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"How can we say that the VC has mismanaged funds when not a single penny was released for the project?"
DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER MOHIBUL HASSAN CHOWDHURY, REPLYING TO A QUERY ON JU VC (PAGE 16)



"Non-Performing Loan is the main challenge. The government is trying to ensure single digit lending rate, which is encouraging."
DCCI PRESIDENT OSAMA TASEER (PAGE B1)



"The values upon which Europe is founded... they are anything but self-evident."
GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN WALL FALL (PAGE 8)

Weakened Bulbul crosses coast

Makes landfall in West Bengal, enters Bangladesh thru' Sundarbans; 21 lakh evacuated in 14 dists

STAR REPORT

Cyclone Bulbul lost strength and entered Bangladesh through the Sundarbans in Khulna around midnight yesterday, after making landfall at Sagar Island in the southern part of India's West Bengal.

The cyclone left at least five people injured in Bhola's Lalmohan upazila and Char Hardinge. Around 15 houses were damaged in the upazila, said fire service sources.

Mahmudur Hasan, divisional forest officer in the Sundarbans (East), early today said the cyclone's eye crossed the Bangladesh coast with low tide in the Bay.

The wind speed was between 100 and 120 km per hour at that time, according to the Met office.

In a special bulletin around 11:00pm, the Met office had said "Bulbul" weakened into a "severe" cyclone from a "very severe" one and moved northeast at a speed of about 8kph.

It started crossing the West Bengal-Khulna coast near the Sundarbans around 9:00pm, according to the bulletin.

The Met office also said the storm was likely to pass through Cumilla and move towards India's Tripura today.

Since yesterday morning, the Bay had



SOURCE: SKYMET WEATHER

been rough due to the cyclone. Many areas across the country, including the capital, experienced rain throughout the day.

At least 151 fishermen from Bhola, Barguna and Patuakhali, who had gone to the sea, were missing till last night.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Enamur Rahman said around 21 lakh people were evacuated to more than 5,500 cyclone centres in 14 districts, including Satkhira, Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali, Barishal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat and Khulna.

Ministry sources said more than 55,000 volunteers worked for the evacuation in the districts.

Our correspondents reported that using megaphones, the volunteers requested

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Waves crash over the shoreline in Akmal Ali area of Chattogram city yesterday afternoon, hours before Cyclone Bulbul made landfall. Though the cyclone entered Bangladesh through the Sundarbans, its impact was felt in other coastal regions, including Chattogram.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

No cyclone shelter in 8 coastal islands

15,000 exposed to cyclone Bulbul; 1,000 tourists stranded at hotels on St Martin's Island

STAR REPORT

No cyclone or safe shelter can be found in eight coastal islands under Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila, leaving some 15,000 people vulnerable to the natural calamity.

The islands are -- Char Kashem, Char Kalagachia, Char Kankuni, Char Maishor, Char Najir, Char Tojammel, Char Kawkhali and Char Lata.

The islands have no concrete structures either, meaning there is no place to seek refuge from cyclones, locals said.

"We have no safe shelter. We have to depend on Allah whenever any natural disaster hits our area," said Jannat Begum, 25, a resident of the remote Char Kasem.

"I was pregnant when Sidr had hit our area in 2007. At the time, our entire home was flooded. I saved myself by climbing a

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No funds for univs if provocation is on

Says PM about student-teacher protests on campuses

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would stop providing funds to public universities if their teachers did not stop provocative activities to take their students down the wrong path in the name of movement.

"The government will stop all funding... Why should the government provide funds? These are autonomous institutions. Now you have to think what you will do," she said.

The PM was addressing the 13th council of Jatiya Sramik League, an associate body of the ruling Awami League, at the Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

She said nobody would ever accept taking students down the wrong path through provocation and uttering ugly words. "If it is done, then you will have to find your own funding, manage your own salaries, and bear your education costs yourself."

