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**2018**

# Flood hits 10 districts hard

*Situation likely to worsen; Teesta barrage under threat; 3 kids drown in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar*

STAR REPORT

Flood situation has deteriorated in 10 districts in the north, north-east and hill regions amid continued downpour in the country as well as neighbouring India.

At least three children drowned yesterday including two Rohingya boys in Cox's Bazar.

Thousands of people remain stranded in the flood affected districts, as road communications have been snapped by flood water.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said the worst was yet to come as rivers would swell even further, inundating new areas.

In Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha, the authorities started using loudspeakers late last night to order thousands of villagers near the Teesta barrage to evacuate immediately.

Officials said the water has risen 86cm over the safe level.

"Rescue teams of firefighters, police, and volunteers have been alerted. They are ready," Upazila Nirbahi Officer Samiul Amin told reporters.

In a Ukchia refugee camp, police found the bodies of Anwar Sadque, 7, and his younger brother Anowar Faisal, 6, on Thursday night after they were washed away in a flash flood.

In Chattogram's Fatikchhari, Imam Hossain, 12, drowned in flood water yesterday morning.

Around two lakh people of 30 villages in Fatikchhari have been suffering due to the flash floods.

Other affected districts are Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Bogura, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, Bandarban, and

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A man rows a boat on a flooded street in Bandarban Bus Station area in the pouring rain yesterday. The Sangu burst its bank near the town inundating several neighbourhoods.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

## AL is not neglecting people

*Hasina tells ALCWC meet; 60 errant party leaders may face action*

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the Awami League



government is not running the country by neglecting the people, rather it is working for their welfare by staying beside them in their good and bad times.

"The country is progressing fast as we are working by adhering to this principle," she said at a meeting of the AL Advisory Committee and Central Working Committee at the Gono Bhaban yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Putting emphasis on further strengthening the party, Hasina said political strength and public support are very much needed to this end.

Meanwhile, the AL

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## WB to give \$100m for safe water, sanitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has approved a loan of \$100 million to increase access to improved water supply and sanitation system in 30 municipalities in Bangladesh as well as to help build their capacity for delivering water and sanitation services.

The Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project will help about 600,000 people living in small towns get safe water through piped water supply systems, said a WB press release on Thursday.

In the selected 30 municipalities that currently do not have piped water systems, the project will install water infrastructures, including water treatment facility, water storage, transmission and distribution pipe network, and house connections.

The statement said

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## BRIBERY IN CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT

# Over 100 cops stand released

STAR REPORT

Over 100 policemen, from constables to additional superintendents, have been stand released by the Police Headquarters (PHQ) on charge of taking bribes from people seeking jobs of constable.

The actions were taken in the last couple of weeks during the recruitment of 9,680 constables, which was held from June 22 in all districts.

Of those stand released -- meaning those who are withdrawn immediately and bound to go to their new postings -- one is an ASP and 90 are constables who work as drivers, body guards or staffers at different SP offices, said an official at the Police Headquarters recently.

Besides, at least 39 people -- including "brokers" and fraudsters -- and a police sub-inspector were made accused in 18 cases filed for adopting unfair means and being involved in bribery in constable recruitment in 18 districts, according to PHQ statistics.

The actions taken resulted in a fair recruitment process in many districts, police sources said.

In Kurigram, on allegation of taking Tk 23 lakh bribe, the district ASP Ripon Kumar Modok has been transferred to Khagrachhari while Sub-inspector Abu Taleb was transferred to Barishal.

Kurigram SP Mohibul Islam Khan has taken the initiative to recover the money from Ripon and return it to the aspirant who paid.

Accountant at the office of district Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Mannan, upper division assistant Chhakmal Hossain and Assistant Sub-Inspector at Rangpur Ruhul have also been suspended over such allegations.

Ruhul was arrested after he allegedly took a Tk 10 lakh bribe.

Driver at the SP office Saidur Rahman Sayem and a staffer of the ration store Anisur Rahman have been withdrawn to the office of Rangpur Range

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## First waterways load to arrive from Bhutan

STAR REPORT

A cargo vessel containing crushed stone aggregates from Bhutan started for Bangladesh yesterday using waterways for the first time, potentially opening up a new route for bilateral trades.

The stone aggregates were transported by trucks from Phuentsholing in landlocked Bhutan to Dhubri Port in Assam, from where the cargo sailed through Brahmaputra River.

The development came after Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering's maiden visit to Bangladesh in mid-April this year during which he signed five bilateral instruments. Cooperation on inland waterways was one of those.

India's Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya flagged off the vessel containing the cargo, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

"This is the first ever waterways shipment [of Bhutanies consignment], Saiful Islam, deputy director (traffic and protocols) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) told The Daily Star yesterday.

An Indian cargo ship MV AAI, which is carrying 1005 tonnes of aggregates for a private company, got approval from Indian

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## Pakistan hosts 'world's toughest cycle race'



AFP, Khunjerab

Finishing nearly 5,000 metres above sea level after hundreds of kilometres winding past blackened glaciers and snow-capped peaks: a new Pakistani race presents a world-class challenge for cyclists -- climbing towards the "Roof of the World".

The Tour de Khunjerab -- its name an homage to its more famous French counterpart, which began last Saturday -- is still many years away from being another Big Loop, but with a solid claim to being the highest cycling race in the world, it has a lot to offer a certain type of athlete.

In the last week of June, some 88 cyclists, including two teams from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka as well as solo participants from Spain and Switzerland, took part in its second edition.

Less than half completed it within the allotted time.

The four stages -- three ranging from 68 to 94

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## 2 lands in jail over rape of woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sent two persons to jail for their alleged involvement in a rape incident of a woman in the district's Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The accused are Ujjal Mia, 22, and Hasin Akter, 50.

Khandaker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said the victim's father filed a case against five people, including Ujjal and Hasin, on Thursday alleging their involvement in the rape.

According to the case statement, the victim was returning home from one of her relatives' place on Wednesday evening. On the way, a group of men forcibly took her into a bamboo cluster and raped her.

Before the criminals took

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## RIFAT MURDER One more accused held, remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Barguna court yesterday placed a man on a seven-day remand in police custody for his alleged connection with the murder of Rifat Sharif in the district.

The accused is Rabbi Akon, 24, son of Abul Kalam Azad of Kawrabunia village in Barguna's Sadar upazila.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Sirajul Islam Gazi passed the order after police placed Rabbi before the court with a 10-day remand plea.

Humayun Kabir,

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This road goes through the Lawachhara National Park in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar and the government has taken an initiative to close it to traffic and build an alternative road that would not disturb the flora and fauna.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## ROAD THRU' LAWACHHARA

# Govt to shut it to save wildlife

*Plans to build road around the forest*

MINTU DESHWARA

The government has taken an initiative to close the road and rail route that slices through Lawachhara reserve forest at Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar, in an effort to protect the wildlife in the nature reserve.

According to a recent survey, it is possible to close that route and build a road that would go around the forest connecting Bottola in Kamalganj upazila with Radhanagar in Srimangal upazila.

The survey came after a review meeting on July 2, 2017, held at the Prime Minister's Office on issues relating to Lawachhara National Park, Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary and Ratargul Aquatic Forest.

The survey was jointly conducted by Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department and the Roads and Highways Department in Moulvibazar.

The government declared the 1,250-hectare semi-evergreen Lawachhara forest a national park in 1996 under the 1974 Wildlife Act.

Environmentalists have long been advocating for the closure of the route through the reserve forest which is home to several rare, endangered animals. There are 167 species of plants, 4 types of amphibians, 6 species of reptiles, 246 species of birds and 20 species of mammals.

Animals are injured or killed regularly while they cross the road inside the forest, especially at night, Abul Hasan, joint convener of Lawachhara Jib O Boichitro Rokha Andolon, a platform to protect the animals, told The Daily Star.

Dead animals are often seen on the road side with

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**PRAYER TIMING JULY 13**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:10	12:45	5:00	6:55	8:17	
JAMAAT	4:45	1:15	5:15	7:00	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION