

A lesson not learnt

Dhaka runs risk of waterlogging in monsoon as storm drainage remains ineffective even after last year's horrible experience

"I promise that you will not see these [waterlogging] from next year."
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister KHANDKER MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN said on July 26 last year

TAWFIQUE ALI

Dhaka would not get flooded in 2018. Or so the local government minister promised last year. But his words did not translate into action.

A city of over 16 million, Dhaka is almost certain to go under water after a moderate rain. Only late last month, much of the capital was inundated following some little to moderate shower, causing public misery.

The city needs an efficient drainage network, unobstructed canals and free flood zones around it to save it from the perennial waterlogging.

But in the past 10 months since the minister made the promise, the city authorities did some routine clean-up of the scanty drainage network. That too remains half done.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Clockwise from left, Basabo and Jirani canals, almost dead and gone; a waterlogged road in Sonalibagh of the capital's Moghbazar; a major portion of the Dumni canal in Khilkhet area filled up by two realtors. The choking of the water bodies in Dhaka or obstruction of their flows contributes to the water logging in the capital. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, ANISUR RAHMAN

26 DAYS TO GO
FIFA WORLD CUP 2018

Maradona, Messi in Argentine Sistine Chapel

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

An Argentine football club has recreated the Sistine Chapel on the ceiling of its gymnasium, with Diego Maradona as God, Lionel Messi as Adam and a host of angels that include Mario Kempes, Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Batistuta.

The mural at Club Sportivo Pereyra in Buenos

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rejoinders, our replies

The Chittagong Custom House and a private firm named Five-R Associates sent two separate rejoinders to our report titled "Scanning at Ctg Port: Govt settles for costlier option" published on May 3. We are publishing the unedited versions of the rejoinders along with our replies.

FIVE-R ASSOCIATES REJOINDER

Regretfully, the article titled "scanning at port - Govt settles for costlier option - Private firm gets Tk 29cr a year for the job Custom House can do with Tk 4cr" contains falsehood, innuendoes and omissions that

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CUBA PLANE CRASH

More than 100 feared dead

Report says only 3 survive from 113 on board

AGENCIES

More than 100 people are feared dead after a Boeing 737 airliner crashed and exploded near Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuban state media said yesterday.

The Boeing 737 plane crashed shortly after taking off from Havana's main airport, carrying 104 passengers plus crew on a domestic flight.

The ruling Communist Party newspaper, Granma, said three people had survived.

The Boeing 737 operated by Cubana de Aviacion crashed into a field close to a wooded area near Havana's Jose Marti airport, sending a thick column of acrid smoke into the air, an AFP journalist at the scene said.

The plane was almost completely



destroyed in the crash and subsequent fire. Firefighters, some still hosing down the burnt fuselage, and rescue workers combed through the wreckage, but there seemed little chance of finding survivors.

What appeared to be one of the wings of the plane was wedged among scorched tree trunks, but the main

fuselage appeared to have been entirely destroyed.

Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who went to visit the scene, said there was a "high number" of casualties.

"There has been an unfortunate aviation accident. The news is not very promising, it seems that there is a high number of victims," Diaz-Canel was quoted as saying after his visit.

Diaz-Canel said nine crew members were believed to have been on board, in addition to the passengers.

The 58-year-old president, who succeeded Raul Castro as the island's leader only last month, appeared aghast as he surveyed the recovery efforts, wearing a short sleeved green shirt and surrounded by officials.

Airport sources said the jetliner was

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Hasina, Modi to meet in Santiniketan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will meet at Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan on May 25 at the inauguration of Bangladesh Bhaban.

The following day, Hasina will be conferred an honorary Doctor of Literature degree by Kazi Nazrul University in West Burdwan of West Bengal.

Although there is much speculation about a breakthrough on the long-pending Teesta water sharing issue, diplomats of the two countries see little

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Indo-Pak border shelling kills 9

Kashmir tense ahead of Modi's visit



AFP, Srinagar

Indian and Pakistani forces exchanged fire across the tense, heavily militarised Kashmir border yesterday, leaving eight civilians and an Indian soldier dead, officials said.

