

## Hasina greets Boris Johnson

BSS, Dhaka  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended her heartiest congratulations to Boris Johnson on his assumption of office as the prime minister of the UK and Northern Ireland.

"Your appointment as the prime minister of the United Kingdom is a testimony to the confidence and trust of the British people in your leadership to take your country to newer heights of unity, prosperity and dynamism," she said in a congratulatory message to Johnson.

Hasina said Bangladesh continues to count on his personal commitment and the UK's global leadership in ensuring Myanmar's accountability for atrocities committed on the Rohingyas and their early and sustained return home.

She said Bangladesh and the United Kingdom enjoy a special relationship deeply rooted in shared values of democracy, secularism, and the common good of the very vibrant Bangladesh-British diaspora in the UK.

"We in Bangladesh recall in deep gratitude the support of the then Conservative government of prime minister Sir Edward Heath extended to our Father of the Nation and my beloved father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the people of Bangladesh during our War of Liberation in 1971."

The PM said she was looking forward to celebrate on a grand scale, 50 years of Bangladesh's glorious independence and Bangladesh-UK diplomatic relations in 2021.

Hasina wished Johnson very best of health, happiness, and continued success in this high responsibility and continued peace, progress and prosperity to the UK people.

## 3rd grader 'raped' in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A third grader was raped allegedly by her neighbour in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila on Wednesday evening.

The girl's father filed a case against Gaus Mia, 45, with Sreemangal Police Station at night, said Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge (investigation) of the police station.

She has been undergoing treatment at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, he added.

The victim's uncle said his niece went to a shop to buy chocolate. He alleged that on her way to the shop, Gaus took her to his house and raped her. His other family members were not at home at that time.

Gaus also threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident, the uncle said, quoting his niece.

The girl's mother said after returning home, her daughter did not tell the family of the incident. After hours, she started crying and told her while the pain was unbearable. Her daughter was taken to Sreemangal Upazila Health Complex.

Mohammad Mohsin, on duty-doctor of the hospital, said they referred the girl to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for medical tests.

Police arrested the accused after the case was lodged on Wednesday night.

## India deports

FROM PAGE 20  
had entered Assam five to six years ago, said an Indian official.

The Bangladeshis were identified as Nurul Alom, Abdul Kalam Azad, Waidul Hoque, Babul Sardar, Mohammad Javed, Ariful Hakim, Momin Ali, Majahar Mollah, Saddam Hussain, Jahangir Alam, Fajar Ali Mollah, Ajbahar Payada, Kartik Chandra Sheel, Unish Ali, Nur Mohammad Gazi, Suchitra Biswas, Saleha Aktar, Asma Begum, Abdul Kuddus, Nurul Amin, Chand Mia, Elias Ahmed, Lakhan Chakraborty, Jahangir Alom, Abdul Kalam Molla, Abdullah, Abdul Kashem, Jahangir Alam, Abdul Kayer and Ashish Das.

A Rab member was also injured during the "gunfight". In a similar incident, Babu was killed in Mirpur's



Police chase away readymade garment workers who had blocked a street in Malibagh yesterday protesting the death of one of their co-workers. Inset, a policeman fires in the air during the incident.

## Sayedee, 103 others

FROM PAGE 20

of Rajshahi University campus and its dormitories which Shibir leaders used to control since the BNP-Jamaat era and were seized away by Bangladesh Chhatra League men after 2008 general elections.

Acting on their directives, the Jamaat and Shibir leaders launched coordinated attacks on BCL leaders and activists at different dormitories on the night of February 9.

Several hundred Jamaat-Shibir men took part in the attacks that came in retaliation for the murder of former RU Shibir leader Sharifuzzaman Nomani on March 13, 2009 by BCL men, the court official said quoting the charges.

Faruk Hossain, a mathematics student of Rajshahi University and an activist of the university unit BCL, was killed and his body was dragged out of his room at Shah Makhdum Hall and dumped into a sewer.

At least 100 others were injured and four of them were maimed as the attackers had cut their tendons.

Former RU BCL leader Majedul Islam Apu filed a murder case accusing 35 people and hundred other with Motihar Police Station. Later, inspector Zillur Rahman filed charge sheet in the case accusing 110 people, including Nizami, Mozaheed and Sayedee.

