



With continued onrush of floodwater from upstream, the Surma is flowing above the danger mark and the Cholti, Patil and Jadukata rivers are also swelling. The rising water levels have flooded areas in Duarabazaar, Tahirpur, Jamalganj and Biswamvarpur of Sunamganj district. The photo was taken at Anwarpur of Tahirpur upazila yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Pilgrims thrown into disarray

FROM PAGE 1
which includes cancellation of the licence, fine and forfeiting of the deposit money.
The government selected 635 private operators to carry 1.23 lakh pilgrims this year. Another 4,200 are going under state management.
"We have already summoned some of the agencies to explain why they have failed to send hajjis even after getting visas," Saiful told The Daily Star yesterday.
As of last evening, some 57,200 pilgrims have been sent to Saudi Arabia since hajj flights began on July 24. Biman and Saudi Arabian Airlines, the two airlines that are carrying the pilgrims, will have to send the rest 71,784 in the next 15 days.
A number of top Biman officials said sending all the pilgrims will be a big challenge this year as there was a huge backlog of 10,000 hajjis due to frequent cancellation of hajj flights because of hajj agencies' failure to arrange the trip.
On several occasions, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon promised to resolve the issue. But the problem persists with another hajj flight cancelled yesterday, taking the number of flight cancellation to 25.
These flights could have carried over 11,000 passengers.
Biman's last hajj flight is on August

26 and that of the Saudi Airlines on August 27.
Religious Affairs Secretary Abdul Jalil said 95,201 pilgrims have got visas so far against 1.2 lakh applications.
Shahadat Hossain Taslim, secretary general of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab), told The Daily Star yesterday they already started holding meetings with the listed 377 hajj agencies, many of whom failed to send majority of the pilgrims registered with them.
The hajj operators with whom they have already sat have promised to send the pilgrims within the August 26 deadline, he added.
"We will not spare anyone if they fail to send the pilgrims on time due to negligence on their part," he warned.
Mohammad Mo'in Uddin Chowdhury, owner of Al-Mabrur Hajj Travels International that has failed to send a single pilgrim so far, told this newspaper on Thursday that issues related to moallem (tour guides) and house rent were to blame for the delay.
Asked why they could not send any of the 264 pilgrims despite getting visas, he said they rented houses for the pilgrims in Makkah and Madina from August 13 (tomorrow).
On whether there will be any problem if most hajj agencies prefer to send pilgrims at the fog end of the deadline, he said Biman would have to manage it if such a situation arises.

Several officials of hajj agencies that have failed to send hajjis so far said they were trying to find houses, hotels as well as tour guides at cheap rates.
As many as many pilgrims want to perform hajj with the lowest hajj package, agencies also try to find hotels and houses at cheap rates. Otherwise, they cannot make that big a profit, said sources at the Haab.
The lowest government-set package is Tk 3,17,000, from which agencies can make a profit of Tk 40,000-50,000 per pilgrims. However, hajj operators can charge more depending on the quality of the accommodation and the food they provide.
"We will have to give service to the pilgrims and make some profit. We cannot spend from our pockets to give better services to hajjis," a hajj operator said, asking not to be named.
This year, many hajj agencies failed to get Saudi hajj guides at the lowest rate of 720 Saudi Riyals, as most of them were already hired by India and Pakistan, said Taslim, the Haab secretary general.
"To get the lowest rate, around 100 hajj agencies waited till the last moment thinking that the Bangladesh or Saudi authorities will intervene to find a solution. But their wait went in vain and in the end they had to get them for SR 1,500. This is why those hajj agencies could not complete their job earlier," he said.

China protests after US warship sails near island

AFP, Beijing
An angry Beijing warned off a US warship after it sailed near an artificial island in the disputed South China Sea in the latest operation aimed at loosening the Asian giant's grip on the strategic waterway.
Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the actions of the USS John S. McCain had violated Chinese and international law, "seriously" impairing the country's sovereignty and security.
"China is strongly dissatisfied with this," Geng said in a statement, adding that Beijing would lodge an official protest with Washington.
The USS John S. McCain destroyer sailed within six nautical miles of Mischief Reef -- an artificial island built by China -- on Thursday as part of a "freedom of navigation" operation, a US official said.
The reef is part of the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which is the scene of rival claims between China and neighbouring countries.

First consignment

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imported rice, 60 percent would be unloaded at Chittagong Port and the rest at Mongla.
The country's rice stock has recently hit a five-year low at 193,000 tonnes. Amid soaring prices of rice, the government on June 20 decided to cut the duty on the staple food by 18 percent to encourage import.