The heavy weapons fire along a rare stretch of frontier that India and Pakistan do not argue over also left 22 people wounded.

It came a day ahead of a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kashmir.

The two sides started shooting at each other on Wednesday in the RS Pura sector of Indian Kashmir, opposite Sialkot in Pakistan's Punjab province.

Indian authorities rushed armoured vehicles to evacuate residents yesterday morning as heavy artillery and small arms fire came across the border, officials said.

"Four border residents and a Border Security Force soldier were killed in the Pakistani firing," the Indian-administered region's director general of police Shesh Paul Vaid told AFP.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Home of hope

Lost girls find care, education at Ctg shelter

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

It was the year 2010. After the demise of her parents, six-year-old Nargis Akter found shelter in one of her relatives' house. Yet, 'shelter' was the least of what she had gotten. The ill-fated little girl was compelled to do laborious household work, and often faced physical abuse from those she was living with.

One fine morning, she left the house, without knowing where she would go in this world so unknown to her.

Nargis kept walking and lost her way at one point. She spoke to a shopkeeper about her situation. The shopkeeper introduced her to someone else, who took her to what has become her new shelter, an actual shelter -- a children's home named Upalabdh.

Located at Firingi Bazar in the port city, the children's

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



Children attend a class at Upalabdh, a home for lost girls, at Firingi Bazar in Chittagong city. The shelter provides the kids with education and healthcare, and arranges extracurricular activities including sports for them.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'Disproportionate'

UN rights chief slams Israeli response to Gaza protest; Rights Council votes to send war crimes investigators; UNSC resolution seeks 'int'l protection mission'

AGENCIES

The UN human rights chief yesterday slammed Israel's deadly reaction to protests along the Gaza border as "wholly disproportionate", backing calls for an international investigation.

Later, the UN Human Rights Council voted to send a team of international war crimes investigators to probe the deadly shootings of Gaza protesters by Israeli forces.

With 29 votes in favour, two opposed and 14 abstentions, the UN's top human rights body voted through a resolution calling on the council to "urgently dispatch an independent, international commission of inquiry... to investigate all alleged violations and abuses... in the context of the military

assaults on large scale civilian protests that began on 30 March 2018."

Addressing the special session of the UN Human Rights Council on the violence which has claimed more than 100 Gazan lives in six weeks, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein warned that "killing resulting from the unlawful use of force by an occupying power may also constitute wilful killings, a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention".

Violations of the Geneva Conventions adopted in 1949 following World War II are commonly called "war crimes" although Zeid did not explicitly use that word.

He pointed out though that while 60 Palestinians were killed and thousands

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

বঙ্গোপসাগরে সকল প্রকার বাণিজ্যিক ট্রলার কর্তৃক মৎস্য আহরণ নিষিদ্ধকরণ বিষয়ে বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের এস,আর,ও নং ৯৭-আইন/২০১৫ মোতাবেক সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৩ এর ১৯নং বিধি দ্বারা বাংলাদেশের সামুদ্রিক অর্থনৈতিক এলাকায় মাছের সৃষ্টি প্রজনন ও সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য সম্পদ সংরক্ষণের জন্য প্রতি বছর ২০ মে হতে ২৩ জুলাই পর্যন্ত মোট ৬৫ (পঁয়ষাট্টি) দিন সকল প্রকার ট্রলার কর্তৃক যে কোন প্রজাতির মৎস্য এবং ক্রাস্টেশিয়ান্স (চিংড়ি, লবস্টার, কাটল ফিশ ইত্যাদি) আহরণ নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়েছে।

সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৩ এর ১৯নং বিধি প্রতিপালনের জন্য সকল বাণিজ্যিক মৎস্য ট্রলারকে অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

এর ব্যত্যয় ঘটলে সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৩ ও তদাধীনে প্রণীত বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

প্রচারেঃ মৎস্য অধিদপ্তর

মৎস্য ও প্রাণি সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়

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