The court exempted six of the accused following their deaths. Of them, Nizami and Mozaheed were executed after being convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal while Shaheen and Shahadat were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers and Aatur Rahman and Abu Samah had died of illness.

Three arrested Shibir leaders gave confessional statement in the case, revealing involvement of the top Jamaat leaders for the murder, the court official said.

Abu M Selim, a lawyer of the defendants said, the charge framing was politically motivated.

The number of charged accused are "abnormally higher" than the number of accused named in the First Information Report, he added.

## Tell my mother to come soon

FROM PAGE 20

Renu's mother Sabura Khatun has fallen sick with grief.

"My daughter usually left home early every day for morning walk... they killed my daughter calling her a child kidnapper," she said.

The family demanded highest punishment of the killers and a fair probe into whether there was negligence on anyone's part, including the police and school teachers. They also demanded a probe to ascertain whether police were negligent in rushing to the spot to save the woman.

WERE POLICE LATE?

Ziaur Rahman, a teacher of the primary school, said two women brought the victim to the school office on the first floor of the four-storey building on suspicion.

By that time, several hundred others had gathered on the school compound. They were all growing angry and restless.

Seeing the crowd, a staffer of the school locked the collapsible gate of the building to save the woman. Even the students were screaming in panic. A sense of foreboding prevailed in the school compound.

"We first called 999, then the officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, managing committee president, local

councilor for steps, sensing something terrible," he said.

But before help could arrive, around five minutes after the distress calls, the mob broke the collapsible gate and reached the headmistress's room. They pushed the headmistress and me aside, and forced the woman on to the ground," he said.

Some locals, school staffers and employees of nearby shops alleged that police reached the spot nearly an hour after the death of the woman. All they did was take the body to the hospital.

Officer-in-charge of Badda police station Rafiqul Islam, however, denied the allegation and said he sent a police team immediately after receiving the phone call from the school.

"We reached the spot and rescued the victim. Then we took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital," he said.

FIVE MORE ARRESTED

Five more people were arrested from different areas in a case filed over the Renu murder.

The arrestees are Murad, 22, Sohel Rana, 30, Billal, 28, Asadul, 22 and Raju, 23, Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Badda police station told The Daily Star.

So far, 13 people have been arrested over the incident.

## Two killed in 'gunfights'

FROM PAGE 20

a raid in the area on information that Khalifa and his cohorts gathered there for a drug dealing. As soon as the law enforcers reached the area, the criminals opened fire, forcing Rab members to retaliate, he claimed.

Khalifa was caught in the line of fire during the "gunfight", he claimed, adding Rab members then rushed him to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

According to the Rab official, Khalifa was accused in at least 29 drug related cases filed with different police stations.

Rab also claimed to have recovered two firearms and 3000 yaba pills from the spot.

A Rab member was also injured during the "gunfight".

In a similar incident, Babu was killed in Mirpur's

Beribadh area around 3:15am, said Senior ASP Sajedul Islam of Rab-4.

Babu, who had fled to India few years ago, recently returned to Dhaka to take part in a killing mission, reported UNB quoting Major Kazi Saifuddin Ahmed, second-in-command of Rab-4.

He was accused in at least 20 cases, including eight over murders, said Rab.

Rab also claimed to have recovered a pistol, a magazine and bullets from the spot.

Both the bodies were sent to DMCH morgue for autopsies.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify any of the law enforcers' claims.

## Brexit on time'

FROM PAGE 20

46 years without an agreement will be less painful than economists warn.

The markets were relieved by the appointment of Sajid Javid as finance chief. The pound held steady against the dollar and euro as traders waited for Johnson's first policy moves.

Other appointments were more divisive.

Brexit hardliner Dominic Raab became foreign secretary and Jacob Rees-Mogg -- leader of a right-wing faction of Conservatives who helped bring about May's demise -- as the government's parliamentary representative.

New interior minister Priti Patel has previously expressed support for the death penalty and voted against same-sex marriage.

The Labour opposition-backing Mirror newspaper called it "Britain's most right-wing government since the 1980s". Johnson argues that his threat of a chaotic end to Britain's EU involvement will force Brussels to relent and give London better terms that would let it pursue trade deals with powers such as China and the United States.