Hasina, also the AL president, said the students of public universities can pursue higher education as the government allocates funds for their universities through the University Grants Commission.

"No country in the world provides higher education at such a low cost.... It's true that autonomy is there [university]. But who is paying the money? It's the government."

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It's based on law, not faith

Says Indian diplomat in Dhaka on SC verdict

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Indian Supreme Court's judgment that cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple on the disputed land in Ayodhya is based on law, not on faith, said an Indian diplomat in Dhaka.

"This is a legal issue relating to a title suit concerning ownership of land, not faith," he told The Daily Star, following the landmark judgement yesterday.

The five-member bench of the Indian apex court gave the disputed Ayodhya land to Hindu entity Ramjanmabhumi Trust and ordered that an alternate 5-acre land, which lies in a prominent place in Ayodhya, be given

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Disputed land for temple, separate plot for mosque

Rules Indian SC in Ayodhya case; Modi appeals for peace, harmony; Muslim groups call for calm

AGENCIES

India's Supreme Court finally put to rest the politically sensitive Ayodhya land dispute delivering a rather balanced verdict yesterday in the title suit.

In a landmark judgement, a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi ruled that the disputed 2.77-acre land will be taken over by a government trust for the construction of a temple, while a suitable alternative plot of land measuring 5 acres at a prominent site in Ayodhya will be given to UP Sunni Central Wakf Board for a mosque.

The Indian Supreme Court has asked the Centre to set up the board of trustees within three months after which the disputed land will be handed over to the trust.

The ruling in the dispute between Hindu



and Muslim groups paves the way for the construction of a Hindu temple on the site, a proposal long supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu-nationalist party.

Yesterday's judgement, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its backers, was criticised as unfair by a lawyer for the Muslim group involved in the case.

However, the group's leader said ultimately it would accept the verdict and called for peace between India's majority Hindus and Muslims, who constitute 14% of its 1.3 billion people.

In 1992, a Hindu mob destroyed the 16th-century Babri Mosque on the site, triggering riots in which about 2,000

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Miladunnabi today

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the day of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), is being observed in the country today with due religious solemnity.

On this day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Muhammad (SM) was born in Makkah of Saudi Arabia with divine blessings and messages of peace for mankind. He also passed away on the same day.

The day is a public holiday.

Muslims across the country will offer special prayers marking the day.

Different religious and socio-cultural organisations, political parties, mosques and

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. Stay tuned to our website for round-the-clock news coverage.



Three-wheelers parked on Dhaka-Chattogram highway near Mograpara intersection in Narayanganj's Sonargaon have left little room for traffic. Inset, the other side of the road is also almost occupied by parked vehicles. Inconsiderate parking is one of the avoidable causes of congestion. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tigers eye historic series win

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Nagpur

The series tied 1-1, Bangladesh have the chance to make history with a win when they face India in the third and final T20I at Nagpur's Vidarbha Cricket Stadium today.

The Tigers clinched a historic first-ever T20I win against India in the first T20I following Mushfiqur Rahim's brilliance before India levelled the series with a win at Rajkot.

The Tigers arrived in Nagpur on November 8th and the T20I squad were yesterday joined by eight members of the Test team with captain Mominul Haque and Co. joining the rest of the team at the Stadium in Vidarbha.

With the series levelled 1-1, the third T20I will be like a final where the winner takes all.

However, Bangladesh's recent close defeats to India during the Nidahas Trophy and the Asia Cup finals might mean that India will have a slight mental edge going into this match.

The pitch will be a deciding factor in this game after the Delhi wicket provided some favours to Bangladesh's style of play while the Rajkot wicket afforded more options to India's strokeplay ability.

Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo was confident about his side's ability to play well and clinch the series and turn things around after the defeat at Rajkot.

"I am really proud of the way the boys have played thus far. In the second game we got ourselves into a good situation with the bat and then maybe made a few mistakes. We are confident that if we can play to our potential, we can push India and beat them on any day," Domingo said yesterday.

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