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Transactions hit Tk 1,000cr a day in June  
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## REWRITING HISTORY

Adam Peaty breaks his own World  
Record in men's 50m breaststroke

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## MALDIVES CRISIS

Troops, opposition MPs clash over no  
confidence bid against speaker, president

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# Act tough to root out graft

PM asks civil servants, gives 23-point directive  
for deputy commissioners

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government officials to take a tough stance against corruption to root out the menace from the society.

"We'll have to eliminate corruption at any cost. We'll have to create public awareness and take a strong stance against the threat," she said, opening a three-day conference of deputy commissioners at her office.

People will not get the benefits of any development project if there was corruption in it, the PM said.

Terming the DCs the representatives of the government at the district level, she asked them to carry out their responsibilities with the mindset of serving people and protecting their interests by taking a stand for truth and justice.

Hasina laid out a 23-point directive for the DCs to ensure people's welfare and directed them to be more active in imple-



You'll have to work together with public representatives to establish good governance at grassroots, strengthen the rural economy further and develop infrastructures in villages.

PM ASKS CIVIL SERVANTS

menting development programmes.

"You'll have to work together with public representatives in establishing good governance at grassroots, strengthen the rural economy further and develop infrastructures in villages, implement the SDGs and tackle natural disasters."

The DCs must ensure that service receivers are not harassed in any way and go tough against food adulteration, she told the annual conference.

The PM directed them to know the problems and prospects of their areas in detail and inform the central administration timely as the development plans were prepared on the basis of their reports.

Praising the initiatives of a number of district administrations and police officials for making their districts free from begging, Hasina assured them of providing assistance from her relief fund to

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Cascading rainwater from nearby hills has washed away part of Rangamati-Khagrachhari Link Road in Rangamati's Kamarpara area, some 16km off the district town, early yesterday. Incessant rain for the last three days has made life miserable in the district. Inset, locals look for survivors after a landslide hit a building in Lighthouse Para of Cox's Bazar early yesterday. Two people were killed and two others injured in the incident.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA, MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT



TREATMENT OF EYES  
Siddiqui to be  
flown to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Titumir college student Siddiqui Rahman, whose eyes were damaged in "police excess" during a demonstration in Shahbagh on Thursday, would be flown to India on Thursday for better treatment.

"Siddiqui will be taken to Sankara Nethralaya Hospital in Chennai on Thursday where his treatment will begin from Friday after some medical tests,"

Pariakshit Chowdhury,

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Defaming the defamation law

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The defamation case filed against the Barguna UNO, though finally withdrawn by the complainant, has become the latest example of using the defamation law as a weapon to muzzle dissenting voices and criticism.

The way the case was filed and the subsequent harassment faced by the UNO Tariq Salman has raised a very important question whether the legal protection against arbitrary usage of the defamation law loses effectiveness if the complainants belong to an influential political party.

The grounds for the case and the subsequent judicial proceeding initiated in this case are intriguing enough to bear repeating.

A Barisal Awami League leader, also president of the Barisal District Bar Association, filed the case against Salman for distributing Independence Day invitation cards imprinted with allegedly a distorted portrait of Bangabandhu.

He accused Salman, who was then UNO of Agailjhara of Barisal, of intentionally distorting the portrait. However, his

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# Landslides kill 5 more

Heavy monsoon rain causes waterlogging; Met  
office says situation may start improving today

STAR REPORT

Monsoon torrential rain triggered fresh landslides in Cox's Bazar killing at least five people yesterday.

Heavy rainfall in the peak of monsoon has caused water-logging in the coastal and hill districts for the last few days disrupting usual business and people's everyday life.

However, according to the weather office, the situation may improve from today, as the low weakened further and moved towards westwards in India.

"Low formed in the Bay intensifying rain. However, the weather will improve from tomorrow. But still there will be some rains as the monsoon is active now," said a duty forecasting officer of Dhaka Met office.

As torrential rain coupled with tidal water reached the peak of the year yesterday, people of Chittagong city's low-lying areas had to suffer due to waterlogging for the third consecutive day.

Life was disrupted in the capital as well. Several other coastal districts were inundated including Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Bagerhat and Cox's

Bazar. Road communication between hill districts remained snapped, as landslides damaged the road.

Meanwhile, the body of a Bandarban landslide victim was found on Monday evening in the Shankha river at Banskhali upazila of Chittagong. Rescue operation could not be conducted the day before after the landslide in Bandarban due to bad weather, fire brigade sources said.

In Cox's Bazar, two children, identified as Saima, 3, and her brother Zihan, 4, were buried alive when a big chunk of earth fell on their house around 3:00am yesterday, said Abdul Malek, deputy assistant director of district Fire Service and Civil Defence. The parents sustained injuries.

Another rain-influenced landslide killed Shahed, 18, and Saddam Hossain, 28, and injured two others in Lighthouse area of Sadar town near the sea beach, the fire service official added.

Motaherul Islam, Saddam's brother, said four of the family were sleeping when a portion of hill crashed down on their one-storey building. A wall collapsed killing the two on the spot.

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Stay alert as water  
may rise in the  
central region

Minister asks DCs over  
flood situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deputy commissioners were asked to take preparations and repair flood control embankments on a regular basis through the Test Relief and Food for Works programmes amid apprehension that water may rise in the central and lower parts of the country.

The DCs were also told to convene regular meetings of the disaster management committees in their respective districts and ensure participation of everyone concerned.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya gave the directives at the meeting of the deputy commissioners at the secretariat on the first day of the DC's Conference.

Meetings of the disaster management and relief, labour and employment, and power, energy and mineral resources ministries were held simultaneously with the DCs.

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A large part of Chittagong city was flooded yesterday as it was struck by the highest tide of the year following three consecutive days of rain. Traffic was light on the waterlogged Agrabad Access Road in the port city.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Pesticide killed the 13 Dinajpur kids

Banned in many  
countries, highly toxic  
endosulfan was sprayed  
on litchi trees, finds a  
study on the children's  
deaths 5 years ago

REAZ AHMAD and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A globally banned toxic pesticide caused an outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES), killing 13 children in Dinajpur in 2012, says a study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on Monday.

AES is a condition often associated with deadly inflammation of the brain.

Scientists and researchers from International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr), Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) came up with the finding after investigating 14 cases of AES reported in Dinajpur between May 31 and June 30 of 2012.

Of the 14 children, aged between one



and 12, only one survived.

The journal says the scientists found that local growers were applying endosulfan in litchi orchards during the outbreak. It also notes endosulfan is a highly toxic insecticide that was banned in more than 80 countries due to its harmful health effects.

Till 2016, Bangladesh was one of the several countries, including the United States, which still allowed restricted use of endosulfan. The pesticide was slated to be phased out of use in the US by the end of that year.

Syed Nurul Alam, who heads the Entomology Division of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, told The Daily Star yesterday that as far as his knowledge went, endosulfan was not being applied in crops anymore. However, it still remains as a registered pesticide in the country.

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