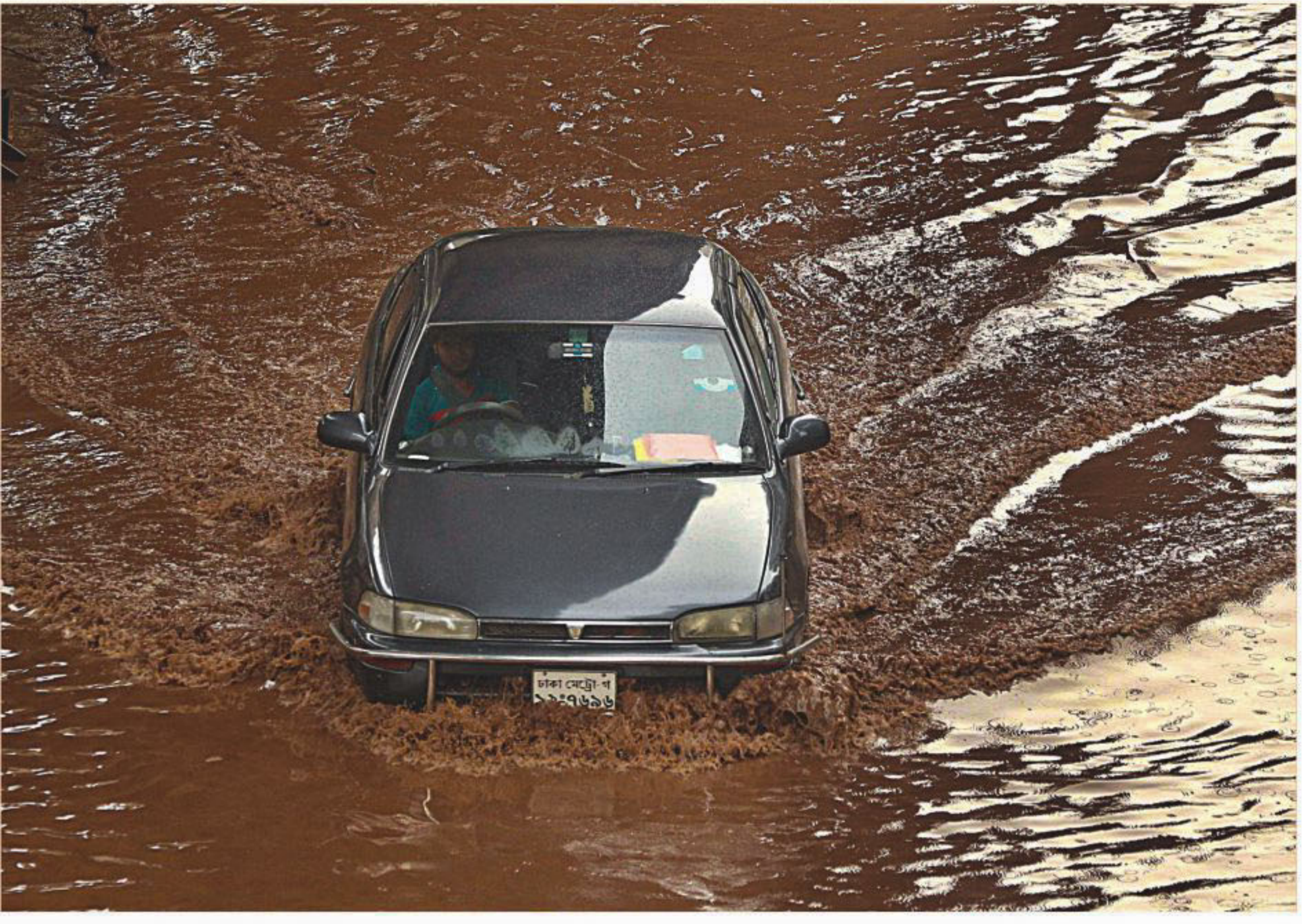


**WEATHER FORECAST**

<b>YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES</b>	<b>DHAKA</b> H 28.8   L 20.4	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 25.6   L 20.5	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 30.5   L 21.0	<b>SYLHET</b> H 24.9   L 20.8	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 30.5   L 22.0	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 27.2   L 21.0	<b>KHULNA</b> H 33.6   L 21.2	<b>BARISAL</b> H 31.4   L 20.6	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 29.5   L 20.5
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions, at a few places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over Barisal, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:24pm and rises tomorrow at 5:29am, says Met Office.



