



Flood caused by a breach in an embankment inundates a boro field at Mohalio Haor in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila. Several days of heavy rainfall and water rushing from hills in neighbouring India led to the flooding in four districts of Sylhet division. According to an estimate of Sylhet district administration, boro crop on around 74,000 hectares have gone under water since last week.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

No interference

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It emphasised prevention of forcible overthrow of democratically elected and legitimate governments, in accordance with states' obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

"The people of each country have the inalienable right to determine their own political future, and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development in accordance with the international law," read the resolution.

It acknowledged that climate change, terrorism, war and refugees as "great challenges which mankind is facing today".

Such challenges could no longer be met by one state alone, and an ever-closer cooperation of parliaments across the world was needed, it said.

The resolution noted that democracy, good governance and development were inextricably linked and underscored the need to maintain support for democracy in times of economic hardship.

The draft resolution revised by the standing committee would be sent to the IPU steering committee, which would prepare it for incorporation in the "Dhaka Declaration" during today's concluding ceremony.

Chinese engineer

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Zheng's mother and friends attended the wedding, and told local news sources that the move came after Zheng grew frustrated in his search to find a girlfriend, according to SCMP. Zheng is a former Huawei employee, and now works at Dream Town in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province after leaving the telecom firm in 2014.

While the marriage may seem bizarre, experts have increasingly warned that robot-human relationships will become far more common in the years to come.

One researcher recently claimed humans will marry robots in the next 35 years.

Not only this, but sex with robots will become more enjoyable than with other humans, because of the advancement of artificial intelligence, said London-based Dr David Levy, author of 'Love and Sex with Robots'.

And, he says robots will be more attractive than their human counterparts.

"The first marriage will be before, not after 2050," best-selling author and robot expert David Levy said during the Love and Sex with Robots conference in London.

While the claims may seem ridiculous to some, "sex and love with robots at a human level may appear to be a long way off, but the future has a way of laughing at you," he said.

Trump strikes

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"The support we received over the years from the government and people of the United States has saved tens of thousands of mothers from preventable deaths and disabilities, and especially now in the rapidly developing global humanitarian crises," the statement said.

The cut follows Trump's proposed 28 percent budget reduction for diplomacy and foreign aid, including an unspecified reduction in financial support for the United Nations and its agencies, announced last month.

UN agencies such as the UNFPA are funded by governments voluntarily. The United States was the fourth-largest voluntary donor to UNFPA in 2015, giving \$75 million in core budget and earmarked contributions.

UN officials have warned that abrupt funding cuts could trigger more global instability and argued that dollars for diplomacy are more effective than military spending in combating terrorism.

Govt suspending

FROM PAGE 1
Mujibnagar Upazila Parishad in Meherpur.

Chairman Amirul Islam is the president of Mujibnagar upazila BNP while Vice-Chairman Zarjis Hossain is the general secretary of the upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Jamaat-e-Islami, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Mujibnagar, said he received a letter from the LGRD about the suspension order yesterday afternoon.

The letter mentioned that Amirul and Zarjis were accused in a case filed against them in 2013 and Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Meherpur accepted the charge sheet. So, they have been suspended.

According to the sources at Mujibnagar police, a group of BNP and Jamaat activists allegedly attacked a group of on duty policemen at Gournadi village in the upazila on September 19, 2013, leaving five cops, including an officer-in-charge (OC), injured.

OC Robiul filed a case accusing 200 people, including Amirul and Zarjis, and the court recently accepted the charge sheet.

Zarjis said he would challenge the suspension order with the HC.

Amirul could not be reached for comments.

DINAJPUR

The LGRD ministry suspended Golam Mortuza Sarker Manik, the mayor of Phulbari Municipality of Dinajpur, on Monday, more than three and a half month after a court accepted the charge sheet in a case filed against him.

In its letter, the ministry said Manik was suspended as the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Dinajpur accepted the charge sheet submitted in a case filed by Asia Energy on December 14, 2014.

Panel mayor Mamunur Rashid would now act as the acting mayor of the municipality, the letter mentioned.

