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DHAKA WASA PROJECTS Deadlines stretched to allow graft

ACC finds corruption in 8 projects, 3 areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa keeps extending deadlines and increasing the costs of its projects to create room for corruption, according to an Anti-Corruption Commission report.

The ACC identified eight projects and three areas in Wasa where corruption takes place and made a 12-point recommendation for preventing graft.

In many cases, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) also did not carry out its work as per project designs and specifications, wasting money and resources, read the report.

A three-member ACC team led by a director came up with the findings following a probe into Wasa. It talked to experts, former and incumbent Wasa officials to prepare the report. The report was given to the LGRD ministry yesterday, and this paper has obtained a copy of it.

A project was taken up on November 22, 2012 to reduce dependency on groundwater in greater Mirpur area, the ACC said.

Under the Tk 521 crore project, 46 wells, two iron removal plants, and 48.78km of supply lines were to be installed by June 2017. A reservoir was to be built and 7.81

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Stormwater drainage pipes have narrowed down this street in the capital's Motijheel, causing frequent traffic jams. Dhaka South City Corporation authorities kept them there around a week ago. The photo was taken yesterday. See City in Frame on page 16 for more.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Amnesty for unregistered Bangladeshis

KL to allow them to return by Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian home ministry has launched a fresh amnesty programme for undocumented migrants, which will let them return home without facing any legal action.

Estimated two lakh undocumented Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia will get an opportunity to return home under this programme, said Bangladesh home ministry officials.

Malaysian Home Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday said the new programme, "Program Back for Good", was aimed at repatriating undocumented foreign migrants, reported Malaysian news outlet The Star Online.

The programme will begin on August 1 and end on December 31 this year, the report added.

The returnees will have to SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

FLOOD-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Sufferings abound as relief too little

STAR REPORT

Haradhan Dey along with his elderly mother, wife and two children has been surviving on biscuits and dry foods for the past five days.

"No one has come to help us...we have not yet received any relief," said the local of Dulal Member Bari area in Chattogram's Raozan.

Haradhan's family is one of 30 families marooned for five days in the waterlogged area. Many of them have not got any aid so far. Their predicament is similar to those of many others affected by the floods ravaging through the country.

Stranded in waterlogged areas, many victims remain unemployed, with little access to food and drinking water, a situation compounded by insufficient relief.

According to data from the ministry, there has been an allocation of Tk 3.37 crores, 22,350 of tonnes rice, 91,000 packets dry food, 7,500 sets of tents and 1,000 bundles of tin for flood-hit people across the country.

The number of such people is around 21 lakh.

Md Shah Kamal, senior secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, said the government arranged sufficient relief materials for those "who really needed it".

"There are many flood-hit families, who are financially affluent. They don't want to take relief. But those affected people, who are poor, are entitled to the relief," he told The Daily Star last night.

While the allocation is there on paper, our correspondents from different districts, however, found an insufficiency of relief materials.

"We did not get any relief. Rather, we have seen that many affluent families have got it," said Hazrat Ali, 58, a flood victim in Gobordhan village near the Teesta River basin in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

"Around 1,200 families in our union have been hit by flood. But only 235 families have got relief materials," said Matiar Rahman Mati, a member of Mahish Khocha PHOTO ON PAGE 20

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RIFAT MURDER

Another key suspect held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested another key suspect in Rifat murder case in Barguna yesterday.

Rishan Farazi was arrested in the town around 10:00am, said Maruf Hossain, superintendent of police in the district.

However, the officer did not disclose where he had been hiding.

Rishan and his brother Rifat Farazi, both accused in the case, are the nephews of Barguna District Council Chairman Delwar Hossain.

Fifteen suspects, including the victim's widow Aysha Siddika Minni, have been arrested so far.



