



Indian citizens affected by flood arrive at Mogholhat of Lalmonirhat on a boat yesterday morning. They also brought their livestock with them. At least 200 flood-hit Indians were rescued and given shelter in the district.

PHOTO: DILIP ROY

7 colleges get their exam schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Post graduation exam schedule for students of the seven Dhaka University affiliated colleges was declared yesterday.

The exams for MA, MSC, MSS, and MBS (academic session 2013-2014) would begin on September 10 and end on October 31, said DU exam controller Bahalul Hoque Chowdhury.

A press release from the public relations office of DU requested students to contact their colleges for details.

Test schedules for students of other academic sessions would be declared soon, said the exam controller.

On July 20, students of the seven colleges staged demonstrations at the capital's Shahbagh, demanding declaration of test schedules.

Siddiqur Rahman, student of Govt Titumir College, got injured by a teargas canister that day.

The seven DU-affiliated colleges are: Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Govt Shaheed Suhrawrdy College, Kabi Nazrul Govt College, Begum Badrunnesa Govt Mohila College, Mirpur Govt Bangla College, and Govt Titumir College.

Govt mounting

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justice, for his comments on the 16th amendment verdict.

"It is your [government] duty to ensure independence of the judiciary. But the way you are reacting; it seems that you have announced war against independence of the judiciary. But you would not be the winner and the consequences would be dreadful and would expedite your stepping down," he said.

Addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the former law minister also said it seemed that the AL leaders want to undermine the judiciary and its independence.

Criticising Justice Khairul, Moudud alleged that he was acting as a spokesperson for the government and he did the same when he was the chief justice.

He said Justice Khairul could not issue statement on the 16th amendment verdict, and his statement was a violation of his job's code of conduct.

'Disastrous'

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Citing recommendation of the Unesco, eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was a must to set up industries within 10km of the ECA.

"The government promised to follow the recommendations on different occasions but such a disastrous decision was made breaking the promises," said Sultana, also convener of the platform.

It was a bad decision for the forest and it would have a long-term affect, she said in a statement.

Not only the country, but also the world would lose a unique asset if the forest was destroyed, she said.

Noted writer and columnist Sayed Abul Maksud said they would continue their protest to save the Sundarbans whether the government listens to them or not.

Abdul Matin, member secretary of the platform, and Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, also spoke among others.

EU MIGRANT CRISIS

Italy applauds Libya's decision on 'search and rescue' zone

AFP, Rome

The Italian government yesterday welcomed Libya's decision to bar foreign vessels from a stretch of water off its coast, as both countries struggle with a migrant crisis that has engulfed Europe in recent years.

The comments from Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano came as a second non-governmental organisation announced it was suspending operations in the area in response to the Libyan move.

The Libyan government "is ready to put in place a search and rescue zone in its waters, work with Europe and invest in its coastguards," Alfano told La Stampa daily yesterday.

"This sends a signal that the balance is being restored in the Mediterranean."

Libya's navy last week ordered foreign vessels to stay out of a coastal "search and rescue zone" for migrants headed for Europe, saying the measure was aimed at non-governmental organisations it accuses of facilitating illegal migration.

Six years since a revolution that toppled longtime dictator Moamer Gaddafi, Libya has become a key departure point for migrants risking

their lives to cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

Tens of thousands of migrants have resorted to paying people traffickers for the journey, often on overcrowded and unseaworthy boats, and charities have dispatched ships to rescue them from drowning.

Meanwhile, Libya and Italy -- where the vast majority of migrants land -- have worked together to stem the flow, with Italy also moving to rein in NGOs helping the multinational rescue operations by making them sign up to a new code of conduct.

"We need a significant, I repeat a significant European economic investment in Libya and in Africa," Alfano said.

"Europe has to decide if the theme of migration flows is an absolute priority on the same scale as the economy. For us, it is".

The Libyan measure prompted the German aid group Sea Eye to announce yesterday it is suspending its migrant rescue operations in the Mediterranean, citing security concerns.

Sea Eye said in a statement that it was with "a heavy heart" that it made its decision, after the Libyan government's "explicit threat against the private NGOs".

Mueller seeks interview with ex-White House top aide: report

AFP, Washington

US special prosecutor Robert Mueller is seeking an interview with ousted White House chief of staff Reince Priebus as he expands his probe of Russian interference in the November election, The New York Times reported yesterday.

Mueller wants to question current and former senior officials in President Donald Trump's administration about his move to fire FBI director James Comey, in an attempt to determine whether the US leader obstructed justice, the newspaper said, citing people briefed on the matter.

In a sign that Mueller's investigation may be intensifying, he ordered FBI agents last month to raid the home of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort.

