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# Flood engulfs fresh areas

All major rivers in North swelling

STAR REPORT

Flood situation in the northern region continues to worsen as water of all the major rivers is flowing much above the danger mark.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said the flood situation would continue to worsen in the next 24 hours.

Flood water entered and inundated new areas in many northern districts. Many flood protection embankments were damaged, reports our district correspondents.

According to the daily flood situation report of the disaster management and relief ministry yesterday, around 2,50,000 families have been affected by the flood in 14 districts in northern, central and northeastern parts of the country.

Our Jamalpur correspondent reports, flood situation in seven upazilas continues to deteriorate as the Jamuna river is flowing 121 centimetres above the danger level.

The rising water level of the Jamuna has broken the record of the 1988 flood as the highest flowing of water above the danger mark was then recorded at 112 cm, said Nabakumar Chowdhury, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Jamalpur.

On Thursday night, four people, including two kids, drowned in flood water in Islampur upazila.

A good number of people in Islampur and Madarganj upazilas, who are the worst hit by flood, were forced to leave their houses and took shelter on roads and higher grounds, said sources at local administrations.

They also added that the people were suffering for want of food.

Around 9,940 hectares of croplands in the flood-hit upazilas went under water, said sources at the Department of Agricultural Extension in Jamalpur.

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As flood has hit Jamalpur, houses in Jarutola village under Islampur upazila have gone under water. Inset, a woman in Kamarpara of Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila manages to cook food though floodwater has invaded her house. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



## Crack down on tiger farms

WWF calls on govts; says only 3,900 of the big cats are living in the wild

AFP, Geneva

The World Wildlife Fund has urged Asian states to investigate all tiger breeding centres and crack down on any involved in black-market animal trade.

On the eve of the International Day of the Tiger, WWF on Thursday said it was crucial for governments to identify and close so-called "tiger farms", which are distinct from zoos or breeding centres with a legitimate conservation mission.

Tiger farms have been linked to the highly lucrative and internationally prohibited trade in tiger parts.

The conservation group estimated that there remained 200 tiger farms in Asia, mostly in China, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand.

"Closure of these operations... would significantly boost efforts to save the world's remaining wild tigers," WWF said in a statement.

The tiger population in farms is about 8,000, more than double the estimated 3,900 living in the wild, WWF said in a statement.

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**PRAYER TIMING JULY 30**  
 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
 AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15  
 JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45  
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 200-year-old Dhaka Central Jail cleared

All prisoners transferred to Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The historic buildings still stand all right, but their occupants are all gone.

Yesterday marked a new beginning and an end of its history at once, as the authorities shifted all the inmates from the Dhaka Central Jail on Nazimuddin Road to the newly-built central jail in Keraniganj.

Authorities are now planning to set up a training institute, a park and a museum on the premises of the 200-year-old Dhaka jail that once housed so many of history's famous and infamous figures.

There will also be schools, shopping malls and a museum to preserve the memory of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansoor Ali and AHM Quamaruzzaman -- all of whom spent times there.

It is in this jail that the four national leaders were brutally killed in 1975, months after the assassination of Bangabandhu and most of his family members on August 15 that year.

And it is also where some of the top war criminals were imprisoned and hanged.

The shifting of all the male prisoners started around 6:30am and completed around 9:35pm.

The authorities had earlier shifted the female prisoners, militants and VIPs to Kashimpur Jail as the female unit in Keraniganj is still under construction.

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## Recover stolen BB money

NY Fed asks Philippines central bank

REUTERS, Dhaka

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has asked the Philippines' central bank to help Bangladesh Bank recover the \$81 million that was stolen by hackers in February from its account held at the Fed, boosting Dhaka's efforts to retrieve the money.

In a letter sent on June 23, the New York Fed's General Counsel Thomas Baxter asked Elmore O Capule, general counsel for the central bank of the Philippines, "to take all appropriate steps in support of Bangladesh Bank's efforts to recover and return its stolen assets."

In the letter, which has been seen by Reuters, Baxter also wrote that the payment instructions that led to four money transfers to beneficiary accounts at the Manila-based Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) were authenticated using a "commercially reasonable security procedure", but that they were issued by

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## Hunt on for Great Wall brick thieves



CNN ONLINE

The Great Wall is disappearing, brick by brick, and Chinese authorities have had enough.

A new campaign has been launched to protect the ancient fortification that snakes for 13,000 miles (21,000 kilometres) across northern China from criminal damage.

Built in different stages from the third century BC to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the wall was built to defend an empire but parts of it are now crumbling.

Bricks have been stolen to build houses, for agriculture or to sell as souvenirs to tourists -- exacerbating the natural erosion wrought by wind, rain and sandstorms.

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## 2 killed in 'shootouts' in Pabna, Jessore

STAR REPORT

An alleged robber was killed in a "shootout" with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Salimpur village in Ishwardi upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Johurul Islam, 30, son of Borat Ali Mondol of Punkharua village in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj. He was allegedly the ring-leader of a gang of robbers in Sirajganj and also the regional chief of "Johurul Gang", Rab said, reports our Pabna correspondent.

Acting on a tip off that criminals were holding a secret meeting, a team of Rab-12 raided a litchi orchard owned by Atiar Rahman at Salimpur village in Ishwardi around 3:00am, said ASP Akramul Hossain, company commander of Pabna Rab camp.

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The ramshackle Baishari-Ildgar-Ildgaon road in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban. Residents of three unions under Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts have been suffering from poor state of the road as part of it has become almost impassable. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

## POST-COUP ATTEMPT PURGE Turkey targets businesses

Three top tycoons detained as top brass of military reshuffled

AFP, Ankara

Turkish authorities yesterday widened their post-coup crackdown to the business sector, detaining three top tycoons as part of investigations into the activities of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen.

Twenty-one journalists also appeared in an Istanbul court after being rounded up in the sweeping purge, which has seen almost 18,000 people detained since the failed July 15 putsch.

Turkish authorities blame Gulen for the rebellion, which aimed to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and they are now seeking to erase the reclusive cleric's influence from all aspects of Turkish life.

But the scale of the crackdown has sparked international alarm, with the EU enlargement commissioner implicitly warning the bloc would freeze Turkey's accession talks if it violated the rule of law.

Johannes Hahn said he needed to see "black-and-white facts about how these people are treated".

"And if there is even the slightest doubt that the (treatment) is improper, then the consequences will be inevitable," he told German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

Following a shake-up of the military on Thursday after nearly half of its 358 generals were sacked, the top brass of

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