



Commuting in the port city has become nothing short of an extreme sport. The roads are hardly visible due to waterlogging after the incessant downpour. The photos were taken yesterday from Gate no. 2 area.



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Waterlogging ruins Ctg residents' day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Dhaka

Residents and commuters in low-lying areas of the port city suffered a lot due to waterlogging after incessant downpour yesterday.

"Whenever it rains, roads in the area go under knee-deep water at the least," Abdul Halim, a resident of KB Aman Ali Road in West Bakalia, told this correspondent as he waded through filthy water.

"The city corporation failed to solve this. Now we hear that the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has been implementing a mega project to address waterlogging since 2018, but we have not seen any improvement," he said. "It seems, our suffering will never end," said a disgruntled Halim.

He said he could not find transportation, as motorised vehicles stopped plying on this road while the rickshaw pullers demanded a very high fare.

Water entered many buildings in the area. Some students of Bakalia Adarsha Girls' High School were seen walking back home in the rain, as their usual mode of transportation -- auto-rickshaws -- were not available.

Low-lying areas including Chawkbazar, Bakalia, Muradpur, Kapasgola, Bahaddarhat, Agrabad, Halishahar, Chandgaon and Shulakbahar areas went under knee-deep water.

Chattogram Met Office recorded 94.4mm rain in 24 hours till 3pm yesterday.

"Heavy to moderate rain may continue in the next 24 hours in Chattogram as seasonal wind is active in this area," said met officer Shrikanta Kumar Basak adding that

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Pakistan's name finally removed from border pillars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-eight years after the independence, Bangladesh has completely removed Pakistan's name from all pillars installed along its border with India.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has removed the label "PAKISTAN/PAK" and replaced it with "BANGLADESH/BD" on the border pillars, said a press release of BGB yesterday.

The paramilitary troopers started replacing the labels following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's order in which she observed that some of the pillars in the bordering areas still show Pakistan's name.

After the partition of India-Pakistan in 1947, more than 8,000 pillars were installed, in which "IND-PAK/INDIA-PAKISTAN" label was engraved.



These pillars were in border areas of Satkhira, Jashore, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Panchagarh, Kurigram, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, Cumilla and Chattogram.

People in the bordering areas and those who were aware of the matter were really bothered as the name of Pakistan was not removed from the pillars despite Bangladesh achieving its independence in 1971, added the release.

BGB completed this mammoth task within a short period of time with its own funds, the release added.

RANGPUR-3 BY-POLLS

Will consider if JP wants seat as part of alliance: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said if Jatiya Party wants to contest the Rangpur-3 by-polls from the AL-led alliance, his party will consider it.

In the last general elections, JP had contested for the constituency, as the party got it as per seat distribution of the alliance, Quader said. But now JP is acting as the opposition party in the parliament, and it's up to the party whether it will contest the election separately.

"If they [JP] want the seat as a part of the alliance, Awami League will consider it," Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said. He, however said no formal discussion was held on the issue with JP.

He was speaking to journalists at Setu Bhaban, following signing of a memorandum of understanding between Bangladesh Bridge Authority and a Korean corporation for operation and maintenance of Padma Bridge.

The Rangpur-3 constituency fell vacant following the death of JP chairman HM Ershad. The party has nominated his son Saad Ershad for the seat in the by-election, to be held on October 5.

AL has nominated its Rangpur district General Secretary Rezaul Karim Razu as its candidate for the by-election.

BIMAN PLANE HIJACK ATTEMPT

Police quiz Shimla in Ctg

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Investigators yesterday quizzed film actress Shimla in connection with the sensational case of Biman Bangladesh aircraft hijacking bid at Chattogram Shah Amanat International Airport earlier this year, by her former husband Polash Ahmed. Talking to reporters, Shimla said, "As I divorced him before the incident, I could not say anything about it."

Investigation Officer of the case Inspector Rajesh Barua of Counter Terrorism unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) interrogated Shimla at his office at the Dampara CMP Police Lines from 10am to 1:30pm.

The IO on May 22 sent an official letter to Shimla requesting her to appear before police in connection with the case.

Rajesh told The Daily Star, "Shimla was questioned on several issues about Polash; I have recorded her statement."

