criticism over the common khutba, the Khutba Formulation Committee on July 19 said the national mosque's khutba was not imposed on anyone or made specific for anybody. Yahya yesterday said, "The initiative taken by Shamim Mohammad Afjal, director general of the Islamic Foundation, to control khutbas and to form a Khatib Council will fail utterly to create an appeal among alems [Islamic clerics]... The country's alems have no faith in the DG." "Nothing should be imposed suddenly. Bangladesh Jamiyatul Ulama thinks the decision should be taken on the basis of opinions from the country's renowned ulamas (Islamic scholars)." He said the Jamiyatul Ulama had taken several programmes including launching an awareness campaign in educational institutions and mosques and convening an anti-militancy national conference. Yahya said they would observe July 29 as "Militancy Resistance Day" and would give a memorandum and copies of an anti-militancy fatwa, signed by over one lakh Islamic scholars, to district authorities. On July 18, led by its chairman, Farid Uddin Masud, the organisation issued a set of fatwas, saying those killing people in the name of religion were headed for hell.

Bogra UP chairman succumbs to bullet wounds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A newly elected Union Parishad chairman succumbed to his injuries at a private clinic in Kanojgari of Bogra town last night two weeks after he was shot in his residence. Tarajul Islam, 40, of Abaria village, was the chairman of Shonaroy UP in Gabtoli upazila of the district. Locals said unidentified miscreants opened fire on him and the bullet hit him in the head piercing the window on July 9. He was taken to a Bogra hospital from where he was shifted to Square Hospital in the capital. Later, he was taken back to Bogra and admitted to the private clinic, added the sources. Police said they were trying to arrest the miscreants.