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BHABADAH WATERLOGGING WDB initiative 'impractical'

Experts say use of pumps not going to solve it; focus should be on tidal river management

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

The Water Development Board in Jashore has been trying to solve the longstanding problem of waterlogging at Bhabadah by pumping out stagnant water using 20 pumps since the beginning of the year.

Experts, however, say this expensive undertaking is impractical and the authorities should have gone for the tried and tested tidal river management (TRM) approach.

Installing the water pumps on the Bhabadah sluice gates sealing the Hari river in January, the WDB has been draining out the rainwater deposited in the beels which stay underwater for a large part of the year due to excessive siltation in the tidal rivers.

The Bhabadah region comprises around 52 beels in Jashore Sadar, Abhaynagar, Monirampur, and Keshabpur upazilas of Jashore and Dumuria upazila of Khulna. These areas, especially villages adjacent to the beels, remain largely inundated, especially during the rainy season.

Already spending almost Tk 2.5 crore on the project -- including setting up of the pumps, electricity bills, and some river excavation works -- the Board is proposing a further water pumping project at an estimated cost of Tk 50 crore, said a WDB official.

Each pump has the capacity to drain five cusecs of water -- equivalent to 28.32 litres of water per second --

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Elaine Thompson-Herah blazed to gold in the women's 100m sprint at the Tokyo Olympics yesterday, but Jamaica's star shone brightest as its athletes claimed all three places on the podium with Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce winning silver and Shericka Jackson claiming bronze.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AL leader's home set on fire again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Miscreants again set fire to the house of Brahmanbaria district unit Awami League general secretary and valiant freedom fighter Al Mamun Sarkar in the district town yesterday.

Furniture and other belongings were burnt to ashes in the incident. However, none was reported hurt as no one was at the house.

The miscreants set fire to the house in Munsepara area of the town around 12:45pm yesterday.

On information, two fire service units went to the spot and brought the fire under control, said Zahirul Islam, of Brahmanbaria Fire Service and Civil Defense Station.

Al Mamun Sarkar, the owner of the damaged house, claimed that the fire had damaged furniture and other belongings in six rooms of the house.

Al Mamun Sarkar told The Daily Star that someone had set fire for

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Helena wringed money through illegal IPTV Claims Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Helena Jahangir, a businessperson who was arrested from her residence on Thursday, was "extorting money" through her illegal internet protocol television (IPTV) channel named Joyatra Television, said the Rapid Action Battalion yesterday.

The extortion was two-pronged: first, when appointing the district and foreign correspondents Joyatra Television; and later, the correspondents would extort money from people threatening unflattering news coverage.

Subsequently, a case was filed against her with the Pallabi Police Station yesterday under the Telecommunications Act for operating the IPTV channel without the government approval or licence and running its office in the capital's Mirpur area illegally.

This takes the total number of cases against Helena, who on July 24 was expelled from the Awami League's subcommittee on women's affairs for breaching party policies, to three.

Helena extorted Tk 10,000 to Tk 1 lakh in the name of appointing district

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Concert for Bangladesh

George Harrison performs at the Concert for Bangladesh, held at Madison Square Garden on August 1, 1971 in New York.

AUGUST 1, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH! BANGLADESH! ... Ravi Shankar and George Harrison organised an all-star concert in New York's Madison Square Garden today to help Bengali refugees, who had fled violence and were in India. Initially, only a single show was planned to be held in the afternoon of August 1, 1971, but encouraged from the overwhelming sale of tickets, another performance was hosted the same evening.

The concert closed with a performance of Harrison's single "Bangladesh". Harrison began with context of the song: "My friend"

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Woman sues UP chairman for rape

STAR REPORT

A union parishad chairman was sued over the rape of a woman in Bogura's Sherpur upazila on Friday whereas police arrested a youth on charge of raping a minor girl in Rajshahi's Bagmara upazila on Friday night.

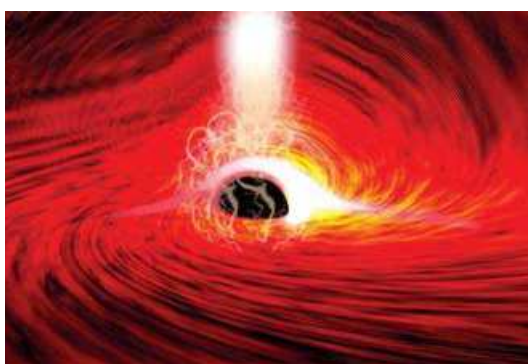
Abdul Wahab, 45, chairman of Khamarkandi union parishad in Bogura's Sherpur upazila, was made accused in the rape case, said Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Police Station.

The 37-year-old victim, in the case filed against him, alleged that he called her over the phone to his rented house and raped her there around 7:30am yesterday, he said.

According to the case statement, a relative of the accused chairman owed some money to the woman. The woman had been lobbying with the chairman to recover the

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Light behind black hole detected for first time



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have picked up light from the other side of a black hole for the first ever time.

Such an observation might seem not just difficult but outright impossible, given black holes famously eat up any light that goes near them.

But the new study used an unusual effect where light "echoes" around the black hole, such that scientists can see it from the other side.

The detection came after scientists examined X-rays that were being thrown out into the universe by a supermassive black hole that sits in

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Protests mark 6 months since coup in Myanmar

REUTERS, Bangkok

Small groups of students protested against Myanmar's military junta yesterday in Mandalay and a human rights group accused the armed forces of crimes against humanity as the country approached six months since the army's takeover.

The junta later yesterday accused the country's ousted civilian leaders and some foreign diplomats of disseminating "fabricated, distorted and one-sided

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 1

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Trump gets double blow

Justice Dept OK's release of taxes, damaging memo

REUTERS, Washington

Former President Donald Trump suffered twin setbacks on Friday when the Justice Department cleared the way to release his tax records and disclosed a memo showing he had urged top officials last year to falsely claim his election defeat was "corrupt."

The department, reversing course from the stance it took when Trump was in office, told the Internal Revenue Service to provide the Republican businessman-turned-politician's tax records to congressional investigators - a move he has long fought.

Trump was the first president in 40 years to not release his tax returns, as well as other documents, as he aimed to keep secret the details on his wealth and activities of his family company, the Trump Organization. The

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A horse-drawn carriage taking people from Gulistan to Mirpur in the capital during the lockdown imposed by the government to curb coronavirus spread yesterday. Due to the lack of public transport, carriage drivers are charging high for the ride. The trip costs Tk 250 per person. The photo was taken in Farmgate area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Covid 'war has changed'

Warns top US medical body over Delta variant

AGENCIES

The war against Covid-19 has changed because of the highly contagious Delta variant, the US Centers for Disease Control said, as rising number of cases caused by the strain prompted China and Australia to impose stricter Covid-19 curbs yesterday.

The warning comes as several Asian countries including Japan, Thailand and Malaysia, yesterday announced record Covid-19 infection numbers.

An internal CDC document said the variant, first detected in India and now dominant across the globe, is as contagious as chickenpox and far more contagious than the common cold or flu. It can be passed on even by vaccinated people, and may cause more serious disease than earlier coronavirus strains.

The document, entitled "Improving communications around vaccine breakthrough and vaccine effectiveness", said the variant required a new approach to help the public understand the danger - including making clear that unvaccinated people were more than 10 times more likely than those who are vaccinated to become seriously ill or die.

"Acknowledge the war has changed," it said. "Improve communications around individual risk among vaccinated."

Recommended preventative measures included making vaccines mandatory for health care professionals to protect the vulnerable and a return to universal wearing of face masks.

While vaccinated people were less likely to become

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