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Havoc on highways

Thousands suffer as nonstop rain causes huge tailbacks, disruptions to ferry services

STAR REPORT

Long tailbacks and incessant rain yesterday caused untold sufferings to thousands of people travelling on the Dhaka-Tangail highway.

Passengers were also stranded on the Paturia-Daulatdia route in Manikganj and the Shimulia-Kathalbari route in Munshiganj as the ferry services across the Padma was suspended for hours due to inclement weather.

For the same reason, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority halted operations of all types of vessels across the country from 4:00pm yesterday until further notice, Mobarak Hossain Mojumder, public relations officer of BIWTA, told The Daily Star.

There has been unremitting rain for the last three days following a depression over the Bay of Bengal. The Dhaka Met office said the rain may ease off today.

Yesterday, many parts of the major streets in the capital remained inundated for hours. Bus passengers from the city had to suffer first to reach terminals, then to cross the city's exit points and finally on the highways. Many got drenched before boarding the vehicles.

The passengers' agony only increased on the Dhaka-Tangail highway as they had to remain stuck in jam for hours amid the rain.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that hundreds of

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A Rohingya refugee girl, who crossed the border from Myanmar this week, sleeps beside her family belongings as she takes shelter at a school in Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Sushma flies in today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrives in Dhaka this afternoon to join the Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting and discuss bilateral relations with top Bangladesh officials.

The discussion is likely to focus on the forced displacement of Rohingyas from Myanmar. Diplomatic sources said Dhaka and New Delhi would discuss how to cooperate on the Rohingya issue.

After arriving in Dhaka at 12:55pm, Sushma will attend the JCC meeting at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel at 4:30pm. The meeting will cover security, trade, water, connectivity, economic

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TSC off limits after 8 at night

Outrage over DU decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surprising move, Dhaka University authorities have asked all the TSC-based socio-cultural organisations to finish their activities by 8:00pm.

The order triggered widespread criticism among students and cultural activists who termed the decision as a "restriction on cultural activities".

Signed by the director of Teachers Student Centre (TSC), the notice cited "security concern" as the reason behind the decision. It further added that the timeframe could be relaxed up to 11:00pm "upon special permission from the higher authority."

More than 20 social and cultural organisations carry out their activities in TSC. In absence of the Dhaka University Central Student Union (DUCSU) for around three decades, these organisations have been playing a pivotal role in the socio-cultural activities on the campus.

"This is an unfortunate decision...such decision does not go with the spirit of Dhaka University," Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said.

He said as the activities of DUCSU and

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DU dismisses 'question leak'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have been denying allegations that its admission test questions had been leaked.

Reports in the media of leaked questions of the university's Gha unit have dismayed many students who sat for the tests on Friday.

But DU authorities were yet to take any step to probe into the allegations. "It is a rumour and conspiracy against the university," DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman said, ruling out the possibility of forming a probe body to investigate the matter.

Authorities would find out and take steps against people spreading the rumour and trying to destabilise the university, he added.

"I heard the news of a leak from a journalist three hours after the exam was over. We did not get complaints from any admission seeker, so we are considering it as a false allegation."

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed two Bangladesh Chhatra League men and an admission seeker, arrested on suspicion of leaking the question papers, on a four-day remand.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mahmuda Akhtar passed the order when Mohibul Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police, produced the trio before the court.

A case was filed with Shahbagh Police Station under Public Exam Law and Information Technology Act against them on Friday.

BCL men Mohiuddin Rana and Abdullah Al Mamun were detained by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police from two DU dormitories on Friday.

The third arrestee, Ishrak Ahmed Rafi, was arrested at an exam hall.

A mobile court also jailed 12 examinees under "Gha" unit for a month

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Father Marino Rigon

A friend of Bangladesh passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father Marino Rigon, whose lifetime love affair with Bangladesh began with a trip from Italy in 1953, dedicated his life to working for the Bangladeshi people.

Father Rigon greatly contributed in the areas of poverty alleviation, provision of educational and medical services and empowerment of underprivileged women.

He joined the Liberation

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Journey of an artefact

From Caligula's ship to New York apartment

NBC NEWS

Roman Emperor Caligula is renowned for his sadistic, debauched rule of ancient Rome that led to his assassination after just four years in power.

