



Flood can worsen late this month

STAR REPORT

Water levels in different rivers of the country may rise again by the end of this month which may lead to fresh flooding in some areas.

“Rise in water levels may begin by the end of August and it may continue till mid-September,” said Md Arifuzzaman, executive engineer of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

However, there is no possibility of severe flooding at that time, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Normally, rivers see a slight swell between the end of August and mid-September every year. This may happen this year too.

Replying to a question, Arifuzzaman said around 40 percent area of the country was inundated by flooding this year.

The duration was so long that the flood-hit people had to endure sufferings for about 45 days in phases, said the official.

Over 54 lakh people have so far been affected by floods in 165 upazilas under 33 districts across the country, according to the latest report of the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC).

The report on Monday said water levels in all major rivers, including the Padma, Jamuna, Brahmaputra and Kushiara, are showing a falling trend. This will improve the flood situation across the country.

People living in low-lying areas adjacent to the capital will get relief as the overall flood situation will also improve there.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A boat plies in inundated Suknagar area of the capital's Manda. The area has been like this for a while after flood water coupled with heavy rain submerged most of the neighbourhood. Many locals had to use boats just to get to work and back. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SIKDER BROTHERS Bail petition from abroad world's first

Observes HC in rejection order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anticipatory bail petition filed by Sikder Group Managing Director Ron Haque Sikder and his brother Dipu Haque Sikder from abroad was unprecedented in the world, the High Court observed yesterday.

“Such an unprecedented anticipatory bail application is the first in the history of the world. Of course, all the courts across the world have watched this anticipatory bail application with curiosity and have become astonished and stunned to see the extreme of our law,” it said.

The bench of Justice Md Ashraf Kamal made the observation in the full text of its order that on July 20 fined Ron and his brother Dipu for seeking anticipatory bail from abroad in a case filed over abducting, torturing, and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

DEADLY BEIRUT BLAST Angry Lebanese call for change after govt quits

REUTERS, Beirut

Angry Lebanese said the government's resignation on Monday did not come near to addressing the tragedy of last week's Beirut explosion and demanded the removal of what they see as a corrupt ruling class to blame for the country's woes.

A protest with the slogan “Bury the authorities first” was planned near the port, where highly explosive material stored for years detonated on August 4, killing at least 163 people, injuring 6,000 and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab, announcing his cabinet's resignation, blamed endemic graft for the explosion, the biggest in Beirut's history and which compounded a deep financial crisis that has collapsed the currency, paralysed the banking system and forced up prices.

“I said before that corruption is rooted in every juncture of the state but I have discovered that corruption is greater than the state,” he said, blaming the political elite for blocking reforms.

Talks with the International Monetary

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangladesh stands for peace

August 12, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

OBJECTION AT UN COUNCIL ILLOGICAL, IRRELEVANT

The objection raised at the Security Council against Bangladesh's entry into the UN are politely but firmly rejected as illogical and irrelevant by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at a press conference today in Dhaka.

The question of non-implementation of the UN resolution, the foreign minister observes, is a deliberate and motivated attempt to mislead people and divert attention from the focal point -- the rights of a nation of 75 million people.

The Security Council Resolution of December 21, 1971 called for i) a durable cease-fire and cessation of all hostilities in all areas of conflict be strictly observed, ii) all Member States to refrain from any action which may aggravate the situation in the subcontinent or endanger international peace, and iii) all those concerned to take all measures necessary to preserve human life.

That hostility has ceased in Bangladesh is as clear as broad daylight, says Abdus Samad Azad. The provisions of the above mentioned Resolution do not in any manner preclude Bangladesh's case on the plea of non-implementation, he adds. The minister further say that Bangladesh stands for peace and the country has also been following the universally accepted principles of civilised administration to preserve peace and harmony.

MASTER PLAN FOR FLOOD CONTROL

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BRAIN CLOT SURGERY Condition of Pranab remains critical

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The condition of India's former president Pranab Mukherjee, who tested positive for coronavirus and underwent a surgery on Monday night to remove a clot in his brain, remains critical, the hospital where he is being treated said yesterday.

“Post-surgery, Pranab Mukherjee continues to remain critical. He is on ventilator support,” the Army Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi said in a statement.

It said the medical examination of Pranab “revealed large brain clot for which he underwent emergency life-saving surgery.”

Pranab, 84, was admitted to Army Hospital (R&R) in Delhi Cantonment on Monday

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Stunning 'reverse waterfalls' filmed near Sydney



MAIL ONLINE

Wild weather has forced two waterfalls to fly backwards into the air as huge waves batter the coastline beneath.

The reverse waterfalls were created as 70 km/h winds hit a cliff in the Royal National Park south of Sydney, causing the water to blow up and backward.

A video posted to the Bundeena visitor site shows the natural phenomenon occurring on Monday.

It captured the exact moment a rainbow forms in the mist from the reverse waterfall and casts a colourful light across the coast.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Chased, two teens jump into river, drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

During a clash of two groups of youths, two students, whilst being chased, jumped into the Shitalakshya river and drowned in Narayanganj's Bandar upazila around Monday noon, police said.

The victims are M Mihad, 18, a student of Kadamrasul College, and Md Zisan, 15, a class-IX student of BM Union High School.

Quoting witnesses,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 12

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:25	12:45	4:45	6:41	8:00
JAMAAT 5:00	1:15	5:00	6:44	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Woman, teen raped in N'ganj, Dinajpur

STAR REPORT

A garment worker and a college student have allegedly been raped in two incidents in Narayanganj and Dinajpur.

The garment worker, 22, was gang-raped by five unidentified youths in Narayanganj's Araihaazar upazila on Saturday.

The college girl, 20, was raped after being abducted by five youths on Monday afternoon when she and her male classmate went to visit Sheikh Russell National Park in Dinajpur's Nawabganj upazila.

The victim in Narayanganj filed a case with Araihaazar Police Station in this connection on Monday night, Araihaazar OC Nazrul Islam said yesterday.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said five youths intercepted the 22-year-old girl on a road in Kakail area around 8:00pm on Saturday when she was returning

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Two hand wash basins lie abandoned in New Market area of Chattogram city. At the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, the authorities had installed such hand washing facilities at different point of the port city to protect people from the coronavirus. Many of them, however, have come to such sorry state due to lack of maintenance. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

NZ reports first case after 102 days

Brings back Covid-19 restrictions; cases in India top 2.26m

AGENCIES

New Zealand's dream run of 102 days without locally transmitted coronavirus ended yesterday, prompting a stay-at-home lockdown order for the country's largest city.

After receiving global praise for successfully containing the virus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said four cases had been detected in a single family in Auckland from an unknown source.

“After 102 days, we have our first cases of Covid-19 outside of managed isolation or quarantine facilities... we have also planned and prepared for it,” Ardern said.

As a result of the infections, mobile phones nationwide received an emergency text that set off blaring alerts and said “if you are in Auckland STAY HOME... and SAVE LIVES”.

Until yesterday, the World Health Organization had hailed New Zealand as an example to others for having “successfully eliminated community transmission”.

It has reported just 22 deaths in a population of five million and had previously held off community transmission since May 1.

Kiwis had enjoyed a near-normal lifestyle with no social distancing and spectators allowed at sports and cultural events, although borders were strictly controlled.

But health authorities had repeatedly warned people not to be complacent and said a second wave of infections was “inevitable”.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2