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Sunamganj schools hit hard by flood

Academic activities at 85 primary schools remain suspended for a week

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Tahirpur

Academic activities at 85 primary schools in Sunamganj have remained suspended for a week due to flood.

The Jadukata, Cholti, Surma and Tangaur haors have continued to swell and so it would be long before floodwaters begin to retreat from these institutions, said Hazrat Ali, primary education officer of Sunamganj district.

Besides, the Surma river passing through the district rose to 8.77m yesterday, crossing the danger level by 52cm, said Anwar Hosain, of the Water Development Board (WDB), Sunamganj.

Of the schools affected, 18 are in Doarabazar upazila, three in Sunamganj sadar, 22 in Bishwanath, 12 in Jamalganj, 14 in Dharampasa, three in Dakkhin Sunamganj, five in Chhatak upazila and eight in Tahirpur upazila.

The schools are not officially closed, Hazrat said. The authorities could not continue classes since the schools were waterlogged, he added.

Ten-year-old Mina Akhter, who studies in Class-IV in Jamlabaj Primary School, said she and her classmates were not going to the school as floodwater entered the premises.

Her father Abdul Matin, 45, of Jamlabaj village in

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The playground of Jamlabaj Government Primary School in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj under floodwater yesterday. Academic activities of 85 flood-hit primary schools in seven upazilas of the district remain suspended for a week and the authorities fear that the situation could take a turn for the worse if the rain and the onrush of water from hills continue.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

12 killed in boat capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least 12 people, including seven children, were killed and more than 50 injured as an overloaded passenger trawler capsized in the Arial Kha River in Raipura upazila of the district yesterday.

The thirty-foot-long and six-foot-wide engine boat with usual capacity of around 60 passengers was crammed with over 120 passengers, many of them women and children, said local sources.

Two engine boats, including the one that capsized, were headed for Gani Shah shrine at Barikanda of Nabinagar upazila under Brahmanbaria district with devotees from various villages of Raipura and Belabo upazilas, Azharul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Raipura Police Station told this correspondent.

Abdul Hye, a member of Baroicha Union Parishad (UP) under Belabo upazila,

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DOMESTIC WORKERS KSA slaps visa ban on single male Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has temporarily suspended recruitment of Bangladeshi single males as domestic worker in three categories.

The recruitment of single Bangladeshi males to work as household worker has temporarily been suspended to give priority to other needed groups, said Khalid Aba Al-Khail, spokesperson of the Saudi Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Therefore, Bangladeshi single males will not be recruited as driver, household worker, and nurse from now on, according to the ministry.

After a seven-year ban on manpower recruitment from Bangladesh, the Arab country last year decided to open its labour market for Bangladeshi jobseekers.

Dhaka and Riyadh then

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Clinton picks Tim Kaine as VP

AFP, Washington

Hillary Clinton on Friday tapped Tim Kaine, a popular Spanish-speaking senator from the swing state of Virginia, to be her running mate in the White House showdown against Donald Trump.

The pick comes three days before the start of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, where Clinton -- and now Kaine -- will be elevated as the nominees to the party's presidential ticket.

"I'm thrilled to announce my running mate, @timkaine, a man who's devoted his life to fighting for others. -H," the former secretary of state tweeted.

Widely seen as a safe choice in a brutal election race -- Kaine himself jokes that he is "boring" -- the senator emerged as frontrunner in the veeptakes because he ticks so many boxes.

An experienced foreign policy hand who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees, he could help Clinton lock in two key voting blocs: Hispanics and the battleground state of Virginia.

Politically a center-left Democrat, with working-class roots and a spotless record both as governor and senator, he is also seen as helping Clinton win over votes from reluctant independent male voters -- although at risk of alienating the party's progressive left wing.

The pair will hit the campaign trail together in Florida today. The 58-year-old Kaine swiftly tweeted: "Just got off the phone with Hillary. I'm honored to be her running mate. Can't wait to hit the trail tomorrow in Miami!"