Now Italian and American authorities are wondering how a piece of his decadent lifestyle -- an elaborate inlaid marble mosaic from one of his ceremonial ships -- wound up as a coffee table on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

To antiques dealer Helen Fioratti it's quite simple: She and her husband Nereo, an Italian journalist,

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Tigers try to avoid whitewash

SAKEB SUBHAN from East London

The only previous occasion on which Bangladesh were getting ready to play an ODI at the Buffalo Park in East London, in November 2008, the match was abandoned due to rain. The Tigers may be secretly hoping for a similar outcome today in the third ODI against South Africa in order to walk away with a 0-2 loss instead of a 0-3 one which seems inevitable given the performances of either side so far on tour. However, there seems to be no possibility of rain in East London, and the match will get underway from 2:00 pm (Bangladesh time) today.

To further dampen any hopes of a late-tour revival, their best batsman Tamim Iqbal will be close to touching down in Bangladesh when the match starts 9,000 kilometres away, and the

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A paddy field in Dinajpur's Birganj flattened by heavy shower and winds in the last couple of days. Many farmers face losses from the rain now almost three weeks before harvest time.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Internet to be slow for next 4 days

Submarine cable in the Bay to go thru' upkeep

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People in Bangladesh are likely to experience slow internet in the next three to four days due to maintenance work on a primary submarine cable in the Bay of Bengal.

This might have a substantial adverse effect on e-commerce, especially the service-oriented industry, infotainment, and garment orders fully dependent on the internet, and on freelancers relying on outsourced work from overseas.

"Certainly this will create some challenges in our work, but right now we cannot guess how it will impact our business," said Raihan Mahmood, a reputed freelancer who has been awarded by the government at Bangladesh ICT Expo on Friday.

He said their job nature necessitated uninterrupted internet and "even a few

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LANDSLIDE IN MALAYSIA

Bangladeshis feared to be among dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A few Bangladeshi workers are feared to be among those killed yesterday in a landslide at a construction site in northern Malaysian state of Penang.

Rescuers found bodies of three foreign workers, and were searching for 11 others feared trapped in the mud and rubble, reports Malaysian state news agency Bernama.

There were a total of 14 workers -- one from Malaysia and others from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Myanmar.

Sayedul Islam, labour counsellor of Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, said a high commission official had gone to the spot and learnt that a few Bangladeshis would be among those buried alive.

"We could not determine their identities or their number yet," he said, adding that the employer could not be found.

As soon as the Bangladeshi victims are identified, the High Commission will make an arrangement to send the bodies home and then will try to realise compensation, Sayedul said.

Bernama reports that the landslide at a hillside in Georgetown, where work on an affordable housing project was ongoing, was believed to have involved 14 victims.

Bangladeshi worker Mohammad Jashim Hussein Ahmad said the landslide had caught workers unawares burying his friends who didn't get any time to escape.

Penang city Mayor Maimunah Mohamad Sharif said the cause of the landslide wasn't clear.

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PREMIER cement **Tigers Profile**
Shakib Al Hasan

Not many people will argue with the suggestion that Shakib Al Hasan is the best player to ever wear the Bangladesh cap. He is the second-highest run-scorer in Tests and ODIs and the highest in T20s, while also being the highest wicket-taker in Tests and T20s and the second-highest in ODIs, giving him an almost permanent spot on top of the world all-rounder rankings.

But it is not just figures; Shakib's real value lies in the performances with which he lifted Bangladesh cricket to new heights. His half-century as a 19-year-old to help bring about the memorable win over India in the 2007 World Cup, his all-round show and brilliant captaincy in the Caribbean to deliver Bangladesh's ODI and Test series wins over West Indies in 2009, his man-of-the-series performances in the 2010 whitewash of New Zealand at home and in the 2012 Asia Cup run to the final are all etched in Bangladesh folklore.

And his star just does not wane; he has been going strong this year with Bangladesh's highest Test score -- 217 in Wellington, and followed that up with a century in their historic win in the country's 100th Test in Colombo. Then there was the awesome century that lifted Bangladesh out of a hole and landed them in the Champions Trophy semifinal. It is a safe bet that he will continue for a while yet.

সড়ক ভবন
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