"Though some information given by her has already matched with our findings, we will verify her information now," he said, adding that police have recorded statement of 42 persons including Shimla and five passengers of the plane.

POLASH LIED TO IMPRESS SHIMLA: SOURCES

According to police sources, Shimla told police she first met Polash at a coffee shop in Dhaka at the birthday party of producer Rashed Polash in September 2017.

Polash Ahmed introduced himself to Shimla as Mahibi, a London expatriate and a film producer. They exchanged phone numbers at the programme.

Polash told Shimla that his family was settled in London and he had two houses -- one in Dhaka's Uttara and another in Narayanganj.

After a few days, Shimla herself proposed to Polash, without informing her family. They got married on March 6, 2018, she added. After the marriage, Polash rented a flat in Dhaka's Banani, where they lived together.

Shimla told the IO that she left Bangladesh for India seven days after her marriage. During her stay in India, Shimla told Polash she had to stay there for a while due to professional reasons.

Shimla also told police that after four months of marriage, Polash went to

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Ensure foolproof security during Durga Puja: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday warned of tough action if any individual or section tries to hurt religious sentiment and harm communal harmony through spreading propaganda on social media.

The police chief said this while addressing a meeting on law and order and security during the upcoming Durga Puja at the Police Headquarters.

The IGP also instructed all officers to ensure foolproof security during the Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community, said a Police Headquarters press release. This year's Durga Puja will be held on October 4-7.

Javed Patwary urged leaders of Bangladesh Puja Uddhayan Parishad to deploy volunteers during preparation of idols, setting up CCTV cameras and firefighting equipment at the puja mandaps, and use handheld metal detectors.

"Religious harmony has to be upheld, showing respect to other religions," he told the meeting.

The IGP hoped that the religious

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Swecchasebak League leader held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a Swecchasebak League leader and three others with firearms, ammunition and yaba from Mirjajangal area in Sylhet city on Wednesday night.

The arrestees are -- Piyush Kanti Dey, Bappa Paul, Monti Roy and Mohammad Rayhan. Piyush is the vice president of Sylhet district unit of Swecchasebak League, an associate organisation of the ruling Awami League.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab conducted the drive at a house in Mirjajangal area around 11:30pm and arrested four persons with firearms and yaba, said Md Moniruzzaman, additional superintendent of police and media director of Rab-9.

The den was being used by Piyush to meet with his associates, he added. From the den, Rab recovered a revolver, two-round bullets, three sharp weapons and 5,540 pieces yaba, Moniruzzaman said.

"Piyush is accused in a number of cases including mugging, kidnap and arms, and was on the run for a long time," he added.

Rab handed the arrestees to Kotwali Police Station yesterday, and two more cases -- one under arms act and another under narcotics control act -- were filed against the arrestees, said Selim Miah, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Later in the day, the arrestees were produced before Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Jihadur Rahman's Court and the court ordered to send them to jail, said Amulya Kumar Chowdhury, assistant commissioner (prosecution) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

Earlier on January 22, Piyush was arrested by police in a ransom case, but he came out of jail on bail a couple of weeks later.

There are 16 cases filed against Piyush with different police stations in the city, according to police and Rab sources.

The latest of them was filed on August 7, over an attack on three expatriates in Zindabazar area of the city.



The "Rupali Guitar" (silver guitar), a monument in loving memory of late musician Ayub Bachchu, awaits unveiling on Prabartak intersection of his hometown Chattogram. The structure was brought to the spot recently, and will be unveiled after some additional beautification works on the roundabout are completed. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Road crashes kill 5

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and another was injured in road accidents in four districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents and a news agency.

In Sirajganj, at least two people were killed as a pickup collided head-on with a bus on Bogura-Nagarbari highway in Tabaripara area of Raiganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Anwarul Islam, 40, driver of the pickup; and Nazrul Islam, 40, said Hatikumrul Highway Police Station OC Md Akteruzzaman.

In Narail, a mechanised three-wheeler driver was killed and another injured as the vehicle fell into a ditch beside Gobra-Nawapara road in Agdia-Chourasta area yesterday.

