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The North praying it doesn't rain

STAR REPORT

Vast areas in the country's northern and north-western region have been submerged by floodwater, causing immense suffering to thousands of people.

The onrush of water from upstream contributed to the flood, said an official of the Water Development Board (WDB).

Besides, river erosion in some areas has taken a serious turn, causing panic among the riverside dwellers. Many structures including households have been devoured by rivers in the last couple of days.

In Rangpur, low-lying areas of Gangachara and Pirgachha upazilas have been inundated due to the rise in the water level of the Teesta river. Some 10, 000 families of the two upazilas are remaining marooned till yesterday.

Besides, some 50 houses have already been washed away by river erosion, while many other structures are at risk.

"We are fear that situation may deteriorate if rains," said Abdullah Al Hadi, chairman of Laxmitari union parishad in Gangachara upazila.

The upazila's Bagerhat village was flooded around one week ago after an embankment was washed away due to river erosion. The victims have taken shelter on roads and other high places. They are passing days under the open sky.

"Along with other villagers, we have been staying in this makeshift tent made of polythene for eight days as our houses have been inundated," said Ruhul Amin, a resident

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Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam kneels down to kiss the ground after reaching his maiden Test hundred against Zimbabwe while Najmul Hossain Shanto, who also later struck an unbeaten century, looks on during the fourth day's play of the one-off Test at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday. Zimbabwe lost three wickets for 140 runs in chase of an improbable target of 477 before stumps were drawn for the day after Bangladesh declared on 284 for 1 in their second innings.

PHOTO: ZIMBABWE CRICKET

Peter Haas to be the US ambassador to Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Joe Biden nominated Peter D. Haas as the new US ambassador to Bangladesh.



Haas will replace Ambassador Earl R. Miller, whose three-year tenure as envoy in Bangladesh will end by November. Haas' nomination has yet to be confirmed by the Senate, a diplomatic source said.

Peter Haas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, currently serves as Acting Assistant Secretary of State and concurrently as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, for Economic and Business Affairs for the Department of State, according to a White House statement issued Friday.

Previously, Haas was

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IOM helped 1,473 migrants come home last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has supported 1,473 Bangladeshi migrants in returning home voluntarily last year, the UN migration agency has said.

The number of Bangladeshi returnees with IOM support is the sixth highest among such return home across the world last year, the IOM said in a report titled "Return and Reintegration Key Highlights-2020".

The report was published on Friday.

The UN body last year assisted 42,181 migrants in returning home voluntarily, down by 35 percent from 2019. The returnees included migrants who were stranded or in vulnerable situations.

Mali was the top country of origin with a total of 3,249 nationals assisted in the return process.

It replaced previous year's top country of origin Ethiopia, which saw a decrease of 75 percent in nationals returning and consequently dropped to the fifth place in 2020.

Also, Guinea, Tajikistan and Iraq saw higher number of IOM-supported returnees

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Sector Commanders' Conference begins

JULY 11, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

SECTOR COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

The first conference (July 11-17) of Sector Commanders began at the office on Theatre Road-8 in Kolkata today. Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed presided over the conference. Different problems of freedom fighters and the future plan of the war were discussed there. All of Bangladesh was divided into eleven sectors and different sub-sectors for operational purposes during this conference. Lt Col MA Rab and Group Captain AK Khandaker were appointed as Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff respectively.

KISSINGER CALLS ON YAHYA

Henry Kissinger, American President Nixon's adviser on security affairs, today discussed various issues concerning India and Pakistan with President Yahya Khan with whom he met for the second time during his three-day visit to Pakistan, reported Radio Pakistan. The Radio however didn't disclose the details of the talks.

An official spokesman told newsmen that the two also discussed bilateral relations between Pakistan and the US. The spokesman denied reports that Kissinger had met Awami League leader Kamal Hossain in Nahiagali yesterday.

KISSINGER LATER LEFT FOR TEHRAN

INDIANS WILL MOVE BANGLADESHI REFUGEES India decided to move about 2.5 million Bangladeshi refugees to central camps to relieve the tremendous pressure on her border states. RK Khadilkar, the minister of labor, employment and

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Doctor in Tangail dies of Covid, wife in ICU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A doctor died with coronavirus at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Tangail General Hospital on Friday night.

The dead is Mazed Ali Miah, 58, a medical officer of Tangail's Madhupur Upazila Health Complex.

Mazed and his wife got admitted to the hospital as their oxygen saturation level dropped significantly, said Shafiqul Islam, residential medical officer of Tangail General Hospital.

