

2 siblings die

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turning back, the fire service official added.

Josna and Shamim managed to swim to safety while the divers of fire service, coast guard and navy rescued the bodies after a six-hour effort, Nazmuzzaman also said.

A case was filed with South Keraniganj Police Station in this connection, said Shah Zaman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

This is not the first time such an incident happened in the Buriganga. Earlier on March 7, six of a family were went missing following a similar incident. Their bodies were recovered by fire service rescuers in the next three days.

Asked about taking action, Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority said they moved the ferry wharf 100 feet away from the launch terminal so that this kind of accident did not happen.

But a section of businessmen brought it back to the previous position, he added.

"It is not an accident, it is a murder and the businessman who were not allowing us to relocate the ferry ghat [wharf] are responsible for it," he told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, two girls drowned in Chhoto Jamuna River in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

Pakhi Khatun, 7, was the daughter of Ayub Ali and Ammi Khatun, 5, was the daughter of Ramzan Ali from Razarampur village of Phulbari upazila, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Both were playing nearby the river since morning, said Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, chairman of Shibnagar Union Parishad in the upazila.

A group of villagers discovered them floating on the river around 11:30am and rushed to Phulbari upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, said the chairman.

Sheltech MD dies

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accompanying Toufiq on the flight.

"I was sleeping but woke up hearing the announcement of landing. Then I found out that he [Toufiq] was not in his seat," he told The Daily Star over phone from Doha.

As Toufiq did not return in 15 minutes, Kutubuddin informed the flight attendants about the matter.

Later, the flight attendants found him unconscious at the aircraft's lavatory and gave him emergency treatment.

After the landing of the plane, he was rushed to the doctors who declared him dead, Kutubuddin said, adding that the body was kept at a morgue in Qatar and would be brought back to Dhaka within a day or two.

Toufiq, the first president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh, left behind his mother, wife and two daughters and a host of relatives, admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was the founder and managing director of Sheltech and its associated companies.

He obtained his PhD in Civic Design from University of Liverpool, UK after completing the graduation and post-graduation from Buet. He formerly held academic positions at Buet.

Toufiq was also a former president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners and Bangladesh Tennis Federation. He had a wide range of publications including several books on urban planning, housing and real estate.



Indian worker carry the last bit of water from a small pond in the dried-out Puzhal reservoir on the outskirts of Chennai on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Water crisis in India worsens

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"The next two days will see light to moderate rainfall in the city. It will give relief for the intense heat that is there," Dr S Balachandran, a senior official at the Indian Meteorological Department told CNN.

It was the first major rainfall since December, according to the Tamil Nadu Meteorological Department.

"Unfortunately this is forecast to be light to moderate rain and the reservoirs are almost dry. So, this won't help in replenishment but will just give respite from the heat," the department said. "The proper rain to fill up the reservoirs isn't expected until November."

Chennai recorded 29 millimetres of rainfall Thursday (1.14 inches) -- the most the city has documented in the last six months combined.

With low groundwater levels and insufficient rainwater collection

systems, the state government has resorted to trucking water directly into Chennai neighbourhoods, where hundreds of thousands of residents wait in line for their meagre allocation.

"I come here every night and early morning hours to collect (water) with my neighbour and my son," said N Bhagyalakshmi, a Chennai resident. With her sons, she lugs about 20 pots of water home every morning.

People have begun fighting over water, with minor clashes across Chennai. Trucks bringing water into cities have even been hijacked and drivers attacked, said Jyoti Sharma, founder and president of FORCE, an Indian NGO working on water conservation.

In response to the ongoing crisis in Tamil Nadu, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) opposition party is calling for state-wide protests today.

"The government is not even acknowledging that there is a water crisis," said DMK's Saravanan Annadurai. "Only if they acknowledge that there is a crisis, we can find a solution."

Annadurai accused the state government, which is led by the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party (AIADMK) and is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling coalition, of "dismissing the reports as exaggeration by the media and the opposition."