Brexit backers in parliament had accused May of ignoring voters' wishes by promising to keep the UK tied to the bloc's economic rules if necessary to preserve a free-flowing border between EU member Ireland and Britain's Northern Ireland.

Johnson's solution for the frontier revolves around proposals that have been rejected as either unworkable or insufficient by both EU and Irish leaders.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar -- his heavily trade-dependent nation standing to lose most from a messy EU-UK split -- bluntly told Johnson on Wednesday that

he needed to compromise.

EU spokeswoman Mina Andreeva yesterday said in Brussels that the bloc's position "remains unchanged".

"The deal we have achieved is the best deal possible," Andreeva said.

Johnson will have the backing of his governing Conservative party but not the nation in his first days in office.

He beat the now-former foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt by a two-to-one margin in a vote held by fewer than 160,000 paying members of the Conservatives.

But a YouGov survey found his approval rating in Britain as a whole at just 31 percent.

Even his biggest critics in London and Brussels have been willing to give Johnson a chance to try his own luck at resolving the Brexit mess.

But his problems further abroad are more immediate -- and just as challenging.

Iran's seizure last Friday of a British-flagged tanker in the Gulf thrusts Johnson into the middle of the Islamic republic's escalating standoff with US President Donald Trump.

And Trump's bid to contain China's global clout has forced Britain into an uncomfortable choice over what technology to use in its now-delayed rollout of the next-generation 5G data network.

Johnson boasts a friendship with Trump that his doubters fear will make Britain beholden to the mercurial White House chief's unpredictable foreign policies. His supporters, however, say the relationship could boost Britain's chances of clinching a post-Brexit trade deal with the United States.

## Global warming now faster in 2,000 years

AFP, Paris

World temperatures rose faster in the late 20th century than at any other time in the last 2,000 years, according to research released Wednesday which experts said undermines climate deniers' questioning of mankind's role in global warming.

As Europe sweltered in a second record-breaking heatwave in a month, the three peer-reviewed papers offered the most detailed overview of regional temperature trends dating back two millennia.

Climate variability -- the fluctuation of surface temperatures over time -- has long been the subject of debate.

While average global temperatures are currently around one degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) hotter than pre-industrial times, there have been a number of periods of cooling and warming over the centuries.

This had led sceptics of manmade global warming to suggest that human activity is not the main driver of climate change.

Researchers used data compiled from nearly 700 temperature indicators, from tree rings, sediment cores, coral reefs and modern thermometer readings, to provide a comprehensive timeline of our planet's recent climate history.

The findings are clear: at no point in modern human history did temperatures rise so quickly and so consistently as in the late 20th century -- the period where the world's post-war, fossil fuel-powered economy reached unprecedented heights of production and consumption.

The first paper, published in the journal Nature, examined regional temperature trends over time.

Scientists have long known of periods of unusual climate activity, such as the Little Ice Age, a centuries-long epoch where northern Europe experienced colder winters on

average than at the start of the 20th century.

The study found that temperatures in the Little Ice Age and other anomalous periods did not rise or fall in global lock-step as had long been assumed, and varied regionally for much of the last 2,000 years.

"When we go back in the past these are really regional phenomena, but they are not global," said Nathan Steiger, from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

This is in marked contrast to current warming trends.

"Whereas in the contemporary warm period it really is global, 98 percent of the globe has this coherent warming after the industrial revolution -- and that very much stands out in contrast to the climate variability that's happened before in the past 2,000 years."

A second paper, in Nature Geoscience, examined rates of surface warming, averaged over sub-periods each a few decades long.

They found that pre-industrial temperature fluctuations were largely driven by volcanic activity. But they also concluded that humans had never witnessed such rapid global warming as in the latter part of the 20th century.

Author Raphael Neukom from the University of Bern, Switzerland, told AFP the finding "highlights the extraordinary character of current climate change".

A third study found that global temperatures leading up to the industrial period were cooled by a series of volcanic eruptions, which led to droughts in Africa and weak monsoons.

Commenting on the studies, Mark Maslin, Professor of Climatology at University College London, said their results "should finally stop climate change deniers claiming that the recent observed coherent global warming is part of a natural climate cycle".

## Flood death toll hits 100

FROM PAGE 20

pleasure trip. They started their journey from Kalikapur village around noon.

