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River erosion may eat up 28sq km area

Forecasts a govt research organisation; 13 districts likely to be affected

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Rivers are likely to erode about 28 square kilometres of land this year, which is more than the land eroded last year, according to a research body of the water resources ministry.

The Jamuna, the Ganges and the Padma will aggressively erode their banks in at least 13 districts, said a report from the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS).

At least 24 sq km of bank disappeared into the rivers in 2020.

The latest report titled Riverbank Erosion Prediction for 2021 said Madaripur might be the worst-hit district where 9.54 sq km of land will be gone in the coming months.

The other particularly vulnerable districts are Kurigram, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Bogura, Sirajganj, Tangail, Manikganj, Pabna, Kushtia, Rajbari, Rajshahi, and Faridpur.

In Tangail, 4.94 sq km of land will be eroded. In Gaibandha and Rajbari, the researchers predict that people will lose 2.91 sq km and 2.88 sq km of land respectively.

Riverbank erosion is one of the major natural disasters in Bangladesh as it makes thousands of people homeless and landless every year.

The damages done to the banks by the frequent and

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In her flooded home in Narayanganj city's Adarshanagar area, a woman cooks sitting on a bench while the stove is placed on a taller bench. Due to poor drainage, only a few days of rain makes residents suffer a full-on flood. The water is about a metre deep in some parts of the neighbourhood. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Combined entry test for public univs postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty general and science and technology universities have postponed holding of uniform admission tests due to Covid-19.

The authorities of the universities made the decision in a virtual meeting yesterday afternoon.

After the meeting, vice-chancellors of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed and Barisal University Prof Sadequ Arefin confirmed the postponement of the admission tests, which were scheduled for June 19, 26 and July 3.

"We will announce the fresh dates for the admission tests observing the Covid-19 situation," said Prof Farid Uddin.

He said primary application process of 20 general, science and technical universities will continue till 11:59pm on June 25.

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Trafficked by husband into India for Tk 40k

20-yr-old survivor sues nine after escape from gang in Chennai

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Two years ago, when she was 18, Tania (not her real name) married Jahidul Islam Rony, 27, a conductor of a city bus.

Their days were passing well until she discovered that her husband was a drug addict and irregular in his job.

Following ups and downs in their conjugal life, Rony one day told Tania that he was trying to manage a job for her in India with a monthly salary of Tk 30,000. He also said the job would change her luck and she believed it.

Rony then took Tania to a "madam", a trafficker, in the capital's Hatirjheel area who tricked her into going to India, promising her a job at an old age home in Chennai. Reaching there, Tania discovered that her husband had sold her to a sex trafficking racket for Tk 40,000.

Luckily, the 20-year-old recently escaped from Chennai, returned to Dhaka after four months, and filed a case against nine people, including her husband, with

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh issue will linger: Indira Gandhi

JUNE 12, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

US URGES INDIANS AND PAKISTANIS TO USE RESTRAINT

The United States appealed today to India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and urged the Pakistanis to restore normalcy in East Pakistan through "peaceful political accommodation".

It was the first public statement by the United States on the situation in the subcontinent since the Pakistani army on March 25 began quelling the Bangladesh movement for autonomy and later for independence.

The statement reflected the increasing concern that hostilities might erupt between India and Pakistan if the massive movement of Bangladeshi refugees into India was not halted.

The latest figures available to the state department indicated that more than five million refugees had crossed the borders into India. This represented more than seven percent of East Pakistan's population. Refugees were reported still entering India at a rate of more than 100,000 a day.

A cholera epidemic was spreading among the refugees, and the state department announced today that three United States Air Force planes were delivering a million doses of anticholera vaccine to India. The planes are to participate in a refugee airlift.

INDIRA GANDHI'S PRESS CONFERENCE

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Khaleda has no post-Covid complications

Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia currently does not have any post-Covid complications, but she is still at risk because of her old age, the party said yesterday.

"The latest statement from the medical board formed to treat madam [Khaleda] shows that she is doing much better if we go by the post-Covid parameters," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a press conference at Khaleda's Gulshan office.

"There are, however, some issues which are worrying. One is that her heart and kidney problems are acute. The medical board at Evercare Hospital is concerned about them."

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New 'weird' planet with 'unknown' atmosphere found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A 'weird' planet recently discovered has excited scientists in their hunt for extraterrestrial life.

Researchers from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the University of New Mexico discovered exoplanet TOI-1231 b orbiting an M dwarf star - otherwise known as a red dwarf.

Scientists were able to characterise that star, and measure both the radius and the mass of TOI-1231 b. This then gave them the necessary data to calculate density, and hypothesise what the atmosphere is made of.

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12 Rohingyas detained in Noakhali

They fled Bhasan Char settlement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police yesterday detained 12 Rohingyas in Noakhali's Comaniganj upazila for fleeing a refugee camp at Bhasan Char in the district's Hatiya upazila.

According to the law enforcers, Abdul Halim, a local of Comaniganj upazila's Char Elahi Dakkhin Ghat, first traced the Rohingyas around 10:00am.

He then held the Rohingyas with the help of other locals.

On information, police went to the spot and took the Rohingyas into custody.

During primary quizzing, the Rohingyas said they fled the refugee camp with the help of some brokers and were heading towards Cox's Bazar through a boat.

Instead of going to Cox's Bazar, the brokers anchored the boat at Char

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Delta variant 60pc more transmissible

Says UK govt

AFP, London

The British government yesterday said that the new Delta coronavirus variant is 60 percent more transmissible in households than the variant that forced the UK to lock down in January.

The Delta variant, which first emerged in India, has caused a rise in cases in Britain, prompting questions about whether social distancing restrictions will be lifted as planned from June 21.

New research from Public Health England "suggests that the Delta variant is associated with an approximately 60

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL JUNE 12

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Climate activists hold up placards on either side of an inflated Pikachu doll, a character of popular Japanese media franchise "Pokemon", in front of the National Press Club yesterday. With the G-7 summit starting yesterday, 20 young climate activists raised various demands in a joint venture between Bangladesh Foreign Debt Working Group and Youthnet for Climate Justice.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

POST-COUP MYANMAR Myanmar violence escalating, creating 'rights catastrophe'

Says UN rights chief

AFP, Geneva

The UN rights chief yesterday said that violence was escalating across Myanmar, warning that the country had plunged into a "human rights catastrophe" since the February 1 coup.

Pointing to reported military build-up in several regions of the country, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called for a halt to the already spiralling violence to avert even greater loss of life and a deepening humanitarian emergency.

"In just over four months, Myanmar has gone from being a fragile democracy to a human rights catastrophe," she said in a statement, adding that the military leadership was "singularly responsible" for the crisis.

The country has been in turmoil since the generals ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1.

The UN rights office yesterday pointed to credible reports showing that at least 860 civilians had been killed in a brutal crackdown by security forces on near-daily protests against the coup.

Fighting has flared in several communities -- especially in townships that have seen a high death toll at the hands of police -- and some locals have formed "defence forces".

Bachelet pointed to intensifying violence in many parts of Myanmar, including Kayah State, Chin State and Kachin State, "with the violence particularly intense in areas with significant ethnic and religious minority groups".

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