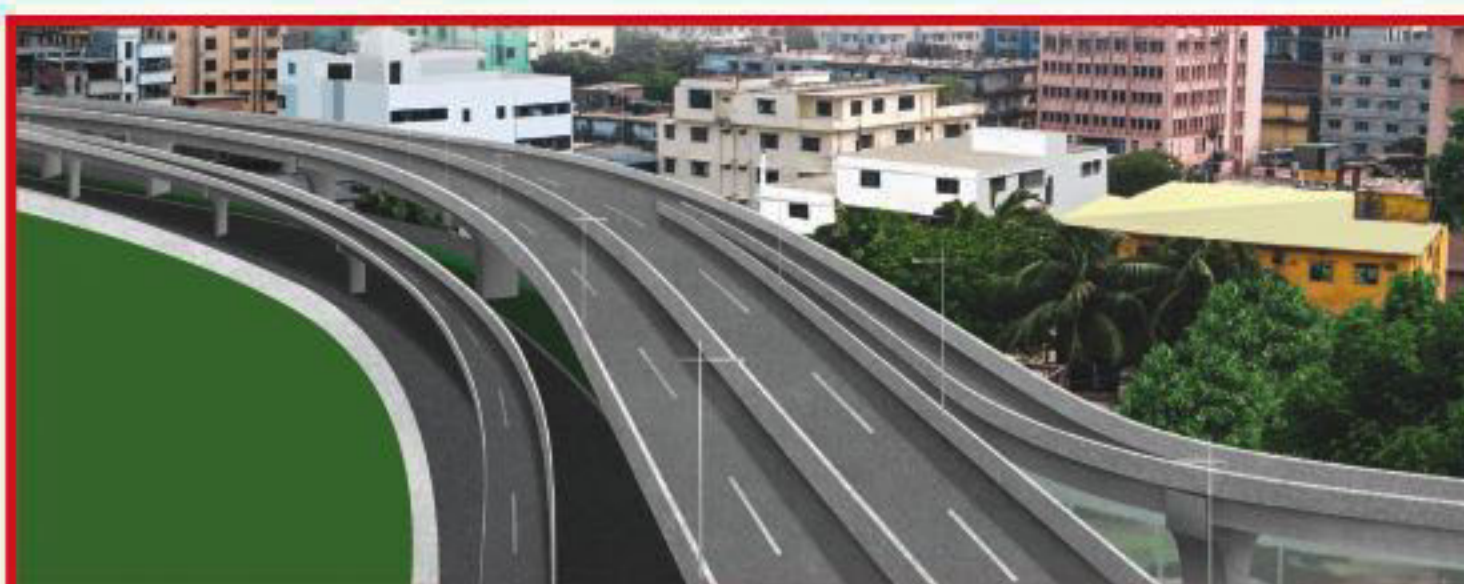


Building Karnaphuli Multi Lane Road Tunnel with Ultimate Safety



Aktaruzzaman Flyover Chittagong

Principal Cement Brand



FLOOD IN NORTH, NORTHEAST

Over 1 lakh marooned

Teesta, Dharla rivers flowing above danger levels; victims waiting for food, water

STAR REPORT

Floodwater has stranded over one lakh people in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts, following the inundation in Sylhet region.

Nearly one lakh people in 80 villages of 18 unions under five upazilas in Lalmonirhat are stranded, local Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

On the other hand, at least 50,000 people in three upazilas of Kurigram are affected, according to the district relief and rehabilitation office.

WDB officials said the Teesta river was flowing 13 cm above the danger level at Hatibandha upazila's Teesta Barrage point and the Dharla was flowing 21 cm above the danger mark at Lalmonirhat sadar upazila's Kulaghat Ghat point yesterday.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports the dyke in the left embankment of the Teesta at Mahishkchocha Gobordhan village of Aditmari upazila is on the brink of collapse with officials warning that the "situation would turn serious" if rainfall and onrush of water continued for the next 24 hours.

Mosaddeque Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the local union parishad, said if the dyke collapsed, 10,000 families would be affected.

A number of affected people in the Teesta and Dharla SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



People arriving at a primary school used as a flood shelter in Jankarkandi area of No 8 Kandigao union in Sylhet Sadar upazila yesterday. Inset, a woman along with her child wades through waist-deep water to go to the mainland as floodwater entered her house at Majher Char in the Dharla river in Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR, DILIP ROY

PRISONER TRANSFER

Bangladeshi man brought back from Tihar jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi youth, who was serving a life sentence in Delhi's Tihar jail after being convicted in a murder case, was brought back to the country yesterday.

Badal Farazi, 28, arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital around 4:00pm, Moniruzzaman, additional deputy inspector general (intelligence and special affairs) of the Police Headquarters, told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh and India signed a bilateral treaty on "Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners" eight years ago.

After processing his documents, police took him to Dhaka Central Jail to let him serve the rest of his sentence there, Moniruzzaman added.

Jahangir Kabir, superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, said Badal was handed over to the jail authorities around 7:20pm.