One killed

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union parishad elections. The two feuding groups clashed on 10 previous occasions in the area.
AL sources said Mirbohor was a supporter of local AL lawmaker Shawkat Ali, while Zakir was a follower of Naria upazila Chairman Ismail Huq.
Ikbal's father Amin Fakir is the publicity secretary of Rajanagar union AL.
Talking to reporters, he said supporters of Zakir shot his son dead. He demanded arrest and punishment of the killers.
Zakir, however, refuted the allegation saying he had no idea about the attackers of Iqbal.
Ehsan Shah, additional superintendent of police in Shariatpur, said the clash took place over establishing supremacy in the area.
Additional policemen were deployed in the area to avoid any deterioration in law and order, he added.

First-ever move

FROM PAGE 16
will be released in Rajshahi tomorrow to facilitate their breeding.
The exchange programme has been initiated to establish breeding facilities of captive Gharials among Bangladesh National Zoo (Dhaka), Rangpur Zoo, Rajshahi Zoo and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Gazipur.
"There is not a single pair [of Gharials] in the country's zoos. That is why there has been no breeding for long. But now we are trying to breed exchanging the males and females of the species," ABM Sarowar Alam, principal Gharial investigator of IUCN Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.
He added the zoo authorities have agreed to exchange the species for the first time to facilitate their breeding as part of the government's initiative of "Gharial Conservation Management and Action Plan."
Md Jahidul Kabir, conservator of forests (Wildlife and Nature Conservation Circle), said, "The initiative has been taken to bring back the critically endangered species to nature."
"We have found some potential hotspots for Gharials in the Padma and Jamuna rivers. The exchange programme is the first step to facilitate Gharials' breeding in Bangladesh."
He also said some other initiatives including raising awareness among locals, where Gharial sanctuaries will be set up, would be taken.
A recent study styled "Gharials of Bangladesh" conducted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Department of Forestland funded by the World Bank to ascertain the number of captive Gharials in Bangladesh zoos revealed this information.
The study finds four females in Rangpur, four males in Dhaka, one male in Bangabandhu Safari Park and two females in Rajshahi.
A total of four adult males have been kept in Dhaka Zoo since their rescue from fishermen's net between 1983 and 1997. The males are healthy, but as there have been no females there is no breeding.
Two adult females reside in Rajshahi Zoo. In the enclosure, there is circular with a small island in the centre. Lack of gentle slope makes it difficult for the Gharials to reach the island for basking.
Four adult females are kept in Rangpur Zoo. The zoo has very poor

facilities for basking and nesting of Gharials.
A young male of 115cm long has been kept at Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur.
There are only 11 captive Gharials in the zoos, while sightings of 58 others were reported in the major rivers. As many as 39 sightings were reported in the Padma, 17 in the Jamuna and one each in the Brahmaputra and the Mahananda rivers.
In Dhaka, there is a Gharial which is around 41 years old and has never got an opportunity to court a mate. "So, after the female Gharial is released, next year might see their breeding," Sarowar observed.
He said whenever they got Gharial hatchlings, they released those in the Gharial hotspots for natural growth and breeding.
Currently, there are four hotspots in the Padma and one in the Jamuna.
Gharials need a long time to get sexual maturity. They usually become adult after 13 years for males and 16 years for females when they are nearly three metres in length.
Breeding life of Gharials is usually 50 years, while the species live for around 100 years.
Sarowar said Rajshahi Zoo is completely ready for breeding, but Dhaka Zoo is being prepared for that.
The study identifies destruction of habitats and death by entangling in fishing nets as the main reasons behind the decline in the number of Gharials.
Erosion of the river banks and sand bars, extensive practice of agricultural crops on river banks, particularly during winter, frequent movement of engine boats and establishment of boat stations, and large-scale sand-mining are the other threats to Gharials, the study finds.

HC verdict

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Citing different grounds, they prayed for acquittal of their clients.
On January 16, a Narayanganj court found 35 people, including 25 former Rab officials and expelled ruling Awami League man Nur Hossain, guilty of abducting and murdering seven people and destroying evidence in April 2014.
Bodies of the seven victims, including Narayanganj City Corporation councillor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker, were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river after they were abducted on April 27, 2014.

Lifeline for the poor

FROM PAGE 16
"Many charity organisations do that. But here the medicine is also free. We ensure that our patients can take a complete course of the drugs they need."
Every three months or so Dr Shahed visits from the United States for a week to personally check on the clinic's activities and the wellbeing of patients, she adds.
"Currently we are able to offer regular checkups and primary treatment, along with medicine," says the clinic's Manager Tawhid Khan. A retired doctor provides regular consultations six days per week, he informs, while specialist doctors from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka and the BIRDEM hospital in Pabna town also attend the

clinic on a weekly basis.
"Most of our patients are women and children," said Dr Tarikul Alam of the clinic and also a former resident medical officer of Pabna Medical College. "If any patient's condition is diagnosed as critical we refer him to a government institution which has the appropriate facilities."
The clinic has broad community support. "While healthcare is a right for all people," says Ruqunul Hasan, a government employee from Singa, "the reality is that ultra poor people are rarely able to access existing services equitably. This initiative with free medicine included shines the light of hope. Dr Shahed has demonstrated the good that philanthropy can do. I hope more people stand up to follow his example."