A grand jury is reported to have been impaneled in Washington to look at evidence, and the White House has been asked for documents related to former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who was fired shortly after taking office for his undisclosed Russia contacts.

But Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general who appointed Mueller to lead the Russia probe, warned a week ago that he would need clearance from above before expanding his investigation beyond its original scope.

The Times said Comey met Priebus at the White House on February 8, a week before the ex-FBI chief said Trump pressured him to end a probe into Flynn.

Comey told Priebus that a Justice Department policy bars discussions between the FBI and White House officials about ongoing investigations in order to prevent political meddling, a law enforcement official told the Times.

Manafort was forced to resign a year ago amid reports he was under investigation over millions of dollars he was allegedly paid by the pro-Russia former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich.

Manafort's private consulting business on behalf of Moscow-linked billionaire oligarchs has fueled concerns about possible collusion, and also questions about how he handled payments for his services.

Saudi forces seal off eastern Shia town: HRW

AFP, Dubai

Saudi Arabia's security forces have sealed off a Shia-majority town in the east of the Sunni-ruled kingdom, Human Rights Watch said yesterday, following months of unrest and clashes with police.

Saudi authorities last week said they seized control of a district of Awamiya, a town in the eastern Qatif region where protests have escalated into clashes with security forces in recent months.

HRW yesterday said Saudi security forces had completely "surrounded and sealed off" Awamiya.

'Ex-students'

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any of the attackers as it was dark.

Quoting doctors, Matur Rahman, a teacher accompanying Tapan at the DMCH, said Tapan might need a surgery.

Tapan, who has been teaching at the school for six years, said it was not clear to him why he was attacked.

Mofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Pangsha Police Station, told The Daily Star that they detained six people in this connection. Two of them were former students of the school, he said.

During primary interrogation, the detainees admitted that they attacked the teacher for his "extramarital affair".

Police, however, did not find the allegation to be true, the OC said, adding that they were investigating the incident.

US teen

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Should they win, they would have to juggle their government duties with academics, as they would both still be in their last year of high school next year.

Bergeson will not even be eligible to vote for himself.

Their campaign is made possible by Kansas's lack of age requirements for a gubernatorial candidate, according to The Kansas City Star newspaper.

Almost all other states have age minimums, including neighbouring Missouri, where a governor must be at least 30 years old.

The teen, who is running as a Democrat, said on social media that he has already raised more than \$1,300 for his quest to be the youngest governor in US history.

"We understand that many do not take young people seriously when they run for office," Bergeson wrote, "but once voters hear our unique message of a platform that takes the best of both sides, we believe Kansans will understand that the old way of politics is no longer viable for a government that should be working with and understanding them."

Among Bergeson's campaign promises is an "overhaul" of the state's health care system and a pay raise for school teachers.

Janmashtami

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Different social, cultural and religious organisations have planned elaborate programmes to observe Janmashtami. The day is a public holiday.

President Abdul Hamid will host a reception at the Bangabhaban, marking the day.

Meanwhile, President Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages have greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion of Janmashtami.

Tragic death

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Mintu Sarkar is a teacher and the librarian at the school and she was there at that time.

Due to "jostling" of the students, a few bookshelves fell and one of them hit Joydip in the head, the principal said.

Joydip was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, but he was declared dead on arrival.

Mintu was speechless at the hospital.

According to relatives and school sources, Joydip had no classes yesterday as his second term exams were going on. He went to school with his mother since nobody was home to look after him.

His father Debasish Dutta is a schoolteacher in Anwara upazila.

Biman goes

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Asked, General Manager Shakil Meraj of Biman's public relations yesterday said passengers who have bought ticket on Dhaka-Doha and other suspended routes would be sent to their respective destinations through other airlines.

Insiders said until the end of the hajj flights, Biman would use its Airbus and narrow-bodied aircraft on different routes and utilise its wide-bodied Boeings for hajj flights.

Since the start of hajj flight operations on July 24, Biman has so far been forced to cancel 21 dedicated hajj flights as hajj agencies showing utter neglect failed to bring in pilgrims due to visa complexities.

At least 8,400 pilgrims could have been sent to Saudi Arabia if those hajj flights were not cancelled, Shakil Meraj said.

Until 8:00am yesterday, 59,122 pilgrims were sent to Saudi Arabia, he informed in an email.

Biman and Saudia would need to ferry 68,086 pilgrims by August 27.

There are 14 aircraft in Biman's fleet. Of those, Biman is using seven wide-bodied Boeings to operate hajj flights, Shakil Meraj said.

Besides, another Boeing aircraft would be brought from Malaysia on lease and would join the hajj flight operation tomorrow, he added.