Manik was an organiser of anti-coalmine protest in the upazila and was in the frontline of many movements to prevent the establishment of a coalmine in the upazila since 2005.

Asia Energy was to implement the coalmine project in the upazila, but the company couldn't due to the strong protest of local people. Three people were killed as BDR, now BGB, fired bullets on protesters on August 26 in 2006.

People bursted into protest when Garry Lye, chief of Asia Energy, came to the upazila on November 29, 2014.

Later, Sahidur Rahman, a staff of Asia Energy, filed a case with Phulbari Police station on December 14 the same year accusing 60 people, including Manik.

Manik declined to make any comment over the issue.

FARIDPUR

Digital proof

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and Lazarus, a hacking group whose activities dating back to 2009 have been documented by the world's biggest cyber security firms.

The North Korean government has denied allegations of hacking made by officials in Washington and South Korea as well as security firms.

Kamluk said he could not conclusively say that Pyongyang was behind the attacks because it was possible the hackers went to great effort to make it look like they were from North Korea, or that North Koreans were working with others.

Still, he said that North Korean involvement was the most likely explanation.

Separately last month, US officials also cast suspicion on Pyongyang. An official briefed on the probe told Reuters in Washington that the FBI believed North Korea was responsible.

And Rick Ledgett, the deputy director of the National Security Agency, told reporters at an Aspen Institute

Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, chairman of Saltha Upazila Parishad in Faridpur, has been suspended as a court accepted a charge sheet in a murder case filed against him, says a LGRD ministry notification issued on March 30.

The notification says the court accepted the charge sheet on August 22, 2016 in the case filed with Saltha Police Station.

The case was filed over the murder of Liton Alam, general secretary of Bhawal Juba League, on March 21, 2008.

Contacted, Wahiduzzaman said the ministry decision to suspend him was "motivated, illegal and based on wrong information" and that he would go to the High Court to challenge the decision.

Melania's new portrait divides public opinion

AFP, Washington

The White House on Monday released the official portrait of First Lady Melania Trump, with the photograph of the former model dividing public opinion.

Trump is shown from the waist up, standing with arms crossed, dressed in a black jacket with a black bow around her neck. She's wearing a very large diamond ring on her left hand, and a more subdued sparkler on her right.

Shot by Belgian-born photographer Regine Mahaux, who has previously worked with the Trump family, the first lady is smiling slightly, with a perfectly flawless visage.

"I am honored to serve in the role of first lady, and look forward to working on behalf of the American people over the coming years," Trump said in a short statement accompanying the photo's release.

While some commenters gushed that the first lady was "beyond beautiful" and "gorgeous," others mocked the image as highly airbrushed and compared the gauzy background -- a window in the White House residence -- to 1990s school portrait settings.

Other critics jumped on a line in the White House statement that said the portrait was taken in Trump's "new residence at the White House."

While every other modern first lady has accompanied her husband to Washington, the 46-year-old Trump has remained at her luxury triplex penthouse in Manhattan and not made many public appearances.

Trump has said she would remain in New York until son Barron finishes the school year.

It's not the first time that a first lady portrait has stoked controversy. Michelle Obama was criticized for wearing a sleeveless dress in her first official portrait in 2009, with some saying the bare arms were too casual.

'Returning IS fighters to regroup in Philippines'

AFP, Singapore

Battle-hardened Southeast Asian Islamic State (IS) fighters returning from the Middle East following the group's setbacks are expected to rebase in the southern Philippines, a security conference heard yesterday.

Instability and the easy flow of weapons have made Mindanao and nearby Philippine islands attractive to extremist groups, said speakers at the Milipol conference on homeland security in Singapore.

"Currently, IS is moving towards creating a territory in southern Philippines. The most recent communication issued by IS has announced that they have formally declared an East Asia division of IS in the southern Philippines," counter-terrorism analyst Rohan Gunaratna told the conference.

"Our forecast for 2017 is that the threat in this region will grow because of the creation of an IS nucleus in the southern Philippines," added Gunaratna.

"The instability in the southern Philippines and the availability of weapons, internal displacement, refugee flows... create the ripe conditions for foreign terrorists to come," he told AFP after his speech.

