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SHAH CEMENT

FLOOD-AFFECTED NORTH

Crises of food, drinking water worsen misery

STAR REPORT

All she had left was two kilograms of rain soaked rice. Seeing the sunlight finally break through days of heavy clouds yesterday, a fleeting sense of hope returned for Joyna Bewa, 75, a resident of Kulaghat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

She would now be able to dry her rice and cook it for dinner. Joygun Bewa with her son, Mayenuddin, 48, daughter in law and grand children took shelter on the Lalmonirhat-Moghalhat road in Sadar upazila five days ago as their houses were inundated by floodwater.

Like her, nearly three thousands families, along with their cattle, goats, hens and other pets have also taken shelter on Moghalhat-Baraibarai road and on the flood protection embankment beside the Dhakra river.

But unlike Joyna, most of these families have already run out of food.

Jahanara Begum, 42, a woman from Shiberkuti village in Lalmonirhat, took shelter on the flood protection embankment of the Dhakra river along with her husband Shahed Ali and two children. She said they have been starving since Monday night.

"We had three kgs of rice but that was finished on Monday noon," said Jahanara Begum, yesterday noon.

"I didn't get any help from govt or non-govt [agencies] and I had no money to buy food for our two children," she said in tears while holding onto her two children, Janmati

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Barely afloat, Johur Ali (standing) takes his rickshaw on a raft to Kurigram town as his house in Char Madhobrum village of Kurigram, some seven km off the district town, went under floodwater on Sunday. He will try to drive his rickshaw in the town. Inset, flood affected people with their cattle take shelter on a road in Char Kulaghat area of Lalmonirhat. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED, S DILIP ROY

800 flood-hit Indians take shelter in Lalmonirhat

UNR, Lalmonirhat

Around 800 flood-hit Indian citizens took shelter in several villages of Lalmonirhat Sadar and Aditmari upazilas on Monday night.

Sources at Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said people of two Indian villages near the Bangladesh border were severely affected by flood.

Considering the matter on humanitarian ground, the BGB allowed them to enter Bangladesh.

Some flood victims said they would have been washed away by floodwaters had the BGB not helped them.

The Indians were staying at houses, on roads and in some open spaces in Moghalhat and Durgapur unions of the two upazilas.

Habibur Rahman, chairman of Moghalhat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said local people informed him that BGB members were obstructing the Indian citizens from crossing into Bangladesh.

Later, he requested Lt Col Colam Morshed, commanding officer of Lalmonirhat BGB-15 battalion, to consider the matter on humanitarian grounds.

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Beef too costly in Bangladesh

Prices 32pc higher than global average, according to World Bank data

SOHEL PARVEZ

Beef is 32 percent costlier in the country than the global average, largely due to inadequate domestic production, drop in the flow of cattle smuggled in from India and extortion from traders.

Consumers paid Tk 480-510 or about \$6 for each kg of beef in Dhaka last month when the global average price was \$ 4.54 (about Tk 366) per kg, according to the World Bank (WB) Commodities Price Data released every month.

Beef is, however, not the priciest in Bangladesh. The red meat is pricier in the UK but cheaper in Pakistan, according to Numbeo, the internet database of the cost of living.

Mohammad Shah Emran, general secretary of Bangladesh Dairy

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N Korea crisis shows sign of de-escalation

China, Russia push dialogue as Kim Jong-Un holds off on Guam missile strike plan; US 'open to talks'

AFP, Seoul

China and Russia yesterday pushed for talks to defuse the "confrontational spiral" between the US and North Korea after Kim Jong-Un stepped back from a planned missile strike near Guam.

The North Korean leader said he would wait and see how the United States behaved before deciding whether to execute the planned launch of four missiles over Japan towards the tiny US territory in the Pacific.

Some analysts suggested Kim was opening a possible path to de-escalating tensions,

which spiked dramatically with recent bellicose exchanges between US President Donald Trump and Pyongyang.

The North's official KCNA news agency said Kim was briefed on the "plan for an enveloping fire at Guam" during an inspection on Monday of the Strategic Force command in charge of the nuclear-armed state's missile units.

But it said Kim would "watch a little more the foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees" before executing any order.

"In order to defuse the tensions and

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SIBI Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 16

Faar: 10hr Ar Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:25-4:45 4:45 6:38 8:00

JAMAAT 5:00-11:5 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Malaysian princess weds Dutchman

AFP, Johor Bahru

The daughter of one of Malaysia's most powerful sultans married her Dutch fiancé Monday in a tradition-filled ceremony during a day of lavish celebrations witnessed by crowds of excited well-wishers.

Princess Tunku Tun Aminah Sultan Ibrahim, 31, the only

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Signing Ceremony

Sayem Sobhan (Managing Director, Bashundhara Group) and Munchai Musikaband (First Dhaka Elevated Expressway Company Limited), along with others, were present during the Agreement Signing Ceremony.

Dhaka Elevated Expressway PPP Project

- Project Route: Shahjalal International Airport- Kuril-Banani-Mohakhali-Tejgaon-Maghbazar-Kamalapur-Sayedabad-Jatrabari -Dhaka Chittagong Highway (Kutubkhali)
- Length of the main line: 19.73 km
- 31 Ramps, Length: 27 km
- Total length (including ramps): 46.73 km

BASHUNDHARA CEMENT IS AT THE APEX OF RECOGNITION ONCE AGAIN!

The construction of Bangladesh's first elevated expressway is underway. By covering a total distance of 46.73 km starting from Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali, the expressway will play an important role against traffic jams and also help with commuting within the city. Bashundhara Cement is proud to be part of this momentous development.

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