Annadurai added that that "restaurants have been closed, students are in schools where there is no water, people working in IT companies have been asked to stay at home."

The state's Madras High Court has ordered Chennai's water supply agency to submit a report on the water scarcity, due next week.

Don't want

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and 721 had faulty emergency exits, the inspection summary said.

Rajuk teams surveyed buildings in 1,528sqkm area of its jurisdiction, meaning there may be more buildings that were built violating rules.

At least 431 building owners, and the authorities of 44 government-owned build-ings failed to produce approval documents, according to the survey.

At least 1,136 buildings had Rajuk approved plans while 207 had approvals from other authorities even though they were within Rajuk's jurisdiction.

Some 309 buildings were constructed deviating from the approved height and 309 more were using parking space for other purposes, the survey found.

Around 124 residential buildings were being used for commercial purpose.

At yesterday's press conference, Rezaul said they submitted a redevelopment proposal to the authorities for Old Dhaka and would demolish the faulty buildings or seal those off in other parts of the city.

Responding to a query about the BGMEA building demolition, the

minister said they decided to award the work of knocking down the building to the highest bidder. "We won't allow the bidder to use any method risky for human life."

Answering to another question about pulling down the Jahaj Bari, a ship-shaped building on Chawki Circular Road famous for its aesthetic value, on Eid-ul-Fitr night by a local lawmaker, the minister said they would not give any approval for constructing any building at the archeological site.

About the pond of Gandaria DIT plot, which is on deathbed due to grabbing by a local influential, the minister said this was a Rajuk property, but there was a verdict in favour of a local councillor from the Supreme Court.

He said they sent a letter to the attorney general's office asking it to file a review petition against the verdict. If necessary, they would lodge a fresh case.

The minister said they would not let anyone construct a market after grabbing the pond.

DRU General Secretary Kabir Ahmed Khan moderated the press conference.

Home questions

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office on April 4 after filing a case against madrasa Principal Siraj ud Doula on March 27 over harassing Nusrat sexually.

The magistrate expressed unwillingness to listen to them and warned them that they might have to face a defamation suit, the report added.

Enamul earlier had said he rather thanked Nusrat's family members for filing the case. "I asked them to fight the legal battle sincerely. I don't understand how such allegations against me are being made."

The police probe committee submitted its report to the inspector general of police on May 1 and a copy of it was forwarded to the home ministry, said an official at the PHQ yesterday.

In a letter to the PHQ, the home ministry sought clarification whether the probe committee investigated possible negligence of duty by the Feni additional district magistrate and if it did so, under what authority.

The May 1 letter, signed by Deputy Secretary Mallika Khatun of the home ministry, also wanted to know the scope of work of the probe committee.

The Daily Star received a copy of the letter recently. The PHQ is yet to send its reply, said an official wishing anonymity.

Termining the letter unfortunate, officials at the PHQ said as a po-lice probe found some allegations against the additional magistrate to be true, the authorities concerned should launch an inquiry against him. But they are rather asking questions about the jurisdiction of the probe committee.

This newspaper called the deputy secretary several times for comment, but she did not pick up the phone. On April 6, a group of people poured kerosene on Nusrat and set her afire at the Feni madrasa allegedly for refusing to withdraw the case against the madrasa principal.

The 18-year-old girl lost her battle for life on April 10 -- an incident

that touched off outrage all over the country.

Man held

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and caught the culprit, Subir said.

In Savar, a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a youth in Shyampur area on Thursday evening.

Police arrested Saddam Hossen, 26, of the same area in connection with the incident.

Quoting the victim's family, OC AFM Sayeed of Savar Police Station said the suspect forcibly took the girl to an under-construction building and raped her.

Hearing cries for help, some locals rushed to the building, caught Saddam, and beat him up. They later handed him over to police.

Saddam was arrested in a case filed by the victim's father. He was sent to a Dhaka court with a seven-day remand prayer, said the OC.

