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Flood situation worsens in Sylhet

At least 100 educational institutions shut

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Heavy rain, flash flood and excessive waterflow from the upstream rivers have worsened the flood situation in many upazilas of the division.

The worst hit upazilas are Beanibazar, Golapganj and Osmaninagar in Sylhet, Kulaura, Barlekha, Juri, Rajnagar and Sadar in Moulvibazar, some upazilas of Habiganj and all upazilas of Sunamganj.

People have been suffering badly in Sylhet and Moulvibazar as the water is showing no sign of receding.

Children are also being severely affected by the floods as education institutions remained closed and waterborne diseases like diarrhoea and skin problems are spreading in an epidemic form.

GOLAPGANJ

A deluge of rain two days before Eid followed by overflow in the upstream Surma, Kushiara and Matijuri rivers resulted in a serious flood situation in the upazila.

Twenty villages in Sharifganj, Budhbaribazar, Bhadeswar and Bagha have already gone under water as four haors, 22 bogs and all the rivers and canals are overflowing.

The authorities have been forced to shut most of the education institutions in Mirganj because of floods.

Md Altaf Hossain, upazila nirbahi officer, said they were monitoring the situation and had asked the higher authorities for relief for the affected people.

BEANIBAZAR

The municipality and most of the roads have been inundated and road links with three other upazilas of Sylhet have been partially snapped.

Around 80 percent population of Dubag, Shewla, Kurarbar, Mathiura, Tilpara, Lauta, Muria and Beanibazar municipality are affected by the flood as the Kushiara was flowing over the danger mark.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer M Asaduzzaman said the administration had already allocated 14 tonnes of relief for the affected people.

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The Kairchak Govt Primary School, top, in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar surrounded by floodwater yesterday. Over 100 schools in the region are now closed due to the sudden inundation. Water flowing across a road, right, in Mirsarai of Golapganj in Sylhet. A home flooded, left, in Mathiura of Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Messi ties the knot

AFP, Rosario

Lionel Messi said "I do" to childhood sweetheart and mother of their two children Antonella Rocuzzo on Friday in his Argentine hometown Rosario, where footballers and celebrities gathered for the "wedding of the century."

Following the private ceremony, the couple appeared happy and relaxed as they walked a red carpet before hundreds of journalists at a hotel and casino complex, Rocuzzo donning a tight, mermaid-style gown by Spanish designer Rosa Clara.

The couple's children Thiago, four, and

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ROAD ACCIDENTS

Sharp rise in fatalities

About 2,300 lives lost so far this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2,297 people were killed and 5,480 injured in road accidents in the last six months, a sharp rise in the death toll compared to the same period last year, said an organisation campaigning for safety in the transport sector.

National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways (NCPSRR) in a report said casualties in road mishaps has increased by 18.35 percent and the number of accidents increased by 8.6 percent.

The report was prepared on the basis of reports in 22 national and 10 regional dailies and eight online news portals and news agencies.

The 2,297 victims, including 315 children and 292 women, were killed in 1,983 accidents between January and June this year.

Last year, a total of 1,941 people, including 261 children and 262 women, were killed and 4,794 injured in the first six months, it said.

It added that in last month alone, 333 people were killed and 632 injured in 265 accidents in June. Of them, 120 were killed in the last eight days

Month	2017	2016
January	416	340
February	427	356
March	362	309
April	349	309
May	410	292
June	333	335

that included Eid holidays. The number of deaths was 133 during eight days including the Eid holidays last year.

The number of casualties during Eid holidays slightly decreased this year, said Ashis Kumar Dey, general secretary of the NCPSRR, adding that the government had taken better preparations ahead of the holidays.

Carrying people on trucks and roofs of buses caused deaths in many cases, he said.

At least 17 people were killed and eight critically injured as a truck carrying Eid holidaymakers skidded off a road in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur on June 24.

WHY SO MANY CRASHES?

Kazi Md Shifun Newaz, assistant professor of Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said road crashes takes place for three main reasons—dilapidated conditions of road and their faulty design, unfit vehicles and untrained drivers and unawareness of road users.

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Hyperloop Hotel

The high-tech lodging and transport of the future?



CNN ONLINE

What if your flight, your car and your hotel were all combined into one luxury, high-tech transit complex?

That's the idea behind Brandan Siebrecht's Hyperloop Hotel -- an inventive solution to 21st century traveling.

Siebrecht, a graduate architect at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is this year's student recipient of the Radical Innovation Award. This annual prize celebrates visionary hotel designs for the future.

Siebrecht's design features a series of transportable rooms, transported across the United States through reduced-pressure tubes -- via the Hyperloop system.

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Minister thanks foreign friends for support after café attack

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday expressed Bangladesh's gratitude towards individuals, foreign countries and governments for standing by Bangladesh during its "difficult one year" since the July 1 Gulshan café attack.

He specially mentioned countries like Italy, Japan,

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center
PRAYER TIMING JULY 2
 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
 JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

The valiant fighter is no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Shahidul Haque Mama, a valiant freedom fighter, died at a Qatar hospital on Friday night, ending over a two-month-long battle for life following a massive cardiac arrest. He was 64.

Shahidul, also the chief of "Mama Group Guerrilla Bahini" during the Liberation War, breathed his last at Al Wakra Hospital, his brother-in-law Harun-Or-Rashid Zamadder, told The Daily Star.

He left behind his wife, two children, a host of relatives and well wishers. Earlier it was decided that he would be buried in Sweden, where he moved along with his family in the 80s, said Harun.

"But we came to know from the media that the Bangladesh government was requesting his family

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A man riding a bike with a child on the carrier on a busy street in the capital's Rampura yesterday. The little girl could fall off the bike as she was seen struggling hold on to the man and stay on the bike.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Xi draws 'red line' in Hong Kong

Says any challenge to Beijing's control 'absolutely impermissible' as thousands call for democracy

AFP, Hong Kong

China's President Xi Jinping yesterday warned that any challenge to Beijing's control over Hong Kong crossed a "red line", as tens of thousands calling for more democracy marched through the city 20 years after it was handed back by Britain.

Xi spoke in a televised address after swearing in new Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, who is already being cast by critics as a China stooge in a city where many are angry at Beijing's tightening grip on the freedoms of its nearly eight million people.

A huge security operation shut down large parts of Hong Kong for Xi's three-day visit, reflecting Beijing's concern that there should be no embarrassment ahead of a key Communist Party congress later this year which is expected to cement his position as the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation.

Xi yesterday said that any threat to China's sovereignty and security or to the power of the central government "crosses the red line and is absolutely impermissible".

He also warned against anyone endangering Hong Kong's constitution or using the city "to carry out infiltration and sabotage activities against the mainland".

The message comes as young activists have emerged calling for self-determination or even full independence for Hong Kong, which has infuriated Beijing.

Just hours after Xi left the city yesterday afternoon, organisers estimated 60,000 people marched from Victoria Park to government offices in central Hong Kong in an annual pro-democracy protest.

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