Singapore's Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam also told the conference that the southern Philippines "is becoming an area that is difficult to control despite the best efforts of the Philippine government".

"So that is an area that can serve as a sanctuary for returning fighters from the Middle East. It can be a place where would-be terrorists can go... they can train, arms seem to move fairly easily into that area," Shanmugam added.

Parts of Southeast Asia have long struggled with Islamic militancy. Hundreds of radicals from the region, including from Indonesia and Malaysia, have flocked to join IS in Iraq and Syria.

But as IS suffers battlefield setbacks, officials and analysts fear these fighters would return to their home region. Southeast Asia suffered its first IS-linked attack in January last year when extremists launched a deadly suicide bombing and gun attack in Jakarta.

In Mindanao, which has long battled a Muslim insurgency, a handful of groups have sworn allegiance to IS.

Mashrafe

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inspirational leader will continue to lead Bangladesh in one-day internationals -- a format in which the Tigers have made giant strides over the last three years under his stewardship.

Mashrafe has privately said that he never enjoyed the T20 format of the game. He was always eager to excel in one-days and his dream has been to don the white shirt and play Test again. It is understood that Mashrafe -- whose pace has gone with age and with both his knees operated on five times that made it impossible for him to stay tuned for three hours-- would be a case of a struggler even if he tries to prove a point in the domestic first-class competition.

There was a strong rumor that Mashrafe would retire from the shortest format of the game during the World T20 in India last year. But it was stalled for the time being, with a wise thinking that Bangladesh would be deprived of an inspiration in his absence. However, Mashrafe could not think of a better time to call it quits so that he can solely focus on one-day cricket, possibly till the next World Cup in 2019.

Chhatra League

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Al Amin, who ran a shop of fertilizer and fish feed at Munshirhat Bazar, left home on March 27 for Mymensingh for a business purpose.

The following day, his phone was found switched off. He didn't communicate with his family members after that, his father Iqbal told this correspondent.

He said there was nothing suspicious about his son's behaviour.

Zakir said his cousin Al Amin got acquainted with arrestee Shahidul, a fish farmer, about two years ago. Later, they jointly started fish feed business in Haluaghat.

Police said a case was filed with Kotwali Police Station against the seven arrestees under the Anti-terrorism Act.

KL asked

FROM PAGE 2
including refugees and survivors of trafficking. No money is required to uphold the right to liberty.

Fortify Rights has also demanded re-opening an investigation into the human trafficking of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and Bangladesh in recent years.

Despite discovery of more than 100 gravesites of suspected trafficking victims in Wang Kelian in 2015, the Malaysian government's investigation has failed to result in any notable accountability, it said.

"We've seen little accountability for the trafficking of tens of thousands of Rohingya and others into Malaysia," said Amy Smith.

"Urgent action must be taken to end impunity for human traffickers and ensure protection for survivors."

Afghanistan sacks top generals over hospital attack

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan yesterday sacked 12 army officers including two generals for negligence over an insurgent attack on the country's largest military hospital, which pointed to a spectacular intelligence failure.

Gunmen disguised as doctors stormed Sardar Daud Khan hospital in Kabul last month, with multiple surviving staff telling AFP that insiders including two interns were among the attackers.

The military head of intelligence and the official in charge of medical support were among those who have been dismissed and will face prosecution, the defence ministry said.

"They have been sacked for negligence of duty over the hospital attack," ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish told AFP.

The carnage inside the heavily guarded hospital was a major embarrassment for the military, spotlighting how insurgents have managed to infiltrate top government institu-

tions in Afghanistan.

The defence ministry denies that insiders were involved and asserts that only 50 people were killed. But security sources and the survivors, some of whom counted bodies, told AFP that the death toll exceeded 100.

Public anger has grown over the episode, with speculation swirling on social media that such a brazen attack on the tightly guarded hospital could not have happened without the complicity of high-ranking officials.

The savagery of the assault was characterised by how the assailants stabbed bedridden patients, threw grenades into crowded ward and shot people at point-blank range.

The Islamic State group claimed it was behind the attack via its propaganda agency Amaq -- hours after the Taliban denied responsibility.