His wife was still admitted to the hospital, Shafiqul said, adding that the body of Mazed was handed over to his family members.

Meanwhile, 10 doctors and 38 nurses of Tangail General Hospital got

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Space tourism set to begin

Billionaire Branson set to fly to the final frontier



REUTERS

Decades after burnishing his reputation as a wealthy daredevil mogul in a series of boating and hot-air balloon expeditions, Richard Branson is poised to promote his burgeoning astro-tourism

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

RANSOMWARE ATTACKS Biden presses Putin to act, hints at retaliation

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden has increased pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin to move against ransomware groups operating in Russia, warning the United States is prepared to respond if cyberattacks are not stopped.

The two leaders held their first phone call on Friday since they discussed ransomware attacks at a summit in Geneva on June 16. Biden's message to Putin in the call was direct, suggesting a growing impatience over attacks that have disrupted key US sectors.

"I made it very clear to him that the United States expects, when a ransomware operation is coming from his soil even though it's not sponsored by the state, we expect them to act if we give them enough information to act on who that is," Biden told reporters.

He said the two governments have

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Delta puts brakes on post-Covid normality

From Europe to Asia, countries reimpose new curbs

AGENCIES

Nations across the globe hit new pandemic highs and reimposed Covid-19 restrictions yesterday as the highly contagious Delta variant forced governments to put the brakes on plans to return to normality.

The highly transmissible Delta variant, first detected in India, is sweeping the globe as countries race to inoculate their populations to ward off fresh outbreaks and allow for

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A toddler sitting on a road divider in Dhaka's Aminbazar area, waiting for her mother to return. The mother went to find a vehicle by which they could travel to their native home. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

গভীর দুঃখের সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, গত ৮ জুলাই ২০২১ ইং আনুমানিক বিকাল ৫.৩০ ঘটিকায় হাঙ্গেরি ফুডস্ লিমিটেডের নারায়ণগঞ্জের ভুলতায় অবস্থিত ফ্যাক্টরির নতুন ভবনে সর্বপ্রথম বৈজ্ঞানিক শট সার্কিটের মাধ্যমে অগ্নিকাণ্ডের সৃষ্টি হয় এবং মুহূর্তের মধ্যেই আগুন সর্বত্র ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। নিজস্ব অগ্নি নির্বাপক সরঞ্জাম ব্যবহার করা ছাড়াও তৎক্ষণিকভাবে দমকল বাহিনীকে খবর দেয়া হয়। দমকল বাহিনীর নিরলস প্রচেষ্টায় আগুন নিয়ন্ত্রণে আসলেও বাঁচানো যায়নি মৃত্যুবান প্রাণ। সাধিত হলো অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি।

এই দুর্ভাগ্যজনক ঘটনায় আহত কর্মীদের চিকিৎসা সহ যাবতীয় প্রয়োজনে আমরা পাশে থাকবো। যে সকল প্রতিশ্রুতিশীল কর্মীকে আমরা হারিয়েছি তাদের শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি আমরা গভীর সমবেদনা জানাই এবং তাদের আত্মার শান্তি কামনা করি। দুর্ঘটনায় নিহত ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত প্রতিটি পরিবারের পাশে থাকবে হাঙ্গেরি ফুডস্ পরিবার। আমাদের সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীর পক্ষ থেকে আমরা এই শোকাবহ ঘটনায় গভীর দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছি।

অগ্নিকাণ্ডের কারণ অনুসন্ধান ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স টিম তদন্ত করছেন এবং হাঙ্গেরি ফুডস্ কর্তৃপক্ষ তদন্তে পূর্ণ সহায়তা প্রদান করছে। আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী বাহিনী পরিষ্কৃত নিয়ন্ত্রণে প্রশংসনীয় ভূমিকা পালন করেছেন। আমরা দায়িত্বশীল সকলের প্রতি গভীর কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই। অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত এই দুর্ঘটনার প্রেক্ষিতে হাঙ্গেরি ফুডস্ কর্তৃপক্ষ একটি তদন্ত কমিটি গঠন করেছে। দ্রুত তদন্ত সমাপ্তিতে প্রতিবেদন প্রদানের জন্য তদন্ত কমিটির সদস্যদেরকে অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে।

এই দুর্ভাগ্যকালীন সময়ে ধৈর্য ও সহনশীলতার সাথে পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলায় আমরা সকলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছি। মহান সৃষ্টিকর্তা আমাদের সকলকে এই কঠিন পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলায় শক্তি দান করুন।

হাঙ্গেরি ফুডস্ লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ
ভুলতা, রূপগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