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No special force under DCs

Home minister says on last day of DC conf'ce; govt to consider proposal for setting up bank for admin cadre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

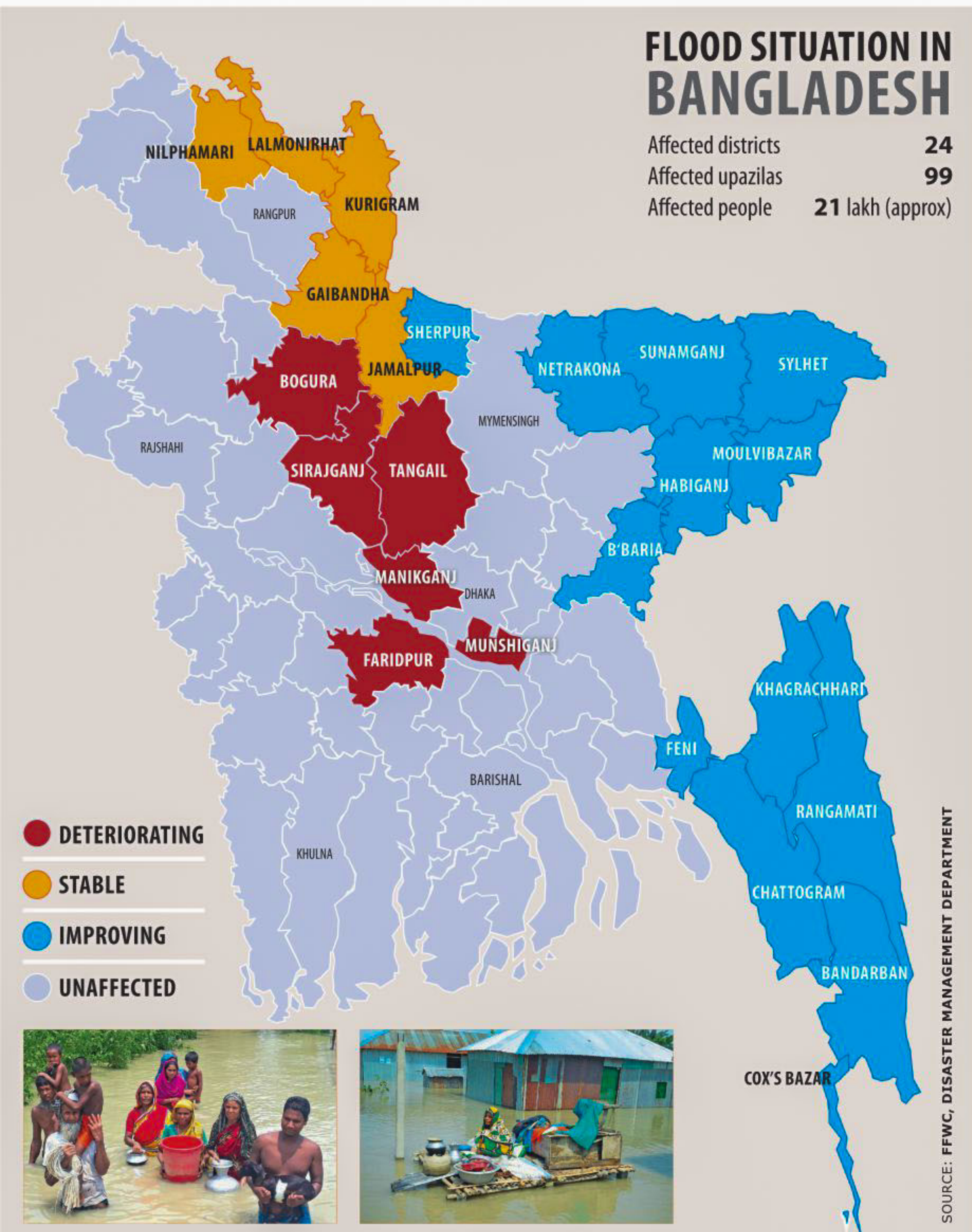
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday rejected a proposal from the deputy commissioners to form a special police force under the district administrations.

State Minister for Public Administration Md Farhad Hossain said the government would, however, consider the DCs' proposal to set up a bank for the admin cadre.

DCs, who are the chief administrative and revenue officers of districts, have placed around 333 proposals during their annual conference this year. The five-day conference ended yesterday.

After a session at the secretariat, Asaduzzaman told reporters that there was no need for a separate police force under the DCs. "Police work in line with the directives from the DCs. They [police] always provide assistance to them," he said.

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