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North flooded, rivers swelling

Road links snapped, croplands and households submerged



People standing on the remaining part of flood by-pass of the Teesta barrage in Lalmonirhat yesterday after it got damaged by a flash flood the day before.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

STAR REPORT

Vast areas of the northern districts have been inundated due to flash floods caused by an onrush of water from the upstream.

People are having to suffer as road communications have been snapped, crop lands and households have been submerged and ponds have been washed away.

Meanwhile, a bulletin of the government's Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday said all the major rivers of the country are seeing a rising trend, which may continue the next 24 hours.

"The flood situation in the low-lying areas of Kurigram and Rangpur districts may slightly deteriorate in the next

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Commuters stand on a flyover on a flooded national highway after the river Kosi overflowed following heavy rains near Rampur in India's Uttar Pradesh state on Wednesday, as the death toll from days of flooding and landslides in India and Nepal reached nearly 200.

PHOTO: AFP

FLOODS, LANDSLIDES Nearly 200 perish in India, Nepal

AFP, Dehradun

Nearly 200 people have died in floods and landslides in India and Nepal, officials said yesterday, with whole families buried in their homes and two young girls swept away as forecasters warned of yet more heavy rain.

Experts say they were victims of the ever-more unpredictable and extreme weather that has hit South Asia in recent years caused by climate change and exacerbated by deforestation and excessive development.

The unusually late deluge of rain in the region saw Nepal record the sharpest rise in casualties overnight, with 88 people now dead, among them a family of six whose house was obliterated by an avalanche of soil and debris.

In Indian state of Uttarakhand, 55 people were confirmed to have died yesterday. They included five people from a family whose house was buried by a massive landslide.

Teacher sued under DSA remanded

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Ruma Sarkar, assistant professor of Begum Badrunessa Government Girls' College, on a two-day remand for interrogation, hours after a case was filed against her on the charge of spreading provocative speeches and false videos on Facebook.

She was detained on Wednesday from her home on the capital's Bailey Road by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and brought to the Rab headquarters for interrogation.

Later, she was arrested after being sued under the Digital Security Act with the Ramna Police Station.

On October 19, Ruma posted a video of the assassination of businessman Shahinuddin earlier on May 16 in the capital's Pallabi area on her Facebook claiming it to be the attack on Jatan Kumar Saha in Noakhali, which led to his death, according to the case documents.

Jatan was beaten to death on the afternoon of October 15, when Hindu temples in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila were attacked.

On May 16, Shahinuddin was hacked to death in front of his son by a group of criminals, and several persons, including a

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya urges Thant to visit India, Pakistan

OCTOBER 22, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDO-PAK SITUATION

US Secretary of State William Rogers, in a memorandum presented to the US President Richard Nixon today, said there remained a high potential for outbreak of hostilities between India and Pakistan. However, none of the countries intended to take the first move at that time, added Rogers.

Since India insisted that they would consider withdrawal of their force from the border only if Pakistan withdrew first, the US state department was planning to suggest to Pakistan President Yahya Khan to consider a unilateral and limited withdrawal. This move would act, according to Rogers, as a signal to the Indians of Yahya's desire to de-escalate and reduce tensions.

"We believe he might be willing to do this without jeopardising his military position, in order to put the onus on the Indians to take reciprocal action," shared the US secretary of state.

He further pointed out, "The lack of a viable political settlement in East Pakistan continues to fuel the tensions between India and Pakistan."

The state department, therefore, was focusing on beginning a dialogue between Yahya Khan and the elected representatives of East Pakistan. The US Ambassador to Pakistan Joseph Farland was asked to consult with Yahya over whether Bangabandhu Sheikh

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PM wants two new divisions

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she wants to upgrade Faridpur and Cumilla to two new divisions after the names of two major rivers -- Padma and Meghna.

"I've decided to form two new divisions after two rivers -- one would be named after the Padma and another after the Meghna," she said.

The PM revealed it while opening the newly constructed office Bhaban for Awami League's Cumilla city unit virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

She said if the division is formed after the name of Cumilla, other districts might not be interested to join it.

Hasina said she would form Faridpur division after the name of Padma, another famous river of the country.

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam, AL Organising

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'Big John', largest-ever triceratops, sells for 6.6m euros

REUTERS, Paris



The fossilised remains of 'Big John', the largest triceratops dinosaur ever discovered by paleontologists, sold for 6.65 million euros (\$7.74 million) at a Paris auction yesterday.

Big John - named after the owner of the land where the dinosaur's bones were found - roamed modern-day South Dakota more than 66 million years ago.

The hammer price at the Drouot auction house, before commission and other costs, was 5.5 million euros. Drouot had estimated the skeleton would fetch between 1.2-1.5 million euros. It sold to an unidentified private US buyer.

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Health sector plagued with workforce shortage

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said the health sector has a shortage of human resources to operate the equipment.

"We have built many infrastructures and purchased much medical equipment but have not built workforce in accordance," he said.

He made the statement while addressing a virtual discussion as chief guest marking World Sight Day

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-30 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A common hawk-cuckoo spotted catching a hairy caterpillar at the National Botanical Garden in the capital's Mirpur. This bird is well-known for its loud and repetitive three-note calls.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASHIQUR RAHMAN



Another rider sets bike on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the second such incident in about a month, a ride-sharing biker set his motorbike on fire after a police official fined him for violating traffic rules in the capital's Palashi area yesterday.

Mehedi Hasan, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Traffic Division, said Ilias Mia, 40, set his motorbike on fire out of anger as a police sergeant fined him Tk 1,000 for traffic rule violation.

A few months ago, Ilias was fined Tk 4,000 in two cases for violating traffic rules and he did not pay the fines even after the expiration of stipulate time, the DC told The Daily Star.

Yesterday around 1:45pm, he was stopped by the traffic sergeant at Palashi intersection for not wearing a helmet during a ride, he said.

After the sergeant signalled, Ilias first wore the helmet and then came at the check post.

While checking the

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Star HEALTHLINE

Measles unusual BEFORE 9 MONTHS OF AGE



Hyginex
Instant hand sanitizer

DR. RUKHSANA PARVIN

Measles, also known as rubella, is a highly contagious viral disease characterised by fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes and a spreading skin rash. The disease causes red and blotchy rash, which usually appears first on the face and behind the ears, then spreads downward to the chest and back and finally to the feet.

Measles is unusual before 9 months of age due to the presence of maternal protective antibodies.

Measles is

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