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Flood death toll hits 100

Situation may worsen in several districts

STAR REPORT

With floodwater continuing to rise in many northern districts, at least seven people, including five children, drowned in floodwater in Jamalpur and Lalmonirhat yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, a total of 104 people have died in floods and other natural disasters this month so far. The causes of their deaths include drowning and waterborne diseases.

Meanwhile, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Dhaka yesterday said the overall flood situation in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogura, Tangail, Sirajganj and Manikganj districts may deteriorate slightly in the next 24 hours (until 9:00am today).

The country's 17 districts have been hit by flood so far. In Jamalpur, five children, including two siblings, drowned in a canal in Panchashi village of Sarishabari upazila yesterday noon when a boat carrying them capsized.

The deceased are Suborna Aktar, 17, her sister Jhona Aktar, 10, cousin Antara, 14, Rodshi, 7, and Jannat, 7. All of them were from Batikamari village of the same upazila.

Suborna was an HSC student at Advocate Matiur Rahman College in Sarishabari, while Jhona and Antara were fourth and 10th graders at a local madrasa. The two others, Rodshi and Jannat, were class-I students at a local government primary school, said the victims' families.

Quoting locals, police said about 10 children, including the five victims, were travelling on a small boat for a

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Flooded railway lines in Rifayetpur area of Gaibandha Sadar yesterday. Railway tracks have remained inundated in around 40 such places in the upazila after floodwater breached an embankment of the Brahmaputra river on July 21, disrupting the district's railway communications with other districts.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

SEVEN RINGS CEMENT

FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE

Tigers to foil Malinga's party?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play their first competitive match following the World Cup when they take on Sri Lanka in the first of a three-match ODI series at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo at 3:00pm Bangladesh Time today. All three ODIs are set to be day-night affairs and Bangladesh will be looking to get back to winning ways following a dismal World Cup campaign, where hopes were ignited at the beginning of the tournament but flickered into nothingness by the end.

The Tigers are playing the series without inspirational ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and their best performer in the World Cup, Shakib Al Hasan. While Shakib had asked for a leave

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India deports 30 Bangladesh nationals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

At least 30 Bangladeshis, kept at various detention camps for trespassing into India, were deported yesterday, Indian police sources said.

They were taken to Karimganj Police Station from camps in Silchar, Karimganj, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, and Kokrajhar districts of Assam. They had been kept there after being declared illegal aliens by the Illegal Foreigners Tribunals in Assam, the sources said.

The Bangladeshis were put on boats for crossing the Kuchiyara river and handed over to Bangladesh authorities.

Ayub Ali, commander of the BGB 19 Battalion's border outpost in Zakiganj, police SI Rafiqul Islam, and Indian police and BSF officials were present during the handing over of the Bangladeshis.

Some of the deportees

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Tell my mother to come soon

Pleads daughter of Badda mob victim

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Four-year-old Tahsin Tuba plays with a doll that her mother had given her just two weeks ago. Minutes later, she puts the doll away and starts watching cartoons.

She laughs. Then, all of a sudden, she begins to cry.

"Mother is very bad. She does not bring chocolates, clothes or dolls for me anymore," Tuba says in between sobs.

"Call mother and tell her to come soon," she says. Her mother Taslima Begum Renu, though, is never coming back.

Taslima, 40, was killed by a mob in the capital's Badda on Saturday. They apparently suspected her of being a child kidnapper when Taslima went to Uttar-Purba Badda Government Primary School in hopes of getting Tuba admitted there.

As for Tuba, the child is still too young to fully comprehend what death is. Whenever she asks her relatives about her mother, they busy her with toys, many of which they have newly-bought for her or take her in their laps.

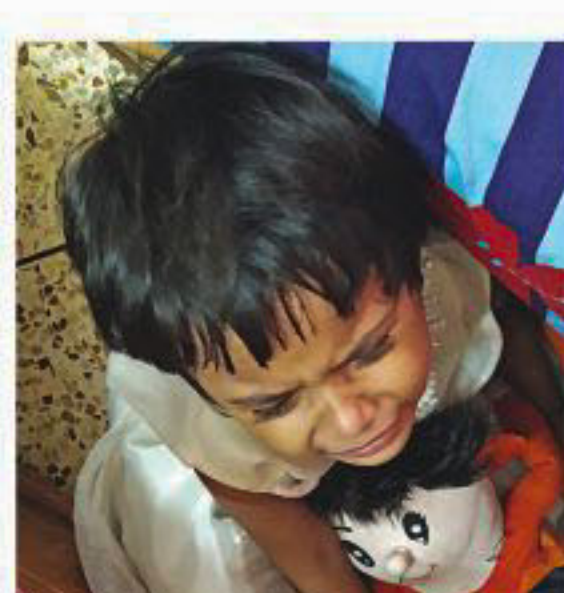
But the minute she stops being distracted by toys or cartoons, she cries inconsolably.

