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Over 30,000 marooned in two districts

Flood situation worsens in Sirajganj, Lalmonirhat; water level of Jamuna, Teesta rises further

STAR REPORT

The overall flood situation in Sirajganj and Lalmonirhat worsened yesterday as the water level in the Jamuna and Teesta rivers increased further.

Around 30,000 people have been marooned in the two districts.

Thousands of people, living in the low-lying areas and the shoals of the Teesta in Lalmonirhat, were affected as the river was flowing above the danger level.

Floodwater eroded a portion of Rupshi-Ghatbari road, disrupting road communications between five villages in Jalalpur union of Sirajganj's Shahzadpur upazila.

Around 15,000 people have been marooned in 40 villages in Lalmonirhat's five upazilas as low-lying villages and char land of the Teesta river basin have been flooded due to onrush of water from upstream for the last two days.

Floodwater entered houses and also submerged roads, said locals.

The Teesta was flowing 10cm above danger mark at Teesta Barrage point in Hatibandha upazila yesterday noon, said Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Lalmonirhat.

All the 44 gates of the Teesta Barrage have been kept open since Thursday night as there was heavy flow of water

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Two men on a raft made from banana trees navigating the flooded area of Gobordhan village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila yesterday. Locals are using such rafts for transport and communication as all roads are submerged with the Teesta river flowing above the danger level.

PHOTO: SDILIP ROY

World hunger rose steeply in 2020

Says Oxfam

AFF, Paris

World hunger rose steeply in 2020, with six times more people living in "famine-like conditions" than in 2019, rights group Oxfam said yesterday.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated existing crises sparked by conflict and climate change -- the "three lethal Cs" -- according to the group.

"Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, vulnerable communities around the world have been sending a clear, urgent and repeated message: 'Hunger may kill us before coronavirus'. Today, deaths from hunger are outpacing the virus," it said in a statement.

Oxfam calculates that 11 people a minute are likely dying from acute hunger, compared to seven people a minute from Covid-19.

The group identified places including Yemen, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Syria as countries where existing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



'A thoughtful gesture'

Says Modi about Hasina's gift of mangoes

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Termining the sending of mangoes by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "a thoughtful gesture", her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi has said it reminded him of the generous hospitality of Bangladesh during his visit in March.

"I am touched by your thoughtful gesture of sending me mangoes from Bangladesh. It was a pleasant reminder of your generous hospitality in Dhaka extended to me during my recent visit to Bangladesh," Modi said in a letter to Hasina on Monday.

Modi and other South Asian leaders came to Dhaka to join the weeklong celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence on March 26 and the Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

World Bank report disclosed

JULY 10, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

WORLD BANK REPORT ON HORROR IN PAKISTAN

World Bank board members today received copies of an outspoken report on the dire situation in East Pakistan. The report was prepared by the World Bank and earlier last week Robert McNamara, the World Bank's president, had decided to withdraw it and expunge it from the official record. However, McNamara had to reverse his decision on July 9 after it had leaked to newspapers that the report had been suppressed.

The report was prepared by Peter Cargill, the World Bank's director for South East Asia.

The World Bank report claimed that the reign of terror by government troops continued in East Pakistan, the economy was paralysed and urban life was badly shattered. It said guerrillas were still fighting against Pakistan President Yahya Khan's regime. It apprehended that widespread famine could develop in the autumn.

The Yahya regime was living in isolation and as a consequence was ignorant of world opinion and even the situation in East Pakistan, added the report.

AWAMI LEAGUE MUST PLAY ITS ROLE: BHUTTO
Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, called for a reconciliation within the Pakistan framework. Bhutto, who had been on an unofficial visit to Iran, said in an interview with a Tehran newspaper that there must be a political settlement and the Awami League must play its part. The sooner it came about the better, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



ARANI IN RAJSHAHI Municipality mayor held over attack on AL leader

Drugs, arms seized from his house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested Arani municipality Mayor Muktar Ali in Pabna's Pakshey area early yesterday on charge of attacking an Awami League leader and his family members.

Acting on a tip-off, detectives arrested him from a relative's house around 5:00am, Rajshahi SP ABM Masud Hossain said at a press conference on his office premises.

Police then took him to his house in Arani of Rajshahi's Bagha upazila and recovered four bottles of Phensedyl, 100gm of cannabis, a local firearms and cash Tk 1.32 lakh.

Police also arrested his aide Rajan Ali, 30, who was with him, the SP said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

World's deepest pool opens in Dubai



CNN ONLINE

Already home to the world's tallest skyscraper and the world's largest mall, Dubai has just opened another record-breaking attraction -- the deepest dive pool in the world.

With a staggering depth of 60 metres (196 feet), the pool, part of the new Deep Dive Dubai attraction -- has stolen the record from Poland's Deepspot, which has a depth of over 45 metres.

The Deep Dive Dubai pool is filled with 14 million litres of fresh water -- the volume of six Olympic-sized swimming pools -- and is at least

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CLIMATE CHANGE Provide funds for adaptation mechanism

Momen urges developed nations, financial bodies

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen called upon different developed and developing countries as well as international financial institutions to fund the South Asia Regional office of Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) in Dhaka for promoting adaptation mechanisms.

"It is important to fund this entity (GCA) ... for promoting and disseminating locally based adaptation mechanisms," he said while addressing the virtual 7th V20 1st Climate Vulnerable Finance Summit on Thursday night.

The foreign minister also urged the platform of V20 to establish a fund for "Climate Migrants" rehabilitation and reintegration to societies, "otherwise they could be a security risk".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Argentina, Brazil clash for title

SPORTS REPORTER

The iconic Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro will pitch arch-rivals Brazil and Argentina against each other for the Copa America 2021 title on Sunday. The marquee match will kick off at 6:00 am Bangladesh time and will be telecast live on SONY SIX, TEN 1 & TEN 2 channels.

The Brazilians have set their sights on a sixth continental crown in ten Copa America editions, hoping to become the first nation to host and win back-to-back tournaments.

The Argentinians, on the other hand, are desperate to bring an exhausting 28-year title drought, with

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



A trader taking cows on the back of a flatbed truck to Noakhali from the capital. As the Eid-ul-Azha is drawing closer, such scenes of cattle traders taking sacrificial animals to different districts have become common. The photos were taken in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, AMRAN HOSSAIN

Pfizer pushes for 3rd shot to boost efficacy

Plans to seek authorisation in US, Europe, other regions as Delta variant drives global outbreaks

AGENCIES

Pfizer and BioNTech said they would seek authorisation for a third dose of their Covid-19 vaccine to boost its efficacy as the Delta variant drove devastating outbreaks in Asia, including in Thailand where fresh curbs were announced yesterday.

The highly-transmissible Delta variant, first detected in India, is sweeping across the globe as countries race to vaccinate their populations to ward off fresh outbreaks.

Pfizer and BioNTech said Thursday they expected that a third dose will perform well against the strain, and that they would be seeking authorisation in the United States, Europe and other regions in coming weeks.

Initial data from an ongoing trial showed a third shot pushed antibody levels five to 10 times higher against the original coronavirus strain and the Beta variant, first detected in South Africa, compared with the first two doses alone, according to a statement.

The companies said they expected similar results for Delta -- but added they were also developing a vaccine specifically tailored to fight the deadly strain.

The news came as Thailand battled a fresh outbreak on its shores, forcing authorities to roll out fresh restrictions, including a 9:00 pm to 4:00 am curfew in Bangkok and banning non-essential travel across the country, normally overrun by tourists at this time of year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING JULY 10

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION