

"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement

SHAH CEMENT

Flood takes heavy toll on schools

Around 2,100 educational institutions in 12 districts remain shut

STAR REPORT

At least 2,100 educational institutions, mostly government primary schools, have closed due to severe flooding in 12 districts in a week.

Some of the schools are being used as shelter for locals, who had evacuated from their inundated homes, while the other schools have been flooded, reports our correspondents from the affected districts.

The situation in Kurigram, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Bogura and Sirajganj districts is likely to worsen today, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said yesterday.

The FFWC has been monitoring different rivers from 93 stations, of which 26 stations reported dangerously high levels of water.

Moreover, the northern and north-eastern regions may see medium to heavy rainfall today, it said.

The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry directed its officials to ensure road communication across the country.

In Netrakona, at least 213 schools in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas have been closed, officials said.

"We were forced to suspend classes as students can't reach school using to flooded roads," said Ataur Rahman Khan, headteacher of Nazirpur Palli Jagoron High School in Durgapur.

Classes have been suspended in at least 813 schools

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Riding a boat, a group of students leaves an inundated school compound in Lalmonirhat's Chongadar village on Sunday. Inset, a boat and a raft wait outside another flooded school in Bagura's Sariakandi upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY, MOSTAFA SHABUJ

'Xenophobic'

Trump slammed for racist attack on Democratic congresswomen

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump took aim at progressive Democratic congresswomen Sunday, telling them to "go back" where they came from in remarks that sparked yet another firestorm over his views on race and immigration.

Trump -- whose comments were branded "racist" and "xenophobic" by Democratic presidential candidates and senior legislators -- last year reportedly referred to countries in Africa as "shithole" nations, and has spoken of an "invasion" of migrants.

He was also a leading proponent of the "birther" conspiracy theory that Barack Obama was not born on US soil and therefore could not legally be president.

On Sunday, Trump referred on Twitter to "Progressive" Democrat Congresswomen" in remarks that appeared to be aimed at a group of outspoken relatively young, liberal women of colour, all first-time members of the House of Representatives.

These include Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts.

They "originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world," Trump tweeted.

He accused the women of "viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run."

"Why don't they go back

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING JULY 16

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

IMPLEMENTING TRANSPORT ACT

Delay due to pressure from transport men

Say ministry officials

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is taking time to make the Road Transport Act-2018 effective as it faces "pressure" from the transport leaders to change some of its provisions, officials said.

A three-minister committee, tasked with looking into how the act could be implemented, yesterday decided to sit with transport leaders and other stakeholders next month before giving its opinion.

"There is no scope for making the law effective before it [discussion]," Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, member of the committee, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Earlier, the committee held several informal meetings with transport leaders who pressed for relaxing several provisions of the act, including making all offences under the law "bailable".

The Jatiya Sangsad had passed the act in September last year following an unprecedented student movement for safe road. Students took to the streets across

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ROOPPUR POWER PLANT

Govt probe finds Tk 36.4cr anomaly

Recommends action against 50 officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two government probe committees have found anomalies involving Tk 36.4 crore in purchasing furniture and other household items for officials of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna.

The bodies, formed by the housing and public works ministry, have also recommended departmental and legal actions against 50 officials, including Engineer Masudul Alam, former project director of Green City Housing Project under the power plant, over the irregularities.

On May 22, Masudul was made a reserve officer at the Public Works Department for his alleged involvement in the irregularities.

The committees yesterday handed over a probe report to the attorney general's office for submitting it to the High Court.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that the HC would hold a hearing on the issue on July 21. But he did not give any details.

According to a part of the report obtained by this newspaper, a Tk 113.63 crore deal was signed with three companies for supplying furniture and electrical appliances for four buildings of the Green City Housing Project. But the actual price of those items was 77.23 crore.

The committees suggested taking action to realise the Tk 36.4 crore that was paid through anomalies.

Supreme Court lawyer barrister Sayedul Haque Suman, who received a copy of 1,014-page report, told this correspondent that the money was misappropriated by the 50 officials.

Following a writ petition by him, the HC on July 2 asked the attorney general's office to collect the committees' reports and submit those before the court in two weeks.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

NUSRAT MURDER

Probe role of madrasa governing body chief

HC orders authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to conduct an enquiry against the Sonagazi Islamia Fazil Madrasa's Governing Body chairman, in connection with the sexual harassment and murder of Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

The directives came after the HC observed that had the governing body chairman PKM Enamul Karim taken appropriate action against principal Siraj ud Daula for sexually harassing Nusrat, a student of the madrasa, she might not have suffered such a deplorable consequence.

Enamul Karim could have taken necessary steps after making an enquiry into the allegation against Siraj ud Daula, after Nusrat and her mother had earlier

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Resurrected plane wrecks fly again



CNN ONLINE

In Greek mythology, the phoenix was a bird that, after death, rose from its own ashes, ready to fly again.

Elleston Trevor referenced this in his 1964 novel, which was later brought to the film, "The Flight of the Phoenix". It's the story of an air crew that, after crash-landing in the Sahara Desert, manages to repair their aircraft and fly to safety.

The "Flight of the Phoenix" may have been fiction, but in the real world, aircraft have, on rare occasions, managed to make unlikely, almost miraculous, comebacks.

The extreme climatic conditions of some of the world's most inhospitable places may have actually helped preserve the airframes in such a way that they could be salvaged and made airworthy again, sometimes even decades after they crash-landed.

These are the real phoenixes of modern aviation,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Man held for raping son's wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Sunday arrested a man for allegedly raping his daughter-in-law in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur.

The accused is a resident of the district's Khansama upazila.

The 19-year-old victim filed a case with Chirirbandar Police Station in this connection on Sunday, said Harisul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police arrested him from Bhusirbandar village in the upazila on Sunday evening, the OC said.

Quoting First Information Report, OC Harisul said the perpetrator, who used to stay at his son's house, had been making inappropriate advances towards the victim for the last couple of days.

On July 10, he raped the woman in the afternoon when no one else was there and immediately fled the scene.

The victim initially shied

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A man taking a bunch of wicker baskets to sell them at a market in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila on Saturday. Each of the baskets, used in rural areas for catching fish during the monsoon, is being sold for Tk 200-500 at local markets.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

'Small window' to save Iran deal

Says UK FM; EU holds crisis talks to salvage nuke pact

AFP, Brussels

European foreign ministers met yesterday for crisis talks on the Iran nuclear deal, as Britain warned the "small window" to save the accord was closing, with Tehran breaching the agreement.

Tensions in the Gulf have soared since the United States last year pulled out of the 2015 deal and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, hammering its economy and prompting Tehran to break limits on uranium enrichment and stockpiling.

The European Union is desperately trying to prevent the deal unravelling completely, seeing it as the best way to stop Tehran acquiring atomic weapons, and the issue was top of the agenda as ministers from the bloc met in Brussels.

British Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt -- who held phone talks with his US and Iranian counterparts over the weekend -- insisted "the deal isn't dead yet".

"Iran is still a good year away from developing a nuclear weapon. We think there is still some closing but small window to keep the deal alive," Hunt told reporters.

Britain, France and Germany -- the three European parties to the deal -- on Sunday issued a joint statement saying they were "extremely concerned" by Iran's recent breaches as well as by US sanctions.

They called for dialogue to resolve the crisis.

Iran yesterday urged the European parties to the deal "to take practical, effective and responsible decisions" to save the landmark agreement.

"We stress that the continued voluntary and goodwill based actions by the Islamic Republic of Iran are rooted

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5