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AMPHAN AFTERMATH

600 families still living on embankment

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

It has been 10 months since the cyclone Amphan hit Bangladesh, but over 600 families have still been living on an embankment at Kashirhatkhola point in Khulna's Koyra upazila.



Shwapon Bain, a 73-year-old victim of the cyclone, recently talked to The Daily Star about the sufferings of his family.

"We live under the open sky and are left with no work or income source. How long can we survive like this?" he said.

The septuagenarian man then said he once had everything starting from house to farmlands and cattle. "But now I am homeless."

He, along with his 10-member family, has been living on the embankment for around 10 months since the cyclone hit Bangladesh on May 20 last year.

"Our entire village was inundated as multiple portions of the embankment along the Kopotakkho were breached by the cyclone," he said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



A father, carrying his infant in arms, walks from Panthapath towards Jatrabari as he found no public transport on the streets. Many others also suffered due to vehicles shortage and blockades at different points in the capital due to movement of VIPs. The photo was taken near Pantha Kunja Park near Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

DEADLY CRASH IN RAJSHAHI Bus driver held for reckless driving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested the driver of the Hanif Enterprise bus that collided with a microbus in Rajshahi on Friday, leaving 17 passengers of the microbus dead, 11 of whom were burnt alive when the vehicle caught fire.

Md Abdur Rahim, 35, of Baroipara village of Puthia upazila, was arrested from Mahindra Bypass under Belpukur Police Station around 2:00pm, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Golam Ruhul Kuddus said.

On Friday night, Sub-inspector of Rajshahi's Katakhal Police Station Nur Mohammad filed a case with the police station against Md Abdur Rahim, who was driving the bus that collided with the Toyota HiAce, the ADC said.

The driver was made the lone accused in the case for reckless driving, endangering human life and public safety and for committing "culpable homicide" which does not amount to murder, the police official said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'The rights of citizens have been violated'

20 eminent citizens say about action on 'anti-Modi' protesters

STAR REPORT

Twenty eminent citizens in a joint statement yesterday demanded punishment for those responsible for attacking "anti-Modi" protesters and carrying out violence in Chattogram's Hathazari in the last couple of days.

"We think that Bangladeshi citizens have the right to stage protests over the arrival of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But it is a matter of grave concern that people from different walks of life and some progressive student organisations have become victims of torture by police and Chhatra League while staging protests in the last couple of days," said the statement.

Besides, a tragic incident took place in Chattogram where four madrasa students were shot dead by police, it said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Selective genocide' continues

MARCH 28, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

DAMPARA RESISTANCE

In Dampara Police Lines, Chittagong, Bangalee police personnel put up a brave resistance. But they could not hold on for long as they were not trained in the art of warfare. They suffered heavy casualties and abandoned their post when they were about to be overrun by the Pakistan army.

By the dawn of March 28, Pakistan army managed to secure the main road from the cantonment to the naval base at Tiger Pass. Bangalee troops had to fall back on their main defence at Halishahar. From the direction of the port, the Pakistan army attempted several times during the day to clear Agrabad road and link up with the naval base at Tiger Pass. But Bangalee forces' stiff resistance foiled all their attempts. [Rafiqul Islam, A Tale of Millions, Adeyebros & Co, 1974, pg. 92]

The Swadhin Bangla Betar today requested peace-loving countries of the world to give recognition to Swadhin Bangladesh and sought physical assistance of all types to liberate the democratic minded people of the new country.

It was further announced that from tomorrow broadcast from the centre might be heard on

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Namita Ghosh passes away

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Namita Ghosh, the first female voice artiste of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, passed away at a city hospital on Friday night.

The 63-year-old singer was suffering from cancer and eye conditions. She tested positive for Covid-19 earlier this month.

Born in Shakhari Bazar of Old Dhaka on October 6, 1958, to Hareh Chandra Ghosh and Joshoda Ghosh, Namita had four brothers and three sisters. Her ancestral home is in Bikrampur.

She was diagnosed with cancer last year. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had provided her with Tk 20 lakh for treatment.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Voting starts in West Bengal, Assam polls

1 killed amid sporadic violence

AGENCIES

Voters in India's Assam and West Bengal cast their ballots yesterday in elections that will indicate how Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support is holding up after a year of the coronavirus pandemic and months of protests against his farm reforms.

Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah campaigned energetically for their Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in West Bengal, encouraging defections from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party, whose firebrand leader Mamata Banerjee has been chief minister since 2011.

Victory in the eastern region of 90

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 28

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-45	12-45	4-45	6-20	7-45
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	5-00	6-25	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People trying to give samples for coronavirus tests in the capital's Mugda General Hospital. Among them, a group of players scheduled to go abroad for an international tournament, are also queuing up. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Man held for raping 9-yr-old in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested a man on charge of raping a nine-year-old girl in Sylhet's Sadar upazila.

The arrestee, Islam Uddin, 27, of the upazila's Baishtila area, is an auto-rickshaw driver.

Khan Md Mainul Jakir, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station in Sylhet, said, "The victim lives with her parental aunt in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

European countries tighten virus curbs

Situation 'critical' in France; Philippines to put 24 million into lockdown

AFP, Paris

France, Belgium and Poland yesterday tightened curbs as coronavirus cases surged in Europe while the Philippines prepared for a giant lockdown and Chile confined over 80 percent of its population.

France has admitted that the situation is "critical" and added three more departments to the 16 already under tight restrictions.

Around 20 million people in France, including those in the greater Paris region, are classed as living in high-infection zones.

They are not allowed to travel further than 10 kilometres (six miles) from their home unless they have an essential reason.

Checks at train stations, airports and toll-paying motorways began yesterday to enforce the travel restrictions.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

It's the time for Bangladesh

Time to be back, to be a part of the next story.

Some have returned. Some are here for the first time. Leaving behind the world's biggest cities with flashy lifestyle and boundless opportunities. They are here with enterprising ideas to contribute and grow. To create possibilities and change the nation's course for the next 50. With our global network and deep rooted expertise, Standard Chartered is here to be their partner in progress to accelerate their ambitions.

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