Badal, who is from Bagerhat, had been in the high-security Indian jail for the last 10 years.

Indian police had been looking for one Badal Singh accused of killing an old woman at Amar Colony in New Delhi on May 6, 2008.

When Badal Farazi was entering India on a tourist visa on July 13, he was SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

FACTIONAL FEUD Jubo League leader killed in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

An upazila Jubo League leader was hacked to death and four others were wounded in a clash with Bangladesh Chhatra League activists at Bonarpara Railway Station Bazar on Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Shafiqul Islam Mukul, 25, son of Mozammel Haq of Simultair village in Shaghata upazila.

Locals and eyewitnesses said a fierce clash ensued on Thursday evening between the rival groups of Shaghata units BCL and SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Shafiqul

A library for labour welfare

A group of 13 friends founded it with funds from their farm labour in Nilphamari's Purbo Daliram

EAM ASADUZZAMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

At first glance, Purbo Daliram in Garagram union of Nilphamari's Kishorganj upazila looks like any village. But it is home to a unique self-generated development initiative.

In 2010, a group of 13 friends from former high school days took it upon themselves to found a public library, with the goal of fostering knowledge. It marked the start of ongoing education and social awareness campaigns that have transformed Purbo Daliram into a dynamic village success story.

More impressive, the enthusiastic volunteers haven't been afraid to get their own hands dirty. Activities are primarily funded by the donated wages they earn as part-time farm workers.

"At first we established the library," recalls Tawfiqul Islam Mishu, 23, a college SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



student who is also the president of the library management committee. "We decided to call it the Labour Welfare Public Library since we wanted to highlight the dignity of labour and make the library welcoming for farming families. We ourselves worked as farmhands for quite some time to earn money to buy the books."

2020 to be observed as Mujib Borsho

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that March 2020 to March 2021 would be observed as "Mujib Borsho" across the country to mark the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The year-long programmes will be observed with the participation of mass people at the government and party levels, reports UNB and BSS.

Hasina, also the Awami League president, made the announcement at a joint meeting of the AL Central Working Committee and advisory council at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

After quite a few years, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'Trump Baby' balloon to fly over London



CNN ONLINE

A giant 'Trump Baby' balloon is set to be flown close to the UK Parliament during US President Donald Trump's visit to London next week after the Mayor of London gave the go-ahead, it was announced Thursday.

Protests are expected across London when Trump arrives for his three-day visit to the UK next Friday, with the 6-meter-high (or 19 feet) orange balloon poised to take center stage.

The request for the balloon to fly was approved by Mayor Sadiq Khan after over 10,000 people SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING JULY 7

Table with prayer times for Fazr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha, AZAN, and JAMAAT.



A demonstration led by "Concerned Guardians and Citizens" held in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanded justice for the attacks on quota reformists and punishment to perpetrators. Inset, Idris Hawladar, father of injured quota movement leader Nurul Haque Nur, breaks down in tears as he speaks at the event. PHOTO: STAR



Football stars rally round Thai cave boys

FIFA president invites them to WC final

AFP, Moscow

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has invited the Thai boys' football team trapped in a cave to the World Cup final, as messages of support poured in from top players.

Infantino said he hoped the Wild Boars team, who were stranded by rising floodwaters two weeks ago, would be rescued in time to watch the final in Moscow on July 15.

"If, as we all hope, they are reunited with their families in the coming days and their health allows them to travel, FIFA would be delighted to invite them to attend the 2018 World Cup final as our guests," he wrote in a letter to the head of the Football Association of Thailand.

"I sincerely hope that they will be able to join us at the final, which will undoubtedly be a wonderful moment of communion and celebration." The Thai footballers, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Window for cave rescue narrows

Rescuers face race against time to free trapped boys as one former Thai Navy diver dies inside cave

AFP, Mae Sai

A former Thai navy diver helping to rescue a football team trapped inside a flooded cave died yesterday as officials warned the window of opportunity to free the youngsters is "limited".

The diver's death raises serious doubts over the safety of attempting to bring the 12 boys and their football coach out through the cramped, waterlogged passageways of the Tham Luang cave.

But Thailand's Navy SEAL commander indicated that rescuers may have little choice but to attempt the tricky extraction of the group, in the first official admission that they cannot wait out the monsoon underground.

"At first, we thought the children could stay for a long time... but now things have changed, we have a limited time," Apakorn Yookongkaew told reporters.

He said oxygen levels in the cave had dropped to 15%, a level that one Thai medic said posed a serious risk of hypoxia, the same condition that causes altitude sickness. It was too dangerous to leave the boys much longer, Yookongkaew said, despite the risks involved in attempting to bring them out.

A sombre mood has clouded the elation from earlier in the week, when the boys were found dishevelled and hungry but alive on a ledge several kilometres (miles) inside the cave.

Many of the boys -- aged between 11 to 16 -- are unable to swim and none has scuba experience, further imperilling any attempt to dive out of the cave. Those risks were made all the more immediate by the SEE PAGE 10 COL 6