The victims could not be identified immediately, said Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Illius Hossain.

The accident occurred as the driver lost control over the vehicle, said the OC.

The injured, helper of the driver, was treated at Khulna Medical College Hospital, he added.

In Dinajpur, a man was killed as pickup hit him while he was crossing Bochaganj-Kaharol road at Sidahar Bazar in Bochaganj upazila on Wednesday night, said witnesses.

The deceased was identified as Rabiul Islam, 46, from Motizapur village in Bochaganj.

BSS from Lalmonirhat adds, a man was killed as a truck hit his motorcycle in Kaliganj upazila on Wednesday night, said police.

The deceased was identified as Julhash Bania, 32, from Hatibandha upazila.

Stolen baby rescued, two arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday rescued a stolen baby and arrested two people in this connection in Chattogram.

The arrestees -- Rehana Parvin, 40, and Didarul Alam, 55 -- are from Raipur of Fatikchhari upazila, said police.

A couple -- Omar Faruk, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, and Sharmin Akter -- lived with their eight-month-old son Saimun at a slum in the city's Boubazar, said Chandgaon Police Station Inspector (investigation) Abdur Rahim.

One of their neighbours stole the baby from their house on Monday, he said.

On allegation, police came to know that the

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Biman gets new CEO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mokabbir Hossain, additional secretary to civil aviation and tourism ministry, has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

The public administration ministry issued a notice in this regard yesterday. Mokabbir confirmed The Daily Star about his new appointment.

The board of directors came up with the decision following a meeting chaired by its Chairman Air Marshal (ret'd) Muhammad Enamul Bari.

In March this year, Biman circulated a recruitment notice looking for candidates for the posts of CEO and MD. An experience of 20 years in the aviation sector was required.

Around 70 applicants, including 12 foreigners, applied for the job, Biman sources said.

Capt Farhat Hassan Jamil, who previously served as the director of flight operations in Biman, was made the acting CEO and MD of the airlines in April this year after the previous CEO, AM Mosaddique Ahmed, was relieved on charges of corruption.

According to Biman insiders, Abdul Momen was the last bureaucrat who served as Biman MD and CEO nine years ago. Since then, airline officials have held the post.

Sources said the government opted to appoint a bureaucrat from the respective ministry due to civil aviation ministry's recent drive against widespread corruption in Biman, including taking lease of aircraft and illegal commission business in selling of ticket.

DU 'Ga' unit admission test today

UNB, Dhaka

The entry test for 2019-20 session under "Ga" unit -- business studies faculty -- of Dhaka University will be held today.

The test will be held from 10am to 11am at 56 centres across the capital and on campus. A total of 29,058 students will vie for 1,250 seats, said a DU press release yesterday.

Meanwhile, the admission test for "Cha" unit under the fine arts faculty will be held from 10am to 11am at 19 centres on the campus tomorrow. A total of 16,001 aspirants will vie for 135 seats.

No electronic devices will be allowed in the exam halls. For more information such as seat plans one can visit the university website.

9 DB police imposters held for abducting 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday rescued four persons, including two Dubai expatriates, and arrested nine persons who abducted them -- introducing themselves as Detective Branch (DB) of police -- from the port city's Bakalia area.

The arrestees are -- Md Sohag, 24; Md Jahidur Alam, 23; Md Abu Helal, 28; Md Sakil, 24; Md Ibrahim, 20; Md Imran, 26; Md Mujib, 25; Md Sowkat Ali, 26; and Md Shahab Uddin, 19.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bakalia Police Station, Nezam Uddin, said the nine are active operatives of a gang who used to abduct people, posing as DB police officials.

Introducing themselves as DB police, the gang stormed a house at Abdul Latif Hatkhola area of Bakalia and nabbed four persons on Wednesday night. They were confined in a room of a house near a girls' madrasa in Hatkhola area, said the OC.

The gang later called relatives of the two expatriates and demanded Tk five lakh as ransom.

The victims' relatives informed police about the incident, said the OC, adding that police later detained two of the gang members when they withdrew money from a bKash stall.

Police later arrested seven others of the gang and rescued the four victims, said the OC.

A case was lodged in this connection.