"Tuba gets very angry nowadays. This was not the case when her mother was alive," Tuba's cousin Syed Nasir Uddin Titu said.

"Despite being a grown man, I cannot sleep well thinking about the brutality [Taslima faced]..." he said.

Taslima's two children -- Tuba and 11-year old Tahsin Al Mahir are now staying with Titu's family.

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FARUK MURDER Sayedee, 103 others indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday framed charges against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, who is serving life term imprisonment for his crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, for abetting the murder of Rajshahi University student Faruk Hossain in 2010.

The court also framed charges against 103 other leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir on charges of being involved in the murder or abetting the crime.

Public prosecutor of the court Siraji Shawkat Salehin revealed the information to the journalists following the charge framing.

He said Sayedee was taken to Rajshahi Central Jail from Kashimpur Jail for producing him before the court.

According to the charges, the court official said, Sayedee visited Rajshahi on February 7, 2010, two days before Faruk murder.

He was accompanied by two other top Jamaat leaders -- Matiur Rahman Nijami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

During their visit, they held a secret meeting with the leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir and directed them to take control

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Food for trash?

India's first 'garbage cafe' to offer meals for plastic

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, New Delhi

Hungry, but don't have cash? No problem, bring plastic waste and get a free meal, said the mayor of an Indian city where the country's first "garbage cafe" will open next month.

The small restaurant in the eastern city of Ambikapur will provide hearty food to homeless and poor people and encourage citizens to keep



their streets clean, said mayor Ajay Tirkey.

"Everybody is welcome to donate plastic. The cafe will be mainly run by women... Preparations are in full swing!" he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Wednesday.

Single-use plastics are banned in many states, but Indians still generate 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day, according to government data.

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Two killed in 'gunfights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two suspected criminals were killed in "gunfights" with members of Rab in the capital early yesterday.

The dead are Maharaj Khalifa, 40, an alleged drug peddler in Banani, and Najmul Hasan alias Byanga Babu, 38, second-in-command of Shahadat Bahini, said Rab.

Of them, Khalifa died around 3:15am at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he sustained a bullet injury at 1:15am in Satarkul area of Dhaka's Badda, claimed Senior ASP Kamruzzaman of Rab-1.

A Rab team conducted

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 26

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-30 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A SUMMER VISITOR

An Indian pitta rests on a tree in Bogura's Gandagram village a couple of months ago. The colourful bird breeds in the forests of the Himalayas, hills of central and western India, and migrates to Bangladesh in summer.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Brexit on time 'top priority'

UK PM rejects 'unacceptable' deal with EU, threatens to withhold \$49b divorce bill

AFP, London

Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday called the current Brexit deal negotiated with the EU "unacceptable" and set preparations for leaving the bloc without an agreement as a "top priority" for the government.

In a pugnacious debut in parliament, the former London mayor urged EU leaders to rethink their opposition to renegotiating the deal.

After installing a right-wing government following a radical overhaul, Johnson doubled down on his promise to lead Britain out of the EU by October 31 at any cost.

In case of a no-deal exit, he also threatened to withhold the £39 billion (\$49 billion) divorce bill that Britain has previously said it owes the EU and instead spend the money for preparations for leaving with no agreement.

Johnson told a raucous session of parliament in which he was repeatedly shouted down by opposing MPs that the draft deal his predecessor Theresa May reached with the 27 EU leaders would "sign away our economic independence".

"Its terms are unacceptable to this parliament and to this country," Johnson said -- a day after purging more than half the ministers in his predecessor Theresa May's team.

"Today is the first day of a new approach, which will end with our exit from the EU on 31 October," the 55-year-old said.

Johnson has assembled a team of social conservatives and Brexit hardliners who argue that leaving the EU after

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