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FLOOD, RUNDOWN ROADS Supply chain affected

Businesses pay extra for freight, face delay in delivering goods

SAJJADUR RAHMAN and SOHEL PARVEZ

Floods and rundown roads have become a major concern for businesses, as these are affecting supply chains and increasing both transportation costs and time, say industry players.

Disruption in supply can reduce profits of businesses and lead them to pass the additional costs on to consumers to avoid losses.

Kamruzzaman Kamal, director (marketing) of Pran-RFL Group, said supply network was affected badly during the initial days of recent flood.

Water logging and poor condition of roads hampered marketing in rural areas, he mentioned.

"The good sign is that the floodwater is receding fast... the situation is improving now..." Kamal added.

Recurrent floods this year have damaged 568 kilometres of road fully and another 8,357 km partly in 32 northern and central districts. Besides, 457 bridges and culverts have been damaged.

Onrush of water washed away 108 km of embankments fully and damaged another 606 km, according to the Daily Disaster Situation Report released by the relief and disaster management ministry on August 27.

Md Khairul Islam, senior manager (logistics) of Transcom Electronics Ltd, said distribution of electronics items such as refrigerator and television was affected due to flood-induced damages to roads.

They cannot supply products timely in many places because of battered roads.

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Holidaymakers occupy the roofs of carriages and almost the entire locomotive as the train leaves Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday afternoon. Inset, smiling people on the platform despite the hassles they face while going home for Eid.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



His Eid is different

now

MUNTAKIM SAAD

He always returned to his hometown during Eid holidays with new clothes for the children of his family.

His three little nephew and nieces would eagerly wait for him to come home.

Being a college student with no steady income, Siddiqui bought panjabis at wholesale from factories in the capital's Mirpur and sold them elsewhere to earn the money he needed to buy the gifts.

This Eid, his days would mostly be spent learning how to do everyday chores without his eye sight.

"The children always asked me to adorn their hands with henna," Siddiqui Rahman told this correspondent at the National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO),

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RAPE, MURDER IN BUS NHRC for maximum punishment of culprits

STAR REPORT



Rupa

The National Human Rights Commission yesterday called for the most exemplary punishment of the culprits who "gang-raped" and killed law student Rupa Khatun in a moving bus in Tangail five days ago.

The commission in a statement urged the government to conduct a fair investigation into the murder case in the shortest possible time and submit the charge sheet along with a proper medical report and evidence to the court.

"Due to a culture of impunity, 88 percent accused in cases linked to violence against women, including murder, rape and torture, are being acquitted," said NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque.

This happens mainly due to weaknesses in cases

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China to develop 'flying' train

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) has claimed it plans to develop the next generation of trains, which can travel at speeds of up to 2,500mph.

Liu Shiquan, a deputy general manager at CASC, said their scientists would be looking to develop the super-fast trains of the future that could "fly on the ground".

"The corporation has built rich experience and accumulated technological know-how through major projects, and it has the capabilities in simulation, modelling and experimentation for large-scale projects, as well as the world-class design capability for supersonic aircraft, all of which lay the important ground for the super-fast train project," state-owned website The Paper wrote of CASC's plans.

With connections to China's defence ministry,

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War crimes trial stalled

Govt fails to appoint tribunal chair in over a month

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The war crimes trial has made no headway for more than one and a half months for the government's failure to appoint someone to the chairman post, eliciting criticism from all quarters associated with the long-cherished trial.

The post at the special tribunal trying war criminals fell vacant after Justice Anwarul Haque died of cancer on July 13. Since then, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 has seen no progress in the proceedings of nine cases, including the one waiting for verdict.

The chief of the tribunal's investigation agency said the delay might discourage witnesses from giving their testimonies while a prosecutor said victims and their family members were "utterly disappointed" at the delay.

Currently, nine cases are at the trial stage and 22 others at the pre-trial stage. Besides, the investigation agency is now collecting evidence in around a dozen more cases.

On May 9, the ICT-1 completed the trial proceedings of a case against six Gaibandha men in connection with crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War and kept the verdict waiting.

Forty-eight days after the death of

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21 killed in Mumbai building collapse

Rescue ops underway as dozens feared trapped



REUTERS, Mumbai

An 117-year-old condemned building collapsed in the Indian financial hub of Mumbai yesterday after two days of torrential rain, killing at least 21 people, with a dozen feared trapped.

Thirteen people were rescued and were recovering in hospital, with six firemen also injured in the six-storey building, the chief fire official said.

"There was a massive bang. We couldn't see anything due to the dust and smoke. Once the dust settled, we realised it was a building collapse," said area resident Amina Sheikh.

Disaster struck early in the morning as Mumbai was emerging from two days of heavy rain that flooded the city and killed 14 people.

The collapse was the second in Mumbai in a little over a month. In late July, 17 people were killed when a four-storey building collapsed after suspected unauthorised renovations.

The building that collapsed yesterday in one of the most densely

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Pensioners mugged by gang posing as Rab men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Muggers in guise of Rab personnel yesterday took Tk 4.62 lakh from two retired government employees in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila.

They robbed Tk 4.45 lakh from Mohammad Kamruzzaman, of Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila, and Tk 17,000 from Jamal Uddin, of Kishoreganj's Bajitpur upazila, when they were returning home after withdrawing the money from Sonali Bank's Sreepur branch.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 1

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-30 12-30 4-45 6-23 7-45

JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-26 8-15

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