Currently, Biman operates flights on 20 international routes, according to the national flag carrier's website.

It operates weekly three flights to Doha and Kuwait City using one Airbus, insiders say.

The sources said if necessary, Biman would suspend flights and cut flight frequencies to Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Dubai and Riyadh for a week to make aircraft available for additional hajj flights.

Biman has recently got permission from the Civil Aviation Authority of Saudi Arabia to operate 14 additional hajj flights.

However, Biman Managing Director and CEO AM Mosaddique Ahmed on August 9 said it might not be possible for Biman to operate all the additional hajj flights due to availability of required aircraft.

"We have no alternative to sus-

pending or cancelling flights on a number of routes in a bid to supply aircraft to operate the additional hajj flights," said a Biman official.

Biman General Manager (marketing and sales) Syed Ahasan Hossain Kazi said Biman station or country managers abroad would be informed about suspension of flights until August 26.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday directed the foreign ministry to communicate with the Saudi Arabian government to resolve the visa complexities within 48 hours.

It also directed the authorities concerned of the government to operate additional flights to ferry the pilgrims.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain as to why it should not be directed to form an enquiry commission to find out those responsible for the hajj flight mess.

The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

HC puts off

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Mahbubey Alam prayed to the HC to uphold the trial court verdict, in which 26 people, including 16 former Rapid Action Battalion members, were sentenced to death and nine others jailed.

Defence counsel -- Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, SM Shahjahan, SM Abdul Mobin and Ahsan Ullah -- defended the accused.

Citing different grounds, they prayed for their clients' acquittal.

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.

PM requests Canada

FROM PAGE 1

government. During the meeting, Laramee said his country wants to see an inclusive election in Bangladesh. "You need to have stability as Bangladesh is heading towards becoming a middle-income country in the next two years," he said.

The prime minister said the Awami League government assuming power in 1996 restored the rights of the people, which were absent after Bangabandhu's assassination in 1975.

She mentioned that the AL government introduced the transparent ballot box for election. Before the 10th general election she proposed formation of an election-time coalition government "but the BNP didn't

respond to that proposal", she said.

Hasina said her government was working hard for the welfare of the country's 16 crore people.

Appreciating Hasina's role in different international forums, the Canadian envoy said Bangladesh was also advancing in various sectors in the country. "Bangladesh has advanced a lot in education and health sectors...this is a very commendable job indeed."

He said Canada would continue its assistance to Bangladesh in various development sectors.

Laramee also said Canada is one of the countries in the world that recognised Bangladesh after its independence. "We have our hearts for Bangladesh. The relation between the two countries is growing steadily."

White House

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White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert told Fox News yesterday that "I think you saw the president stand up very clearly and not only denounce it, but rise to a presidential level of calling for a countermessage of love and dignity and respect for fellow human beings."

But the Charlottesville mayor, Michael Signer, laid much of the blame for the violence directly at the president's feet, saying, in an impassioned appearance on CBS, that Trump had created an atmosphere of "coarseness, cynicism (and) bullying."

"He made a choice in his presidential campaign, the folks around him, to go to the gutter, to play on our worst prejudices," Signer, a Democrat, said. "I think you're seeing a direct line from what happened this weekend to those choices."

Many Republicans joined in the criticism of Trump, including former presidential aspirants Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

Another Republican, Senator Lindsey Graham, told Fox News that "I would urge the president to dissuade these groups that he's their friend."

"Their cause is hate."

Even the man who was briefly the White House communications director, Anthony Scaramucci, had critical words for Trump's original response.

"I wouldn't have recommended that statement," he said on ABC. "I think he needed to be much harsher as it related to the white supremacists." He added, "It's actually terror-

ism."

Scaramucci was fired only 10 days into his job as communications director after the New Yorker published an obscenity-laced interview he had with a reporter.

Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, issued a tweet early yesterday that included the sort of language some people said her father should have used on Saturday.

"There should be no place in society for racism, white supremacy and neo-Nazis," she tweeted.

When Trump was asked on Saturday in Westminster whether he wanted the support of white nationalists, he ignored the question.

He is expected to hold a news conference today in Washington at which the question is certain to arise.

The New York billionaire faced harsh criticism during last year's presidential campaign for failing to quickly reject a vow of support from a former Klan leader, David Duke, though he eventually did so. Duke took part in Saturday's rally.

The president has long had a following among white supremacist groups attracted to his nationalist rhetoric on immigration and other hot-button issues.

Mayor Signer was among those making a plea yesterday for the country to rise above its recent troubles.

"We're going to work on civility and listening, deliberation, First Amendment, religious toleration, pluralism."

As for the violence and hateful rhetoric, he said, "That has to stop. It has to stop now."