**Clockwise from left, A car wades through stagnant murky water on a road beside the under-construction Malibagh-Mouchak flyover yesterday. Due to the poor drainage system in the area, rainwater mixed with sewage continues to escalate commuters' sufferings. A large crater on a road in Paribagh area remains "unnoticed" by the authorities concerned, while locals have put a bamboo pole to warn people. An uncovered drain without any proper safety measures other than some bamboo poles and a barricade in the busy Shantinagar area near Siddheshwari Girls' High School exposing people to the threat of major accidents.**



PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PRABIR DAS

**NEWS IN brief**

**267 officials made deputy secys**

UNB, Dhaka  
In a latest reshuffle in the administration, some 267 senior assistant secretaries have been promoted as deputy secretaries. The public administration ministry issued a notification in this regard yesterday.

**285 colleges to be nationalised**

UNB, Dhaka  
The government has selected 285 private colleges across the country for their nationalisation. The Secondary and Higher Secondary Division under the Education Ministry has asked the authorities of the colleges to transfer movable and immovable properties of the colleges to the government, according to a ministry notice issued on Thursday.

**8 remanded in Yaba smuggling case**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
A Chittagong court yesterday placed eight persons on a two-day remand each in a Yaba smuggling case. The court passed the order after the accused were produced before it with a seven-day remand prayer. On April 16, Rab seized 20 lakh Yaba tablets near Anwara area while those were being smuggled into Bangladesh from Myanmar by a trawler.

**Savar girl dies falling from roof**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar  
A teenage girl died after falling from the roof of an eight-storey building in Radio Colony area of Savar yesterday.

Trisha Akter, 11, daughter of Amin Mollah of Talbag, used to go to the building as one of their relatives lived there. She, however, did not inform she would go there yesterday, said her uncle Bashan Sheikh.

Savar Model police initially suspected she might have committed suicide as they found the roof door locked from inside.

**Rahmat convener, Tipu member secy of Jasimuddin hall alumni assoc**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Prof Rahmat Ullah has been made convener and Sheikh Sohel Rana Tipu member secretary of the newly formed Kabi Jasimuddin Hall Alumni Association of Dhaka University. Prof Rahmat is the provost of the dormitory while Tipu former president of the DU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League. The 28-member convening committee was announced following a meeting Saturday.



**GRAFT CASE**  
**Tarique's mother-in-law gets bail**

COURT CORRESPONDENT  
BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman's mother-in-law yesterday got bail in a case filed for not submitting a wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Unable to move, seventy-five-year-old Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu was sitting in her car on the court premises during the hearing. After getting clearance from Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Abdus Salam that Banu was sitting in her car on the court premises and that she was sick, Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court granted her bail. Earlier in the day, her lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder submitted the bail petition. On April 12, a Dhaka court accepted the charge and ordered her arrest. ACC on January 30, 2014, filed the case with Ramna Police Station accusing Banu. On January 19 last year, the anti-graft body filed the charge. According to the case statement, the ACC issued a notice to Banu on October 20, 2012, asking her to submit "statements of movable and immovable assets and liability acquired by her and her dependents in their name or in the name of others, and source of income with detailed particulars" within seven days. On January 30, 2012, the High Court stayed the operation of the notice for four months following a writ petition filed by Banu. However, on May 3, 2012, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the order paving the way for the ACC to obtain Banu's wealth statement.

**RMG workers' demo for dues**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar  
Workers of a garment unit yesterday demonstrated in front of the factory in Brunu area of Ashulia, demanding payment of their dues, and reopening of their workplace. The demonstrators said on April 13 the authorities of the factory - Shade Fashion Ltd - hung a notice on the gate saying that the factory was closed until April 18. On April 19, when the workers gathered there to join the work, the authorities said the factory would remain closed until April 22. Yesterday morning (April 23), when the workers went to the factory to join the work, they found another notice, saying the factory would remain shut until April 27, said Habiba Khatun, a worker of the factory. Fearing that the authorities might shut the factory permanently, around 2,700 workers demonstrated in front of the factory unit, and demanded dues for February and March, said Habiba. The Daily Star could not reach the factory authorities despite repeated attempts over the phone. Contacted, Kawsar Shikdar, director of Industrial Police-1, said they were trying to contact the factory authorities, and the problem would soon be resolved.

**Qawmi education, Hefajat not same**

Says Home Minister Asaduzzaman  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur  
Dealing with the issue of Islamst group Hefajat-e-Islam is not similar to recognising the Qawmi madrasa certificates, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday. These two issues are quite different, and they must not be mixed up, he told reporters after inaugurating a new building for Jhinagati Police Station in Sherpur. The home minister said recognising Qawmi madrasa certificates is an old issue and that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met the demand considering all aspects. It is also different from militancy, he further said. The home boss urged people not to be overly critical of the recognition of Qawmi madrasa certificates, saying it was a pending demand. "It was necessary to recognise Qawmi madrasas. Several lakh of students are studying there. They were recognised so that they can be self-dependent along side serving Islam," said the minister. His comments came after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently announced that the government will recognise the Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasas, making it equivalent to the master's degree. She made the announcement at a meeting with some 350 representatives of Qawmi madrasas at Gono Bhaban. The home minister yesterday said the government took initiatives to replace old buildings of the police stations. It will help the force do their duty with ease and provide best service to people, he added. In the afternoon, the home minister attended a programme on community policing against militancy and drug abuse, on the Jhinagati Pilot High School playground.

