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Little rain, big pain

No end to sufferings of residents in Malibagh, Mouchak, Rampura areas

HELEMUL ALAM

Every day after college, Tanjina Khatun Tania walks to her home in Rajarbagh Gate area from Siddheswari. It takes her some 45 minutes.

She can take a rickshaw and save time but she won't. It's because the bumpy rickshaw ride on the way is nothing short of a nightmare for her.

The pothole-ridden streets near the capital's Malibagh intersection and its adjacent areas have been in appalling state for long, thanks to unending digging, construction materials of the Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover strewn all around, and choked drainage system of the area.

After it rained in the last two days, things took a turn for the worst there. It only increased the suffering of thousands of people like Tania, an honours first year student at Siddheswari Girls' College. The weather department recorded 0.10 mm rainfall in the city yesterday.

"I can't walk along the footpaths because those have been dug. On the other hand, the roads are waterlogged," said the girl, who had dirt all over her dress.

She could use the Bailey Road to avoid

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It's nothing new for these city streets near Malibagh level crossing, Pashchim Malibagh, Malibagh intersection and Mouchak to become a muddy mess after it rains. Unending digging, construction materials of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover strewn all around, and choked drainage system of the area are to blame. The photos were taken after yesterday's rain.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nine 'JMB men' held in 3 dists

Ctg police detain 133 people in anti-terror block raid

STAR REPORT

Police arrested nine suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh in special anti-militancy drives in Natore, Naogaon and Rajshahi early yesterday.

Meanwhile, Chittagong police arrested 133 people, who are accused in regular cases, across the district on the second day of the drives to crack down on militancy.

Rajshahi police arrested five militants named Abdus Sattar, 33, Abdul Mannan, 35, Abul Hossain, 55, Lutfar Rahman, 38, and Rohidul Islam, 43, said Sumit Chowdhury, additional superintendent of police.

Acting on a tip-off, police made the arrests around 2:00am at Goalkandi union. The arrestees are accused in several militancy-related cases filed in the upazila, Sumit told The Daily Star.

Natore police arrested Shahab Uddin, 45, and Rahedul Islam, 46, at Merigasa of Baraigram upazila. Both of them are accused in a militant case filed with Boyalia police station, said Shafiqul Islam, assistant superintendent of police.

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World faces worst humanitarian crisis since WWII: UN

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations is warning that the world is facing its worst humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II, with more than 20 million people facing starvation and famine in four countries.

The world body's humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien called Friday for an urgent mobilization of funds -- \$4.4 billion by July -- for northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen to "avert a catastrophe."

"Otherwise, many people will predictably die from hunger, livelihoods will be lost and political gains that have been hardwon over the last few years will be reversed," O'Brien said in his stark warning to the UN Security Council.

"Without collective and coordinated global efforts, people will simply starve to death. Many more will suffer and die from disease. Children stunted and out of school. Livelihoods, futures and hope will be lost."

He called war-ravaged Yemen "the largest humanitarian crisis in the world," with two thirds of the population, or 18.8 million people -- three million more than in January -- in need of assistance and more than seven million with no regular access to food.

The conflict in Yemen has left more than 7,400 people dead and 40,000 wounded since an Arab-state coalition intervened on the government's side against rebels in March 2015, according to UN figures.

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CHILD MARRIAGE BILL President gives nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday signed three bills, including Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2017 that has a provision for underage marriages in "special circumstances".

The others are Ansar Battalion [Amendment] Bill 2017 and Bangladesh Unnayan Gobeshona Council Bill 2017, reads a parliament secretariat release.

The bills were passed during the ongoing 14th session of parliament. Bills become acts only after the president has assented to it.

Rights bodies had urged the president not to give his consent to the child marriage restraint bill, passed on February 27 with 18 and 21 as minimum marriageable age for women and men respectively.

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Lungs of steel

Chinese man inflates tyre tube with his nose

AGENCIES



Tong Junhai, a 44-year-old man from China, recently achieved international fame, after a video showing him inflating a tyre tube using only one of his nostrils has gone viral online.

On February 25, Tong Junhai stunned a crowd at Huancheng Park, in the city of Xi'an, northwestern China, with a very unusual stunt. Dressed as a Kung Fu master, the man started boasting that he could inflate a medium-size tyre tube using only his nose. And to show people just how difficult the task is for a regular person, he invited a naysayer to try it himself, using his mouth. The man tried blowing into the rubber house, but to no avail.

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'Disturbed Intruder' held near White House

CNN ONLINE

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the suspect in the White House intrusion Friday night was disturbed, calling it a sad situation and saying he appreciates the work of the secret service.

"The service did a fantastic

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

One more death in manhole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A teenage girl died after she fell into an open manhole at the bypass intersection in Bhogra Peyara Bagan area in Gazipur yesterday.

Sub-Inspector Zakir Hossain of Bhogra police camp, under Joydevpur Police Station, quoting witnesses said the unidentified girl aged around 16 slipped into the open manhole around 10:00am when she was walking by the side of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

There was a strong current of water inside the manhole following the rain on Saturday night.

On information, Bhogra camp police with the help of locals pulled out the girl. She was rushed to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead around 11:00am.

The girl was wearing a black burqa.

On March 6, an unidentified middle-aged man died as he fell into an

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For the first time, tiger cubs were born at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur. This tigress, brought along with four others from South Africa's Johannesburg in 2013, gave birth to three cubs -- Bijoy, Madhuri and Bilashi -- at the safari park on January 26. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Blasts targeting Shias kill 46 in Syria capital

Dozens wounded; no claim of responsibility yet

AFP, Damascus

Twin bombs targeting Shia pilgrims killed 46 people in Damascus, most of them Iraqis, a monitoring group said yesterday, in one of the bloodiest attacks in the Syrian capital.

There have been periodic bomb attacks in Damascus, but the stronghold of the regime of President Bashar al-Assad has been largely spared the destruction faced by other major cities in six years of civil war.

A roadside bomb detonated as a bus passed and a suicide bomber blew himself up in the Bab al-Saghir area, which houses several Shia mausoleums that draw pilgrims from around the world, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"There are also dozens of people wounded, some of them in a serious condition," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP.

State television said there were 40 dead and 120 wounded after "terrorists detonated two bombs."

It broadcast footage of several white buses with their windows shattered, some of them heavily charred.

Shoes, glasses and wheelchairs laid scattered on the ground covered in blood.

Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Shaar said the attack targeted "pilgrims of various Arab nationalities."

"The sole aim was to kill," he said.

The Iraqi foreign ministry said around 40 of its nationals were among the dead and 120 among the wounded.

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