But the survivors whom AFP spoke to said the attackers chanted "Long live Taliban" in Pashto and attacked all but two wards on the hospital's first floor, where Taliban patients were admitted.

Sri Lanka cruise to victory

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wicket victory for Sri Lanka with an over to spare.

Mashrafe, fittingly, was the best bowler on the park for Bangladesh, finishing with figures of two for 32 from his four overs, taking two of the three wickets that fell to bowlers during Sri Lanka's chase of 156 to win only their second match in 13 attempts at the premium limited-overs venue of the country. But Sri Lanka's superiority was demonstrated by two of their most explosive players -- Lasith Malinga with ball and opener Kusal Perera with the bat.

The deadly swinging yorkers of Malinga had an impact as early as the second ball of the match when he bowled a fast one that burst through the defences of Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal for a duck.

In chase of Bangladesh's 155 for six, it was Sri Lanka skipper Upul Tharanga who set the tone after a quiet opening over of off spin bowled by Mahmudullah. Tharanga hit Taskin Ahmed for three boundaries in the second over and added a fourth in Mashrafe's first over, the third of the innings.

But Perera got into the action with a powerfully pulled six off Shakib Al Hasan in the fifth over, which also saw two more boundaries off the left-hander's bat. Before that over, Sri Lanka were 30 without loss from four overs, but once Perera started his onslaught the match started to get away quickly from the tourists. Mashrafe pulled it back somewhat with the wicket of Tharanga, caught by Mustafizur Rahman at short third man, in the seventh over before foxing Dilshan Munaweera into offering a return catch with a slower ball that followed the batsman in the ninth over.

At 81 for two after nine overs, it was the perfect chance for Bangladesh to mount a comeback through tight bowling, but Perera's wicket was what was needed. And after playing out a quiet over from Mahmudullah, Perera was back to his old ways, hitting a fearfully timed pull off Mosaddek Hossain to bring up his half-century off 31 balls.

Bangladesh did well to keep a lid on the scoring and took the match deep.

Upbeat about all but Teesta

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issues would come up for discussion. The relations between Bangladesh and India have reached a new height. It doesn't matter if one [Teesta deal] of all these is not done."

Expansion of bilateral trade, boosting of investment, connectivity, sub-regional assistance, waterways communication, construction of Padma and Ganga barrages, distribution of common river water, water resources management based on river basins, border protection, security assistance, drug smuggling and human trafficking will feature prominently during the PM's talks with Indian leaders, the minister added.

The premiers of Bangladesh and India will inaugurate a cargo train service on Biroi-Radhikapur route and passenger train and bus services on Khulna-Kolkata route. They will also launch supply of additional 60MW electricity to Bangladesh from Tripura's Palatana power plant.

The two PMs will unveil the cover of the Hindi version of the book -- Unfinished Memoirs of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The two countries will issue a joint statement on the PM's visit, Mahmood said.

During the trip, Bangladesh Liberation War Honour award would be given posthumously to Indian soldiers who had fought the 1971 war to serve Bangladesh's cause and sacrificed their lives.

The foreign minister said Bangladesh will primarily honour 1,661 Indian soldiers posthumously.

Hasina will hand over the award

and a letter to the family members of 60 late soldiers. Her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will address the programme.

The Bangladesh PM is expected to have meetings with the Indian president, vice-president, foreign minister and the chief of the Indian National Congress.

The foreign minister said a business event will be held on April 10 with participation of top businessmen from both the countries.

The implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement by the two countries set an example in the world about friendly bilateral relations and the PM's visit would strengthen it further, he added.

Replying to a question, he said the two neighbours were trying to bring the border killings to the "lowest level".
MAKE DEALS PUBLIC: BNP
The BNP yesterday demanded the government make public all the proposed Bangladesh-India deals and MoUs ahead of the PM's tour.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir made the demand at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office.

He warned that people would not accept any anti-state deal.

"This country belongs to the people. They have the right to know and give opinions about all the agreements and MoUs relating to their interests. If the government inks any deal that goes against the interest of the country and its people, sovereignty and security, people won't accept it."

Fakhrul said BNP wanted to see Bangladesh-India ties strengthened further.