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Relief still scarce

Complain flood victims, situation mostly unchanged in north districts

STAR REPORT

With the flood situations unchanged in most of the northern districts and the central region being inundated, many affected people from Bogra, Sylhet and Kurigram complain about insufficient relief.

Different chars under three upazilas of Faridpur were inundated yesterday as the Padma was flowing 21 centimetres over the danger level at Goalanda point. Reports from Manikganj say the water level in all rivers is rising.

The overall flood situation improved a little in Jamalpur and Kurigram and remained static in Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Bogra, report our district correspondents.

According to the latest bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board, the Padma and Kushiara rivers were rising yesterday and the water levels of the Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Surma were falling.

The bulletin said the Padma might continue rising for the next 48 hours and the Kushiara for next 24 hours. The Surma might remain steady and the Brahmaputra and Jamuna might witness decline in the next 72 hours, added the bulletin issued at 9:00am yesterday.

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Carrying her seven-month-old child, Suborna Begum walks through chest-deep floodwater in Char Baladoba village of Kurigram's Ulipur upazila yesterday. She was rushing towards a boat with journalists on board mistaking it for one that distributes relief goods. The people in that flood-hit area are facing an acute crisis of food, and the newsmen went there to cover the incident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Said 'no' to Bill Clinton's request for gas sale: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she would not hand over the country's assets to others for greed of power.

She was addressing a darbar of the Special Security Force (SSF) marking its 31st founding anniversary at the Prime Minister's Office.

Referring to formation of the government after the 2001 parliamentary elections, she said there was a notion that Bangladesh was floating on natural gas and it would have to be sold.

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Rail links with north, south cut off for 7 hrs

Derailment at Ishwardi caused the snapping

STAR REPORT

Rail communications between the capital and the country's north and south were suspended for about seven and a half hours after an express train derailed at Muladuli of Pabna's Ishwardi yesterday.

Nearly 3,500 passengers were stranded in eight trains at different places before communications were restored at 8:55pm last night.

"All the trains have left stations," Ashim Kumar, divisional manager in railway's west zone, told The Daily Star at 9:10pm.

Earlier, at about 1:22pm, Chitra Express derailed at Muladuli due to a "wrong overshoot" of the intercity train.

Rail communications between Dhaka and the northern and southern districts are routed through Ishwardi junction.

The derailment occurred when Chitra

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Fresh acid attack hits London

It comes less than 24hrs after 5 similar incidents; 2 held over Thursday's incident

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Another suspected acid attack has been launched in London, less than 24 hours after a spate of five similar incidents.

The Metropolitan Police said they were called at around 5:00pm on Friday to reports of an attempted robbery of a moped in Dagenham.

The rider, in his 20s, was approached by two men on another moped who squirted what was described as a "noxious substance" at him.

They attempted to steal his moped but were unsuccessful, and the man was taken to hospital.

"He does not have lasting injuries and has been discharged," a spokesperson for Scotland Yard said. "There have been no arrests and enquiries continue."

It came a day after five separate victims were targeted by two moped-riding attackers in the north and the east of the capital.

Two of the assaults saw mopeds stolen, while another victim was left with "life-changing" injuries inflicted after being sprayed.

Detectives have made two arrests relating to Thursday's rampage, with boys aged 15 and 16 in custody.

Chief Inspector Ben Clark appealed for help from the public for information over the five attacks known to be linked.

"Each of these offences took place in busy locations and we know there may be witnesses who have not yet contacted us," he said.

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Khaleda leaves for UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia left Dhaka for London last night for medical treatment.



However, her visit to the city is considered crucial in the political arena as she could make some important decisions -- about the poll-time government, the BNP's anti-government movement, and the party's strategy for the upcoming general elections, her relatives and sources in the BNP said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said her stay would depend on how long the treatment takes.

The BNP chief would stay at her son Tarique

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Clinton hiding between Bushes



CNN ONLINE

If you thought former President Bill Clinton is happiest when frolicking among balloons, think again.

Clinton has found something that makes him even giddier: squeezing in between giant presidential statues for the sake of a pun that he just couldn't pass up.

When he visited the George W Bush Presidential Center for a public event on Thursday, Clinton's press secretary Angel Urena snapped a photo of the former President that quickly went viral. The picture shows him peeking out between the statues of George W Bush and George HW Bush with a sly grin on his face.

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'FALSE CASE' 2 JU students go on hunger strike unto death

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday went on a hunger strike unto death on the campus, demanding the withdrawal of the case filed against 56 university

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JULY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	4-15	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-15
JAMAAT	4-50	1-15	5-15	6-58	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Woodburn Government Public Library in Bogra town is frequented by bookworms of all ages including young readers and adorned with novels, texts, newspapers and old manuscripts like Padma Purana, bottom left. The librarian is seen working in the other photo.

PHOTO: STAR



THE JOY OF READING

Bogra's historic library as popular as ever

MAMUN-UR-RASHID with ANDREW EAGLE

In this era of digital screens and the internet, a visit to Bogra's four-storied Woodburn Government Public Library comes as a pleasant surprise to any book lover. From ages eight to eighty the library is busy with patrons reading novels, texts and newspapers, making the most of the ample seating available on the lower floors. It's proof that traditional libraries remain popular in the modern world. But the Woodburn library has indeed been a well-patronised public centre of learning for the past 163 years.

"I've been visiting the library regularly since I was a child," says Nawsin Tabassum who currently studies in class nine at Dhaka's Turkish Hope school. "I'm a keen reader. It gives mental refreshment and helps with my study. My parents always encouraged

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Pubali Bank's Credit Rating

Ratings	2017	2016
Long Term	AA	AA
Short Term	ST-1	ST-1

Financial Statements as on 31 December 2016

AA Very Strong Capacity & High Safety

ST-1 Strongest Capacity

Rated by NCR on 19 June 2017 and valid till 19 June 2018



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