**'I inherited waterlogging'**

Ctg Mayor Nasir tells feasibility study report presentation of Tk 5,000cr project by Chinese firm to find permanent solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin at a programme yesterday said the city's waterlogging problem has not popped up in his tenure. It is a longstanding issue, he said, adding, "I inherited waterlogging." He was speaking at the presentation ceremony of "Feasibility study report on flood control and waterlogging management" done by Powerchina International, a state-owned Chinese organisation, at CCC conference room. Terming the waterlogging problem one of the main woes of the city, Nasir said he chalked out both short-term and long-term plans to address the problem after taking charge as the mayor. As part of short-term initiatives, drains and canals are being cleaned on a regular basis and earth of the canals is also being lifted to increase the navigability, he said. For a permanent solution, the mayor said, he requested water resources ministry, which has taken a project awaiting the government approval. In addition, the feasibility study by the Chinese organisation was done for finding a permanent solution to the waterlogging problem, the mayor said. To complete the process, including formulation of Development Project Proposal, it will require about a year, he said, adding that three more years would be needed to complete the project from the date of the start of the work. The estimated cost of the project will be about Tk 5,000 crore and it will be implemented on a government-to-government (G-2-G) basis with China, said the mayor. "If the project is implemented, there will be a permanent solution to the waterlogging problem," he hoped. Pan Deng Yu, vice president of Powerchina Eurasia, and Han Kun, business development manager of the organisation, delivered a power point presentation.



**A family member of a freedom fighter becomes emotional after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over a cheque to her. The premier distributed cheques for Tk 3 lakh each among 12 gallantry award-receiving freedom fighters and their family members at her office in the capital yesterday.**

PHOTO: PID



**Around 300 teachers and students of Rajshahi University form a human chain on Paris Road at the university yesterday, demanding a speedy trial of those, who murdered Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee on this day last year. They also submitted a memorandum to the commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police seeking arrest of all the accused. In the murder case, the prime accused is still at large, four people are in jail and a court is awaiting charge framing against five persons.**

PHOTO: STAR

**President leaves for UK, Germany today for health checkups**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
President Abdul Hamid leaves for the UK and Germany today on a 10-day visit for medical checkups. He will be travelling in a regular flight of Emirates Airlines, which will depart Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for London at 7:30pm, said officials. The president will go through the first checkup at Moorfields Eye Hospital and Bupa Cromwell Hospital in London on April 25-28. Later, he will go to Frankfurt in Germany also for medical purposes from April 29 to 30 and get back to London on May 1. The president is due to return home on May 4.

**Govt plans 560 model**

FROM PAGE 4  
Under the project, according to the official, model mosques in some 64 districts and 16 coastal areas will have four-storey buildings, and the rest three-storey ones. In these mosques, some 4.4 lakh men and 31,400 women will be able to offer prayers every day. The model mosques will be built in three categories - A, B, and C. Under category A, some 68 four-storey mosques having the elevator facility will be constructed in 64 districts, and four city corporation areas with an overall floor space of 2,81,584 square metres. Under category B, 476 mosques will be built with a total floor space of 64,742 square metres, while 16 under C category will have a floor space of 61,025 square metres. Another official at the Ministry of Religious Affairs said these mosques would have library facilities, where some 34,000 people would be able to read the Holy Quran and other Islamic books simultaneously. Besides, there will be arrangements for conducting research on Islamic affairs for some 6,800 people, while some 56,000 people will be able to offer doa and munajat, and count in tasbeeh round the clock in those mosques once the project is completed. The ministry official told the news agency that there would be arrangements for imparting primary education to some 68,000 children every year apart from other religious affairs. Some 14,000 Hafez-e-Quran (people who memorise the whole Quran) will come out from these mosques every year, he added. Besides, the official said, there would be arrangements for the accommodation of some 2,240 local and foreign guests alongside facility for digital registration of the holy hajj.

**EPI plans new vaccines to increase 13 antigens**

UNB, Dhaka  
The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has planned to introduce more new vaccines targeting to increase 13 antigens by 2018. The announcement came at a press briefing at the conference room of the DGHS yesterday, marking the World Immunisation Week 2017 beginning today. Speaking at the press conference, DGHS Director General Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad said EPI in Bangladesh has been recognised for its sustained high vaccination coverage and contribution in reducing childhood morbidity and mortality.