



Residents wade through deep floodwater to retrieve belongings from the Trent Court public housing apartments after the Neuse River went over its banks during Hurricane Florence in New Bern, United States, on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Florence makes landfall

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No storm-related deaths or serious injuries were reported in the hours immediately after Florence hit but authorities said more than 60 people, including many children and pets, had to be evacuated from a hotel in Jacksonville, North Carolina, after strong winds caused parts of the roof to collapse.

The center of the hurricane's eye came ashore at about 7:15 a.m. EDT (1115 GMT) near Wrightsville Beach close to Wilmington, North Carolina, with sustained winds of 90 miles per hour (150 kph), the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

By 1:50pm (1750 GMT) the winds had dropped to 75 mph (120 kph) and the center was moving west at a 6 mph (10 kph), the NHC said, and parts of North and South Carolina would get as much as 40 inches of rain (1 meter).

Cooper said Florence was set to cover almost all of North Carolina in several feet of water. As of yesterday morning, Atlantic Beach, a town on the state's Outer Banks barrier islands, already had received 30 inches (76 cm) of rain, the US Geological Service said. Twenty inches (50 cm) were reported by early yesterday afternoon in the town of Oriental.

The NWS predicted Florence could drop up to eight months' worth of rain in two or three days.

Authorities in New Bern said more than 100 people had to be saved from floods and that the downtown area was underwater. The town's public information officer, Colleen Roberts, told CNN 150 more people were awaiting rescue.

## Bangladesh 3 notches up

FROM PAGE 1

report "Human Development Indices and Indicators" released yesterday. Norway has been ranked first.

Human development data, analysis and reporting have been at the heart of that paradigm.

UNDP's Human Development Index has captured human progress, combining information on people's health, education and income in just one number.

Over the years, the HDI has served as a comparative tool of excellence, and as a reliable platform for vigorous public debates on national priorities.

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said the Human Development Report will remain UNDP's premier vehicle to advance development thinking. "Our mission to capture the state of global human development and inform development policy across the globe has never been more crucial."

UNDP said still, the Sustainable Development Goals require new indicators for assessing the many faces of inequality, the impact of the global environmental crisis on people now and tomorrow, the importance of voice, and the ways in which communities rather than individuals are progressing.

Selim Jahan, director of UNDP's Human Development Report Office, said while there is ground for opti-

### HDI RANKING 2017

SRI LANKA	<b>76</b>
MALDIVES	<b>101</b>
INDIA	<b>130</b>
BHUTAN	<b>134</b>
BANGLADESH	<b>136</b>
NEPAL	<b>149</b>
PAKISTAN	<b>150</b>

mism that the gaps are narrowing, disparities in people's well-being are still unacceptable wide.

He said inequality in all its forms and dimensions, between and within countries, limits people's choices and opportunities, withholding progress.

Within South Asia, India's HDI value is above the average of 0.638 for the region, with Bangladesh and Pakistan, countries with similar population size, being ranked 136 and 150 respectively.

Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 statistical update was released to ensure consistency in reporting on key human development

indices and statistics. It includes an analysis of the state of human development-snapshots of current conditions as well as long-term trends in human development indicators.

With a comprehensive statistical annex, the data gives an overview of the state of development across the world, looking at long-term trends in human development indicators across multiple dimensions and for every nation, the 2018 update highlights the considerable progress, but also the persistent deprivations and disparities.

Looking at 2018 results, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany lead the HDI ranking of 189 countries and territories, while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI measurement of national achievements in health, education and income.

The overall trend globally is toward continued human development improvements, with many countries moving up through the human development categories: out of the 189 countries for which the HDI is calculated, 59 countries are today in the very high human development group and only 38 countries fall in the low HDI group. Just eight years ago in 2010, the figures were 46 and 49 countries respectively, the report says.

by the alien nature of the conditions they are faced with.

Bangladesh last played in the uniquely tortuous heat of the UAE in 1995. In other words none of the players in this squad -- even those who participated here in the Pakistan Super League in February -- have the match feel of playing here in September.

Sri Lanka have played Pakistan here regularly, their last sojourn being a full tour in September-October 2017. Like Pakistan, the UAE is a second home for Afghanistan and they are well versed in the conditions here.

The toss will of course be a factor with the match beginning in the afternoon as the side fielding first will have the worst of the heat, which in turn will affect their batsmen for the chase.

The good news for Bangladesh seems to be that the recovery of the injured pair of Tamim and Shakib -- both managing finger injuries -- seems to be progressing unhindered and Bangladesh are likely to field a full-strength squad for the game.

"They have played with injuries in the past. They have taken the decision that they will play, so there is no use discussing these things the day before, and there is no excuse now," said Mashrafe.

However, any advantage of being ranked above their groupmates is offset

## 'Absurd' to accuse Russia of lying about spy poisoning: Kremlin

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said it was "absurd" for Britain to dismiss as unconvincing an interview with two suspects in the poisoning of former double agent Sergei Skripal on British soil.

The comments came a day after Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov denied any involvement in the poisoning of Skripal and his daughter in the English city of Salisbury in March, telling Russian state TV they had visited as tourists.

British security services had named the two men as main suspects in the case.

"Accusing Russia of lying after the declarations of two Russian citizens is... absurd," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"These are ordinary citizens. They have nothing to do with the Russian state," Peskov said.