After around half an hour, the boat reached nearby Panchashi village. At one stage, the children's movement upset the balance of the boat, causing it to capsize, said Sarishabari OC Majedur Rahman.

The five, who did not know how to swim, drowned while the others managed to swim to dry land, the OC added.

Hearing the news, some villagers rushed to the spot, dived into the canal and tried their best to save the children, but in vain. They, however, recovered the bodies.

In Lalmonirhat, two women drowned in Sati Beel of Aditmari upazila while collecting jute leaves.

Deceased Mohsena Begum, 40, and Rahima Begum, 42, were from Arazi Dewdoba village in the same upazila.

Family members said the duo went to the beel in the morning to collect jute leaves. As they were late to return home, family members started looking for them, but they remained untraced.

At one stage, the families informed police about the matter and the law enforcers subsequently informed the fire service.

A team of fire service rushed to the beel and recovered their bodies after searching for around three hours, said Aditmari OC Saiful Islam.

Enamul Haque, Aditmari fire station master, said they might have drowned due to strong currents.

In another incident, the body of an unidentified man, aged about 45, was recovered from the Teesta in Lalmonirhat's Kalmati area on Wednesday afternoon, said Mahfuz Alam, OC of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station.

In Gaibandha, water levels in the Brahmaputra and the Ghagot rivers increased again yesterday due to onrush of water from upstream rivers.

Water was flowing 47cm and 25cm above the danger level in the two rivers. In the previous two days, water had receding in them, according to the local office of Water Development Board (WDB).

Due to the trend of the rising water in the rivers, local people now fear that the flood may take a devastating turn soon.

"We are afraid as water level is rising again. We don't know when we will able to return home," said rickshaw-puller Shaheen Mia. The 27-year-old man has been staying on Badiakhali-Shaghata road for the last seven days.

In Sirajganj, the Jamuna was flowing 14cm above the danger level at Kazipur point yesterday, said AKM Rafiqul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of WDB.

"Water level of the Jamuna started receding on July 19. It was flowing under the danger level on Wednesday. But the water level raised again today [Thursday]," said the WDB official.

Many flood-hit people, who were getting ready to return home, are now in uncertainty.

"We have taken shelter here [under-construction dam] as our houses went under water. We don't know when we will return home," said Alam Sheikh

of Shontosha village in Shahzadpur upazila.

According to statistics of the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC), over 4.8 million people in 17 districts were affected by flood until yesterday.

The government has so far allocated over Tk4.28 crore; 26,150 tonnes of rice, 108,000 packets of dry food, 8,500 sets of tents and 2,600 bundles of tin for the flood victims, said the NDRCC.

Our correspondents in Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Pabna contributed to this report.

## Flying Frenchman falls into sea on Channel crossing bid

AFP, Sangatte

A daredevil French inventor yesterday failed in his attempt to fly across the Channel from France to Britain standing on a jet-powered "flyboard", having to be rescued after falling into the sea, his team said.

Franky Zapata, 40, a former jet-skiing champion, took off successfully from Sangatte in northern France but then fell into the Channel during a tricky mid-sea refuelling stop, a member of his team told AFP.

Zapata had planned to land in Britain around Dover after a flight of just 20 minutes.

The refuelling was always set to be one of the trickiest parts of the operation and Zapata appeared have made contact with the refuelling platform due to the waves, forcing him into the sea.

The flyboard is fuelled by kerosene stored in the rider's backpack.

Zapata carried 47 kilos (104 pounds) of it on Thursday. But as that would only take him part of the way across the Channel, he needed to pick up a new backpack in mid-Channel for the second half of the trip.

## Tigers

FROM PAGE 20

of absence from the tour, it was Mashrafe being ruled out that poured cold water on the proceedings. The skipper suffered a hamstring injury on the eve of the Tigers' departure for Sri Lanka and opener Tamim Iqbal was subsequently named captain for the tour.

Mohammad Saifuddin then fell prey to injury as well and on the same day as Mashrafe no less, which made way for Forhad Reza and Taskin Ahmed as late replacements but Shaiful Islam was also added to the squad later on.

Today, all eyes will be on Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga, who is set to play in his last ODI match for Sri Lanka after a career spanning over 15 years. The Lankans would love to send their hero off with a big win while Tamim will certainly hope to lead his team to victory.