Invitation for Tenders

Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Public Administration.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC).		
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC Project.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Tender	Goods	Single lot
7	Invitation Ref. No.	05.01.2672.247.06.030.17.22		
8	Date	10/08/2017		

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	NCT	Open
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget	Grant
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Debt Relief Assistance-Counterpart Fund (DRGA-CF), Govt. of Japan.	

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	5001		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC.		
14	Tender Package No.	GD-11		
15	Tender package name	Supply of Sports Equipment for Improving Facilities of Physical Exercise of the Participants.		
16	Tender publication date	13/08/2017		
17	Tender last selling date	29/08/2017		
18	Tender closing date and time	30/08/2017	01:30pm	
19	Tender opening date and time	30/08/2017	02:30pm	
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address		
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Project Director, Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343. International Training Complex (ITC), Ground Floor, Room No. 102.		

No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents

	- Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343. International Training Complex (ITC), Ground Floor, Room No. 102.		
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343. International Training Complex (ITC), Ground Floor, Room No. 102.		
21	Place/date/time of	Office of the Project Director, Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343. International Training Complex (ITC), Ground Floor, Room No. 102.		
	Pre-tender meeting (optional)	Date	Time	
		N/A	N/A	

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	Supply of gym and exercise equipment, athletic supplies and sports gear and physical education equipment		
23	Brief description of goods	Motorized Treadmill, Spinc Bike, Messenger, Movable Basketball Stand for indoor use 1 set (two post), Leg Extension, Seated-Leg Curl, Leg Press, Leg Pull down, Barbell Rack with wing in (225kg), Table Tennis Table, Weight Plate Rack, Foot Ball Moveable Goal Post, Hand Ball Moveable Goal Post.		
24	Brief description of related services	Supply of Sports Equipment for Improving Facilities of Physical Exercise of the Participants.		
25	Price of tender document (Tk)			
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender document price
	3	Supply of Sports Equipment for Improving Facilities of Physical Exercise of the Participants	BPATC, Savar, Dhaka	3,500/-
				Tender security amount (Tk)
				1,40,000/-
				Completion time in weeks/months
				4 weeks
27	Name of official inviting tender	Md Zaydul Hoque Molla ndc.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, Capacity Enhancement of the Core Courses of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343. International Training Complex (ITC), Ground Floor, Room No. 102.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 02-7744822	Fax: 02-7745029	Email: cecbpatproject@gmail.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			

Md. Zaydul Hoque Molla ndc
MDS (Project) &
Project Director

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

Office of the Project Director
Ashuganj-Palash Agro-Irrigation Project (5th Phase)
Shimraikandi, Brahmanbaria
Phone: 0851-63262
E-mail: pd_apaip.badcbbaria@yahoo.com

Memo No-PD/APA/Acct-01/2017-18/58 Date: 08.08.2017

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Project Director, Ashuganj-Palash Agro-Irrigation Project (5th Phase), BADC, Shimraikandi, Brahmanbaria under Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation for the procurement of following packages, which are available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For detail query please log in to <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>.

Sl No.	Name of goods/works	Tender ID	Last selling date	Tender closing date
01.	Supply of 200mm dia uPVC pipe & fittings for 1-cusec LLP Scheme (GD-01)	Tender ID-114387	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
02.	Supply of 250mm dia uPVC pipe & fittings for 2-cusec LLP Scheme (GD-02)	Tender ID-114388	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
03.	Construction of RCC Main Canal at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-01-12)	Tender ID-114389, 114390, 114391, 114392, 114401, 114404, 114405, 114406, 114407, 114408, 114409, 114410	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
04.	Construction of RCC Secondary Canal at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-13-18)	Tender ID-114411, 114412, 114413, 114414, 114416, 114417	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
05.	Re-Excavation/Renovation of Earthen Canal (approx.2.00 km) including leveling, dressing & turfing at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-01)	Tender ID-114432	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
06.	Construction of Toe/Retaining wall at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-01)	Tender ID-114433	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
07.	Construction of Sub-Surface Irrigation Channel (buried pipe line) for 1-cusec LLP Scheme at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-01-04)	Tender ID-114435, 114438, 114439, 114440	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
08.	Construction of Sub-Surface Irrigation Channel (buried pipe line) for 2-cusec LLP Scheme at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-05-08)	Tender ID-114441, 11442, 114444, 114445	28-August-2017	29-August-2017
09.	Repairing Maintenance & Renovation works for RCC Canal & Structures at any upazila of Brahmanbaria & Narsingdi District under Project area (Lot-01-02)	Tender ID-114446, 114447	28-August-2017	29-August-2017

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Obaid Hossain
Project Director
Ashuganj-Palash Agro-Irrigation Project (5th Phase)
BADC, Shimraikandi, Brahmanbaria