He added that he had not watched the interview himself and that he did not know whether President Vladimir Putin had but that it was "hardly likely" he had seen it in full.

The Kremlin responded after Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said the interview contained "lies and blatant fabrications" and called it "an insult to the public's intelligence."

Peskov said that the Russian government's position on the case has not changed and "we consider unacceptable any associations between the Russian leadership and the Russian state and what happened in Salisbury".

He declined to confirm whether Russia would allow British police to question the suspects if such a request were made.

The men "have not broken any laws in Russia and we don't know officially that they have broken laws anywhere else in the world," the Kremlin spokesman said.

## B Chowdhury

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They will also press for deployment of army with magistracy power one month ahead of the national polls and not using Electronic Voting Machine in the polls.

Their nine-point objective include decentralisation of power, bringing balance of power between the prime minister and the president, ensuring effective independence of judiciary, appointment of an ombudsman and amendment to article 70 of the constitution.

Contacted, Dr Kamal yesterday said, "We have agreed on some issues to forge a greater unity and we will make an announcement tomorrow [today]. We want the country to be run in light of the constitution and these things will be in our announcement."

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convenor of Nagorik Oikya, said they agreed to work together and forge a greater unity.

Earlier, the BNP drafted a 15-point proposal for forging a greater unity. Party leaders said it would send the proposal to other political parties for their consideration.

## Hasina, Modi

FROM PAGE 2

country.

On September 10, Modi and Hasina had launched two railway projects and a power supply link between the two countries.

Modi and Hasina have met three times this year so far, including on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu in August, in Santiniketan in May for inauguration of Bangladesh Bhavan and on the margins of the Commonwealth Summit in London in April.

Both Hasina and Modi had in their speeches on September 10 talked of restoring the pre-1965 connectivity.

In 2015, the two countries decided on the supply of an additional 500 MW power to Bangladesh and this is being done using the transmission link between West Bengal and Bangladesh. On completion of the project launched last week, 1,16 Gigawatts of power is being supplied from India to Bangladesh. Supplies from India meet about 10% of Bangladesh's power requirement.

The Akhaura-Agartala rail connectivity will provide another link between the two countries besides giving the north eastern states access to the nearby Chittagong port.

## Living in fear, uncertainty

FROM PAGE 1

Tens of thousands of foreign workers in Malaysia have been living in fear and uncertainty since the government began a massive crackdown on undocumented foreign workers on July 1 following the end of a over two-year rehiring programme.

Under the programme, undocumented workers were given the opportunity to regularise their status by applying to the Malaysian government through three local private companies.

The crackdown intensified all over Malaysia on August 31, a day after the Malaysian government's amnesty programme for foreign workers ended.

The programme, which began in 2014, gave illegal foreign workers a chance to leave Malaysia given that they paid a fine of 400 Malaysian Ringgit (RM).

It also included a condition that those going home would be barred from entering Malaysia for five years -- a provision that discouraged many from using the amnesty. They instead chose to continue to work and try to become regularised complying with the procedures.

Of the estimated one million Bangladeshis working in Malaysia, around half are reportedly undocumented.

"I have no answer for you. It is the responsibility of someone else," he said in response.

The minister was speaking to reporters after an event at The Everly Hotel in Putrajaya on Thursday.

## SpaceX

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entrepreneur and Tesla electric car CEO Elon Musk, has touted plans to send tourists around the Moon.

In February, 2017, SpaceX announced it would send the world's first two space tourists around the Moon in late 2018.

That plan called for them to ride on a Dragon crew vehicle, similar to the cargo ships that SpaceX routinely sends loaded with supplies to the International Space Station.

They would have blasted off aboard a Falcon Heavy rocket.

However, the company has remained mum about those plans in recent months.

The names and identities of those two tourists -- and how much they intended to pay -- were never revealed.

SpaceX declined an AFP request for more details, but said further information would follow Monday at an event lasting from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

Humans have not set foot on the Moon since the final Apollo mission in 1972, capping an era of US national pride.

American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to explore the lunar surface in 1969, a moment seen and heard around the world when Armstrong declared "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Only 24 people in history have ever been to the Moon.

US President Donald Trump has championed plans to put boots on the Moon again, as NASA works on building a lunar gateway that would serve as a launching point for missions heading even further into deep space, such as asteroids or Mars.

SpaceX is a key commercial partner to NASA, and is working on a crew ship that will make its first flight to the orbiting International Space Station next year, restoring access to space from US soil for the first time since 2011, when the space shuttle program was retired after 30 years.

Boeing is also hard at work on its crew vehicle, with pioneering flights planned for 2019 as well.

SpaceX currently has a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA to supply the astronauts living at the ISS, via regular cargo trips on its Dragon spaceship, launched aboard a Falcon 9 rocket.

## বাংলাদেশ কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ কর্পোরেশন

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## e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Tender document last selling/ downloading Date and time	Tender security submission last date and time	Tender opening date and time
01	221384	1. Biometric & RFID Attendance System 2. Attendance/HRM Software 3. Networking System for Biometric Time Attendance 4. Door access control 5. UPS related service.	26-Sep-2018 16:00	27-Sep-2018 11:00	27-Sep-2018 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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