The victim was sent to One-stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for medical examinations.

In Habiganj, a 14-year-old schoolgirl was allegedly gang-raped by four men at her home in Madhabpur upazila on Tuesday night.

The victim was undergoing treatment at Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested Md Mustafa, 35, a suspect from Durgapur village in the upazila. The three others were on the run.

The victim's father said Mustafa and his three associates entered his house around 11:00pm on Tuesday when his daughter was studying in a room alone. The culprits raped her before he returned home around 4:00am on Wednesday.

SI Murshed Alam, in-charge of Kashimnagar Police Outpost, said the victim's father filed a case on Thursday night in connection with the incident.

The plaintiff said he primarily didn't dare to file a case as the culprits threatened his family members with dire consequences if they took legal actions.

Our correspondents in Pabna, Savar and Moulvibazar contributed to this report.

US in no hurry for strikes on Iran

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NEVER have Nuclear Weapons, not against the USA, and not against the WORLD!"

The White House and Department of Defense did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump on Thursday approved military strikes on Iran before calling them off. Officials were still expecting the operation to move forward at 7:00 pm, reports said.

The New York Times, which first reported on the president's approval of the strikes, wrote that Trump had approved attacks on Iranian targets like radar and missile batter-ies.

"The operation was underway in its early stages when it was called off," one official said. "Planes were in the air and ships were in position, but no missiles had been fired when word came to stand down."

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, said Washington had no appetite for war with Iran and should "do everything

in our power to de-escalate."

After a White House briefing for lawmakers, Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, told reporters he was worried Trump "may stumble into a war" and said he and his fellow Democrats believed congressional approval was needed to fund any conflict with Iran, reported Reuters.

IRAN DEFIANT
Iran vowed yesterday to defend its borders after downing the US drone it insisted had violated the country's airspace.

The commander of the aerospace arm of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said the drone was warned twice before it was downed over the Gulf of Oman.

"This aircraft possesses a system which allows it to relay the signals and information it receives to its own central system," Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh told state television.

Iran gave two warnings before downing the drone, he said.

"Unfortunately, when they failed to reply and the army gave a second appeal at 3:55 am (2325 GMT Wednesday) and they kept on getting nearer and the aircraft made no change to its trajectory, at 4:05 am (2335 GMT) we were obliged to shoot it down."

Iran's state television broadcast images of what it said was debris from the downed US drone recovered inside its territorial waters, reported AFP.

US special representative on Iran, Brian Hook, yesterday called for diplomacy. "Our di-plomacy does not give Iran the right to respond with military force," he told reporters in Saudi Arabia. "Iran needs to meet diplomacy with diplomacy, not military force."

Oil prices edged down slightly yesterday following the previous day's surge that saw prices soar more than six percent, while the price of gold -- seen as a safe haven asset -- struck near six-year highs.

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If you desire to explore your potentials in the above challenging career prospect please submit your resume before 5th July, 2019 to hr-bd.sourcing@canda.com

The 'Lost City'

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and tucked into South American rainforests.

However, Teyuna is more than 600 years older and, unlike its Peruvian counterpart, there are no trains or buses allowing for easy travels to reach its ruins. The only way to witness its beauty first hand is on foot: a gruelling multiday hike.

Visitors to the Lost City must be accompanied by a licensed guide, which can be easily booked online through a handful of companies.

The dirt path, which wove past large banana trees, towering palms and dangling vines, bring challenges right from the start. It's recommended hikers have good general fitness, as the trek is difficult.

On top of battling high temperatures and sweltering humidity, the 47-kilometer (29 mile) trek ascends and descends four small mountains -- and because it's an out-and-back trail.

The path snakes along the Rio Buritaca, which meant there were a few river crossings but also regular and much-welcomed chances to cool off.

On the way to Teyuna, travellers will meet Wiwa people, who are descendants of the Tairona. Tairona have been left undisturbed for centuries. They have a deep spiritual connection with the land that continues today.

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