Clinton, 68, had said she wanted a running mate with enough experience to "literally get up one day and be the president of the United States."

Also on the short list were Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who has

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Vibrant campus can keep students from militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vice-chancellors of the country's public universities yesterday called for restoring healthy student politics and arranging more extracurricular and cultural activities on the campuses to prevent students from getting involved in militancy.

Divisions among teachers over many issues, weak teacher-student relation and teachers' failure to create role models may drive the students to the wrong path, they said.

Apart from increasing monitoring on their students, the faculties will have to spend more time with them, nurture their leadership qualities and help them become dreamers, they said.

The VCs made the remarks at a view-exchange meeting organised jointly by the education ministry and the University Grants Commission at International Mother Language Institute in the capital.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid also spoke at the programme, held as part of the government's campaign against militancy.

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Schoolboys wear skirts in protest



BBC ONLINE

Four teenage boys have worn skirts to school in protest at being disciplined for wearing shorts on the hottest day.

The year nine students at Longhill High School in Rottingdean, East Sussex in England, were among about 20 boys who wore PE shorts instead of trousers on Tuesday.

Some were sent home, and others kept in isolation and excluded the next day.

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Six burnt in factory fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six people suffered critical burns in a deadly fire that broke out at a tailoring factory in the capital's Kamrangirchar area early yesterday.

The injured are Nazmul Hossain, 20, Sumon Mia, 20, Shakil, 20, Monir Hossain, 18, and siblings Ashiqur Rahman, 17, and Ahsanullah Sajib, 18.

Four of them had more than 50 percent of their body burnt, said doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the injured were taken.

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Computer changes his course of life

School boy's passion for IT paving the way to a successful future

ABDUL WAHED with ANDREW EAGLE

Most 13-year-old boys like to pass their time with a cricket bat or football, in a playground, running around with their friends. But Anisur Rahman Anis, the son of a small-scale farmer from Krishnapur village of Kurigram's Mogalbasha union prefers to spend his leisure hours with computers. The enterprising student of class 7 at Border Guard Bangladesh Public School and College has established his own small IT business.

Due to the economic struggle faced by his father, since he was four years old Anis has been raised by his uncle Joyanal Abedin. Anis calls his uncle 'abba', father; Joyanal takes care of Anis as his own son. Joyanal works as a computer operator in the district education office in Kurigram town.

As a result of his own IT based profession, Joyanal has a computer at home too, and, when Anis studied in class 3 his guardian noticed just how enthusiastic about computers Anis was. So Joyanal decided to train Anis.

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Seventh grader Anisur Rahman Anis works on a computer while a customer looks on inside a shop rented by Anis' uncle in Kurigram town. At an age when most people pass their time playing or watching television, Anis has established his own small IT business. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

'He laughed like a normal person'

Neighbours speak of a shy, helpful boy who killed 9 at Munich mall; police rule out IS links

AGENCIES

The teenager who shot dead nine people in a gun rampage in Munich was "obsessed" with mass killers such as Norwegian rightwing fanatic Anders Behring Breivik and had no links to the Islamic State group, police said yesterday.

Europe reacted in shock to the third attack on the continent in just over a week, after 18-year-old David Ali Sonboly went on a shooting spree at a shopping centre on Friday evening before turning the gun on himself.

Officials said Sonboly, a German-Iranian student, had a history of mental illness.

"There is absolutely no link to the Islamic State," Munich police chief Hubertus Andrae said, describing the assault as a "classic act by a deranged person".

Investigators see an "obvious link" between Friday's killings and Breivik's massacre of 77 people in Norway exactly five years earlier, Andrae added.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, in her first reaction to the carnage, said Munich had suffered a "night of horror".

Most of the victims in Friday's attack were foreigners, including three Turkish nationals, three people from Kosovo and a Greek man.

Most of the casualties were young people aged 15 to 21,

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David Ali