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Swamped again

Streets of Dhaka, Chittagong go underwater after moderate rain

STAR REPORT

Moderate rainfall yesterday once again inundated parts of several major streets in the capital causing huge traffic congestion in the afternoon.

Traffic movement on Mirpur Road from Dhanmondi stretching up to Gabtoli, Farmgate, Motijheel, Gulistan and Mirpur-10 intersection remained very slow due to waterlogging.

"Rain has become a horrifying matter for us," said Md Jahir, driver of an Azimpur-Gazipur bus.

According to the Met office, 55mm of rainfall was recorded between 6:00am and 6:00pm in the capital yesterday.

The rain was due to the active monsoon, said an official, adding that it was likely to continue today.

"After a spell of scorching heat in the last few days, I was happy when it began to rain. But now I think I am OK with the hot weather than wading dirty water," said Sohana Begum while heading to Farmgate from her Karwan Bazar office.

Since several streets were partially submerged, vehicles used one lane, resulting in congestion, said Adibul Islam, assistant commissioner of traffic in Tejgaon zone.

The dwellers of Chittagong city also suffered from waterlogging.

Yesterday's downpour submerged Halihsahar, CDA Residential, No 2 gate, Muradpur, Mohammadpur, Chawkbazar, Shulakbahar, Prabartak and Hamjarbagh areas of the city.

Rainfall was recorded at 46.2mm between 12noon and the previous night, Meghanath Tounchangya, assistant meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Chittagong office, said.

Even though the water started to recede in other areas of the city after 12:00pm, CDA Residential and Halihsahar areas were still waterlogged as the tide came in, worsening the condition further.

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Heavy rain submerged different parts of the capital and Chittagong city yesterday. The photos were taken from Mirpur Road and Dhaka University, top and right, and Agrabad Access Road, left, areas.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON/PRABIR DAS

ROHINGYA ISSUE Discussion in House 'today'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two separate discussions, one on the Rohingya issue and the other on the apex court's verdict on the 16th constitutional amendment, are likely to take place in parliament today and tomorrow.

Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia hinted this after Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed's proposal to hold general discussions on the issues.

Before Tofail's speech on point of order, independent MP Rustom Ali Farazi drew the deputy speaker's attention on the atrocities carried out against the Rohingyas by the Myanmar government.

The deputy speaker told Farazi, "Discussion on point of order would bring no result. You better submit a proposal following rules of procedure of parliament so that the parliament can adopt a resolution after discussion of lawmakers on the important issue."

Later, Awami League MP Tahjib Alam Siddique on a point of order raised the issue of apex court's verdict on the 16th constitutional amendment that scrapped parliament's authority to impeach judges.

The deputy speaker also stopped Tahjib and requested him to raise the issue in parliament following rules of procedure of

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Rice imports from Myanmar will be cheap

Food minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would import rice from Myanmar considering the cheap prices and short shipping time, Food Minister Qamrul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

"Rice is being imported from Myanmar considering the cheap prices there.

Besides, it will be possible to import the item within a short time," Qamrul told parliament while responding to a supplementary question of lawmaker Nazmul Haque Proddhan.

Nazmul said the food minister recently visited Myanmar to import rice from there at a time when

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Irma hits Florida

Category 4 hurricane floods Miami Florida; knocks out power to millions in the state

CBSNEWS

With punishing winds, Hurricane Irma roared through the Florida Keys yesterday and began pushing its way north, flooding streets, spawning apparent tornadoes, knocking out power to more than 2 million people across the state and snapping massive construction cranes over the Miami skyline.

The nearly 400-mile-wide storm is expected to make a slow, ruinous march up Florida's west coast, straight toward the heavily populated Tampa-St. Petersburg area this morning.

Streets emptied across the bottom half of the Florida peninsula, and some 127,000 people huddled in shelters.

There were no immediate confirmed reports of any deaths from the storm.

At 2:00pm EDT, the National Hurricane Center said Irma weakened to a Category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds of 120mph. It said the storm "continues to batter south Florida," moving north at 12mph. Storm surge is forecast for 10 to 15

feet in southwestern Florida.

"I know the winds are going to be very devastating and life threatening. But I'm also very concerned about the storm surge," Governor Rick Scott said on "Face the Nation".

Hurricane warnings were in effect for Fernandina Beach southward around the Florida peninsula to Indian Pass, all of the Florida Keys, Lake Okeechobee and Florida Bay.

A Miami woman who went into labour was guided through delivery by phone when authorities couldn't reach her in high winds and street flooding. Firefighters later took her to the hospital.

While the projected track showed Irma raking the state's Gulf Coast, forecasters warned that the entire state, including the Miami metropolitan area of 6 million people, was in extreme peril because of the sheer size of the storm.

Nearly 7 million people in the Southeast were warned to evacuate, including 6.4 million in Florida alone.

The storm left at least 27 people dead across the Caribbean.

Kidnapped child found in N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued a two-and-half-year-old baby boy from a slum in Narayanganj yesterday, a day after he was abducted from a hospital in Dhaka for ransom.

Lalbagh police also arrested alleged kidnapers Anwar Hossain, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, his wife Wahida Begum and son Mohammad Shahin from the slum around 5:00am, said Ibrahim Khan, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, while speaking at a press briefing at DMP media centre.

Soon after his rescue, victim Al Hasib was handed over to his mother Hasina Begum, whose

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POOR HANDWRITING Cambridge scraps written exams

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Cambridge University is seeking to scrap exams written with a pen and paper due to the deterioration of students' handwriting.

A growing reliance on laptops has led to students' writing becoming increasingly illegible, academics said.

The problem has become so bad the university is preparing to switch to examinations on laptops -

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Myanmar rebuffs Arsa truce

Says it doesn't 'negotiate with terrorists'

AGENCIES

Myanmar yesterday rebuffed a ceasefire declared by Muslim Rohingya insurgents to enable the delivery of aid to thousands of displaced people in the violence-racked state of

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 11

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-17 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A car sits abandoned in storm surge along North Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard as Hurricane Irma hits the southern part of Florida yesterday. The powerful hurricane made landfall at 9:10am.

PHOTO: AFP

Flood-hit farmers to get Tk 59cr

Says Agri minister; reveals bail out plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government allocated a Tk 58.77 crore incentive for the flood-hit farmers of 64 districts so that they could recover the losses caused by the recent floods, said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday.

The minister said the amount would be spent for providing necessary agricultural inputs, including seeds and non-urea fertilisers, to 5,41,201 small and marginal farmers free of cost for cultivating 10 crops in the upcoming Kharif-1, 2 and Robi season in 2017-18 so that a farmer could cultivate crops at least on one bigha of land.

At a press briefing in her ministry, she also told

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"মানসম্মত ও বৈধ বয়লার ব্যবহার করুন, জন-মালের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করুন।"

জরুরি সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বয়লার ব্যবহারকারী ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, "বয়লার আইন, ১৯২৩" মোতাবেক বয়লার নিবন্ধন ও নিবন্ধনপত্র নবায়ন ব্যতীত বয়লার চালানো দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। এমতাবস্থায়, বর্ণিত আইনের ধারা ৬ মোতাবেক অনিবিদিত অথবা অপ্রত্যায়িত বয়লার চালানো থেকে সম্পূর্ণরূপে বিরত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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